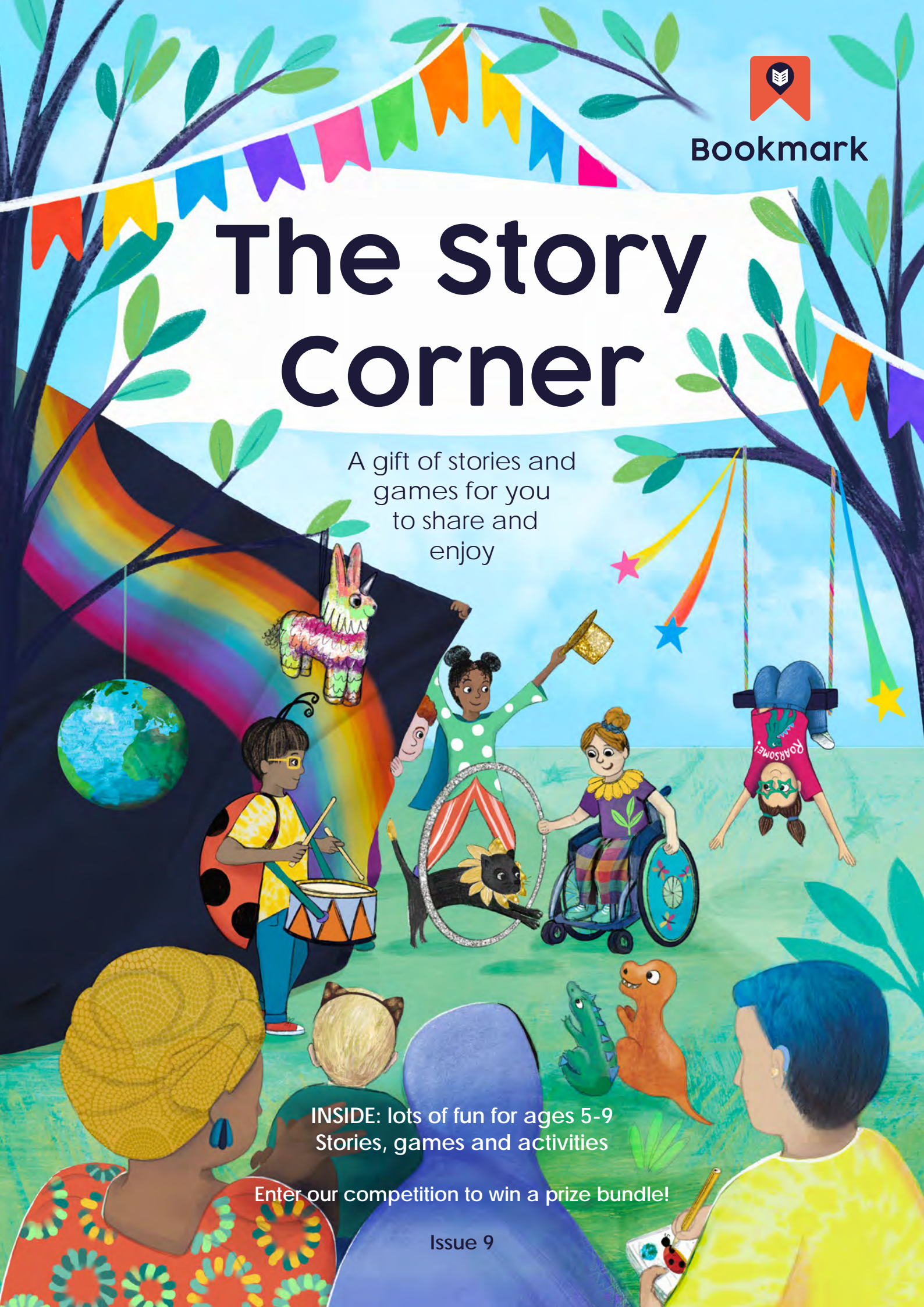




Bookmark

The Story Corner

A gift of stories and games for you to share and enjoy



INSIDE: lots of fun for ages 5-9
Stories, games and activities

Enter our competition to win a prize bundle!

