



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 6







Hello there! My name is Mark Bradley, and I make big, bright comics about little monsters!

Ever since I was young, my favourite thing in the world to do is draw – I used to draw everywhere: when I was in the car, when I was supposed to be playing, even when I was in class (please don't tell my old teachers!).

Everyone has their own way of being creative – you might draw, or write, or make things out of Lego. You might dress in a special way, play football like no one else does, or solve maths problems in an unusual way. Everyone has their own way of being creative and expressing themselves.

My favourite way to be creative was to draw colourful little monsters! Two of them, called Bumble & Snug, eventually went on to star in their own graphic novels, which are full of massive amounts of silliness and exciting adventures!









No matter the way you are creative, there's no right or wrong way to do it. Your way of expressing yourself is important and valuable to the world.

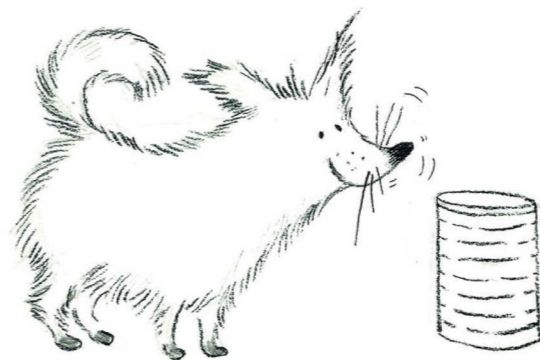
Take care, happy reading, and remember:  
**YOU'RE AWESOME!**

Mark



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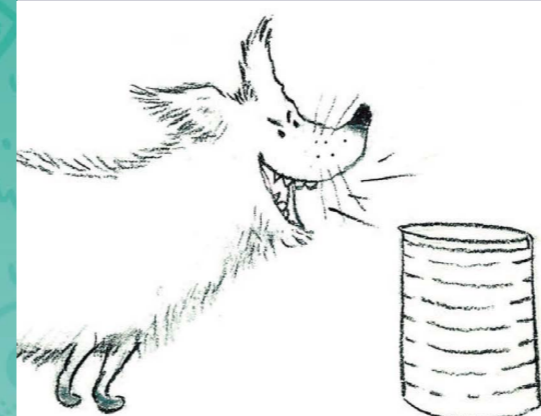
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# Bow Meow Wow



written and illustrated  
by Priya Kuriyan



**BOW!**

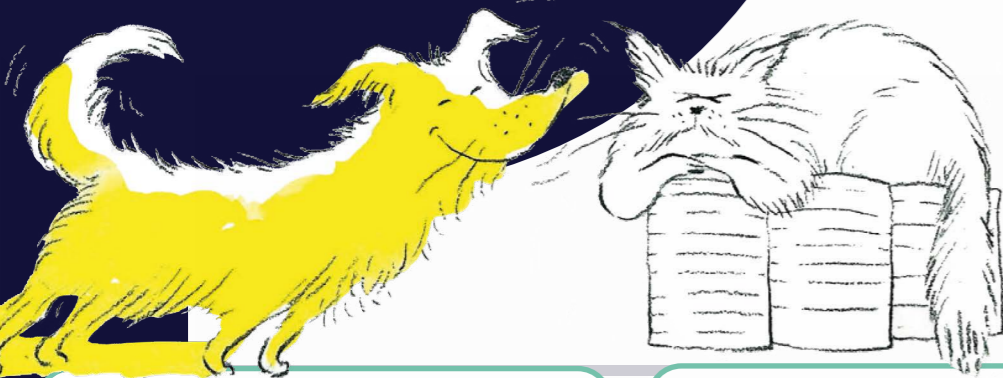


Write your own story to go with the pictures





What names would you give to the dog and cat?



Dog's name: .....

Cat's name: .....



Can you describe how the dog and cat are feeling in each picture?



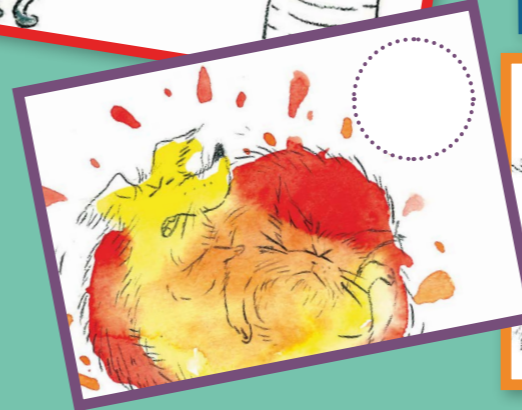
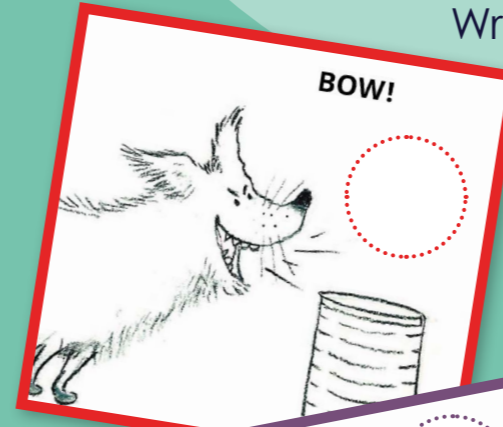




Use the blank easel to draw your own picture

Can you put the story in the right order?

