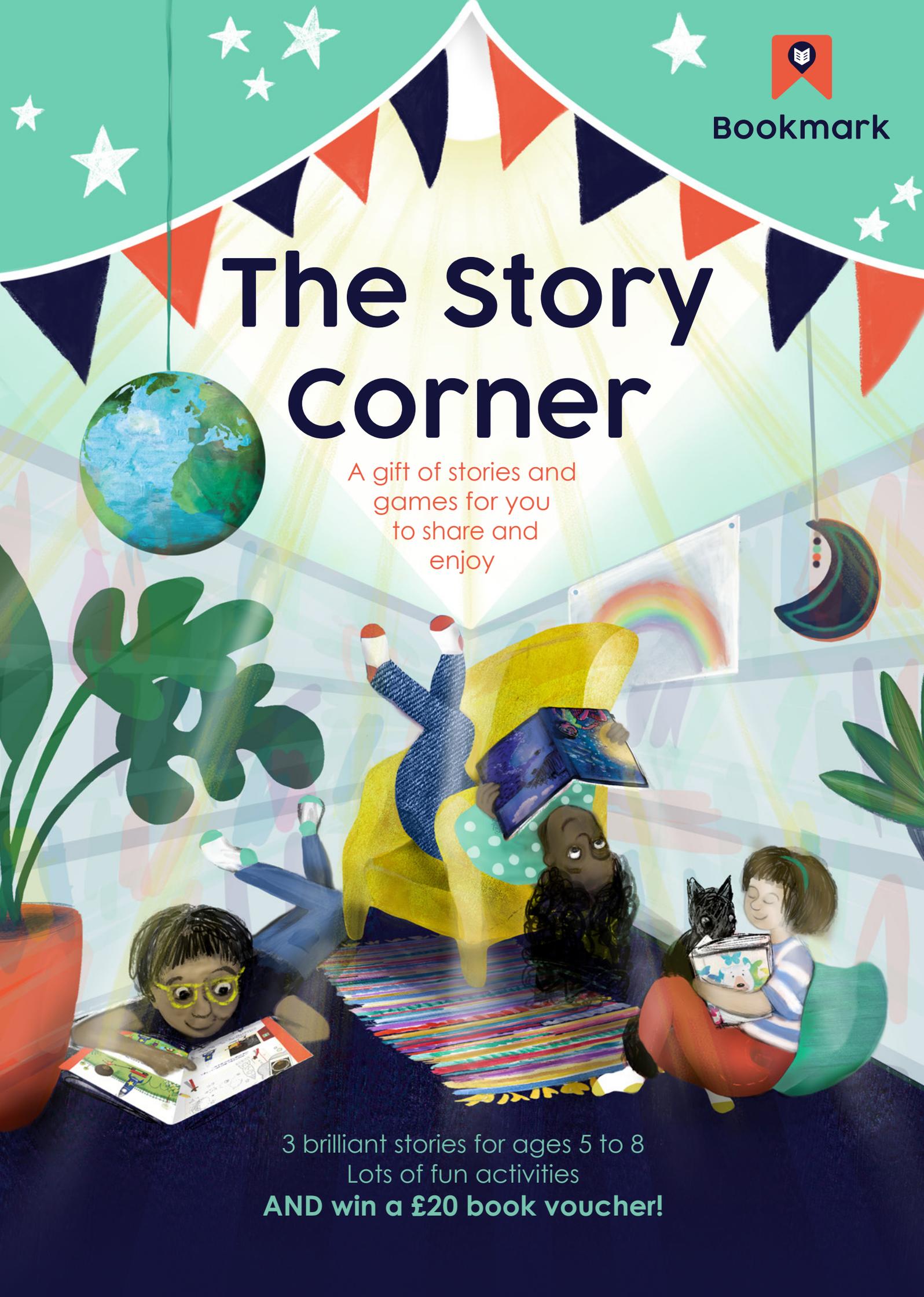




Bookmark

# The Story Corner

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



3 brilliant stories for ages 5 to 8  
Lots of fun activities  
**AND win a £20 book voucher!**

Dear Reader,

Welcome to The Story Corner magazine from Bookmark! We hope you enjoy the stories.