Issue 9

£1 BOOK TOKEN

Changing lives through a love of books and reading



SWAP YOUR £1 TOKEN AT A BOOKSHOP

CHOOSE YOUR £1 BOOK FOR FREE

CHILDREN, FAMILIES & EDUCATORS. This token is for single-use only and entitles children (under 16) to ONE FREE WORLD BOOK DAY 2024 BOOK to take home or use for reading in school or in participating bookshops (one subject to stock availability. Find your nearest participating bookshop at worldbookday.com/participating-retailers.)
Full terms and conditions: worldbookday.com/terms-conditions
RETAILERS: Full terms and conditions: worldbookday.com/resources/bookshelves
PROMOTE: World Book Day is co-ordinated by World Book Day Ltd, registered charity 1079257 (England and Wales), registered company 22783265 (UK).



World Book Day have curated a fantastic selection of £1 books that will take you on different adventures and come in the form of comic books, non-fiction books, graphic stories, picture books and classics. Dive into the pages of one of these books to discover something new or different, or meet characters you love again - you might encounter superheroes, dinosaurs, creepy crawlies, jellyfish in space, or even a sausage roll named Greg!

Don't forget to exchange your book token!

You can exchange your World Book Day token to get a £1 book for FREE until Sunday 31 March – so don't forget to go down to one of the participating stores and get your hands on one of the amazing World Book Day books! If you've discovered that the magic of listening to books works best for you, then you can use the token to get £1 off any full priced audiobook. Plus, you can listen online to FREE audiobooks here: www.worldbookday.com/world-of-stories

Read Your Way this World Book Day®!

Reading is not just for one special day: it's a never-ending adventure and a celebration of choice and who we are as people! And so, World Book Day®, the charity, is on a mission to make sure that every child can experience the joy of reading and the benefits it brings by providing you with a book you can choose and call your own!

Reading is all about celebrating **your choice**, in how, what and where you choose to read. Sometimes it can feel like we need to do things a certain way, but there is no set or right way to read. So this World Book Day and onwards, we challenge you to explore and find what works best for you!

If you've lost your £1 token, no need to worry. We've worked with World Book Day to provide a token for you – just cut out and use the token on the opposite page!

Find a full list of books, and where you can exchange your token here: www.worldbookday.com

If none of the £1 books take your fancy, then you can use your token to get £1 off a full priced book and choose the book that excites you the most!

We can't wait to see what you choose to read!



continued on the back page

ILLUSTRATED BY VIVIAN TRUONG

Dear Reader,

My name is Dr Alex George, and I am an author and the UK Youth Mental Health Ambassador. I want to help children just like you to manage your mental wellbeing with confidence.

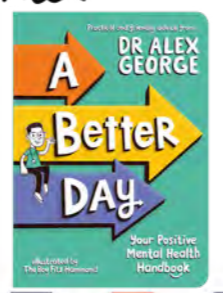
Did you know that reading can help improve your mental health? It can be a place to escape to when things are feeling hard, or a way of learning about people and understanding experiences that mirror or are different to our own. Perhaps you have a favourite story that makes you laugh when you're feeling sad, or a favourite book character who feels like a friend to you?

I am dyslexic, so I struggled with reading when I was younger – but I have always loved journaling and being creative. Even if reading isn't your thing, using your imagination and getting into the creative flow through drawing, music, dance, or whatever else you enjoy, can do wonders for your mental health.

Why not practice this quick calming exercise? Draw your favourite hot dessert – a chocolate fudge brownie, or apple pie perhaps! Once you've drawn it, take a deep breath in through your nose – smell that delicious dessert! – and then blow out through your mouth as though you're blowing on the dessert to cool it down. Do this five times, and then drop your shoulders and relax.

Now you're calm and ready to get reading!

Dr Alex



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LARA THE YELLOW LADYBIRD

illustrated by Catherine Holtzhausen
written by Martha Evans
designed by Nadene Kriel
edited by Ester Levinrad

Lara the ladybird was a special bug. Unlike all her friends, she had bright yellow wings.

Read this story left to right

Everyone loved her yellow wings.

Each morning, Bibi Butterfly said hello,

and Manto Mantis always waved.

