

# Your Story Corner

**RESOURCE PACK**

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

Registered Charity No. 1177681



**Bookmark**

Artwork by Sarah Harrison Illustration. [www.harrisonillustration.com](http://www.harrisonillustration.com)

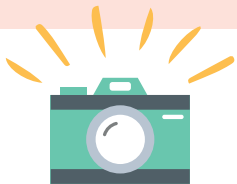


# Top tips for building a whole school reading culture



## 1. Create engaging spaces for reading

There are lots of creative ways that you can develop engaging reading spaces for children to enjoy. Whether it is a reading tent in the playground, or a reading den in the corner of a classroom. Relaxing, safe and inviting spaces can encourage children to enjoy reading for pleasure and support their wellbeing.



Take a picture of your school's reading space and tag [Bookmark on Twitter \(@BookmarkCharity\)](#) for a chance to win exciting prizes!

## 2. Create a buzz around reading

Author or storyteller visits can create a positive buzz around reading at your school and leave a lasting impression on children. You might want to run a school-wide read-a-thon, or organise a fun reading challenge or treasure hunt.

## 3. Books aren't just for the library

Engaging visual displays help to celebrate reading. Why not put up a reading-centred display in the school reception to highlight how reading sits at the heart of your school culture? Or you could create a 'reading quilt' or 'reading river' display to demonstrate the huge variety of reading material that children can encounter and enjoy in their lives? You could also try displaying a 'what are we reading?' sign on your classroom door with a photocopy of your pupils' current favourite book.



Photocopy the cover of a book and write three words on a post-it note that describe the book. Pin it up on a classroom door as a quick and creative way to share book recommendations!

## 4. Foreground children's voices

Try adding a suggestion box to your library or reading space so that children can give their views on your school's reading resources and get involved in building your whole school reading culture.



Use our book review worksheet to encourage book talk and share your favorite reviews with us on Twitter! (@BookmarkCharity)

## 5. Be a reading role model

Adults who read for pleasure and who celebrate reading are fantastic role models. Foster reading for pleasure amongst your staff – you might set up a book club or a staffroom book swap.



# Organisations that can support you to build your whole school reading culture

## Bookmark's Volunteer-led Reading Programme

The Bookmark reading programme gives children the reading skills and confidence they need for a fair chance in life. We partner with schools to deliver high impact, low admin one to one reading sessions for children in years 1-5 who are at risk of not meeting the expected standard for reading. You can find out more and register your interest here: [www.bookmarkreading.org/schools](http://www.bookmarkreading.org/schools)



## ChatterStars Vocabulary Boosting App

ChatterStars is an app to boost vocabulary – the best predictor



of future success. Chatterstar's mission is to equip all young people with an eloquent, brave, world-changing voice that enables choice, regardless of barriers. Through a range of targeted puzzle types, they track each child's progress and report a unique 'Vocabulary Age', providing schools and parents with the information needed to help bridge the word gap and improve life chances.

As part of this initiative, your school will receive 8 weeks of free access to the ChatterStars app for 300 users. You can receive further details and register for your free access at [www.chatterstars.co.uk/bookmark](http://www.chatterstars.co.uk/bookmark)

## Promote Your School



Promote Your School is an education design agency. They have over twenty years' experience and have worked alongside countless schools and organisations to fuel literacy. Literacy Wall Art can transform your school library and inspire every child to explore the magic of reading.

**Myth:** You need a big budget and loads of space for Literacy Wall Art. **Fact:** Even a single wall will make a difference!

Because Promote Your School's Wall Art designs are bespoke, they can work to your unique requirements, space and budget. Their service is consultative from start to finish, and includes a no obligation consultation, design, print and installation.

Email [wallart@promoteyourschool.com](mailto:wallart@promoteyourschool.com) to find out how Literacy Wall Art can get your pupils reading.

<https://www.promoteyourschool.co.uk/library-and-literacy-themes>





## Bookmark

# Reading for pleasure resources

There are many organisations that are passionate about sharing information and guidance on reading for pleasure, as well as creating a whole school reading culture and encouraging book chat. Below are some great resources to get started with.