I am a children's author and scientist. My favourite thing to write about is space!

Reading is a great way to escape from ordinary life. You might read a book about the Moon, and learn about becoming an astronaut. You could pretend you're on a spaceship to Mars. What would you tell people back on Earth?

My favourite book is "Here We Are: Notes For Living On Planet Earth" by Oliver Jeffers. It teaches us to respect the Earth and to be kind to each other. I also love the pictures. What's your favourite book?

Take care, and happy reading!

Sheila



Dr Sheila Kanani is the author of 'How to be an Astronaut, and Other Space Jobs', which is part of the Bookmark reading programme.  
Picture credit: Chris Close

### Stories



#### Colours

A friendly polar bear gets into a colourful mess!

..... turn to page 1 to read



#### My Dream in the Drawer

A story about a boy with a tiny dream that grows and grows into something huge.

..... turn to page 7 to read



#### The Night the Moon Went Missing

An adventure story that will take you deep under the sea.

..... turn to page 13 to read



## Colours

written by Priyanka,  
illustrated by Ajanta Guhathakurta



Bear likes colours.





Now, her ears are yellow.



Now, her mouth is red.

How many watermelon pips can you count?

Now, her tummy is brown.



Now, her hands are blue.

Now, her back is green.



Now, Bear is colourful!



Oh no! Where did all her colours go?



Now, her legs are pink.

Quiz Time!

How did Bear become so colourful?

Can you remember how she got her...



Yellow ears?

Blue arms?

Red face?

Brown tummy?

Green back?

Pink legs?

What is your favourite colour?

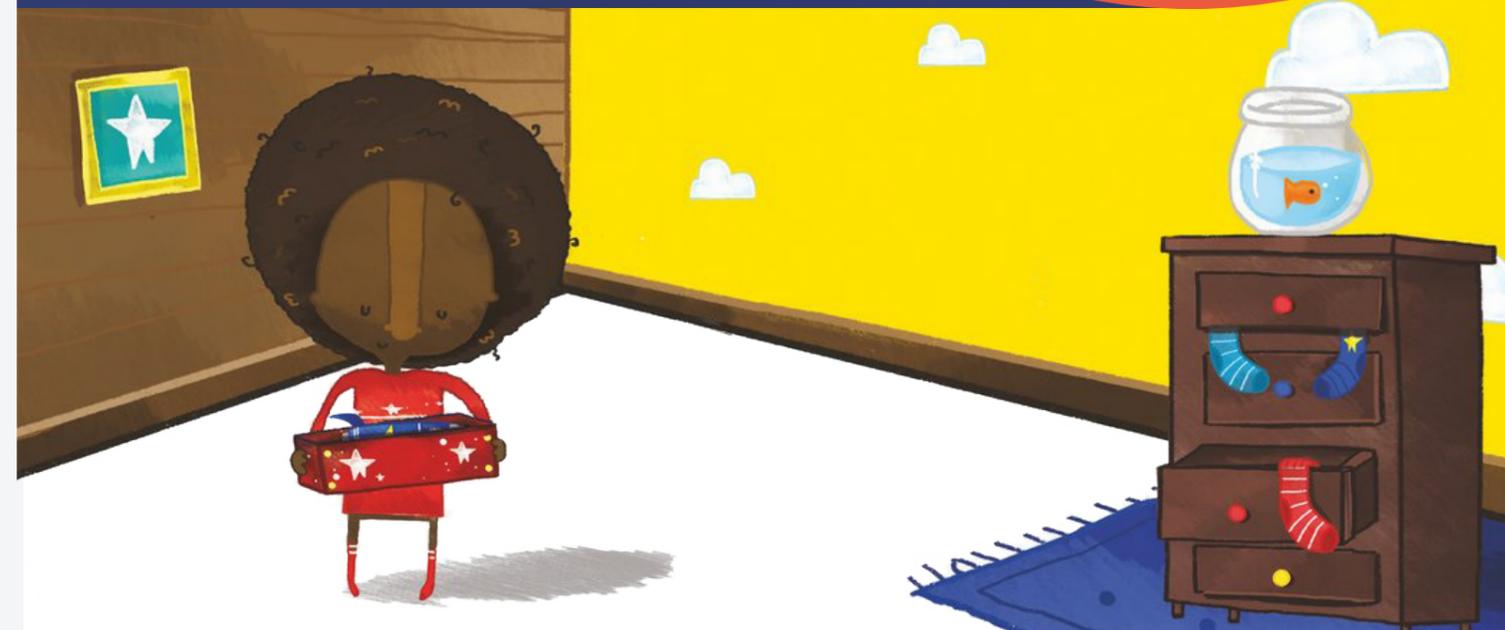
How many things can you name that are that colour?

