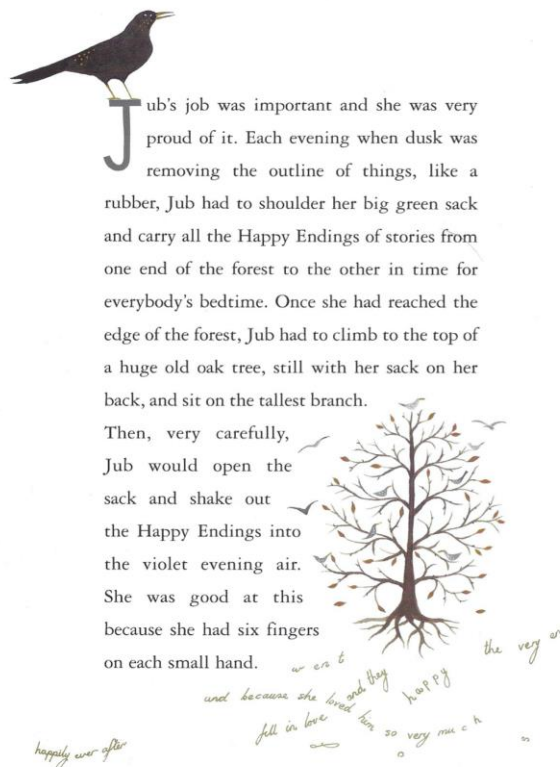
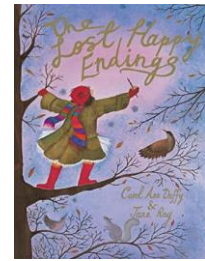


Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning

The Lost Happy Endings by Carol Ann Duffy and Jane Ray (Bloomsbury)

1. Explore it

Read the text below and take time to look carefully at the illustration:



Think about the character that you are introduced to here, Jub. What is she doing? How would you describe her job? Who do you think gave her this job? Now consider the time of day this is happening. Why do you think she has to do this job at this time? What do you think everybody is doing **at bedtime**?

Take some time to recall any stories you know that have a happy ending. What kinds of stories are these? Can you remember one that you have read? Can you remember the line or lines that were the happy ending? What do you think happens to the happy endings after Jub shakes them out into the air? Where do they go? Finally, think about the setting — why do you think she might do this job in a forest? What sense do you gain of the forest from the way it is described in the text?

2. Illustrate it

Think about what happens to the Happy Endings after they have been shaken out of Jub's bag. Think of a short piece of writing that could be described as a happy ending, and imagine where it ends up. Picture the scene in your mind's eye of where it lands and what is happening when it does. Who is there to receive it? Are they alone or are they with someone else? Where are they? What time of day is it? What are they wearing? What are they doing? How do they feel when the happy ending arrives?

When you have a clear image in your mind, take a pencil and a piece of paper and start to draw the image you thought about. If you don't have a piece of paper to hand, the back of an old letter or envelope will do. How will you incorporate the words of the happy ending into the image? If you have coloured pencils, felt tips or crayons, you could use these to add to the atmosphere of the scene. How will you show the time of day, for example?

3. Talk about it

- Where and when do you think the story is set? What clues are there to this? Do you know of other stories that take place in a forest? What happens in these stories? Do they all have a happy ending?
- Think about the adjectives used to describe the tree and where Jub climbs to: **a huge old oak tree, the tallest branch**. What do these tell us about the job Jub does, and what does this tell us about her character that she is able to do this every night?
- Think about the phrase used to describe what happens at dusk: **when dusk was removing the outline of things, like a rubber**. What does this mean? Have you ever been out at dusk, when the light is fading? What was it like?

4. Imagine it

We are told that Jub is **very proud** of her job. Why do you think this might be? What do you think might happen if no-one did this job? What do you think she would say about her work if you spoke to her? Imagine that you are Jub and think of why you are so proud to do the job that you do. What does the job do to make her happy? How do you think the job she does benefits other people? Why is her job important?

Write a piece in role as Jub, explaining her job in her own words and describing her feelings about it for someone else to read. You could draw a picture of Jub and add thought or speech bubbles around it to voice the feelings she thinks to herself or says out loud.

5. Create it

Have you ever considered a job that you might like to do in the future? If you could decide on your dream job, what would it be, and why is that job important? Would you want to be a firefighter, putting out fires and saving lives? Would you want to work in a shop, making sure your customers had the things they needed? Would you want to be an artist, creating things? Would you want to be a professional sports person, supporting your team or your country to succeed in competitions? Would you want to be a bus or train driver, taking the public where they need to go?

Draw a picture of yourself in this role. What are you doing? How are you feeling about the job you are doing? How can you tell from the drawing? Then, write a piece to accompany your drawing that talks about the job you want to do. Think about what your day-to-day work would involve, like Jub's task of going to the forest, climbing the tree and shaking out the happy endings. How would you describe the job you want to do? Jub is proud of her job: how could you describe the feelings you would have about doing this job?

When you've finished, share your ideas with someone else at home. Do they think this would be a good job for you? What qualities do they think you have that would make you good at this job? Talk to friends and family about the jobs they have. What does their day to day routine involve? What do they most like about their job?