At school, she played with lots of friends.

Even Sesa, the sulky spider, was happy to see her.

But Lara wanted to be like the other ladybirds.

"I wish I had red wings like you, Mama," she cried.

So one day, to cheer her up, Lara's mother painted her wings bright red.

Lara sat all alone. No one noticed her new red wings.

The next morning, nobody greeted Lara on her way to school.

And when she got there,

none of her friends said hello.

Until Miss Miya spotted her and said, "You've painted your lovely yellow wings!"

Lara's classmates were shocked. "Your wings are special!"

"So unique!"
"So rare!"

"Lara," Miss Miya said, "your **yellow wings** are what make you you."

"Like Sipho's spot... and Sally's legs."

Look around, what makes your friends unique?

Back home, Lara took a long bath and scrubbed until her golden wings gleamed.

"I'll never paint my wings again!" she thought.

Except, maybe once or twice...

To try a bit of purple... or something nice. But not for ever and just for fun.

How many ladybirds can you count?

Lara the Yellow Ladybird, originally published by Book Dash 2016 under a Creative Commons License BY 4.0. (creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/). Find out more at bookdash.org. Editorial and design changes have been made for *The Story Corner*.

IDENTITY

Our **IDENTITY** is made up of the many details that make each of us who we are.

Identity can include where we live, where our family is from, what we enjoy, or even what sports teams we like.

Explore all the different parts of your **IDENTITY** by making a 'tree of me'.

Draw a tree with lots of branches.

On each branch, write a word that describes you.

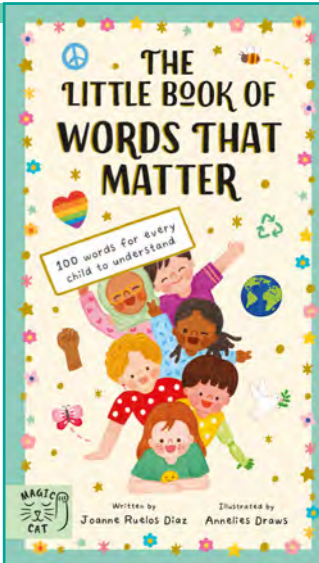


It's beautiful to see the many parts of who we are.

Write or draw your own identity on the TREE OF ME



What might an identity tree look like for one of your friends or someone in your family? Could you fill one in for your favourite character from a book, TV show or film?



Add extra leaves if you like, and colour in the tree

A Gruffalo Party

Colour in the Gruffalo and the other animals from the deep dark wood.



HOW TO BE KIND

Following the 'golden rule' helps you be kind to yourself and those who are very different to you.

By John 'The Planetwalker' Francis
Illustrations by Josy Bloggs

For centuries, people have been thinking of new ways to show kindness. Incredibly, many religions and cultures have come up with a very similar idea. It is called the golden rule. Each version has the same core message: treat other people as kindly as you would like to be treated yourself. The rule encourages you to be kind to

yourself. And then to feel empathy for others, which is when you understand someone else's feelings. For example, the golden rule tells you not to steal, because you wouldn't like it if someone stole from you! Here are just a few examples of the way different cultures around the world have celebrated the power of being kind.

'What you would not find acceptable if it were done to you by another, do not do to them.'
Akan proverb (Ghana).

'Love your neighbour as yourself.'
From Leviticus 19:18 in the Torah. This is the first part of the Hebrew Bible, which is also known as The Old Testament and is sacred to people of the Jewish and Christian faiths.

'None of you truly believes, until he loves for his brothers what he loves for himself.'
A saying of the Prophet Muhammad, the founder of Islam.

'Each one should do unto others as they would have others do unto them.'
Manco Cápac, legendary founder of the Incan empire.

'Do not do unto others what you would not want others to do unto you!'
From The Analects of Confucius.



This article originally featured in What on Earth! Magazine. To find out more, visit: whatonearth.co.uk



REX, the FEARFUL T-REX

written by Swapna Haddow & Dr Diplo, illustrated by Yiting Lee published by Magic Cat

Dr Diplo, I need to talk to you.

What's wrong, Rex?

