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
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?
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.

**How to draw your own Blanksy cat**

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!

**Can you put the story in the right order?**

Write numbers 1-6 in the circles.

What do you think will happen next?

1. WOW!
2. What do you think will happen next?
3. Can you put the story in the right order?
4. Write numbers 1-6 in the circles
5. Use the blank easel to draw your own picture
6. Meow!
Can you see what the child has drawn?

What else might they draw?

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 am a big boy now.

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.

I make paper boats, birds and planes.

I make houses, flags and trains.

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

press  cat
boat  coat
plane  mess
wall
hat
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!
Draw your own Bugbop!

Draw along with Mark Bradley!
Author-illustrator of Bumble & Snug.
“My favourite creative activity is drawing colourful little monsters called Bugbops! Here’s how to create your own!”

1. Pick any colour and make up your own shape.

2. Next, give your bugbop a face.

3. Now you can add some arms and legs.

Tip: You can combine different shapes and colours to add variety!

What different things might happen when your Bugbop feels happy, angry or sad?

Remember: there’s no right or wrong way to make your bugbop!

4. Finally, give your bugbop some accessories (bugbops love accessories!)

5. Now just give your bugbop a name, and you’re all done!

Once you have designed your Bugbop, can you make up stories for them?

Bugbops can have powers like flying, turning invisible or growing as tall as a building, depending on their emotion.

Write your Bugbop’s name: --------------------------------------------

Draw your Bugbop here:

Hocus Pocus!

Tremble!

Conundrum!
Paul and Pam sat reading in a tree. Pam 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 Paul. “I imagined we were in a snake book.”

“You did?” said Pam.

---

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.

---

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.

---

An extract from ‘Yapping Away’, poem © Joshua Seigal, published by Bloomsbury 2021

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 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.

---

Fill The World
a poem by Joshua Seigal

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

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

“Did I mention the flying rocking horse?” said Paul. “That’s not very realistic.”

“A flying rocking horse?” said Pam. “The trick is to say yes to anything,” said Pam. “Allow yourself to go there in your mind. See where your imagination takes you.”

They 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 Ping, who hid behind a rock. The cobra tried to snatch them in its mouth.

Pam attacked the cobra with their sword as Ping hid behind a rock. The cobra tried to snatch them in its mouth.

Paul and Pam 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.
How to make your story prompter

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. 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!

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.

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

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

**WIN A PRIZE BUNDLE:**
- Personalised book!
- Squishy McFluff book
- £20 book voucher

**WINNER of issue 5, ‘design your own dream tree’ competition!**

Name: Naimah
Age: 8

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

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?

**Follow the line!**

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*

**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

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

**WINNER of issue 5, ‘design your own dream tree’ competition!**

Name: Naimah
Age: 8

---

**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 Tarvee Nabor, 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.*

---

* Story content under a CC BY 4.0 license, on StoryWeaver. Read, create and translate stories for free on www.storyweaver.org.in

Front cover artwork by Sarah Harrison Illustration © 2023

All content curated and adapted by Bookmark, editorial and design changes have been made for The Story Corner format and readership.
The Story Corner is brought to you by Bookmark. We’re a children’s literacy charity that wants every child to read. We’re always looking for new volunteers to help children learn to read in primary schools across the country.

Find out more and sign up at www.bookmarkreading.org/volunteer
@bookmarkreadingcharity
@bookmarkreading
@bookmarkreading
@BookmarkCharity

We are able to make and print this magazine thanks to generous donations from our supporters. If you would like to make a donation, please scan the QR code below.

Thank you.

Top tips for encouraging your child to enjoy 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 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 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!

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!