



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 signed book!**

Issue 5

Hello and a big roar!

My name is Hannah Gold and I write big-hearted children's books which share my love of the planet.

I have always loved being in nature, but the good thing about reading is that you don't even have to leave your house to visit exciting faraway places!

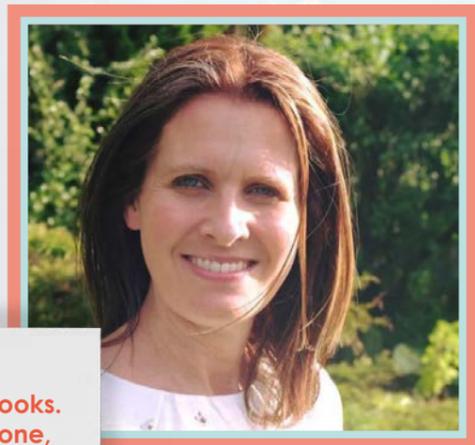
Two of my favourite books are Katherine Rundell's 'The Explorer' and Nizrana Farook's 'The Girl Who Stole An Elephant' because they combine adventure, animals and a love of the outside world. I try my best to offer exciting adventures plus an important ecological message in my own books too. My debut book 'The Last Bear' is set in the snowy wilds of the Arctic, while 'The Lost Whale' is set on the mighty Pacific Ocean, and both offer hope for the future.

That's why for me, the best thing about books is not just the journey they can take you on – but the inspiration they provide.

Remember, if you want to look after the planet and the animals, then you're never too small to make a difference.

Take care and happy reading!

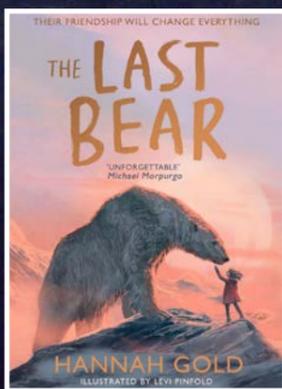
Hannah
X



These are Hannah's Books.
For a chance to win one,
please see page 24 for
competition details.

Imagine making friends with a polar bear...

There are no polar bears left on Bear Island. At least, that's what April's father tells her when his scientific research takes them to this remote Arctic outpost for six months. But one endless summer night, April meets one. He is starving, lonely and a long way from home. Determined to save him, April begins the most important journey of her life...



Rio has been sent to live with a grandmother he barely knows in California, while his mum is in hospital back home. Alone and adrift, the only thing that makes him smile is joining his new friend Marina on her dad's whale watching trips. That is until an incredible encounter with White Beak, a gentle giant of the sea changes everything. But when White Beak goes missing, Rio must set out on a desperate quest to find his whale and somehow save his mum.



Words © Hannah Gold, illustrations © Levi Pinfold, published by HarperCollins 2021/2022

The Last Bear

WINNER OF THE 2022 BLUE PETER BOOK AWARD

WINNER OF THE 2022 WATERSTONES CHILDREN'S BOOK PRIZE

See if you can
find these books in
your local library

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Make a tree collage!

