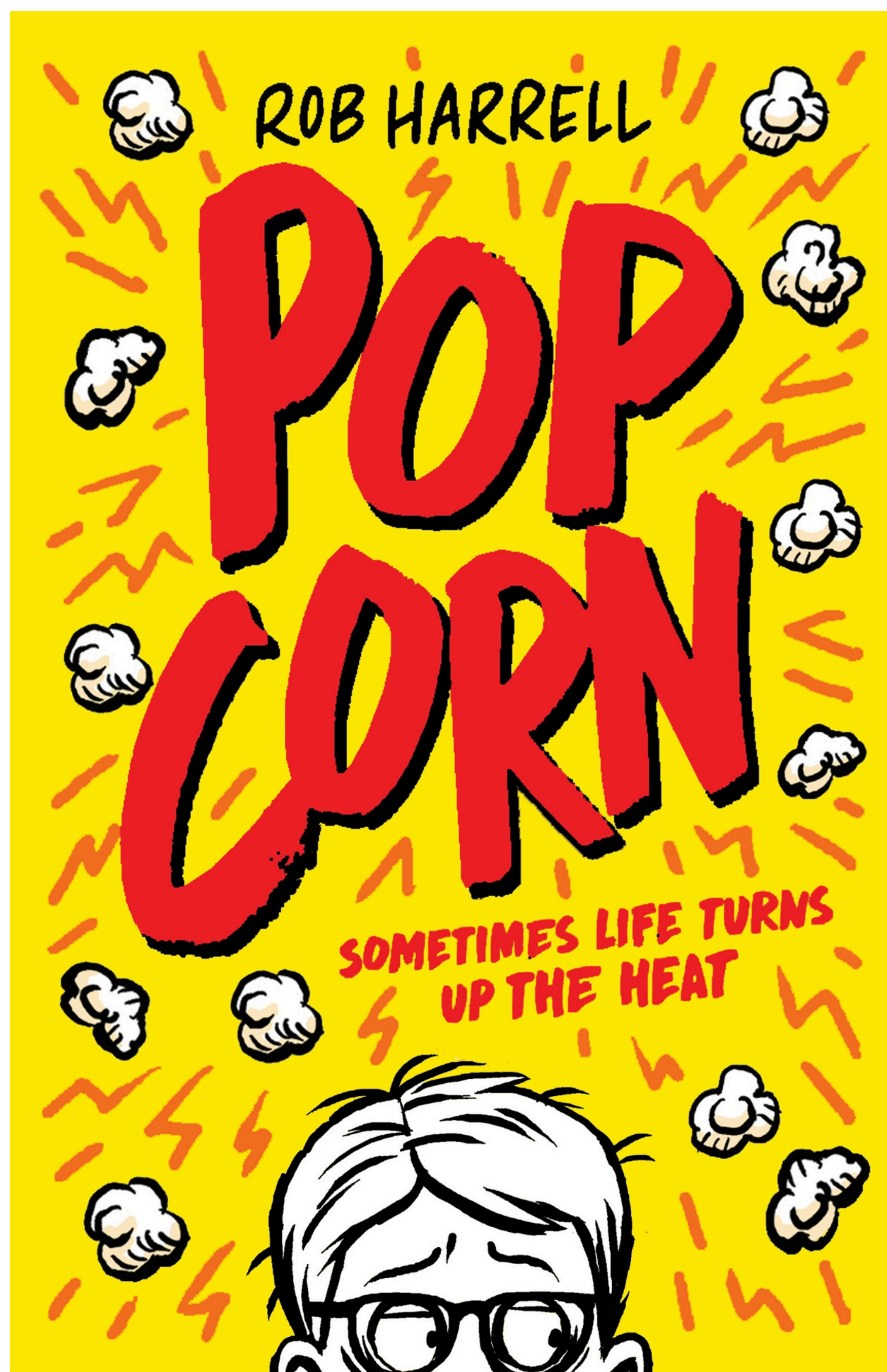


The Carnegies



The Carnegie Longlist 2026 Shadowing Resources



Popcorn

Carnegie Medal for Writing

Author: Rob Harrell

Age range: 9+

Description:

Andrew is determined that school photograph day will go well. Anxiety is a real concern for him though. There's a wonderful hopeful tone throughout the novel alongside a sympathetic and authentic representation of panic attacks. Accessible and affecting throughout, this is a romp of read set across a single day. Emotion and humour are expertly balanced.

Themes:

- Anxiety
- Panic attack
- Humour
- Emotional honesty
- Friendship
- Bullying

Shadowing Ideas:

1. Draw your own mini comic like Andrew's Anxiety Files featuring at least 4 panels or boxes, and yourself as the main character.
2. Andrew uses popcorn popping as a simile for how he feels when he is anxious. Write a collaborative or acrostic poem using different similes for different emotions.
3. Create a year book photo collection of your shadowing group. You could create two; one consisting of the perfect photographs and one reflecting a messier reality.