You know how lots of dinos are a bit scared of me because I'm a T-Rex?

Yes. And I know you have been working hard not to chomp on your neighbours and friends.

I have. And everyone thinks I'm the bravest dinosaur because nothing scares a T-Rex. Only...

YOU ARE INVITED TO WATCH THE COMET SHOWER TONIGHT. SEE YOU THERE!

This looks like it will be a great night.

But in the dark, I could be savaged by a Spinosaurus!

And I could trip over small rocks and fall headfirst on my eyeballs.

And I only have small eyeballs, Dr Diplo.

Worst of all, I've heard stories of ghosties and ghoulies coming out after dark and spooking dinos who weren't looking to be spooked!

But I don't want to miss out on the party.

Sniff Sniff

I want to stay up late and eat roasted marshmallow-mosses with my friends...

And watch the comets light up like fireworks.

But I'm too scared! Scared of the dark!

I Feel Roarsome

Rex, many of us have a **FEAR** of the dark. In fact, many of us have lots of different fears and that is normal, too.

I think I know an exercise that can help get you there.

Do you have a favourite toy?

Yes. This is Toof.

Toof is going to be your **BELLY BUDDY**. He will help you feel calm in the dark.

When you feel worried just lie comfortably on your back and balance Toof on your belly. Breathe in deeply.

Your belly buddy might rise as it sits on top. Slowly breathe out.

Repeat this a few times. Hold your belly buddy on your chest and let them listen to your heartbeat.

Try the **Belly Buddy** method with your favourite toy!

HOW THE WORLD SHAPES YOU

You are born with around 100 billion nerve cells, called neurons. As you grow and learn, connections form between the neurons. The more you do something, the more connections your brain makes.

The way people see your **ethnicity** or **gender** can also influence the person you become. People might treat you differently or expect different things from you depending on the colour of your skin or whether they see you as a boy or a girl.



Why can't they just see me as me?



My dad speaks to me in English but Nanni and Nanna speak Gujarati. I grew up speaking both!

Living with adults who speak different languages means you are likely to learn both languages naturally.



I was adopted so although I have sporty genes from my birth mother, my mum and dad are both really musical. I've turned out more musical than sporty. I've always been good at catching things though!

What you eat and how you move, what you read, your friends, the people you live with and the experiences you have also influence the person you become.

Some children are given toys based on ideas about gender.



Toys that develop nurturing skills.

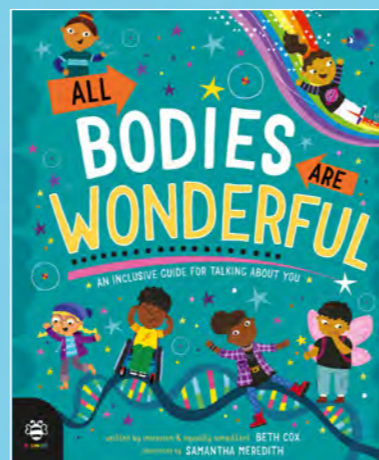


Toys that strengthen spatial awareness and logic.

The sort of toys you play with as a child influences the skills you develop and the expectations you might have for the job you will do when you're older. These skills aren't controlled by your genes but by experience instead.

Do you know more than one language?