### **The Open University – Reading for Pleasure**

#### **Social reading environments**

<https://ourfp.org/finding/rfpp/social-reading-environments/>

#### **Reading aloud**

<https://ourfp.org/finding/reading-aloud/>

#### **Independent reading**

<https://ourfp.org/finding/rfpp/independent-reading/>

#### **Informal book talk, inside-text talk and recommendations**

<https://ourfp.org/finding/rfpp/booktalk-and-recommendations/>

#### **OU/UKLA Teachers' Reading Groups**

<https://ourfp.org/schools-teachers/teachers-reading-groups/>

#### **Sharing the pleasure: the role of talk in reading (webinar)**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VP7stKQpdFg>

### **The School Library Association**

#### **Get Everyone Reading**

<https://www.sla.org.uk/get-everyone-reading>

#### **Great School Libraries**

#### **Reading for Pleasure/Information**

<https://www.greatschoolibraries.org.uk/reading-for-pleasure-information>

### **UKLA – Promoting Reading for Pleasure**

[https://ukla.org/ukla\\_resources/promoting-reading-for-pleasure/](https://ukla.org/ukla_resources/promoting-reading-for-pleasure/)



# Teaching resources on publisher websites

Many publishers provide free teaching resources to accompany their children's books. We have included a list of the resources available for the books in your pack, including links to the files online and some printed versions. Many publishers also have their own YouTube channels, podcasts and blogs which focus on reading for pleasure.

<https://www.puffinschools.co.uk/>

<https://learning.dk.com/uk>

<https://simonandschusterpublishing.com/thebookpantry/teaching-resources.html>

<https://www.hachetteschools.co.uk/>

<https://harpercollinschildrensbooks.co.uk/free-resources-and-activities/>

<https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/discover/childrens/teachers-librarians-parents-carers/>

<https://nosycrow.com/teachers-resources/>

<https://www.barringtonstoke.co.uk/teachers-and-librarians/>

<https://www.walker.co.uk/grown-ups/activities-for-home-and-school.aspx>

# Online reading resources & activities

There are many collections of reading resources available to access online. Some are collated by organisations, others are shared by very kind individuals! Below is a selection to get you started.

## The British Library

<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/themes/all-activities>

## BBC Teach

KS1 English: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ks1-english/z67ncqt>

KS2 English: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ks2-english/zbrwnrd>

## Authorfy

Masterclasses: <https://authorfy.com/masterclasses/>

Classroom resources: <https://authorfy.com/resources/>

Downloadable activity packs: <https://authorfy.com/creative/>

## Great School Libraries

Recommended Blogs/podcasts:

<https://www.greatschoolibraries.org.uk/recommended-school-libraries-blogs>

## Library Lady

Blog: <https://alibrarylady.blog/>

## Padlet.com (via Mathew Tobin, @Mat\_at\_Brookes)

A range of picture books to be used throughout the curriculum in order to inspire critical thinking, drama and cross-curricular planning:  
<https://padlet.com/p0077346/PictureBookPlan>

## Whole Class Reading Resources (via Adam Levick, @\_MrLevick)

[https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w91xj7vlm7k60b3/AABQI5Db7c\\_Ke5VWVvYaYBKYcaa?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w91xj7vlm7k60b3/AABQI5Db7c_Ke5VWVvYaYBKYcaa?dl=0)

## Author of the Week (Emily Weston @primaryteachew and Cassie HT, @CassHT)

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/q2hf089dgn8ldjm/AAAlg36cvhF25AAe14o50fJda?dl=0>



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## Courses

There are free courses available online that focus on developing reading for pleasure and encouraging book chat amongst pupils. Some examples include:

### Encouraging book talk in the school library

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/education-development/encouraging-book-talk-the-school-library/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

### Exploring books for children: words and pictures

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/exploring-books-children-words-and-pictures/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

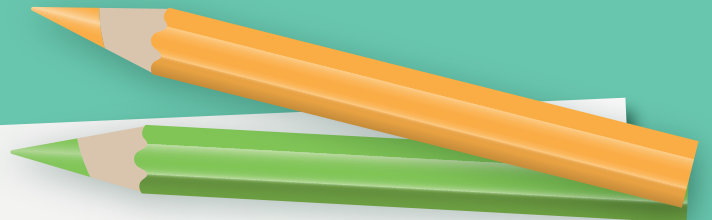
### Developing Reading for Pleasure: engaging young readers

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/education-development/developing-reading-pleasure-engaging-young-readers/content-section-overview?active-tab=description-tab>