The Other Way



written by Radha Rangarajan,
illustrated by Garima Gupta

Tall like a tree

Short like grass

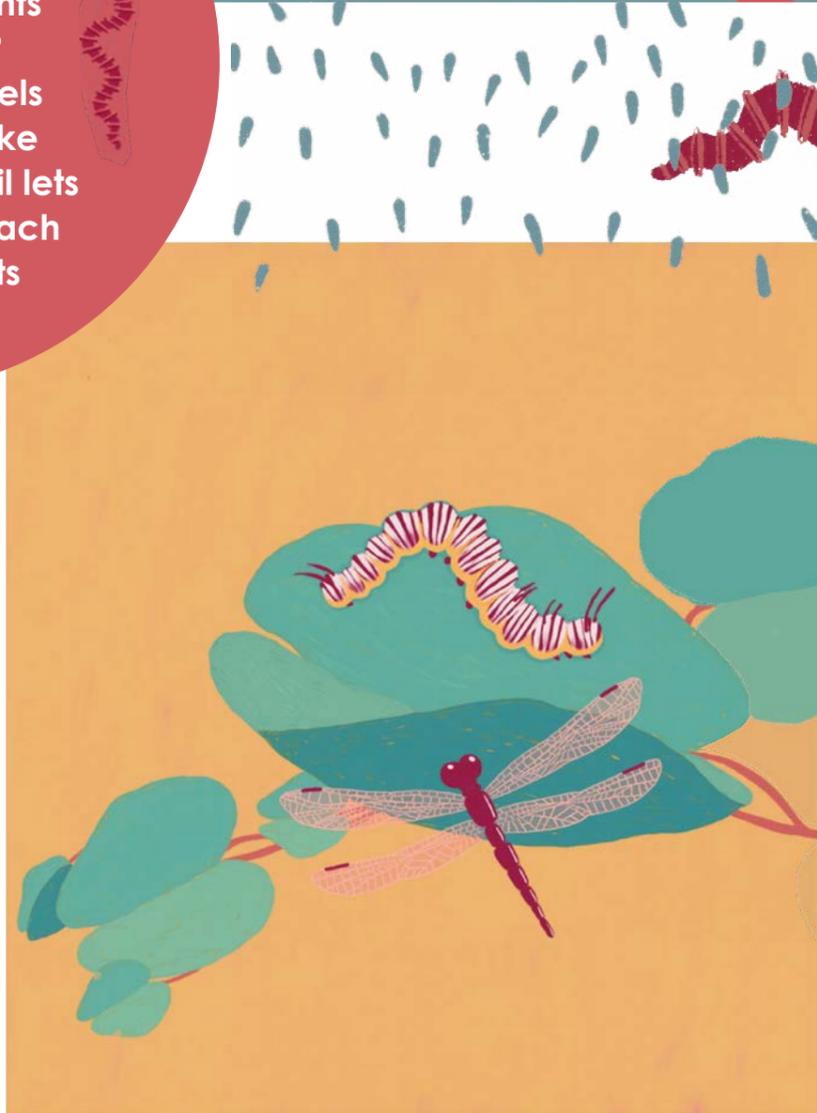
Can you circle
the pairs of opposites
on each page?

Did you know, earthworms help plants to grow? The tunnels they make in the soil lets water reach their roots



Up in the sky is a cloud

Down in the soil is an earthworm



Over the leaf is a caterpillar

Under the leaf is a dragonfly



Light like a petal

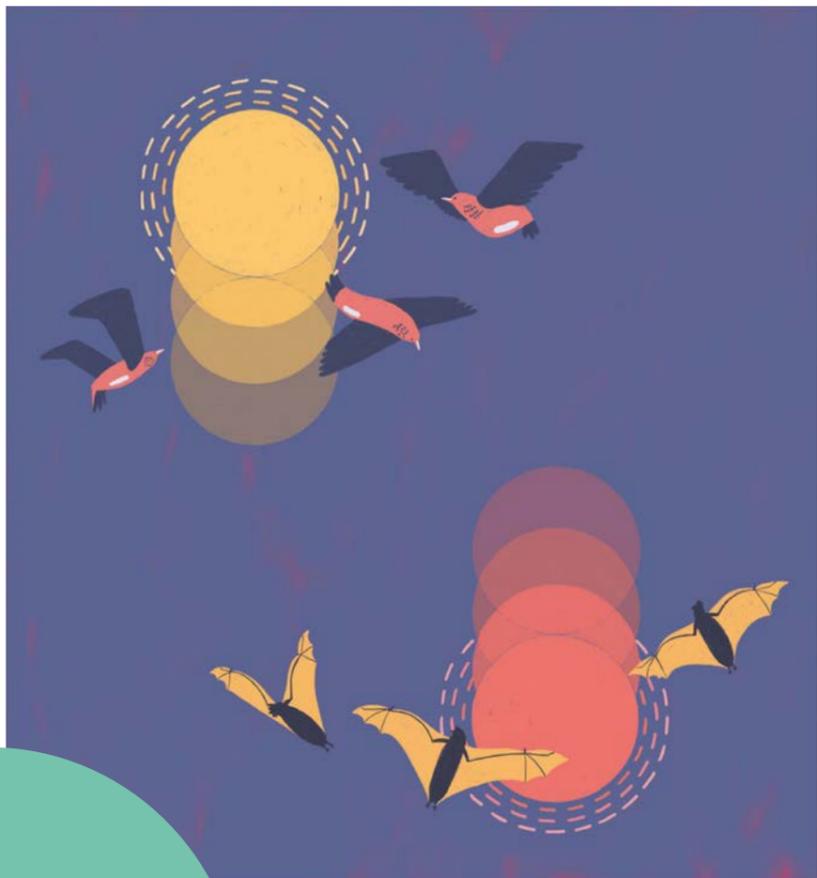
Heavy like a rock



Quick as a squirrel

Slow as a snail

Can you think of any other things as light as a petal? Or heavy as a rock?