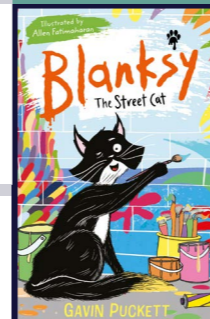
Write numbers 1-6 in the circles



WOW!

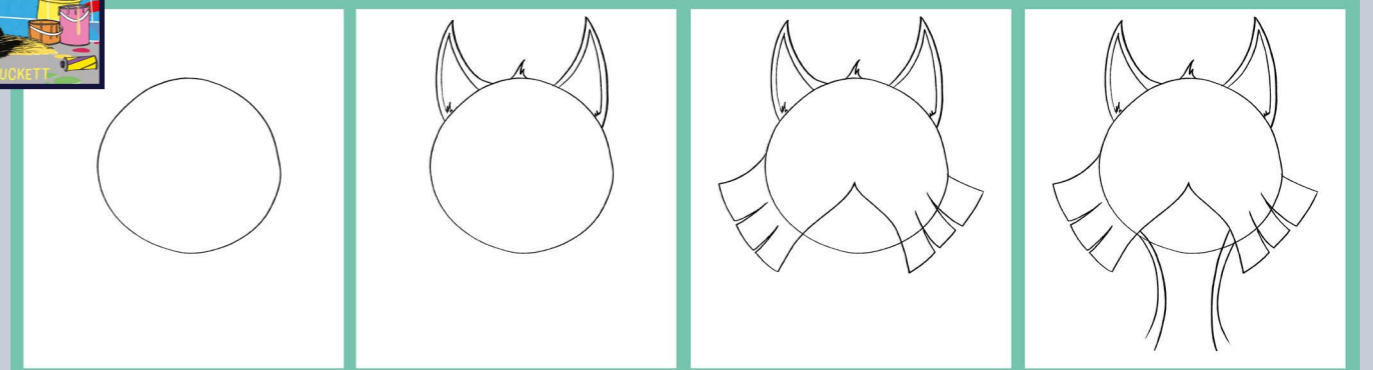
What do you think will happen next?

4

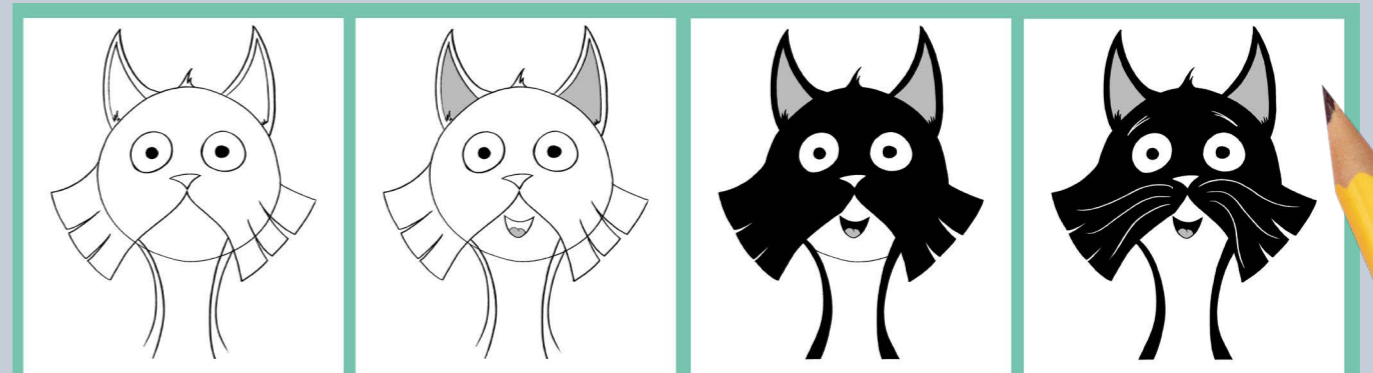


How to draw your own Blanksy cat

Join World Book Day illustrator, **Allen Fatimaharan** as he teaches you how to draw your very own **Blanksy the cat**, the hilarious character from new book, **Blanksy the Street Cat** written by Gavin Puckett.