### Supporting reading at home


<https://ourfp.org/supporting-rah/>

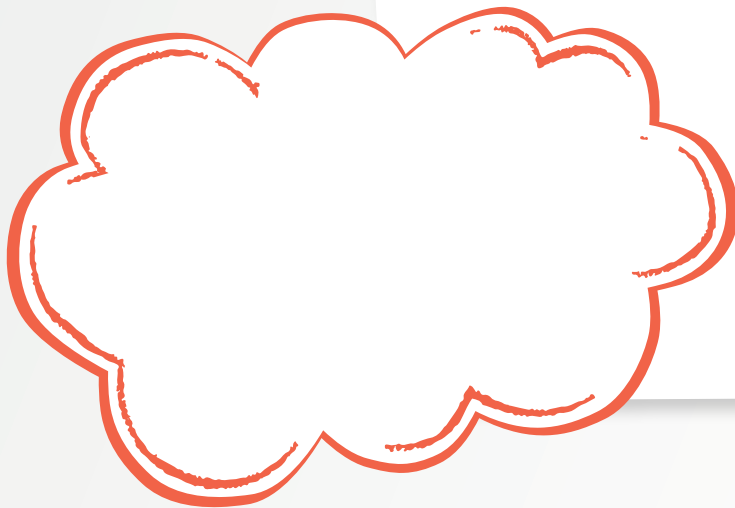




What is your name?

Can you draw  
a picture of  
your favourite  
book? 

What did you  
like about  
this book? 



How many stars will  
you give the book?



**TEACHERS:** Share your classrooms' book reviews with Bookmark for a chance to be featured in the next Story Corner magazine! Send scanned copies to [thestorycorner@bookmarkreading.org](mailto:thestorycorner@bookmarkreading.org) with the name of your school.



# THE STORY THIEF BY GRAHAM CARTER SCHOOL RESOURCES



## LITERACY EYFS

Let's practice writing our letters together!

Fish Fish Fish



Fox Fox Fox



Eat Eat Eat



Hat Hat Hat





# THE STORY THIEF BY GRAHAM CARTER SCHOOL RESOURCES



## LITERACY EYFS AND KEY STAGE 1

Can you find and circle something in this picture beginning with these letters?