An Extract From

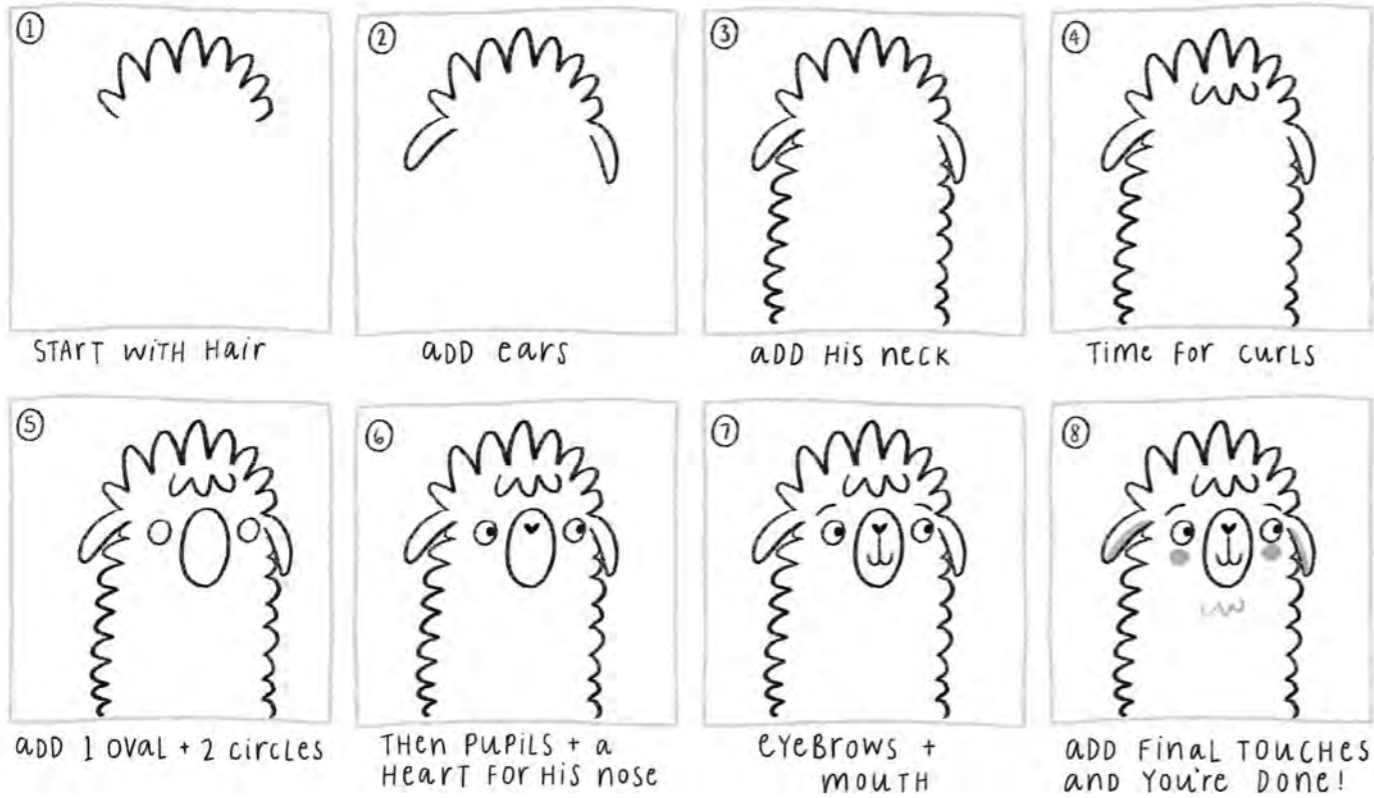


What are you good at that you could teach your friends?

An extract from ALL BODIES ARE WONDERFUL, written by inclusion & equality consultant BETH COX, illustrated by SAMANTHA MEREDITH, published by © b small 2023 | bsmall.co.uk

HOW TO DRAW FRANK

THE UNICORN ALPACA



DRAW YOUR OWN FRANK HERE

Frank lives in a petting zoo, full of wonderful cuddly animals. But he feels like he doesn't fit in.

One day he discovers a book about unicorns... and wakes up to a horn (ice-cream cone) on his head!

His dream has come true – he is a fabulous unicorn and feels loved and confident in himself.



What is Frank's 'horn' made of?

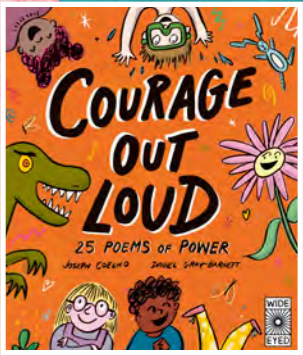
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Finding Your Voice

A POEM FROM

written by Joseph Coelho

Illustrations by Daniel Gray-Barnett



Joseph Coelho
Author



Daniel Gray-Barnett
Illustrator

Sit very still
in a quiet room.
Listen to your breath
and search inside.
Listen for the ebb and flow
of your voice.