1. Draw a medium sized circle.
2. Add 2 pointed triangles on top of the circle and a little tuft of hair.
3. Next add in his fur, going around the circle.
4. Draw 2 curved lines on each side below the circle.



5. Add in his nose, (an upside down triangle) + his eyes - 2 small circles with 2 solid circles in the middle.
6. Add in his mouth and colour in the inside of his ears grey.
7. Rub out the parts of the circle that are no longer needed and colour the parts shown in black.
8. For the final touch, using a white pencil/pen, add his whiskers and eyebrows. There you have it! Your very own Blanksy!

5







# I Can Make Things!

written by Mini Shrinivasan  
illustrated by Tanvee Nabar

I am a big boy now.



I can draw and I can make things.



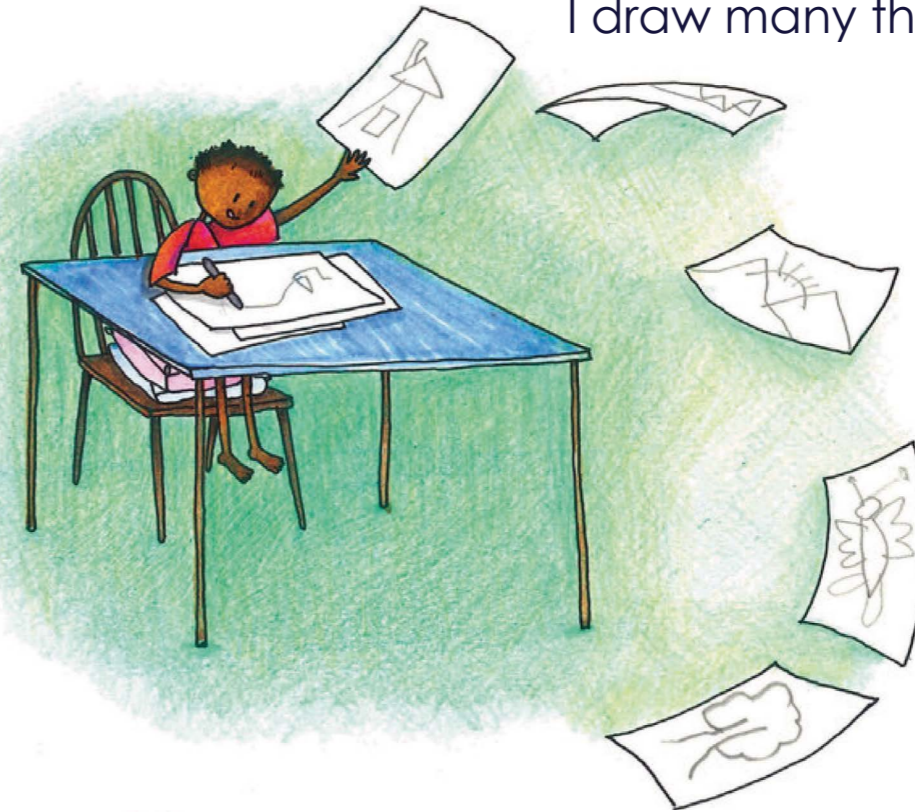
I draw my mother, she sits still.



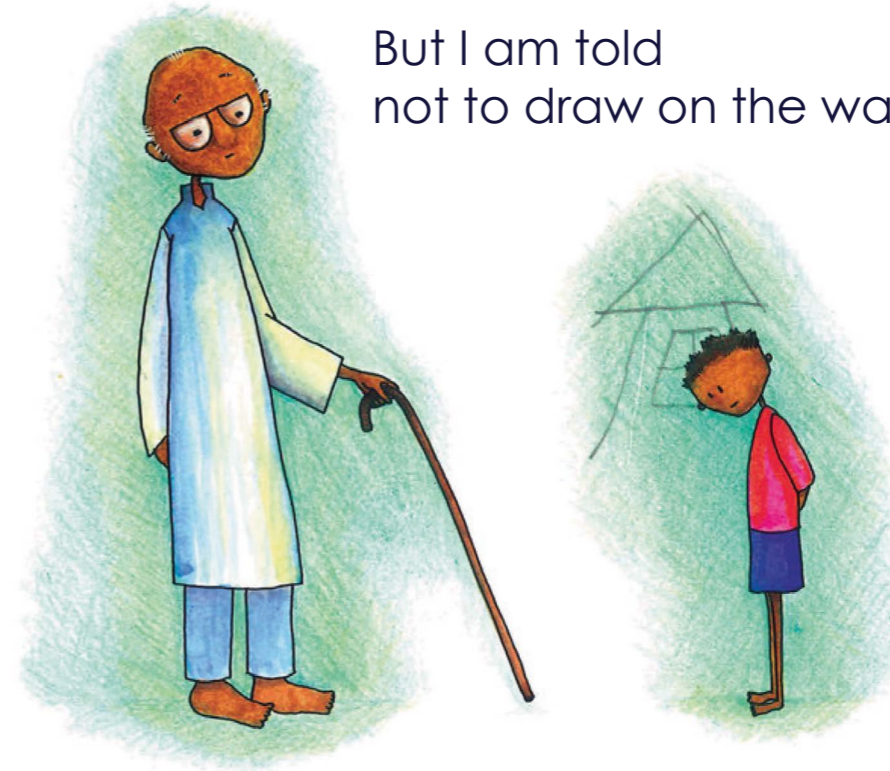
I draw my sister, she does not sit still.