Oo Tt Dd Ss Bb Ff Cc

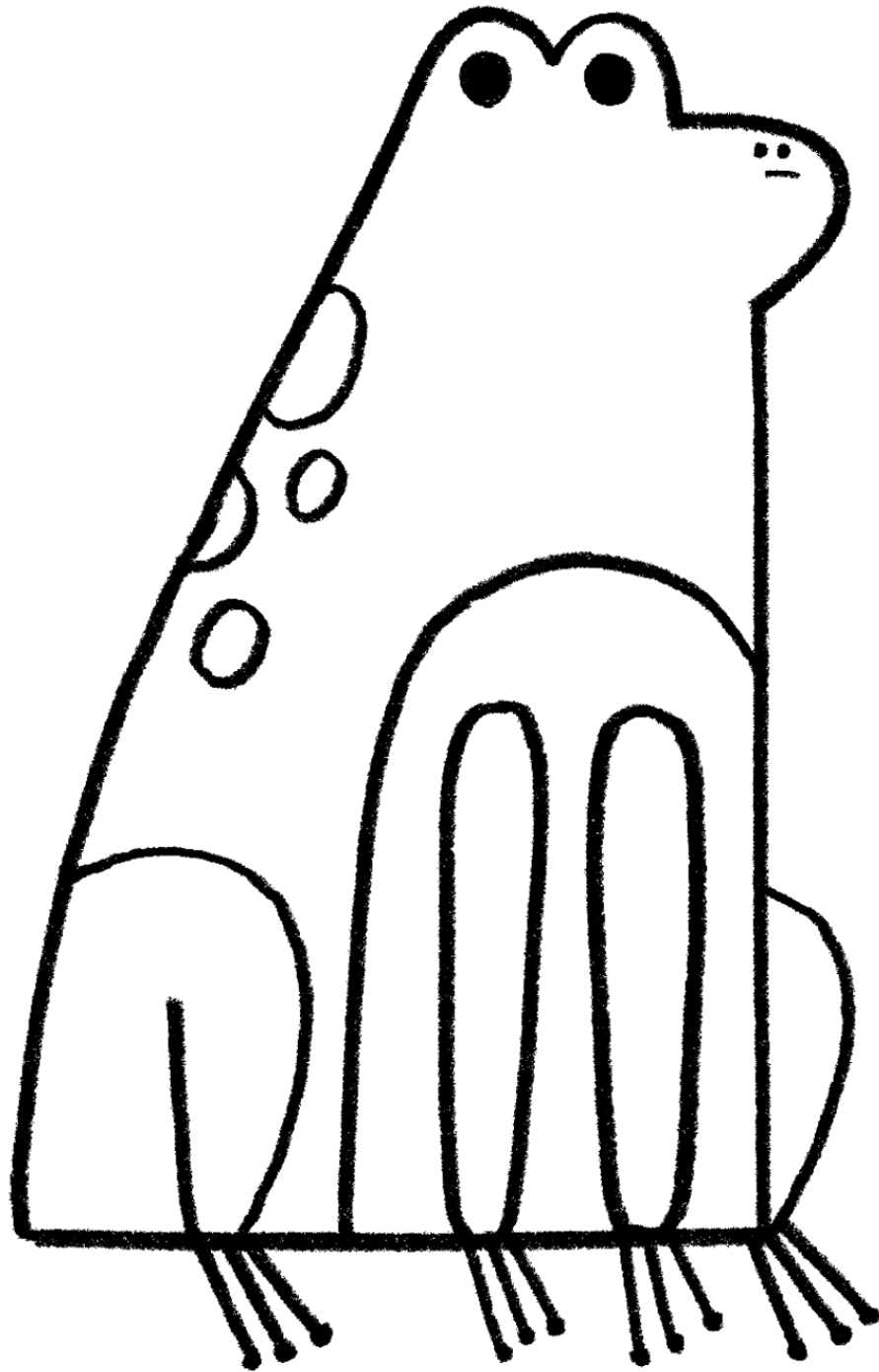


If you want to try writing some of these words you can give it a try here!





Colour in Hopp and help them transform!

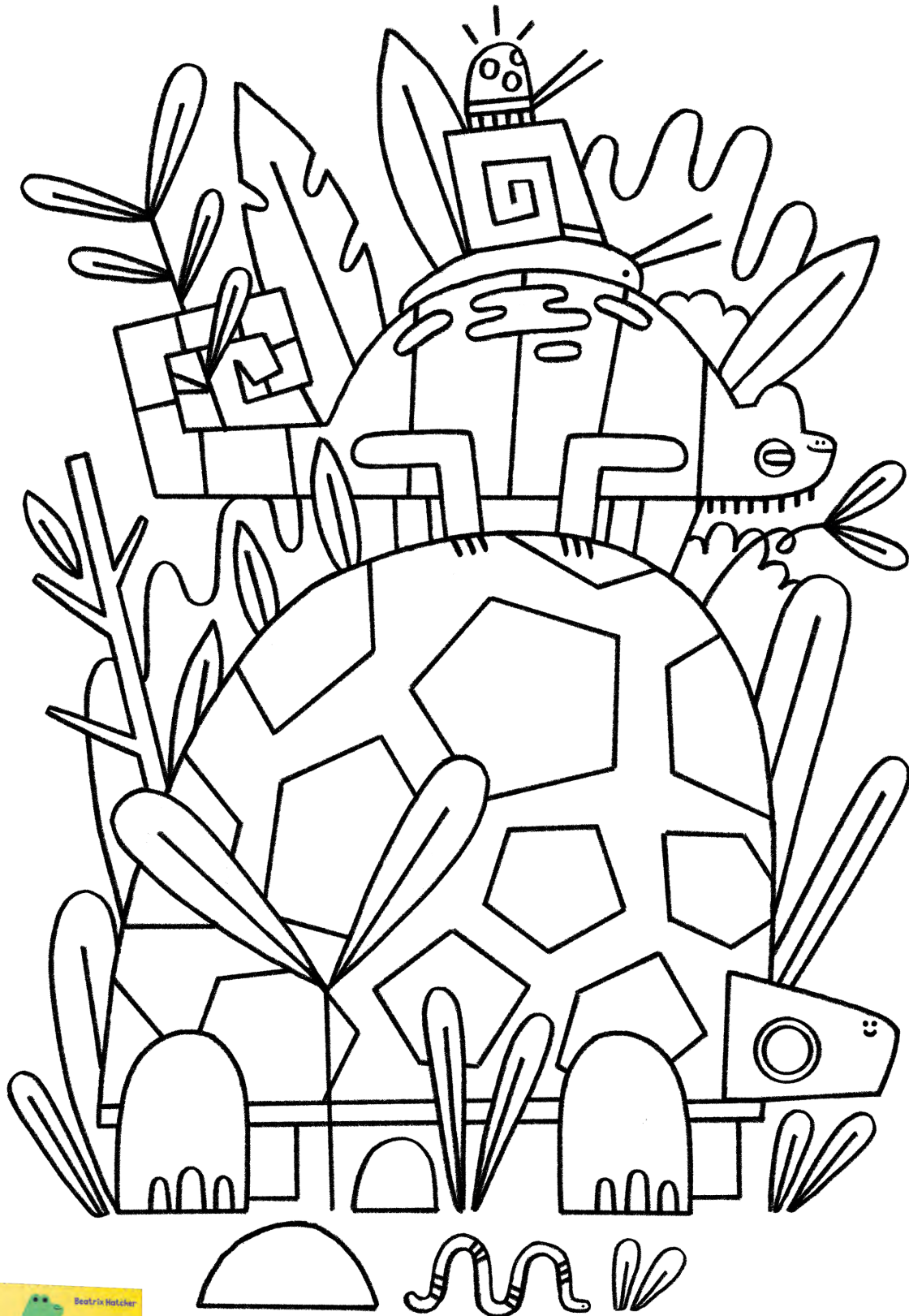


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Activity sheet inspired by **I am NOT a Prince!**  
by Rachael Davis and Beatrix Hatcher

Colour in the animals from Hopp's lagoon.