Sieve imaginary hands
through the sands
of your beliefs.
Your voice is in the warmth
of those shifting dunes.

Look to the sky
of your happiest memory.
Your voice is in the exhale
of that endlessness.

Hold the concern
for the ones you love.
Your voice is what nestles against them.

Feel the solidity of your body
the weight of your bones,
the love in your heart.
Your voice moves through each one
in every part.

If you were looking
for your voice, where do
you think you would find it?

Would it be under a waterfall in a jungle?
Would you have to travel deep under the sea
in a submarine?

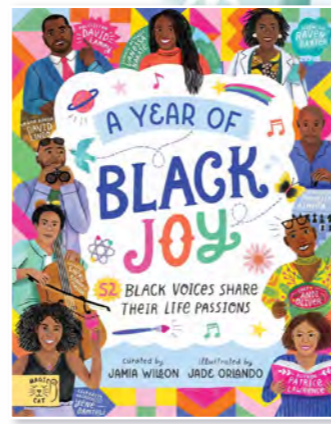
Would you have to take a rocket to Mars?

Write a poem that tells the story of your
search for your voice.



THE JOY OF STORY HUNTING

Author *Patrice Lawrence*



The world is full of stories waiting for me to discover and write down. Stories are calling out to me from behind bushes, through the windows of tall buildings and in the ebb and flow of rivers.

★•.....★•

I love asking strange questions and starting to write.

★•.....★•

I was that child who was always asking questions. Now that I'm an adult, those questions are the tools I use for my story hunt.

What if I peek behind that bush and find that there's a world ruled by warrior worms? *What* are their secret plans?

Why does a sad monster lurk behind that tower window? Perhaps she's locked in, missing her family and trying to make a parachute out of the paper left in the office. (But *where* is everybody else and *how* did she get there?)

Why does the river have waves like the sea? *What* if there are rivermen deep below, weaving the water on giant looms? *What* would happen if they stopped?

I love asking strange questions, gathering my even stranger answers, picking up a pen and starting to write...



Write your ideas here :

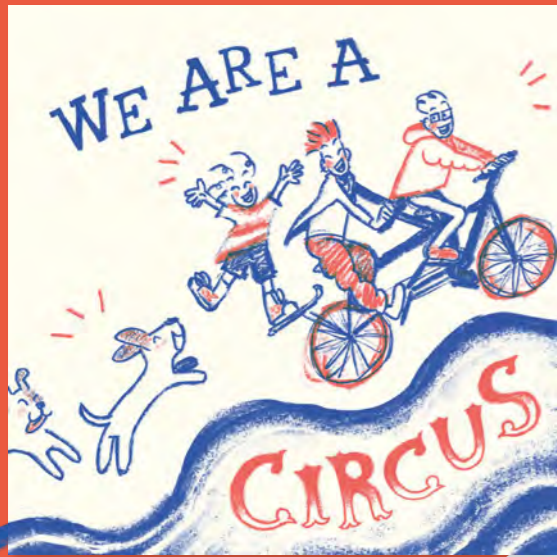
Patrice's Questions to Find Your Story

When writing a book, I ask myself the questions below to help me work out what's going to happen. Perhaps you can do the same when you're writing your stories. Good luck!

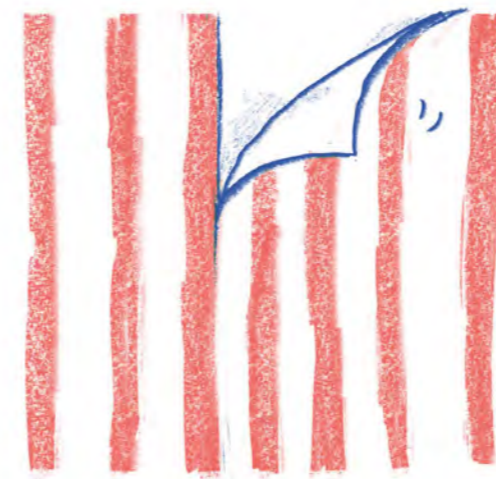
WHO is my main character?	WHO are their friends and family?	DO they have any enemies? Why?
WHAT is precious to my character?	WHAT are they afraid of?	WHAT do they want?
WHO or what is stopping them from getting what they want?	WHAT is their life usually like?	WHAT changes to kick-start the story?
WHAT is the first challenge my character faces to stop them from getting what they want?	HOW do they overcome it?	WHAT makes my character nearly give up?
WHAT makes them pull through?	WHAT do they get at the end of the story?	WHAT do they learn?