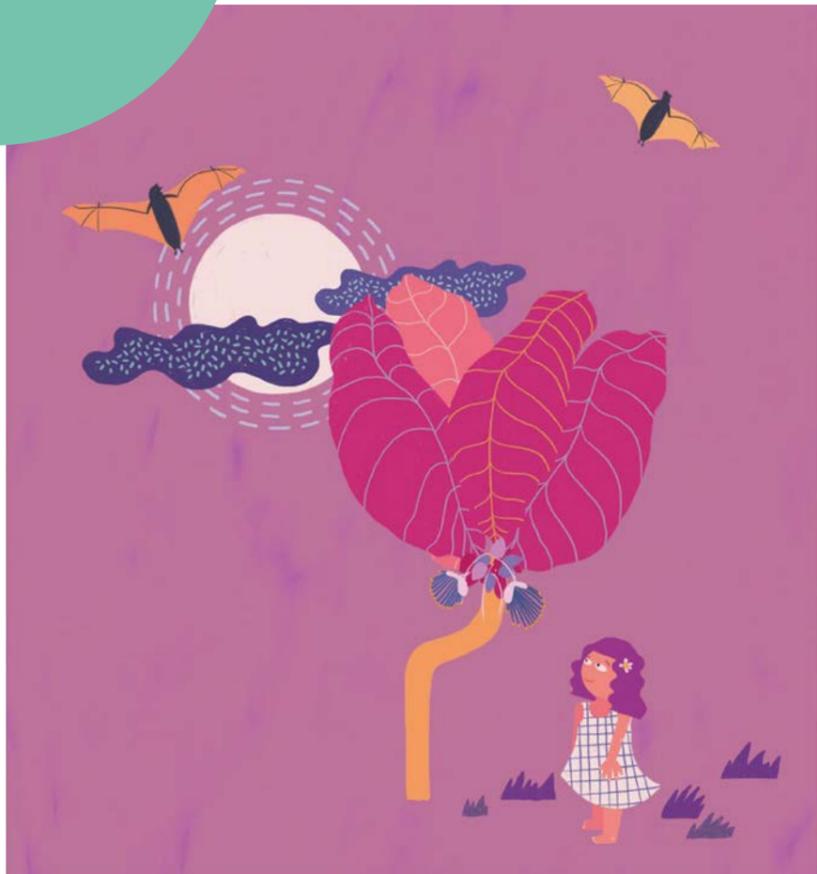
Birds **before** sunrise

Bats **after** sunset



Above the tree
is the moon

Below the tree
is you!



Did you know
that most bats
use sound to
'see' the world
around them?

Find the Matching Words

Draw a line between each pair of opposites



Look back at
the story to find
the answers!





Watch Out! The Tiger is Here!

written by Sejal Mehta,
illustrated by Rohan Chakravarty

Read this
story from
left to right



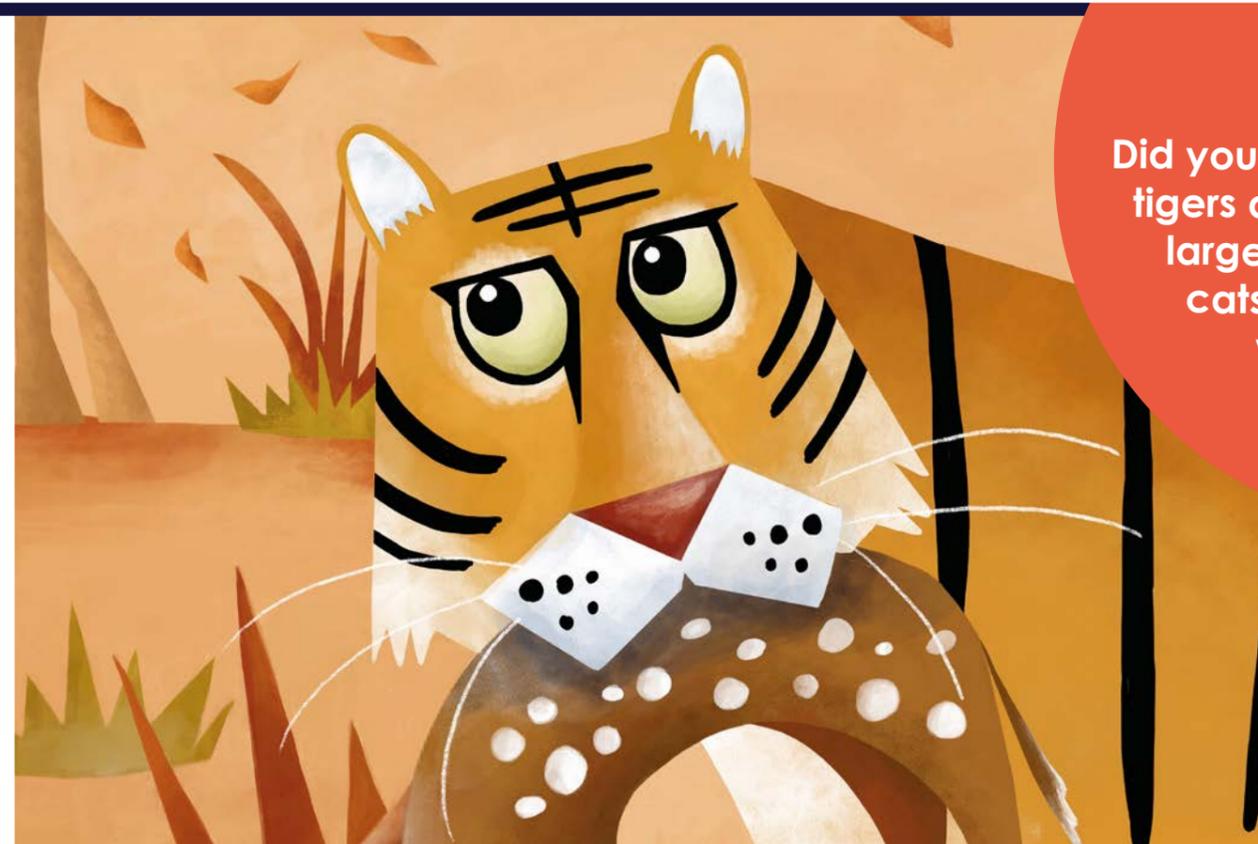
It's not easy being a tiger.