©Beatrix Hatcher, 2022



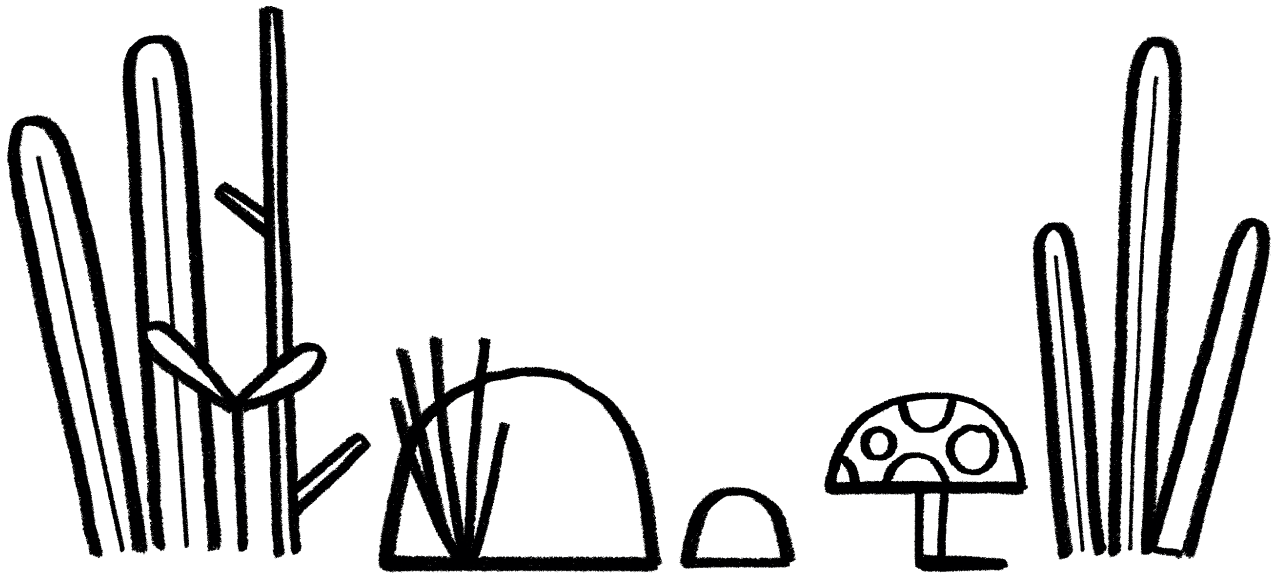
Activity sheet inspired by **I am NOT a Prince!** by Rachael Davis and Beatrix Hatcher

**Hopp is proud to be themselves. Write in the clouds what you are proud of.**



Activity sheet inspired by **I am NOT a Prince!** by Rachael Davis and Beatrix Hatcher