I draw many things.



But I am told not to draw on the wall.



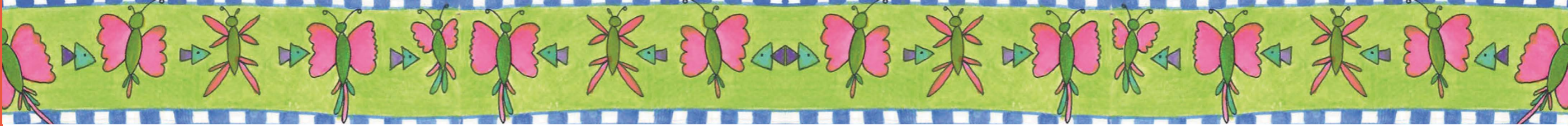
I can make things.



Can you see what the child has drawn?

What else might they draw?





I make a drawing  
of a cat, it is big.



I make a fish.  
It is small.



Can you  
think of other  
animals that  
are big and  
small?

Read left  
to right

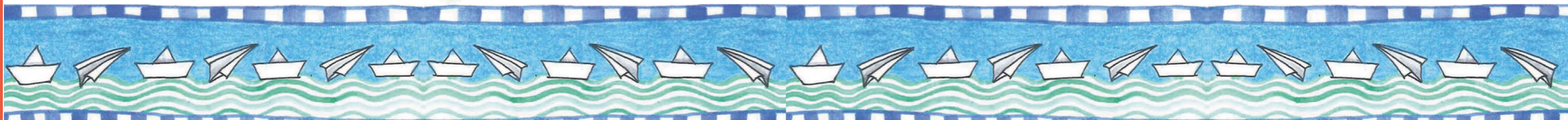


I make paper boats,  
birds and planes.



I make houses, flags and trains.

Art  
competitions,  
like sculpture,  
used to be  
part of the  
Olympics!







My sister is good at making a mess!  
I wonder if I can help her make other things too?

## Let's play Snap!

Can you match up the rhyming pairs?

Items and words to be matched:

- boat
- press
- cat
- coat
- plane
- wall
- mess
- hat
- small
- train

## The Joke Corner



What did the artist draw before they went to bed?

The curtains!



What is green and smells like blue paint?

Green paint!



What do you call a dancing sheep?

A baaah-lerina!



What does a pirate steal in his free time?

Arrrrrrt!



What is a cat's favourite colour?

Purrrr-ple!



Two artists had a contest. How did it end?

In a draw!



What do cows like to dance to?

Pop mooosic!











Joshua writes poetry and has won awards for his books. The poems inspire confidence, creativity and communication. Joshua has worked in schools, libraries, theatres, festivals and also performed on TV!

# Fill The World

a poem by Joshua Seigal

www.joshuaseigal.co.uk

## WORDS

Words that whisper, words that shout  
Words that make you dance about  
Words you have to just let out —  
Let's fill the world with words.

Words that skip and words that hop  
Words that jiggle, words that bop  
Words that start and just can't stop —  
Let's fill the world with words.

Words that laugh and words that cry  
Words that whoosh as they go by  
Words as sweet as apple pie —  
Let's fill the world with words.

Words of lava, words of air  
Words of which you should beware  
Words that show you really care —  
Let's fill the world with words.

Words that soothe and words that tend  
Words that heal and words that mend  
Words can be your new best friend —  
Let's fill the world with words.

↻ Design your favourite word here ↻

SKIP

JIGGLE

START

LAUGH

WHOOSH

SWEET

LAVA

SOOTHE

HEAL

WORDS

WORDS

WORDS

WORDS

WORDS

WORDS

SHOUT

dance

out!

bop!

cry

hop

stop

WORDS

air

Care

mend

TEND

WORDS

World. World. World. World.

