

THE INSTRUCTIONS

Poem from *Moon Juice* by Kate Wakeling

1. How to spot THE INSTRUCTIONS

THE INSTRUCTIONS come in all shapes and sizes.

They are often found in and around:

- *Tall buildings with statues of lions outside*
- *Faces with an angry expression*
- *Faces with a smile seen only in the mouth but (crucially) not in the eyes*

2. The other instructions

There are plenty of *other* sorts of instructions, which can of course be useful.

For example:

- *Try not to insert any part of your body into this pond: it contains an irritated crocodile*
- *For best results, keep both eyes open while landing this lopsided helicopter*
- *Do not under any circumstances eat the angry man's sandwich*

3. What THE INSTRUCTIONS want

You see, THE INSTRUCTIONS aren't here to help you.

They want to help someone or something else.

THE INSTRUCTIONS say things like:

- *No one's ever done THAT before: it CAN'T be a good idea.*
- *Please do the SAME thing as all those OTHER people over THERE*
- *Hear that person talking in the PARTICULARLY loud voice? They must DEFINITELY be RIGHT.*

4. If you follow THE INSTRUCTIONS

If you follow THE INSTRUCTIONS it is unlikely anyone will ever be very cross with you.

If you follow THE INSTRUCTIONS you are guaranteed to feel neat and tidy (but also a little short of breath)

5. If you don't follow THE INSTRUCTIONS

You will likely face some tricky moments. Apologies for this.

However, there is also a good chance that something

stragexcitingremarkableunexpectedslightly-frighteningbutbrightlycoloured

will happen.

6. The choice

is yours.