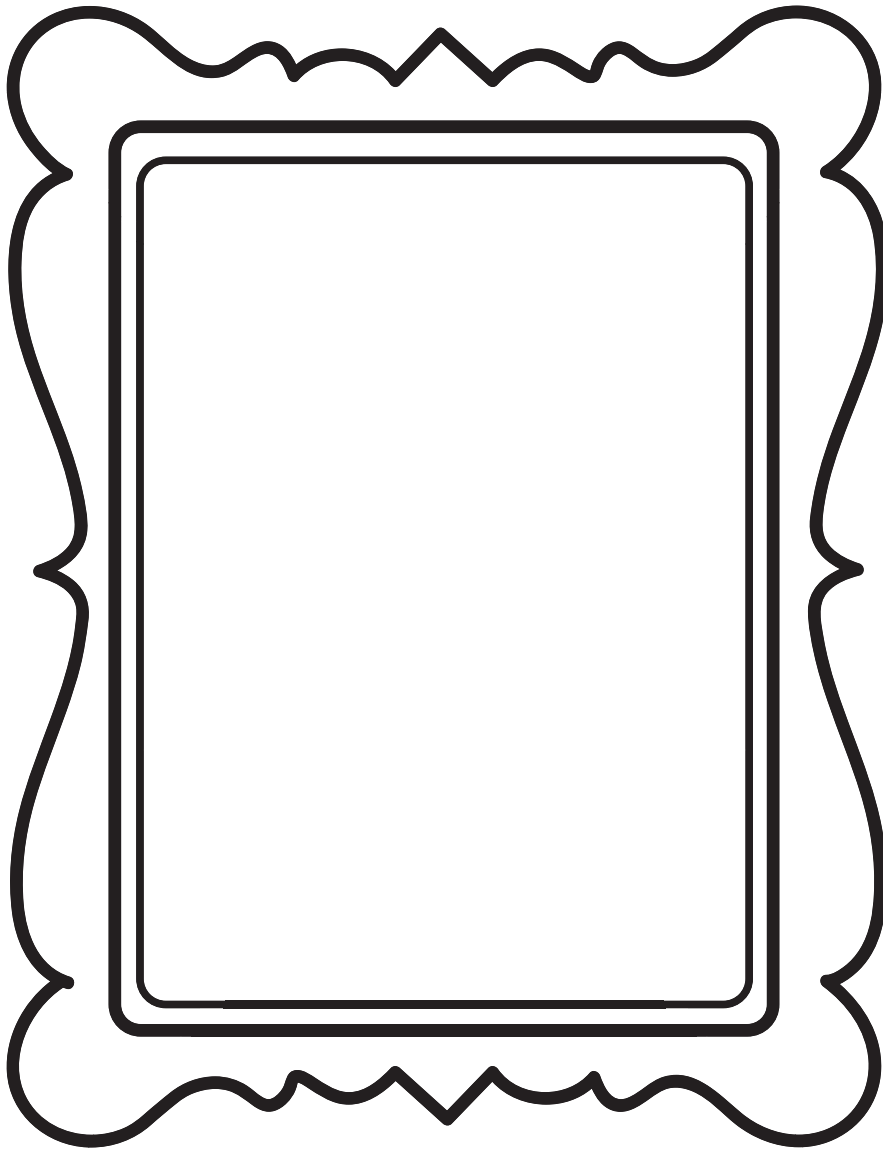
**Draw yourself below in Hopp's lagoon  
and be proud to be you!**



Activity sheet inspired by **I am NOT a Prince!**  
by Rachael Davis and Beatrix Hatcher

# All About Diversity

Objectives: Understand that all people and places are different; consider what makes you unique and sketch a self-portrait.



My name is

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I am \_\_\_\_\_ years old

A fun fact about me is

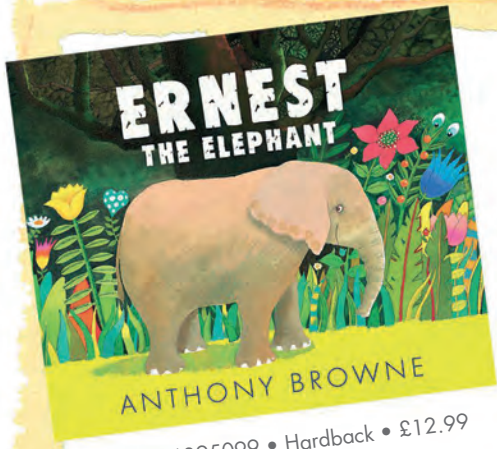
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Being different from each other is called DIVERSITY and it is an amazing thing! Take a moment to look across your classroom; every single one of you is different in some way. Isn't that brilliant?

Draw a self-portrait of yourself and note down a fun fact about you that makes you different.



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# ERNEST THE ELEPHANT

ANTHONY BROWNE

Can you spot the five differences between these two pictures of Ernest in the jungle?

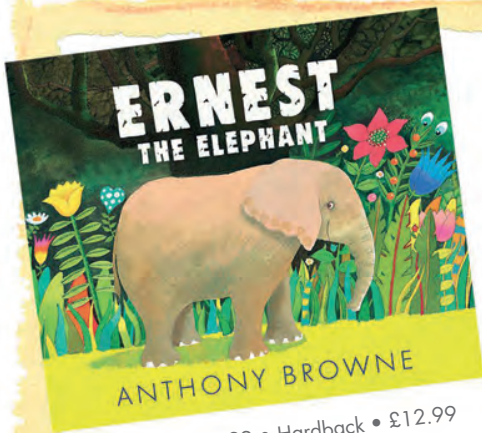


Differences: 1) The football has been replaced by a strawberry. 2) A pair of blue shorts have appeared.  
3) There's an extra lollipop. 4) A butterfly has appeared. 5) There's a mouse on Ernest's head.