Choose your own names for the characters in this story! Write your chosen names in the boxes below.

In the story, each time you see:  
**GREEN** = read the name of child 1.  
**RED** = read the name of child 2.  
**YELLOW** = read the name of your princess.

# Stories Are So Much Fun



written by Hello English,  
illustrated by Pham Hoàng Giang



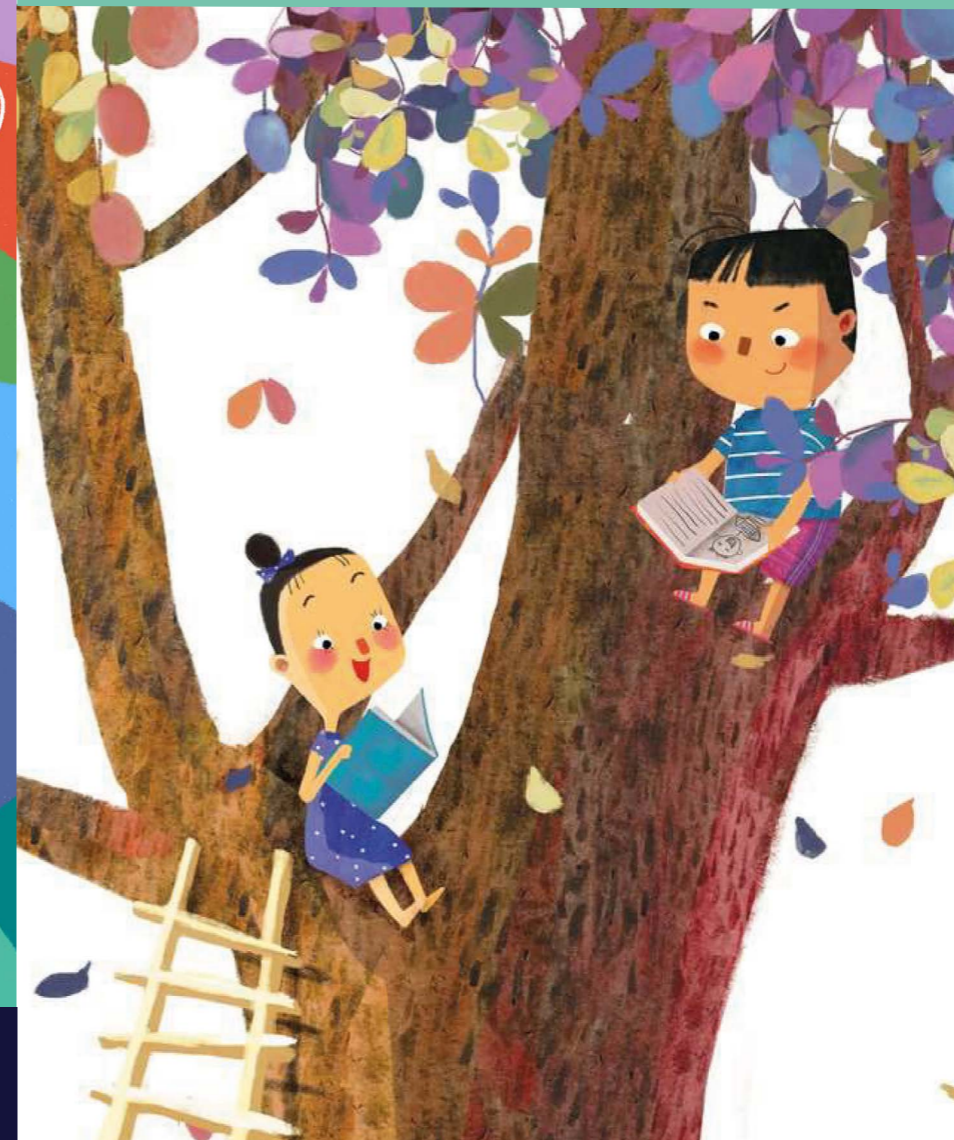
1) a child called



2) a child called



3) a princess called



**GREEN** and **RED** sat reading in a tree.

**RED** was reading a book about a sneaky, swindling man and his dog taking part in races. They cheated by setting up traps for the other drivers so they would win. But their traps always backfired.

"That sounds really funny," said **GREEN**.

"I imagined we were in a snake book."

"You did?" said **RED**.



What adventures have you had whilst reading a story?



■ talked about how they rode on a bull, facing off the furious red cobra by firing arrows, while also trying to rescue a princess called ■. ■ attacked the cobra with their sword as ■ hid behind a rock. The cobra tried to snatch them in its mouth.