Can you challenge someone to name 10 things that are the same colour?



# My Dream in the Drawer

written by Fred Strydom,  
illustrated by Megan Lotter

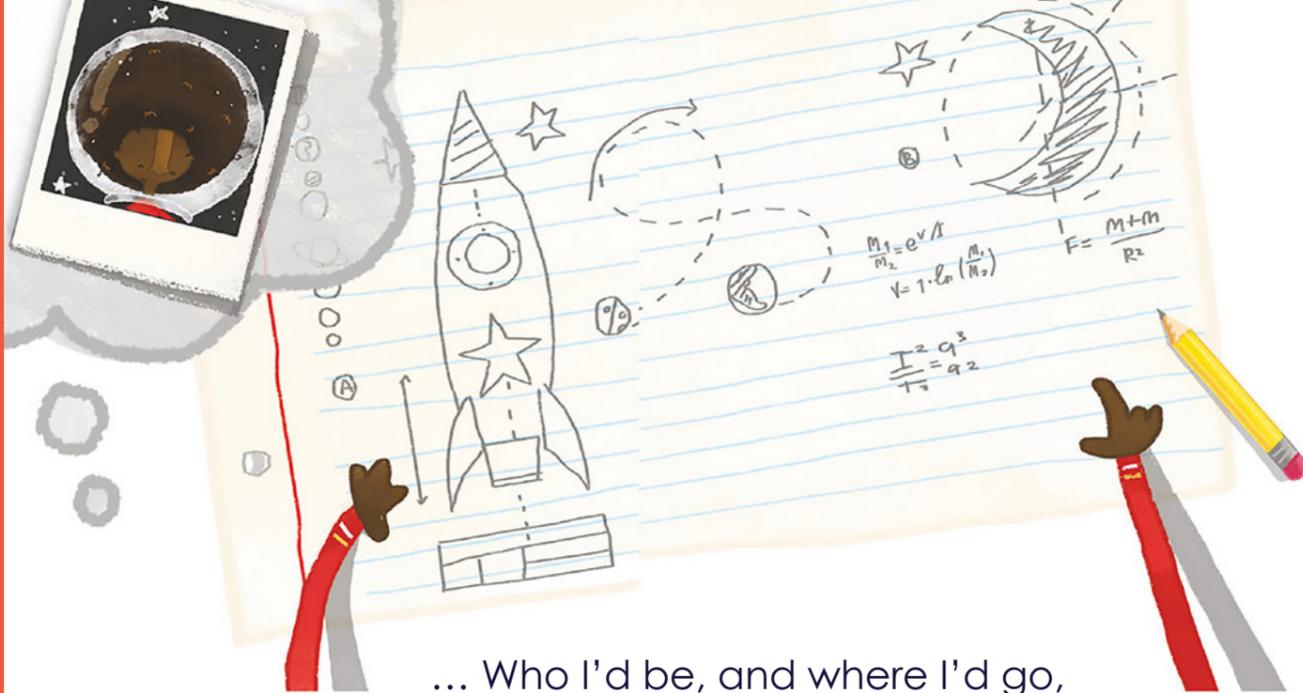


I once had a dream, so small and light,  
I kept it in a box.

I kept it hidden, safe and sound,  
In my drawer of socks.

This tiny dream, I had, you see,  
was mostly about me ...





... Who I'd be, and where I'd go,  
and what I'd one day see.