Yes, tigers are beautiful and fierce.



But tigers are also big and heavy.
This makes it difficult for them to hunt for food.



Did you know,
tigers are the
largest wild
cats in the
world?

Out of every twenty times a tiger hunts,
it eats only once.

A 'langur'
is a kind of
monkey that
lives in Asia



When a tiger moves through the forest,
KHAU! KHAU! KHAK!
The langur calls, just like an old man coughing!
KHAU! KHAU! KHAK!



AWOOOO! HAWOOOO!
The barking deer calls, like a scared dog!
AWOOOO! HAWOOOO!

Can you
make the
sounds like
the animals
in the story?

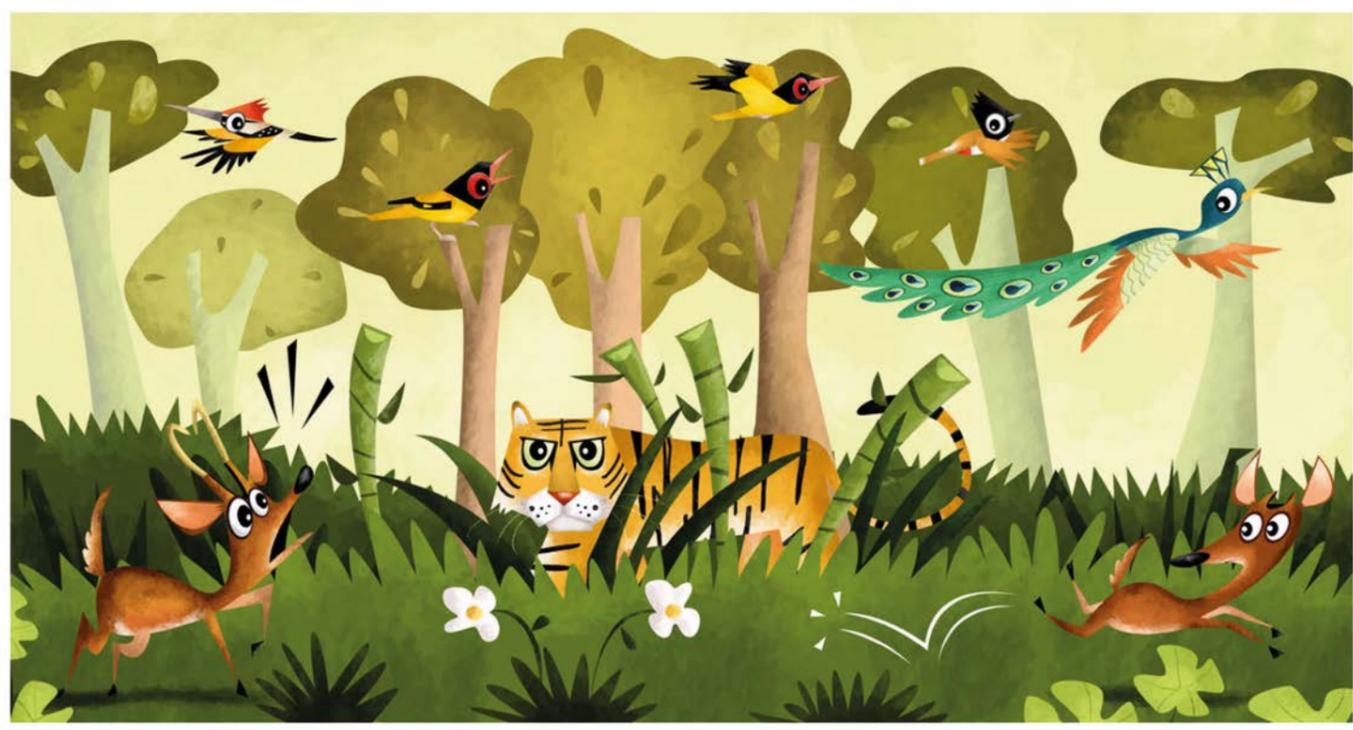


OOW! OOW! OOW!
The spotted deer calls, like a little bird!
OOW! OOW! OOW!



The whole forest knows the tiger is here!
AHUUN? AHUUN?
The tiger wonders, where has everyone gone?

Spot the Difference!



1 - 4
you're good

5 - 8
you're great

9 - 10
you're an eagle-eyed super star!

There are 10 differences between the two pictures. Can you circle them with your pencil?



FOR ANSWERS scan the QR code or visit bookmarkreading.org/the-story-corner

The Joke Corner

How can you tell that the ocean is friendly?

It waves!

What kind of bow can't be tied?

A rainbow!

What does a cloud wear under its raincoat?

Thunder-pants!

What do you call a snowman in July?

A puddle!

What does the sun drink out of?

Sunglasses!

How do you cut a wave in half?

Use a sea saw!

Who says Zzub Zzub Zzub?

A bee flying backwards!

Tongue Twister!
Can you say this 5 times fast?....

Buzzing bees buzz busily beside bus stops!



SCAVENGE HUNT!

EXAMPLE
Have you seen a cat?
Colour me in!

Can you add your own drawings in this space?

What can you spy outside, or even through your window? Did you see it in a book, or in your imagination? If you see something that isn't here, can you draw and colour it in yourself?

Grow, Tree, Grow!

written by Dom Conlon,
illustrated by Anastasia Izesou

Ground-breaker, air-taster
Tree pushes its way through the soil.

Some seedlings are sprinters
whilst an oak lumbers on
as the bluebells' blue mist hugs
the wood.

But the sun brings out more
than a thin stalk of green