Finally, ■ slayed the cobra after ■ shot it with arrows. The cobra collapsed and they both rescued ■, taking her back to the palace to be safe with her family.

What kind of world would you create if you wrote a story?

Read left to right →



■ and ■ borrowed more library books, reading about stories such as the brave sailors surviving a rocky storm, the mermaid, the genie in the lamp and the flying partners. Sometimes friends got involved and played other parts in the stories.



The children entered into an entirely new world - a world where anything was possible. A world created in stories that pulled their attention in.

"A flying rocking horse?" said ■. "That's not very realistic."

"The trick is to say yes to anything," said ■. "Allow yourself to go there in your mind. See where your imagination takes you."



What was the last book you took out from the library?



went to bed after reading their new stories.

In the morning they woke up with a great energy, and a want to go outside and bring the stories into the world.



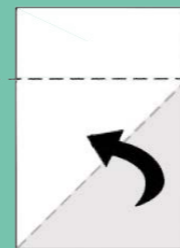
The other neighbourhood kids joined in.

and worked together to take the adventure stories out of the books and put them into real life.

The stories just grew out of the page, and now their world was much more colourful and interesting, all thanks to an interest in reading.

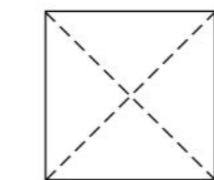
“Who would have known that reading could lead to this?” said .

## Make your own Story Prompter!

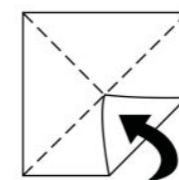


Scan the QR code for a printable download sheet to make at home. Or, use a plain piece of paper and copy the steps below. You can cut a square from A4 paper.