WALKER BOOKS  
walker.co.uk

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# ERNEST THE ELEPHANT

ANTHONY BROWNE

Ernest is lost in the jungle! The clues in this wordsearch will help him find his way out.

P	A	T	H	Q	C	T	W	E	I
T	G	U	I	A	R	L	O	Q	G
Y	M	K	P	F	O	D	Z	P	O
I	U	Z	P	Q	C	J	A	F	R
D	M	T	O	S	O	R	G	S	I
A	M	Y	Z	E	D	X	U	T	L
E	Y	Q	U	J	I	B	W	B	L
P	S	R	H	F	L	I	O	N	A
J	U	N	G	L	E	V	Q	P	V
M	O	U	S	E	C	Y	R	A	W

FIND

JUNGLE  
GORILLA  
LION

HIPPO  
CROCODILE  
MOUSE

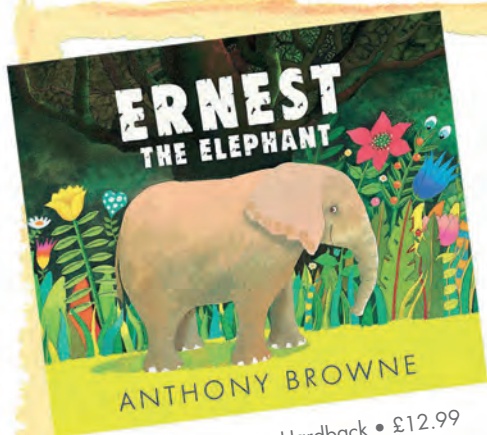
PATH  
MUMMY



WALKER  
BOOKS

walker.co.uk

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# ERNEST THE ELEPHANT

ANTHONY BROWNE

Ernest meets a gorilla, a lion, a hippo, a crocodile and a mouse in his jungle adventure. But there are so many other animals hidden in the trees and the grass!

Can you think of another animal?  
Use the space below to draw it! Try and make  
it as colourful as the animals in Ernest's jungle.





# TYGER

Hello to schools in Leicester!

I'm SF Said, the author of your new book *Tyger*. And I just want to wish you all happy reading!

*Tyger* is a story about a boy, a girl, and a tyger. It's a story about saving the world, and finding the powers that we all have inside ourselves.

It's the most exciting story I can imagine. It took me 9 years to write it, because I kept working on it until it was the very best book it could be. So I hope that whoever you are, whatever you think you enjoy reading – and even if you don't think you enjoy reading! – you will enjoy reading *Tyger*.

If you're looking for something else to read once you've finished it, you could also try my *Varjak Paw* books, which are about a cat who dreams of becoming a great warrior; or *Phoenix*, which is about a human boy and an alien girl who have to save the galaxy.

But I believe there's a book for everyone out there. So if you haven't yet found your favourite book of all time – keep reading! It could just be the one you open next...

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SF Said', enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn oval border.

SF Said

# DIMPLE AND THE BOO

Hello!

I'm Pip and I write books for YOU! Other children can read them as well, if they like. It's up to you.

I hope you enjoy reading Dimple and the Boo. When I wrote it, I was thinking about how sometimes I have a really BAD day.

You too? Perhaps something makes you feel cross, or upset, or disappointed... and then it all just makes you want to go

**RAAAAAAAAAARRRRGGGGHHHH!!!**

It happens to us all but, as you will see, Dimple learns that sometimes it's much better to have a big talk than it is to have a little Boo.

Now, do keep reading my books. In fact, you should read all the books in the whole world!

(I'm not sure how many books that would be, but I'm guessing there are somewhere between thirty-four and sixteen gazillion.)

With love from Pip, your BFF (book friend forever) xx

# PRINCESS MINNA



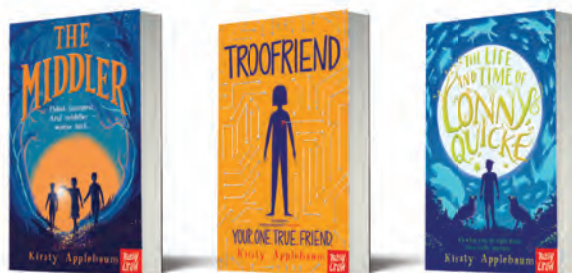
★ 📖 Hello everyone! 📖 ★

The books we read when we're young  
sprinkle magic over the  
rest of our lives ✨

Happy Reading!  
Kirsty A



Also available by Kirsty Applebaum



[www.kirstyapplebaum.co.uk](http://www.kirstyapplebaum.co.uk)

@KirstyApplebaum

**nosy  
crow**

# ELISABETH AND THE BOX OF COLOURS

Hello!