and danger sniffs at the soil.

A deer stumbles near
wanting Tree's new leaves,
hungry now winter has thawed.

One bite and Tree would be gone
but a bang in the air startles the doe
and she flees like a wisp of red smoke.

So is the forest now safe?
Can Tree grow in peace?

No. There are beetles and caterpillars
there are rabbits and ants
and each needs food to survive.

But branch is to sky
as root is to earth so
grow, Tree, grow!

INTERVIEW with Dom Conlon

What made you decide to write about the natural world?

I love walking through, and sitting in, surroundings which inspire me. All the books in the 'Wild Wanderers' series touch on parts of nature which mean a great deal to me - from the mystical wonder of hares to the thrill of weather.



Do poems have to rhyme?

No. Poems don't HAVE to do anything they don't want to. A poem has TOOLS not RULES. There are lots of things you can use in a poem - like rhyme, but you don't need to use them. The only important thing to use in a poem is your voice.

Do you have a favourite rhyming word?

I like rhymes which surprise me. I remember a child rhyming 'helicopter' with 'dropped her' and thought that was wonderfully inventive.



What's the best thing about being an author?

Finding a way to express new ideas as poems or stories. They don't need to become printed books or even be read by anyone. Sharing them is fun but the time I spend alone in my own imagination is special and I hope I never stop doing that.

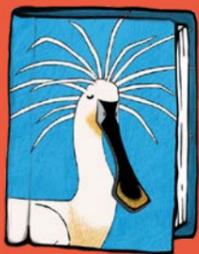
What do you think is the best word to say aloud?

Ooze. But also 'please', 'hello', 'onomatopoeia', and a word which isn't in any dictionary but which appears in every language - that's the word we make when we laugh.

What animal would you like to write about next?

I am trying to write about elephants at the moment but after that I think I might like to find a way to write about giraffes.





Why Don't Birds Comb Their Hair?

written by Suchi Govindarajan,
illustrated by Anjora Noronha



Why don't bulbuls comb their hair?

It looks like a little wave.



If I had a bulbul's hair,
I would wear clips.



