

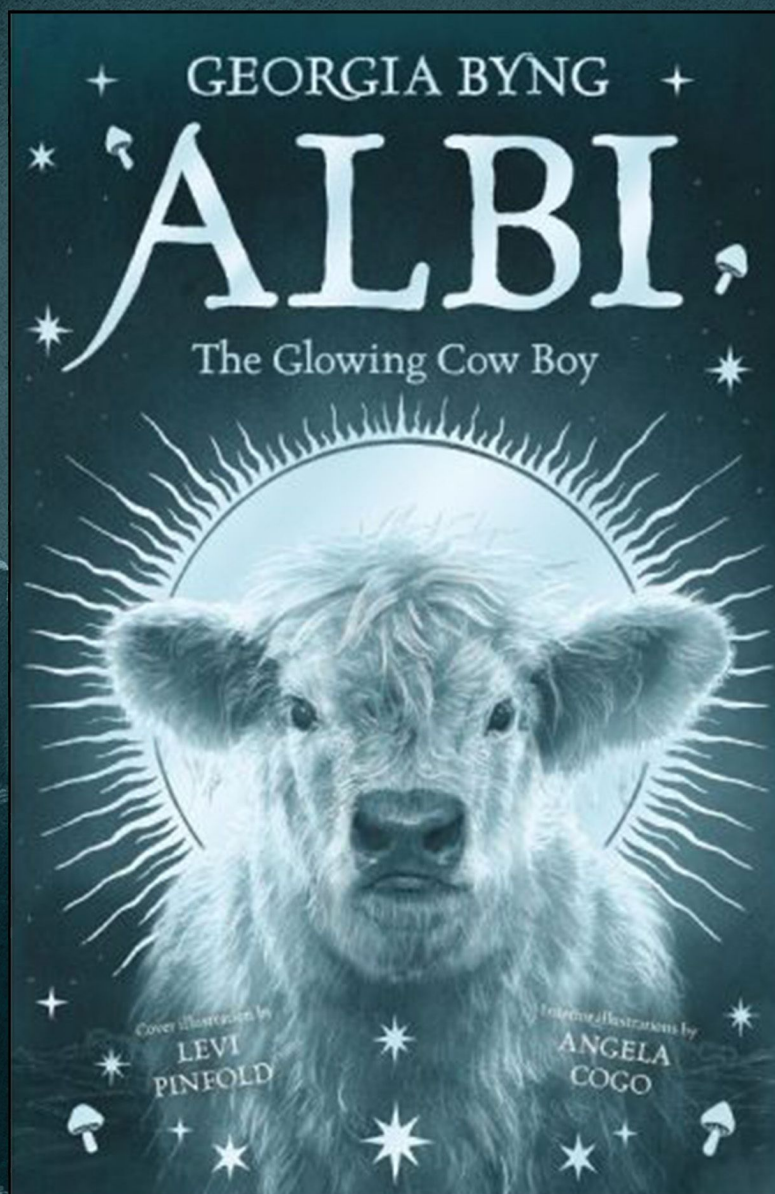
ALBI: THE GLOWING COW BOY

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AGES 9+ NOTES

The activities included here are suitable for kids' book clubs, home learning or in the classroom.

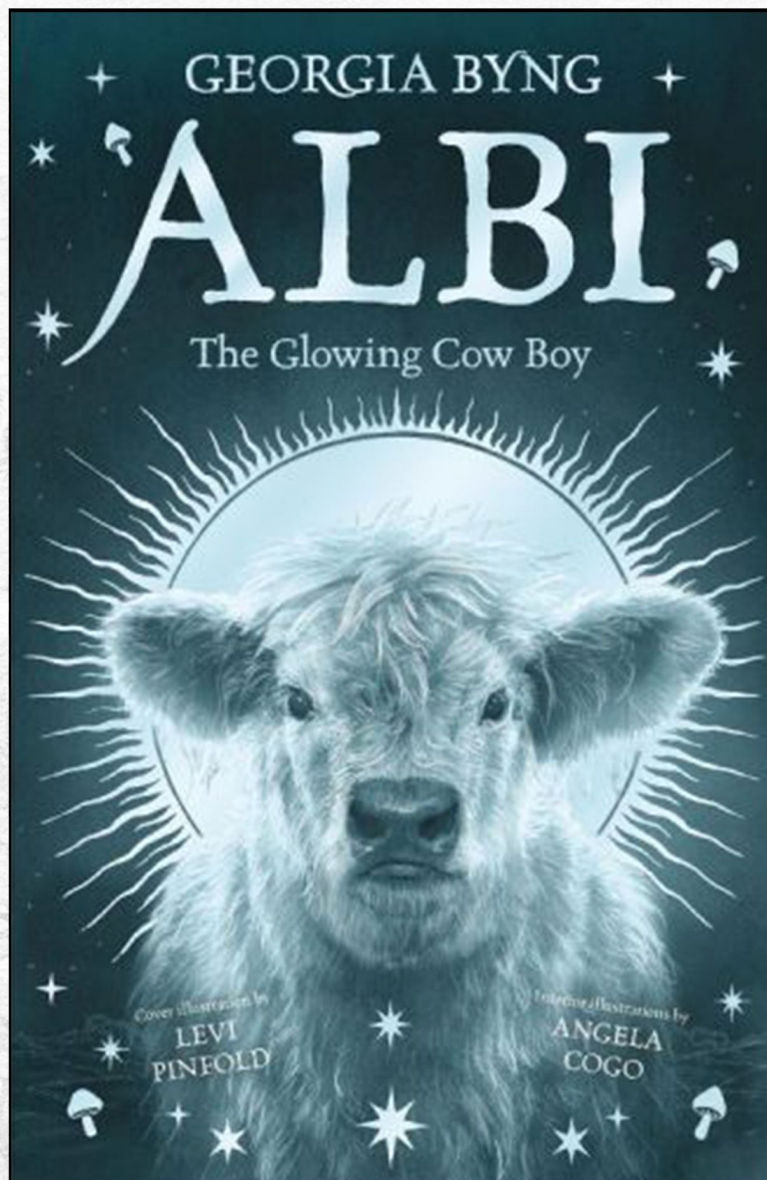
On a quiet farm in a frosty England, under the glowing light of a magical milk moon, a boy calf is born. His name is Albi, and he has no idea how extraordinary he is going to be. Several miles away lives a human boy called Rufus. Rufus is extraordinary in his own way, but he has no friends and no one to love him. Rufus seeks the family he never had, and he'll go to any lengths to find it. Albi and Rufus must each embark on a journey that will take them across continents, showing them things they never believed could be true. But why are they so deeply connected? And will each extraordinary 'boy' find what they're searching for?