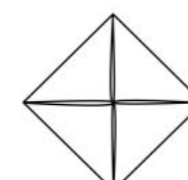
## JOURNEYS IN CREATIVE WRITING



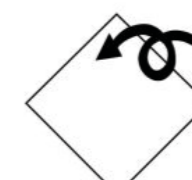
1. Fold diagonally both ways



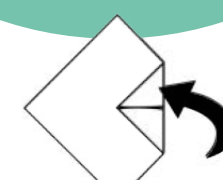
2. Fold each corner to the centre



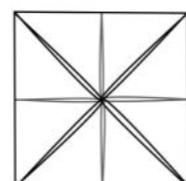
3. It should look like this



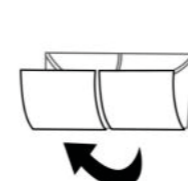
4. Flip it over



5. Fold in all four corners so the points meet in the middle



6. It should look like this

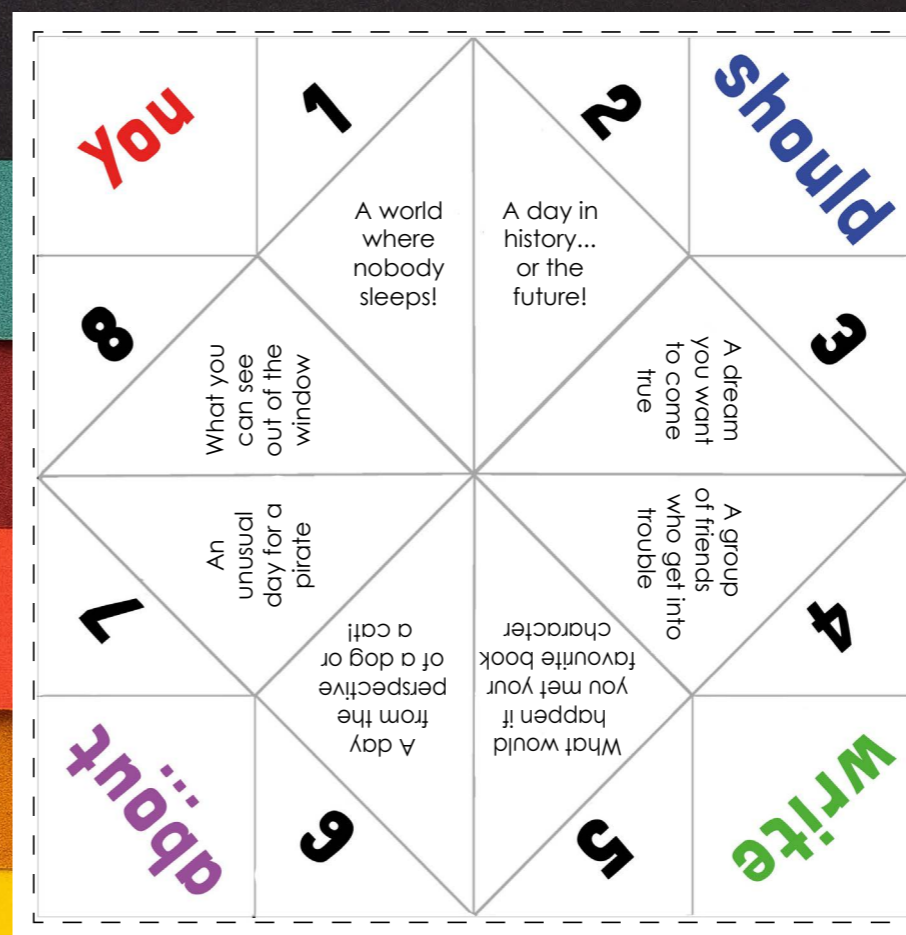


7. Fold it in half

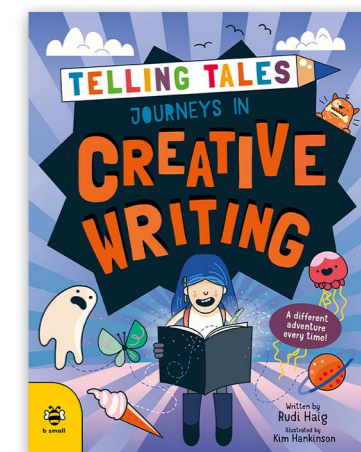


8. Push your fingers into the corners and work into this shape

Once your prompter is made, pick a colour, spell it out (e.g. B, L, U, E,) whilst pinching and pulling sections apart (once per letter). Choose one of the numbers that are revealed and repeat. Finally, pick a different number and open that number out. That is your story prompt!



Use this example as a guide to fill in your own.



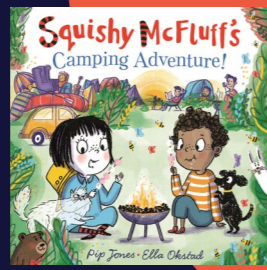
Written by Rudi Haig  
Illustrated by Kim Hankinson  
Published by b small  
For ages 7+, £7.99  
ISBN: 9781913918453





# Draw Your Own Den!

Inspired by *Squishy McFluff's Camping Adventure!* Written by Pip Jones, illustrated by Ella Okstad, out on April 6th 2023. Find out more at: [Faber.co.uk](http://Faber.co.uk)



# COMPETITION!

WIN A PRIZE BUNDLE: →

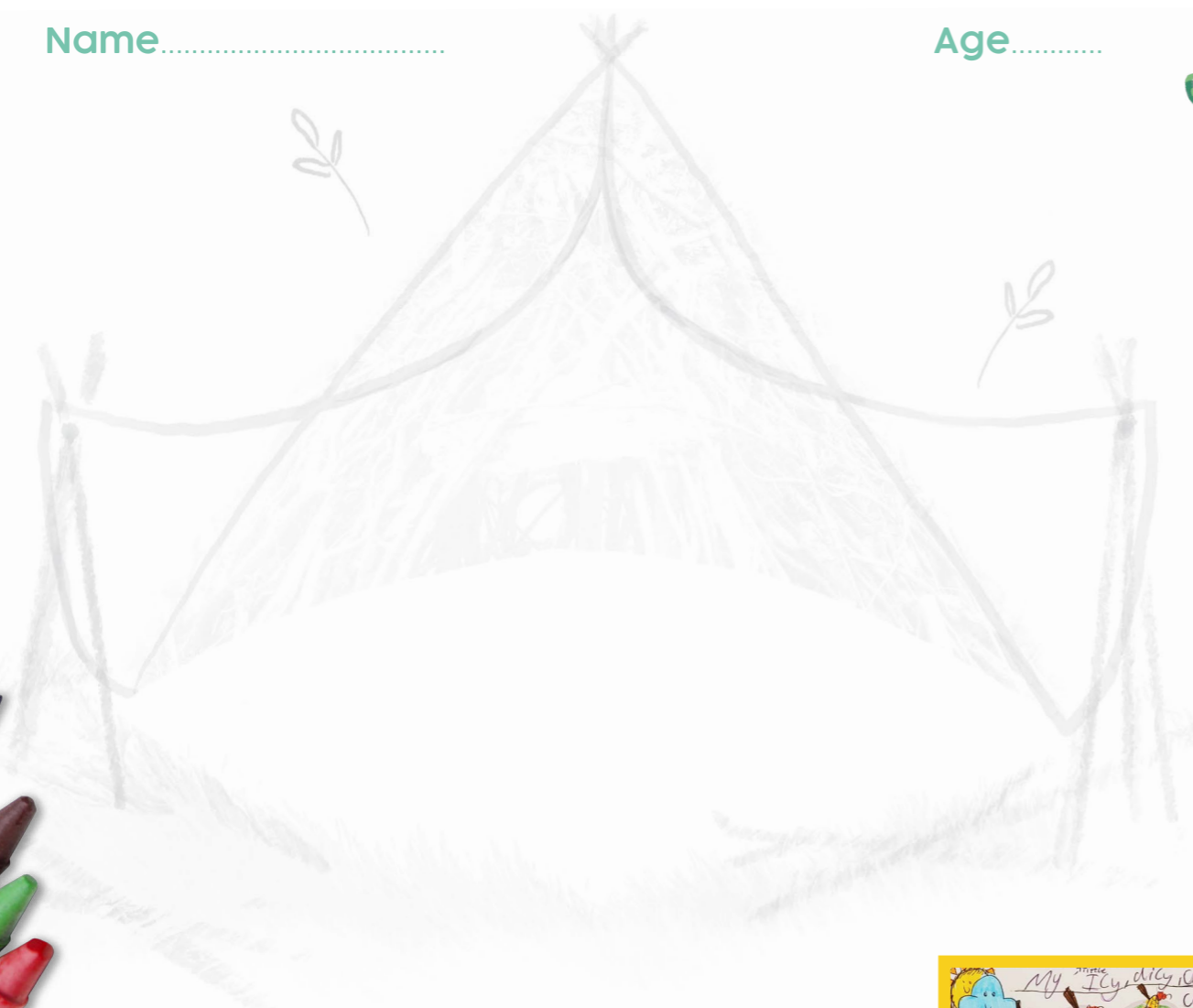
- Personalised book!
- *Squishy McFluff* book
- £20 book voucher