How many other hairstyles can you think of?

Why don't hoopoes comb their hair?

It looks like a frilly fan.



If I had a hoopoe's hair,

I would push it back with a band.

Why don't spoonbills comb their hair?

It looks like an old paintbrush.



If I had a spoonbill's hair,
I would plait it all together.

Can you act out how you think each bird moves?

Why don't monals comb their hair?

It looks like a tiny broom.



If I had a monal's hair,
I would tie it up with ribbons.

Why don't fish owls comb their hair?

It looks like two furry worms.



If I had a fish owl's hair,
I would make two ponytails.

Did you know that birds' feathers are made from the same material as your fingernails?

Why don't drongos comb their hair?

It looks like a messy mop.



If I had a drongo's hair,
I would oil it well and brush it down.

Why don't hornbills have hair to comb?

They look like they're wearing helmets.



If I had a hornbill's helmet,
I would ride around all day.

Why don't vultures have any hair? They look so bald.



If I had a vulture's head,
I would never have to comb my hair!

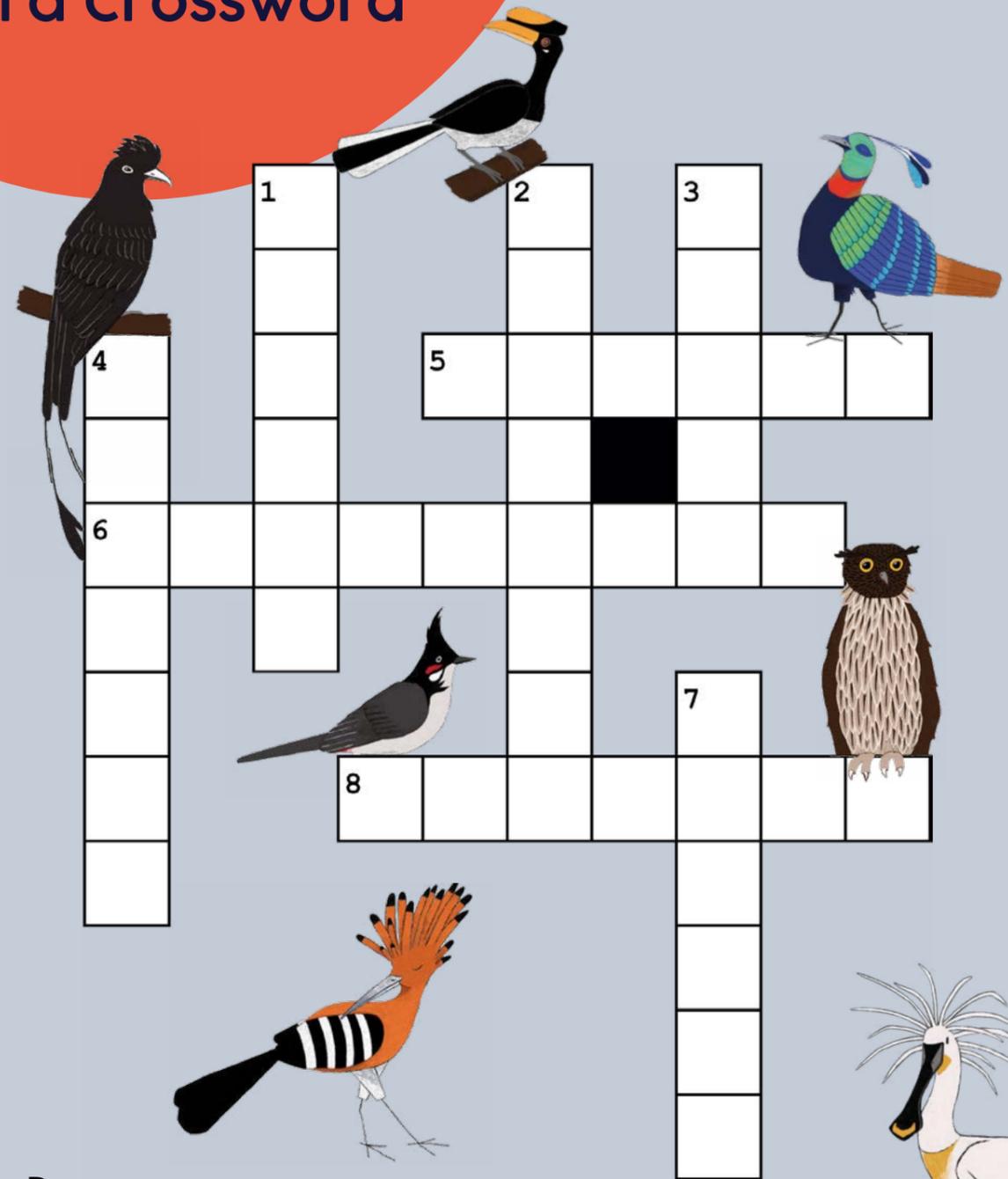
Do birds really have hair?



