

JONATHAN BROUGH

author of *AAHA! Racing to Rescue a Bear Trapped in Time*
offers IN PERSON SCHOOL VISITS for children in Years 2-6.

Up to 4 talks, each for groups sized up to 60. £200 per day all-inclusive*



Ten-year-old comedian and astronomer **Aahana (Aaha) Kapoor** has two big problems: a holiday she doesn't want and a stepbrother she really didn't ask for. But when a lost teddy and some hot chocolate send her **fifty years into the future**, she discovers that time travel is no joke, and neither is family. With the help of a **rebellious robot** and a **suspiciously familiar Commander**, Aaha races to fix the future before time runs out.

An accessible and fun novel, ideal for Key Stage 2 classes investigating the solar system in Science or families in PSHE. Published by Tiny Tree 19 Feb 2026. 128 pages; £8.99 paperback; £18.99 hardcover.

Please e-mail aaha@jonathanbrough.net to discuss dates & details.

*within London travelcard zones 1-6; elsewhere by agreement to include additional travel and accommodation.
Fee includes a copy of the paperback for the school library.
Additional paperback copies £7 on the day or £6.50 if preordered in bulk (20+ copies) for supply during the visit.

I didn't expect to get a reply – there was nobody around, after all – but my experience was full of surprises. “Oh, you're so right **HONEY PIE!**” said a voice, as something, perhaps someone, who looked a bit – but not entirely – human and who was flying a good fifteen centimetres off the ground suddenly glided up in front of me. “We hear the same jokes from her all the time, they get **SO OLD** very quickly! Thyme machine, **I LOVE IT!** Great to see you by the way, and can I help you at all? You're looking a little... well... lost?”

“You can say that again...” I replied, “...and what are you standing on?”

“Oh, bless you **TREACLE TART**, it's only my **HOVERBOARD**. I know – a really old model, but it's what we're given as standard here at the Spaceport. Usually reliable, but you've got to make sure your clothes don't get caught up in the booster fans. Good reason for wearing one of these **FUNKY** dayglo retro miniskirts, that's what I say!

“Anyway, I'm still a newbie; I've only been out of the box for a few weeks. You've heard of AI? Well, they didn't put very much of that at

all inside me. I'm **TAAANVI**: totally artificial, and actually not very intelligent. So... you've got yourself to the South Terminal, which is just peachy if you're booked on a short-haul rocket to one of the places near Earth. But if you're going further away, on one of those... **BRRRRRR...** freezing expeditions to the cold gassy planets, you've gotta get yourself over to the North Terminal. Don't worry, though, it's fine – the teleport takes less than a minute! It's just over there.” She pointed in the direction of where, only an hour or so before (or maybe it was about **FIFTY YEARS AGO**), I'd been jumping on and off the shuttle with Mum and Barun.

I must have looked astonished, so she kept on talking. “If, on the other hand **SYRUP SPONGE**, you're trying to go out of the solar system and travel further across the galaxy, **WHOOOO** girl, you're most definitely in the wrong place. Indeed, you're in the whole wrong spaceport! Perhaps you're transferring rockets? Anyway, for going beyond our good old sun you've got to teleport yourself to another launchpad

A hilarious & heartwarming adventure about family, responsibility and second chances.

She's ten. She's off on holiday... ..but she's going fifty years the wrong way!

In 2023, after a hundred terms in education that included three headships, Jonathan Brough retired from teaching. Since then, he has been working as an educational consultant including question-setting for ISEB English and on the IAPS Supporting Quality and Compliance team.



Aaha! Racing to Rescue a Bear Trapped in Time is the first of his children's books.

Talks are offered to pupils in Years 2 to 6 and focus on the writing and publishing process. Jonathan is also happy to talk about the power of reading to parents and staff members.

Jonathan has a DBS check on the Update Service.

To discuss further, please email aaha@jonathanbrough.net

And then she interrupted me and stole my punchline! **HOW DARE SHE?!** “You win a cruise around the sun every year!” she said, with a huge grin on her face. “Oh Aaha, I love it when you tell your jokes, and they're all really, **REALLY** good. But trust me, you will never ever start one that I won't be able to finish off. I know each and every one of them. I promise.”

Well, that was a challenge that I certainly wanted to put to the test! “Really?” I asked.

“Really,” she confirmed. “Every single one. It's **IMPOSSIBLE** for you to tell me a joke that I haven't heard already.”

She was really annoying me! “So can you tell me why Mercury is bald?” I asked.

“Easy! It has **NO 'AIR!**”

“And what did Mars say to Saturn when it wanted a chat?”

“No problem! It said, ‘Give me a **RING** some time!’”

“And do you know why rabbits like going up in space once they get married?”

“Oh, you've got to do better than this, Aaha. They go on a **BUNNY MOON!**”

I really, **REALLY** thought that she wouldn't get that last joke. It was one of my favourites, and I hadn't heard it anywhere else. So I stood there and thought **VERY** hard. I knew I probably only had one more chance; if she got my next joke, I'd have to give up and say she was right. She knew it all. Somehow or other, not only did she know about Captain Bear and my entire family (even Auntie Savi, or Aunt Asavari as it seemed I might need to call her now that I knew she was going to become an eco-warrior), she also knew **ALL** of my punchlines as well. So I closed my eyes, squished up my nose, stuck out my tongue and racked my brains until I couldn't rack them any more.

And I thought I had it; **THE WINNING JOKE...** the one that would prove I could beat her. I was going to make her laugh if it was the last thing I did.

“So do please let me know,” I said, building up as much tension as I could, “what the astronomers did after they'd watched the Earth spin all the way round on its axis and then decided they wanted to go home?”

“Easy!” she replied. “**THEY CALLED IT A DAY!**”