Continue Story Hunting on your own piece of paper!



Our first house had a big patio.
Fortunately. Unfortunately, it was
a bit wet.

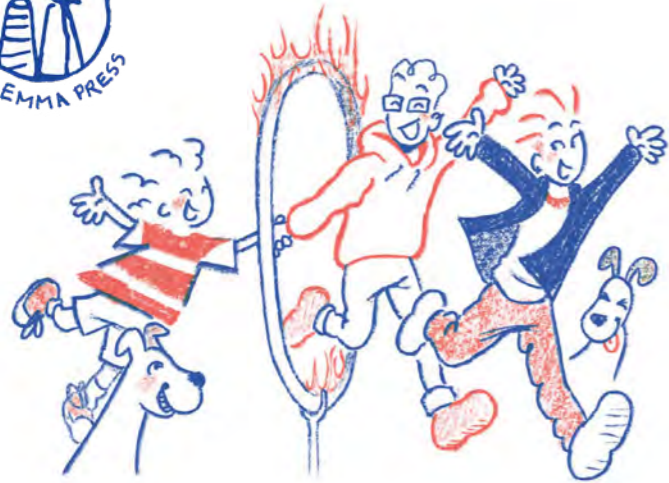


The second house was old
and the walls were falling off.



But fortunately it had a blueberry tree
right outside the window. (It's always
good to look at the "fortunatelies".)

STORY BY NASTA
ILLUSTRATED BY ROSIE FENCOTT
PUBLISHED BY



But now we want something with
"fortunatelies" only. A stable place:
we are tired of moving around.

I am thinking and thinking:
where will I find a house with
"fortunatelies" only, with walls
that cannot fall off?
When I find it I'll give it to
my little acrobat as a gift.



The solution is right there.
Found it!

I close my acrobat's eyes.
Here! Now, open!
From that day on, our
show is the most special
one in the world!

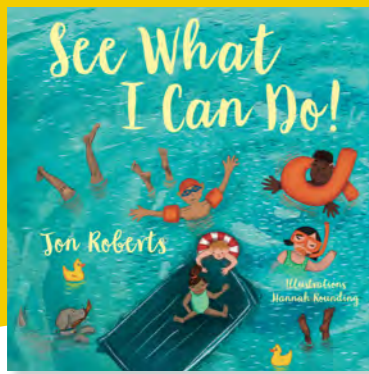
At our show, today and every day,
see three people and two dogs
at home with one another!

On top of the world,
with stars in our eyes,
dry and warm.
Happiness only!



This book is made
using only two colours
(with a special technique
called **risoprinting**) - look how
the illustrator, Rosie Fencott,
managed to create a rainbow
using only **red and blue**!

Which are your two favourite
colours? Try using them to illustrate
an object or a scene that is normally
multicoloured, like a colourful
Easter egg, a busy seaside,
a play area in the city.



written by **John Roberts**
illustrated by **Hannah Rounding**
published by **Graffeg**

Sight and sound

Mina is in the music room, playing a piano.

"I love coming to school. Music is my favourite lesson," she tells her friends. "I'm particularly good at playing the piano and wind instruments. I have low vision, which means I can't see very well. But my ears work just fine! That's why I like music. I love listening to all the beautiful sounds the instruments make."

"I am learning to read large print," says Adeela. "I use a magnifier, which helps make the words bigger. My computer in school is great. It has a text reader that reads the words out loud so I can hear them."

"I can't see as much as other kids, but with a little help I can do anything I want," says Mina. "I love climbing trees, playing sport, reading about unicorns, chasing my brother, and—"

"Drawing rainbows!" Adeela interrupts with a giggle. "I have some sight left, and I'm getting the most out of it!"



Super-fast and flying

Bryson is in the lunchroom. His teacher, Miss Black, is helping him eat his cheese sandwich.