Some birds look like they have hair on their heads. But their hair is not like ours. Instead, each hair is just a very thin feather. A group of such feathers is called a crest.

Crests are useful in many ways. They make birds look attractive. Some birds can open and fold their crests to send signals to other birds. Some open their crests when they want to frighten away other birds and animals.

Bird Crossword



Down

1. This bird looks like it has a **frilly fan** on its head
2. Which bird looks like it is **wearing a helmet**?
3. The tail feathers of this bird look like a **tiny broom**
4. **Two furry worms** seem to be on this bird's head!
7. This bird's hair looks like a **little wave**

Across

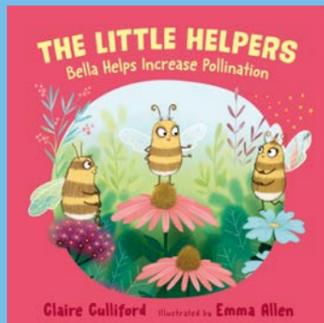
5. Which bird has hair that looks like a **messy mop**?
6. You could **plait the hair together** for this white bird
8. This bird **never has to comb** their hair

Look back through the story to find the answers





| An extract from |



Bella Helps Increase Pollination

written by
Claire Culliford
illustrated by
Emma Allen



"Oh no!" cries Bella, upset. "But I love our garden. How can we get the flowers back, Grandma?"

"Well," says Bonnie, "if a new gardener waters the flowers, that will help. Or he could plant more new flowers. Then there's pollination. That happens whilst we're collecting nectar. Pollen grains from the male part of some flowers get stuck in the little hairs on our bodies and then fall onto the female part of other flowers. That process helps create new flowers too."

As Bella falls asleep that night, her head is buzzing with thoughts about flowers. Bright little bees have brilliant dreams, so when Bella wakes up the next morning, an idea has come to her. She goes straight to find Bonnie because she knows she will need help with it.

Bella tells Bonnie her plan and Bonnie smiles. "Bella you're so clever!" she says.

They head straight for the garden shed where the gardener stores his tools. They see a broken window and fly over to it. As they peer through the hole in the glass they spot just what they are looking for. There are lots of opened packets of flower seeds that the gardener has left behind.

They crawl into one of the packets and a few seeds stick to the little hairs on their legs. Being very careful, they fly back into the garden and drop the seeds.

"What are you doing?" asks Bella's auntie, Betty, when she sees them at work. "We're planting more flower seeds so that we have flowers to pollinate," explains Bella. "Oh my!" says Betty. "I'm so lucky to have such clever bees in my family! Can we help?"



"Of course!" say Bella and Bonnie. "Let's all drop as many seeds in the garden as we can. When the rain comes along to water them, we'll soon have more flowers again. Then we can drink and collect more nectar!"

Soon, only one sound can be heard in the garden as the bees go about their business... BZZZZ, BZZZZ, BZZZZ. That's the sound busy bees make!

Within just a few weeks, new flowers start to appear in the garden. The bees collect the pollen from them, dropping it into other flowers. Within a few months, the garden looks just like it used to. It is full of colourful flowers and buzzing bees.