And then my dream, it got so big,  
I had to let it out ...

I took it to the playground, and watched it bounce  
about.



At first, it was a little dream, until one day it grew.  
And so I took it out for air, to show my dream to you.



Then all the kids, they saw my dream,  
and said, "We want one too!"  
I said to them, "Ok, no probs."  
And told them what to do.

Can you  
imagine what  
it would be like  
to fly a space  
rocket?





"Well, first you think of what you want.  
Believe it with your heart."



"To get a dream  
as big as mine, this is  
the place to start."



"And once it's big enough," I said.  
"You've got to let it free, to fly up high  
across the world, for all the world to see."

And at that point, my big old dream,  
which once was in a drawer...  
Shook and climbed, took to the sky ...

And soared ...  
and soared ...  
... and soared.

What dream do you  
keep in your drawer?

Let's play some games!

Can you imagine playing I Spy in space? What would you be able to see?

I spy with my little eye, something beginning with **M**

Is it **ME?**



### Rhyming Snap

Can you draw a line to match up each pair of rhyming stars?



# The Night the Moon went Missing

written by Shreya Yadav,  
illustrated by Sunaina Coelho

Late one night, when Amma and Achan are fast asleep, Maisha grabs her goggles and sneaks out of the house. Maisha loves the beach at night, and one of her best friends lives in the sea.

Maisha goes to their usual meeting place on the beach and calls out. "Uchli! Are you here?" She can sit here for hours, watching Uchli fly in and out of the water. Uchli is a flying fish who loves to show off his tricks.

But today, Uchli looks worried.

"What's the matter?" Maisha asks. "Why do you look so upset?"

"Can't you see?" he says. "The moon is missing!"



Where do you think the moon has gone?

The moon! Uchli is right - their friend is not in the sky tonight. In fact, there's a big hole where the moon should be.

"But we saw her just last night," Maisha exclaims. "She rose from the sea right here in front of us... Do you think she's lost underwater?"

"We have to find her!" Uchli says



"But how will we see anything without the moonlight?" Maisha asks. Just then, Uchli notices something in the water. Every time a wave breaks in the distance, little sparks of light glow and fade and glow again.

"Maisha!" he shouts, excited. "I have an idea! Get on my back, let's go to those waves over there." When they reach the lights, Maisha takes a deep breath, holds Uchli tightly and ...



Maisha gasps. She feels like she's floating in a sky full of stars! There are tiny creatures glowing all around her.

"Wow, who are they?" she whispers to Uchli.

"They're plankton. Maybe they can help light our way in the sea!"

Uchli says.

"Will you share your light with us?" Maisha asks one of them. "The moon is missing, and we need some light to find her."

"You will need more than just my light," the plankter says. "Let me ask my friends if they can help too!"

Soon, Maisha and Uchli are joined by an army of little creatures with their flickering lights.

"Now where can the moon be?" Maisha wonders.



"I can help you," a deep, booming voice says, near Maisha's ear. She spins around. The eight arms of a firefly squid glimmer back at her. His body is covered in neon-blue lights. "I saw the moon go this way just a little while ago."

At first, Maisha is scared of the long tentacles, but she knows the firefly squid's light can help them see better underwater.

"Lead the way," she says. The squid wraps a tentacle around Maisha's finger.

"Hold on tight!"

How many different underwater creatures can you spot in this story?



Then Maisha, Uchli, the glowing plankton and the firefly squid all swim down together. Down, down, down they go where the water is very dark. The plankton glow brighter, and the squid flashes his light, but there is still no moon in sight.

Then they meet an anglerfish out on a hunt. She has sharp teeth, but Maisha is not scared any more.

"Hello," she says. "We're looking for the moon. Have you seen her around?"