BEFORE READING

Take a few moments to look over the cover of **Albi: The Glowing Cow Boy**. Discuss together:

- What is interesting about the book's title and cover? Does it remind you of any other books you have read?
- Looking at the illustrations, what kinds of themes do you think you will explore while you read?
- What key words can you pick out of the title? What do they make you think about or feel?
- What questions do you have about the book based on the cover?



Albi is the boy calf pictured on the cover. In pairs, take it in turns to discuss what Albi would say if he could speak. What would he say to you? Even to the world?

Then, make three predictions about Albi's adventures across the globe. Where will he go? Who will he meet? Share your ideas and predictions together.

DURING READING

There are lots of BIG IDEAS and THEMES to explore in **Albi: The Glowing Cow Boy**. As you read the book, keep an eye out for the themes in your THEME SHEET below. When you spot an interesting quote which links to one of the themes, note it down with its page number. Then, think about what this theme and quote means to you, jotting down your ideas. Have a chat about your THEME SHEET in pairs or in a group.

THEME	QUOTE & PAGE NUMBER	WHAT DOES THIS THEME AND QUOTE MEAN TO YOU?
Magic	'A cloud in the shape of a cow drifted towards the full moon, then seemed to jump over it' (p1)	This magical night sky makes me feel like anything is possible in the story.
Animal welfare		
Looking after the natural world		
Loneliness		
Believing in yourself		
The bond between animals and humans		

AFTER READING

Now that you have finished reading the story, answer the discussion questions below:

- What is your first impression of Rufus Chumley? (pages 2–5)
- How does the writer bring Albi to life? What is special about him? (pages 6–8)
- What do Rufus and Albi have in common? What makes them different?
- What do you know about Stonehenge? Why does Oros describe it as an important place? (pages 87–88)
- Which countries do Albi and Rufus travel to on their adventures? What do they learn about each place?
- What is veganism? Why might someone choose to become vegan? (pages 125–126)
- What is the significance of the milk mushrooms and dreams throughout the story? How do they connect the characters?
- How do Camille and Miss Safar treat Albi? How would you describe their bond with him? (pages 181–182 and 210–215)
- What do you learn about the significance of cows in Hinduism? (pages 273–274)
- How does the connection between Rufus and Albi change throughout the story?
- Has the book made you reflect on your relationship with animals and the natural world? How could we all live in greater harmony together?

Next, read over the two quotes below and have a chat about; What do they reveal about the characters? What do these quotes mean to you? What messages might the writer be communicating?

Quote A: ‘You’re bigger than you think, you’re bigger than you think,’ he said over and over to himself ... But still Albi felt small and out of his depth.’ (Albi, page 99)

Quote B: ‘[Humans] live in their cities, forgetting that they are part of nature. And most forget to look after the earth. Maybe they don’t realise that they need the earth’s greenness so that they can eat and breathe.’ (Oros, page 116)

CREATIVE ACTIVITY IDEAS

- Write a diary entry from Rufus's perspective at the end of the book. What has he learned about himself throughout his journey? How does he see Albi and other animals differently now? Why do he and Albi both glow? Share your diary entries together.

- Read over the short poem in the prologue. What is the poem about? What do you notice about its form and structure? What does it look like on the page? Use this as inspiration to write your own short poem about living in harmony with the earth and all its animals.

Why not finish by designing an Albi bookmark and holding a vote for the next book you will read together!