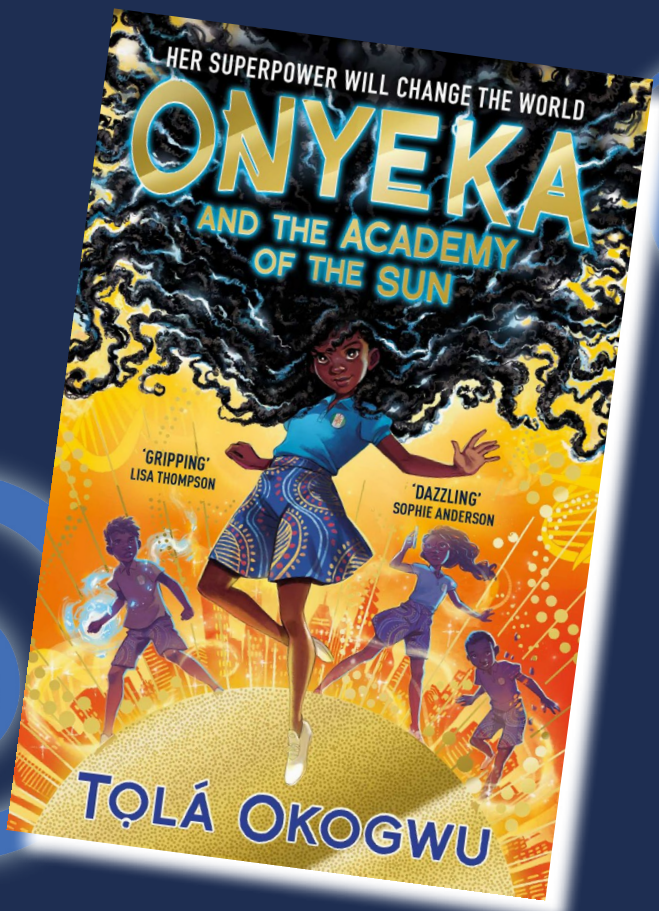
ONYEKA

AND THE ACADEMY OF THE SUN

Written by Tọlá Okogwu



Activity Booklet

National Literacy Trust

Change your story

In partnership with

Enterprise Mobility™

A letter to pupils

Dear readers,

Reading is great fun. It can make you laugh, feel excited and help you learn. So all of us at Enterprise Mobility and the National Literacy Trust have teamed up to share this book with you, which we hope you enjoy as much as we have. This has been made possible by the Enterprise Mobility's ROAD Forward initiative which is working to help improve social and racial equity around the world.

National Literacy Trust and Enterprise Mobility

Activity one: All about Onyeka!

Onyeka's mother taught her to control her emotions by using the Fibonacci numbers. Onyeka counts when she is about to lose her temper and traces the number in her mind, giving it a shape, colour, texture, and taste.

1a. Complete the table below to create your own Fibonacci numbers, using Onyeka's ideas as inspiration and then write a sentence about them underneath.

Number	Colour	Texture	Taste	Illustration
0	Blue	Rough	Sweet	
The number zero is as blue as a Smurf, as rough as a diamond and as sweet as syrup.				
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

1b. Discuss with the people around you about a time where you may use the Fibonacci method.

Activity two: embracing our differences

2a. What makes Onyeka different to others? What unique qualities does she have?

Use the space below to write down your thoughts.

2b. What makes you unique and different to everybody else? Why is it important to embrace our differences?

Activity three: hair emotions

At the end of chapter three, Onyeka's hair transforms. Ṭọlá Okogwu writes...

> *"I turn to the full-length mirror opposite and my mouth drops as I see my reflection. Coils of hair the colour of blue lightening curl out around me. I reach out to touch them and flinch at the tingle of static electricity that shoots through my hand. My fingers move through the unfamiliar texture. Soft, yet strong, like strands of coarse silk. I look like a proper badass. But can it move?"*

Onyeka's hair can feel her emotions... She is angry, sad, and drained after arguing with her mum.

3a. Act it out: OK, Onyeka. Your scalp is tingling, you are feeling all the emotion... What is happening? What are you thinking? How are you feeling? What are your options now? What are you going to do? What are you going to say?

3b. If your hair could show your emotions, what would it look like? Complete the table below to describe how your hair might respond to different emotions.

My normal hair	My hair when I am sad
My hair when I am happy	My hair when I am angry

Activity four: chapter reflections

Throughout the chapters, Onyeka talks a lot about her mum, her mum's feeling towards her hair and her upbringing. Chapter three concludes with Onyeka and her mum having a heated argument where Onyeka's hair transforms.

4a. Record your thoughts and feelings about what you have read so far, what the story reminds you of and any questions you now have.