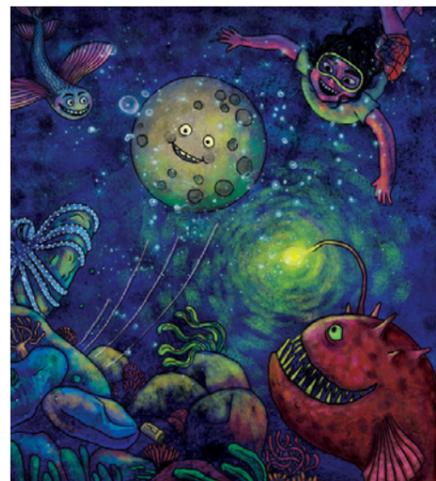
"Yes," says the anglerfish. "I saw her swimming with some moonfish a few hours ago. Follow me!"

Maisha, Uchli, the squid and the plankton follow the green lure of the anglerfish. The light from the glowing animals falls like a spotlight on the dark ocean floor.

Suddenly, Maisha sees something bright under a rock. It's the moon!

"Help," squeaks the moon. "I'm stuck!" The squid lifts the rock with his tentacles.

"Hurrah!" everyone shouts, as the pale moon slips out.



"What happened?" Uchli asks.

"I came here to meet my cousins, the moonfish," says the moon. "I got lost on my way back when my light began to fade, and then I got stuck under this rock. Thank you for coming to find me."

"So this is where you are when you're not in the sky!" Maisha says.

The moon smiles and begins to float up towards the surface. Finally, she jumps into the sky.

Uchli and Maisha wave goodbye to their new friends and swim back to the beach in the moonlight. The stars under the sea continue to shine deep into the night.



Maisha's Muddle



Look at the pictures, they are all jumbled up!  
Can you unscramble them? Try writing a sentence for  
each picture to tell the story in the right order.

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Enter our drawing competition

for a chance to win a £20  
book voucher



Can you draw a picture of  
yourself with your favourite  
book in this frame?



Once you have finished your drawing, ask a grown-up to take a  
picture and send it to [thestorycorner@bookmarkreading.org](mailto:thestorycorner@bookmarkreading.org)  
The winner will be notified in January 2021 (see next page).

Drawing Competition

Terms and conditions

We must receive entries for the competition by **Sunday 3 January 2021**.  
 All entrants must be **aged under 9 years old** and should ask permission from a parent or guardian before entering.  
 All entries must be sent by email to **thestorycorner@bookmarkreading.org** – please note we cannot accept entries on paper at the current time.  
 We aim to inform the **winner within 21 days** of the closing date.  
 Prize is subject to availability. If, in circumstances beyond our control, we are unable to provide the stated prize, we will try to arrange an alternative prize of a similar value. No cash alternative will be offered.  
 Bookmark reserves the right to cancel the competition at any time, if deemed necessary or if circumstances arise outside of our control.

Message to the grown-ups

If you do not consent to the drawing you send us being used on our website and on our social media, please clearly state 'No consent given' in the subject line of your email to us. We will never use any names or identifying information in our marketing without consent.



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**My Dream in The Drawer** (English), written by Fred Strydom, illustrated by Megan Lotter, published by Book Dash (© Book Dash, 2016) under a CC BY 4.0 licence on StoryWeaver.

**The Night the Moon Went Missing** (English), written by Shreya Yadav, illustrated by Sunaina Coelho supported by Oracle, published by Pratham Books (© Pratham Books, 2018) under a CC BY 4.0 licence on StoryWeaver.

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## A note for the grown-ups

Hello,

At Bookmark we want every child to read. We recruit and train volunteers to provide reading support for children in primary school.

This year we wanted to do something special, so we have created this magazine of stories, games and activities for children and families to enjoy at home.

To find out more about us, become a volunteer, or support our work, visit our website or follow us on social media.

[www.bookmarkreading.org](http://www.bookmarkreading.org)

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The Bookmark Team

### Read aloud regularly

Even just a few minutes each day reading with a child will help to develop their reading skills.

### Top tips for helping a child with their reading

#### Give children choice

Let children choose what they would like to read. It might be a storybook, a recipe, lyrics to their favourite song, or a comic.

#### Look at the pictures

Encourage children to talk about the pictures in the books they are reading. What clues can they find that tell them what might happen next in the story?

### Talk about books

Ask children questions about books they are reading. What's on the cover? Who is the author? What is their favourite part? Or maybe you could tell them about your favourite books.



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