I hope you enjoy reading **Elisabeth and the Box of Colours!**

Based on the true story of an amazing real-life artist, Élisabeth Vigée Le Brun, this is the tale of a little girl who loves to paint and draw. Her love of art helps her in the toughest of times — bringing colour and joy to her life even when things seem grey.

I loved working on this book with amazing illustrator Rebecca Cobb, who created all the beautiful artwork to accompany my story. Both Rebecca and I know how special being creative can be.

We also know that it was the pictures and stories we loved creating when we were young that first helped set us on the road to our future careers — making books for children to enjoy! That's why we've dedicated this book to *all the young artists and storytellers* out there.

Perhaps you're one of them? And maybe this story will inspire you to get creative yourself — just like Elisabeth and her friends?

Happy reading!

Katherine Woodfine

# HELLO!



I'm Rashmi and I'm a children's author. I write a real mix of things as you can see below. Yep, those are my books! The words are by me and the pictures are by some truly amazing artists who I am very, very proud to work with.

Dadaji's Paintbrush is illustrated by Ruchi Mhasane. It's set in India and it is a story about art and community and how the people we love never really leave us – they live on inside us and in the things we do. It's also a book about finding your creativity and letting yourself try new things and make mistakes. Mistakes are a part of art too! They're definitely a part of writing for me. It's how we learn and grow.

It just so happens that Ruchi and I are from a very similar part of India so the world that I dreamt up when I wrote this book has been brought to life so perfectly with her beautiful pictures. I hope that when you look at these pages, you'll be transported to Goa and the Konkan area with its lush greens, clay tile rooftops and starry skies. I hope you can taste the mangoes and imagine the monsoon rain on your skin! And I hope you love this beautiful friendship between a boy and his grandfather.

Happy reading!

Rashmi S

Rashmi Sirdeshpande



# SUPERMAN'S DAY OUT

Hello!

I've always loved people telling me stories. Ever since I was tiny. That chance to live a life that isn't mine, to go places I'll never go to.

That's one of the reasons I wrote this story for you, I mean, imagine being a superhero, and imagine if your GRAN was one too...

The idea made me smile, and I hope it does the same for you.

Keep dreaming...

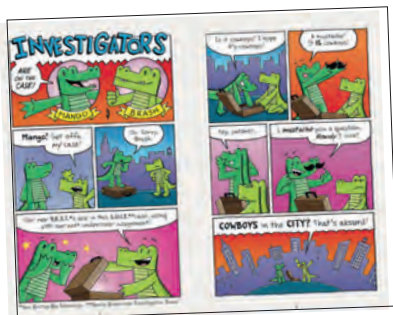
Your pal

Phil x

# InvestiGATORS by John Patrick Green

Dear Secret Agent—I MEAN—Reader,

Welcome to InvestiGators! It stars Mango and Brash, two alligators who solve crimes wearing vests. But not just any old vests, they're V.E.S.T.s: Very Exciting Spy Technology! You see, Mango and Brash work for S.U.I.T. (Special Undercover Investigation Teams), a secret organization that's called in when local law enforcement isn't up to the task. It's dirty work (they flush themselves into the sewers to get around town) but somebody's got to do it.



I got my start as a graphic novelist by reading Garfield in the newspaper when I was a kid. I always liked drawing as a child, but comic strips are a combination of words AND drawings, and that just fascinated me. I fell in love with the idea of using pictures to tell stories, and I started drawing my own comics, and now I get to make graphic novels for kids like you to read.

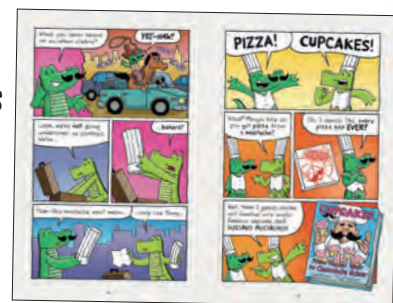


© Ellen B Wright

I hope my InvestiGators books inspire you to keep reading (such as Mango and Brash's adventures in *Take the Plunge* or *Braver and Boulder*), and maybe you'll even come up with some stories of your own!

Sincerely

John Patrick Green



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# MEG AND MERLIN: MAKING FRIENDS

When I was a child, I loved horses and longed for a pony of my own. I could only ride once in a while and spent the long, pony-less days in between reading books about horses.

Now I'm a grown-up author, I get to invent my own stories.

I hope you enjoy making friends with Meg and Merlin.

And may all your pony wishes and dreams come true!

Happy reading,  
Tanya Landman





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