Say:
MUH-skyoo-ler
DISS-truh-fee

Bryson has muscular dystrophy. Even though he looks like everyone else, his body is different. "I'm not as strong as other boys my age," Bryson says between mouthfuls. "That's because my muscles keep getting weaker, instead of getting stronger. I get tired a lot too. And my muscular dystrophy affects my balance. I used to love riding my bike, but I had to stop because I kept falling off."

"That must be hard," says Miss Black.

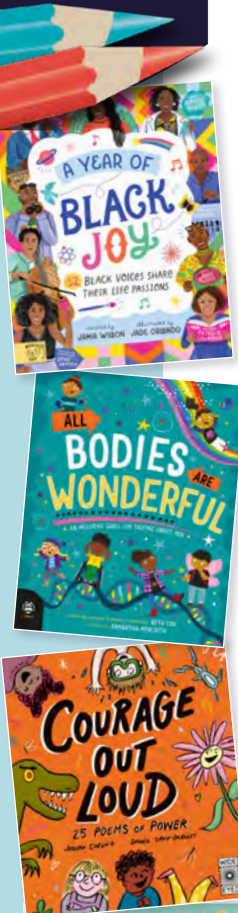
"It is. I just want to be like my friends, but when you have muscular dystrophy, it slows you down. I use a wheelchair, and I'm learning to go super-fast, but I can't always do what my friends do."

"I never give up trying, though! And there's one thing I can do no matter what: travel! I love travelling with my parents to different places around the world, meeting new people, and learning their cultures and what they understand about muscular dystrophy."

COMPETITION!



Design an outfit that shows who you are



The Dress in the Window, words © Robert Tregoning, Artwork © Pippa Curnick © Oxford University Press 2023 | @OxfordChildrens

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+ £20 Book Voucher!



HOW TO ENTER

Once you have finished, ask a grown-up to take a picture of your outfit. Send it to: thestorycorner@bookmarkreading.org

GROWN-UPS
terms/conditions, including closing date, available on our website:



bookmarkreading.org/the-story-corner

The Story Corner (issue 8) 'draw your own celebration' drawing competition!

★ WINNER! ★

Name: Georgia
Age: 9

Well done!



Affirmations

Which story is each character from? Who have we not met yet?

Things to say to yourself in the morning, during the day, or when you look in the mirror. You could stick these up on your wall as a reminder and encouragement!

I believe in myself

I am always doing my best

Learning makes me stronger

I don't give up

I am kind to everyone, especially myself

It's ok to ask for help

My problems have solutions

I feel ROARSOME!

My happiness is important

Character Illustrations by Annelies Draws, Catherine Holtzhausen, Hannah Rounding, India Joseph, Rosie Fencott, Yiting Lee

Bookmark



Which page is the present hidden on?



Which page is the smiley hidden on?



Which page is the rocket hidden on?








Find the hidden item in each magazine this school year. Mark the page number in the right circle. Cut out and keep this handy bookmark so you can use again. Check back in Issue 10 for how you can join our Hall of Fame!

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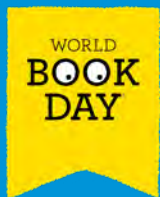
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You could read a chapter book, picture book, comic book, listen to an audiobook, read in a secret den, in a treehouse or even on the loo! It could be reading with your family or friends or reading by yourself. It could be being read to or reading to others, even to a hamster! Reading is all about your choice and the magic of discovering stories, adventures, or facts in your own way.

We encourage you to choose the book you want to read the most— don't worry about what others might think! Whether you're drawn to *Elmer and the Patchwork Story* (David McKee) or *Dread Wood Creepy Creations* (Jennifer Killick), the power to choose is in your hands. Once you're finished reading, you could even swap your book with your friends and discover even more fantastic tales together!

Why not write a book review about your chosen book to share with your teacher:

- What did you like best about the story or characters?
- Was the story what you expected?
- What would you change to make it better?

What next?

- What do you think might happen in the sequel?
- Could you have a go writing your idea as a story?

If you enjoyed it, find out what other books the author has written.

Can you find these at school or at your local library?



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