Ava is off on her first camping holiday! And of course, Squishy will come too... But when Ava repacks Dad's bags with FUN camping accessories like her teddy, she forgets to include the tent. Like Ava what fun things would you take to build your den?

Design your den below, including all the fun things you would take.

Name.....

Age.....



Once you have finished your den, ask a grown-up to take a picture of this page and send it to : [thestorycorner@bookmarkreading.org](mailto:thestorycorner@bookmarkreading.org)

**GROWN-UPS** terms and conditions, including closing date, available on our website [bookmarkreading.org/the-story-corner](http://bookmarkreading.org/the-story-corner)



**WINNER** →  
of issue 5,  
'design your  
own dream tree'  
competition!

Name: Naimah  
Age: 8



# Personalised Children's Books

Celebrating the Differences and Strengths in All Children



Follow the line!



A  
B  
C  
D  
E



Can you help Ava find Squishy McFluff?

Guess which line leads you to Squishy McFluff (The invisible cat) but watch out, as one line will lead you to the grizzly bear!



*'Squishy McFluff's Camping Adventure!'*, words © Pip Jones, Illustrations © Ella Okstad, published by Faber 2023

**Bow Meow Wow** (English), written and illustrated by Priya Kuriyan, published by Pratham Books (© Pratham Books, 2018)\*

**I Can Make Things!** (English), written by Mini Shrinivasan, illustrated by Tanvee Nabar, supported by Parag: A Sir Ratan Tata Trust Initiative, published by Pratham Books (© Pratham Books, 2013)\*

**Stories Are So Much Fun** (English), written by Hello English, (© Hello English, 2019), illustrated by Pham Hoàng Giang, published by StoryWeaver Community.\*

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**Front cover artwork** by Sarah Harrison Illustration © 2023

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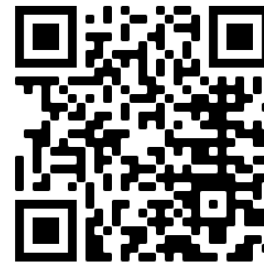
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### Top tips for encouraging your child to enjoy reading

#### Use silly voices

Engage your child during story time by using as many different voices as possible to bring the book to life. You can challenge them to show you how they think a character sounds or if they can come up with the silliest voice they can think of!

#### Read poetry

Poetry is a great way to read little and often and there are so many poems available in book collections or online. You could have a 'Poetry Month' and aim to read a poem every day. Listen to poets reading their poems online too – this still counts as reading!

#### Read instructions and make something

Find out something your child is interested in making and read instructions together on how to do it. It could be a recipe for cookies, instructions on how to make your own musical instrument or a set of steps for different types of origami. Read them together, understand them together and make them together!

#### Read lyrics to their favourite songs

Reading something that is already familiar to your child is a great way to practise their reading skills. Choose a song they know and sing along together with the lyrics in front of you. You can challenge them to sing the song to a different tune (this works well with nursery rhymes) as they'll need to concentrate more on reading the words!



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