

What:

The mysterious case of the sinking flamingo is a brilliantly illustrated children's book that informs and engages 5-8 year olds about the urban water cycle and sustainable water use.

Author: Cath Hassell

Title: The mysterious case of the sinking flamingo

Website: <http://www.ech2o.co.uk/frankie.shtml>

Kickstarter: [Kickstarter campaign](#)

Delivery: 1. School workshops. 2. School book donations. 3. Free downloadable worksheets. 4. Available for purchase online from October 2015 for £5.99.

Story: *The mysterious case of the sinking flamingo* is a book about why crabs hate combined sewer overflows and why flamingos love four minute showers! Setting off on an adventure to find out why she is sinking, Frankie the flamingo and her assorted sidekicks discover what happens to rainwater and wastewater once it enters the sewers, how water is supplied to buildings, why it is important to save water and why harvesting rainwater can stop Clarence the crab getting poo on his head.

Why:

The drivers for the book came from wanting to encourage widespread behaviour change with school children aged 5-8 in a fun and innovative way. ech₂o have successfully delivered water workshops and assemblies to over 12,000 school children across all key stages over the last 7 years. However, engaging key stage 1 presented the hardest challenge. There was a clear need to devise an uncomplicated, entertaining and educational way to interest this age group on the topic of water saving. This book provides that tool.

How:

The book engages children about sustainable water solutions through the amusing story of a Frankie the flamingo and her friends as they solve the mystery of why she is sinking. This story is being delivered through free school workshops across London, as part of Thames Water's Water Efficiency in School Programme. These interactive workshops involve reading the story to the class, involving the children as water detectives to help solve the mystery, and afterwards getting the children to identify how they can help Frankie so that Sameera the stickleback does not run out of water in her river and Clarence the crab does not end up with poo on his head.

The publishing of the book has been funded by a [Kickstarter campaign](#) by people from around the world. The campaign ran for 30 days with a target of £3,000. Interest for the book was extraordinary and the funding target was exceeded by 100%! As a result, the book will be published and distributed to schools across the UK and individuals across the globe.

ech₂o obtained nine corporate sponsors in support of the book. All companies are associated with sustainability and six of these are water related organisations. These include a water company, a rainwater harvesting company, a plumber's merchant, and the UK's water efficiency NGO.

Impact:

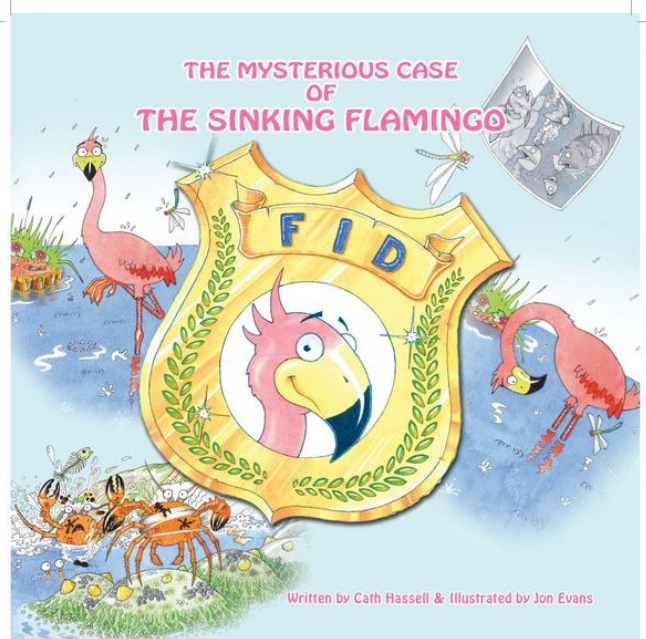
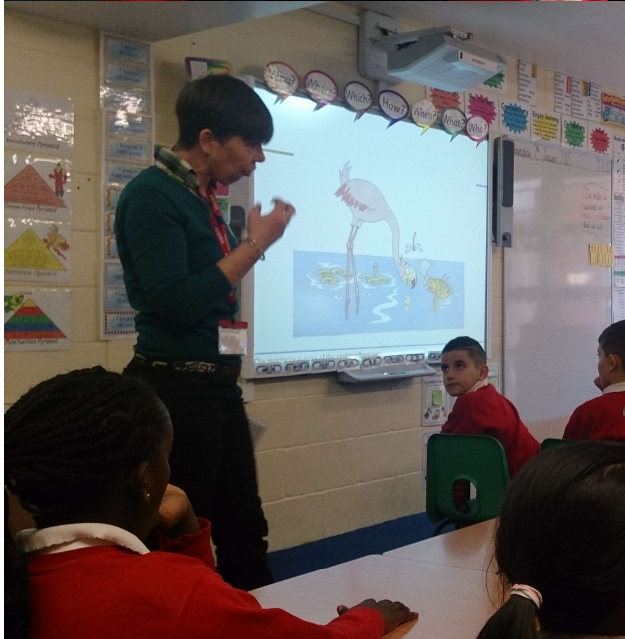
This book directly drives behaviour change with school children who are encouraged to firstly help solve the mystery and secondly identify how they can save water. So far children and teachers have loved the workshop. "*The children liked the characters and wanted to help Frankie save water. Lovely resources. Accessible and fun for the children*".

To date the workshop has been delivered in 26 classes to a total of 836 pupils. During this school year a further 900 pupils will help Frankie the flamingo solve the mystery.

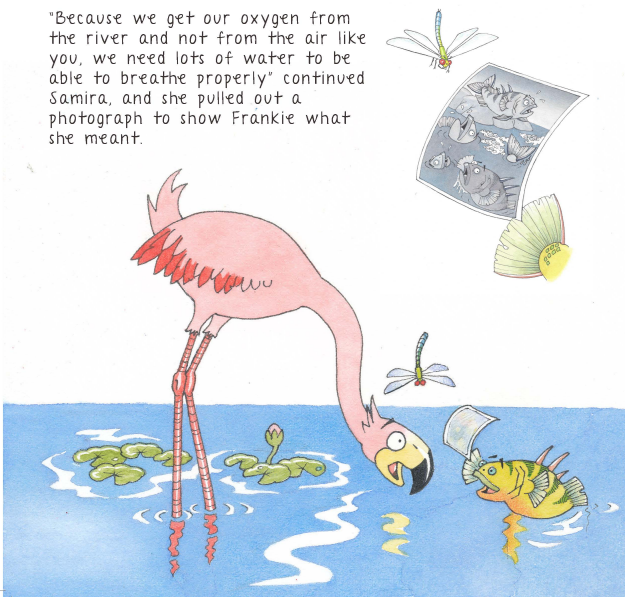
As a result of the Kickstarter Campaign, over this school year ech₂o will give 640 copies of the book to 1,736 pupils. This will be to schools visited both last year and this year. There are also plans to take the book to the US in collaboration with GabiH₂O and to Portugal in partnership with ANQIP.

Evidence:

A draft of the book can be found [here](#).



"Because we get our oxygen from the river and not from the air like you, we need lots of water to be able to breathe properly" continued Samira, and she pulled out a photograph to show Frankie what she meant.



"Poo on your head" gasped Frankie. "How does that happen?" "Well," said Clarence in his best explaining voice, "when it rains a lot, the sewers get full of water, and there is no space at the sewage treatment plant. So, there is nowhere else for the water to go except out to sea."