Likes about chapters 1 to 3...	Dislikes about chapters 1 to 3...
What did the story so far remind you of or make you think about?	What questions do you have?

Activity five: advice column

5a. Onyeka, Cheyenne and Tope (Onyeka's mum) have a few questions for you and need advice.

Onyeka's question:

Discovering my hair is magical has been exciting and scary. What do you think Mum meant by, '*This can't be happening…I'm not ready*'?

My answer:

Cheyenne's question:

I know Onyeka can't swim, so why did she swim over to me? Tope is going be so mad!

My answer:

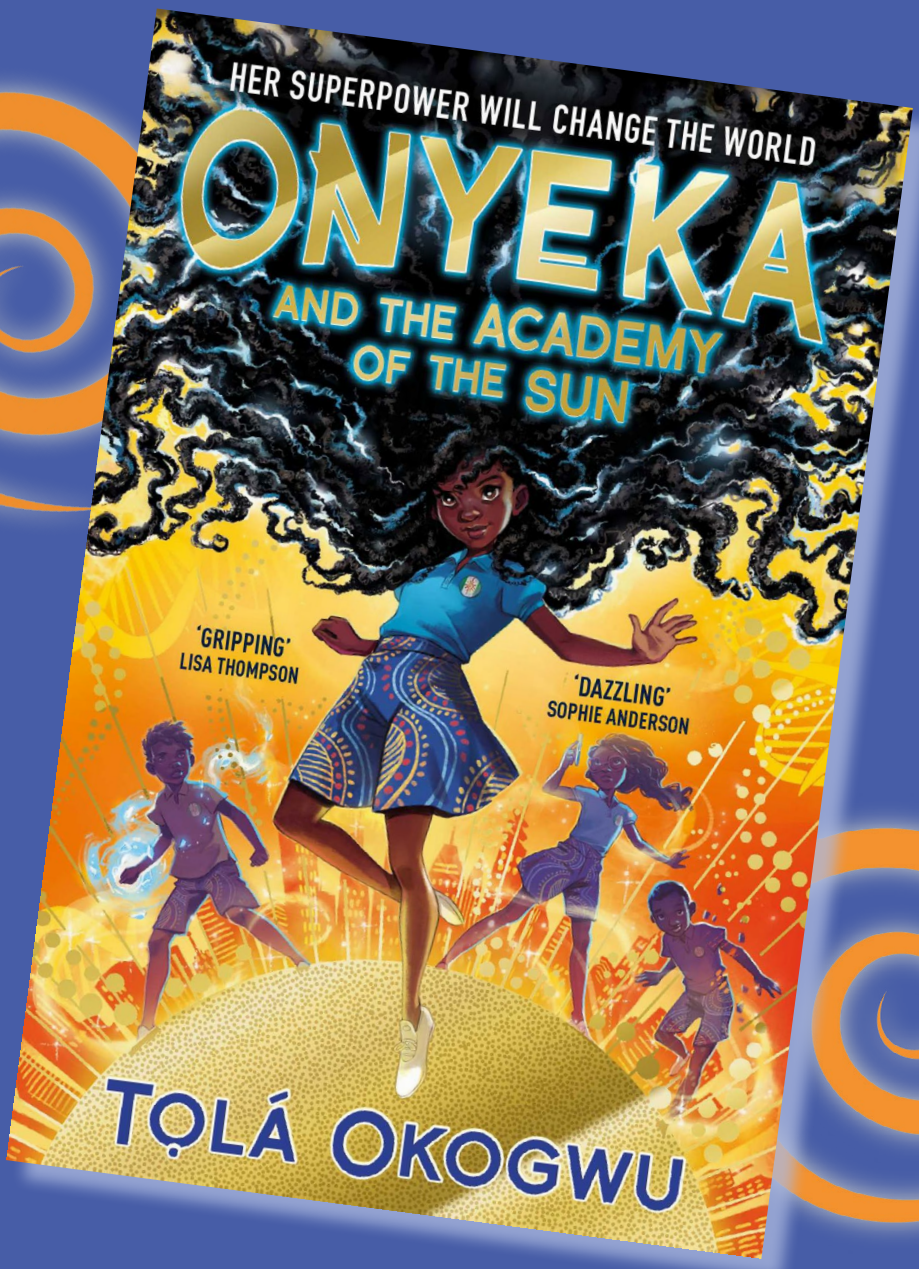
Tope's question:

I thought I was protecting Onyeka by keeping her close, and not talking about Nigeria and her father. I may have made things worse. What should I do now?

My answer:

You have now completed all the activities for

Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun written by Tọlá Okogwu



We hope you enjoy reading the rest of the story, as much as we did here at The National Literacy Trust and Enterprise Mobility.

Happy reading!

Share your work with us

@literacy_trust and #EnterpriseONYEKA

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