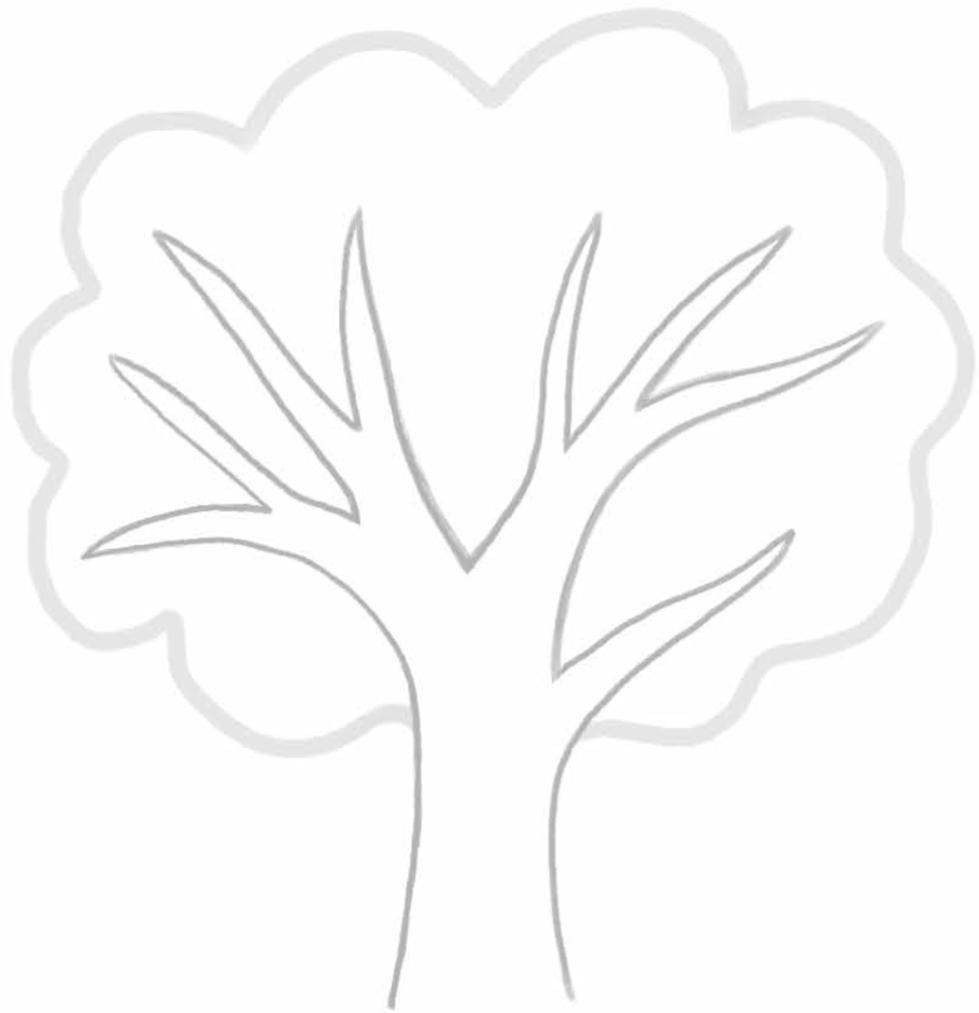
'Bella Helps Increase Pollination' is endorsed by **The British Beekeepers Association**. You can find out more about them at www.bbka.org.uk



Competition!

What would grow on your dream tree?

WIN a signed and dedicated copy of an amazing book by Hannah Gold!



Name

Age

ART CLUB!

Can you collect things from outside or around the home to make a collage?

You could use leaves or recycled materials to fill the tree template.

A COLLAGE is a piece of art made by sticking different things onto the page.

Your dream tree can be imaginary!

Ideas of things that might grow there:

- ★ Books!
 - ★ Sweets!
 - ★ Creatures!
- Get creative....

If you don't have collage materials at home, no problem - do some drawing or colouring in on your tree instead (or, do both!).

Practice joining the dots to make some shapes you might like to use ...



EXAMPLE



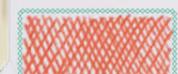
line



block colour



hatching



cross-hatching

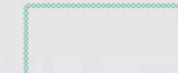


light

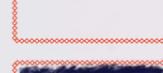
dark

tone (shading)

PRACTICE HERE!



shape



negative (empty) space



WINNER! of the issue 4 book review competition!

Name: Louie
Age: 8

Book: Supertato in the Valley of the Doom

Review: I like this book because the evil peas saved Supertato and the veggies.



Once you have finished your tree, ask a grown-up to take a picture of this page and send it to : thestorycorner@bookmarkreading.org

GROWN-UPS terms and conditions, including closing date, available on our website bookmarkreading.org/the-story-corner



The Other Way (English), written by Radha Rangarajan, illustrated by Garima Gupta, supported by Oracle, published by Pratham Books (© Pratham Books, 2018)

Watch Out! The Tiger is Here! (English), written by Sejal Mehta, illustrated by Rohan Chakravarty, published by Pratham Books (© Pratham Books, 2017)

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Top tips for encouraging your child to enjoy reading

Reading is everywhere

When you are out and about, challenge your child to spot any words they see around them. This could be on film posters, shopping items or road signs. Turn it into a game of 'I-spy' or 'Who can be the first to find a letter A?'

Share your own experience

Share some of your own favourite children's books with your children and put aside some special time to look through the book together. Being a role model for reading will inspire your child too.

Create your own stories

Put your child's favourite TV show on, but mute it so that you can come up with the story together! Ask questions about the characters, dialogue and what could happen next.

Try some echo reading

When reading aloud, ask your child to repeat back exactly how you read a sentence or word. Call them 'your little echo' and use silly voices for them to copy.



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