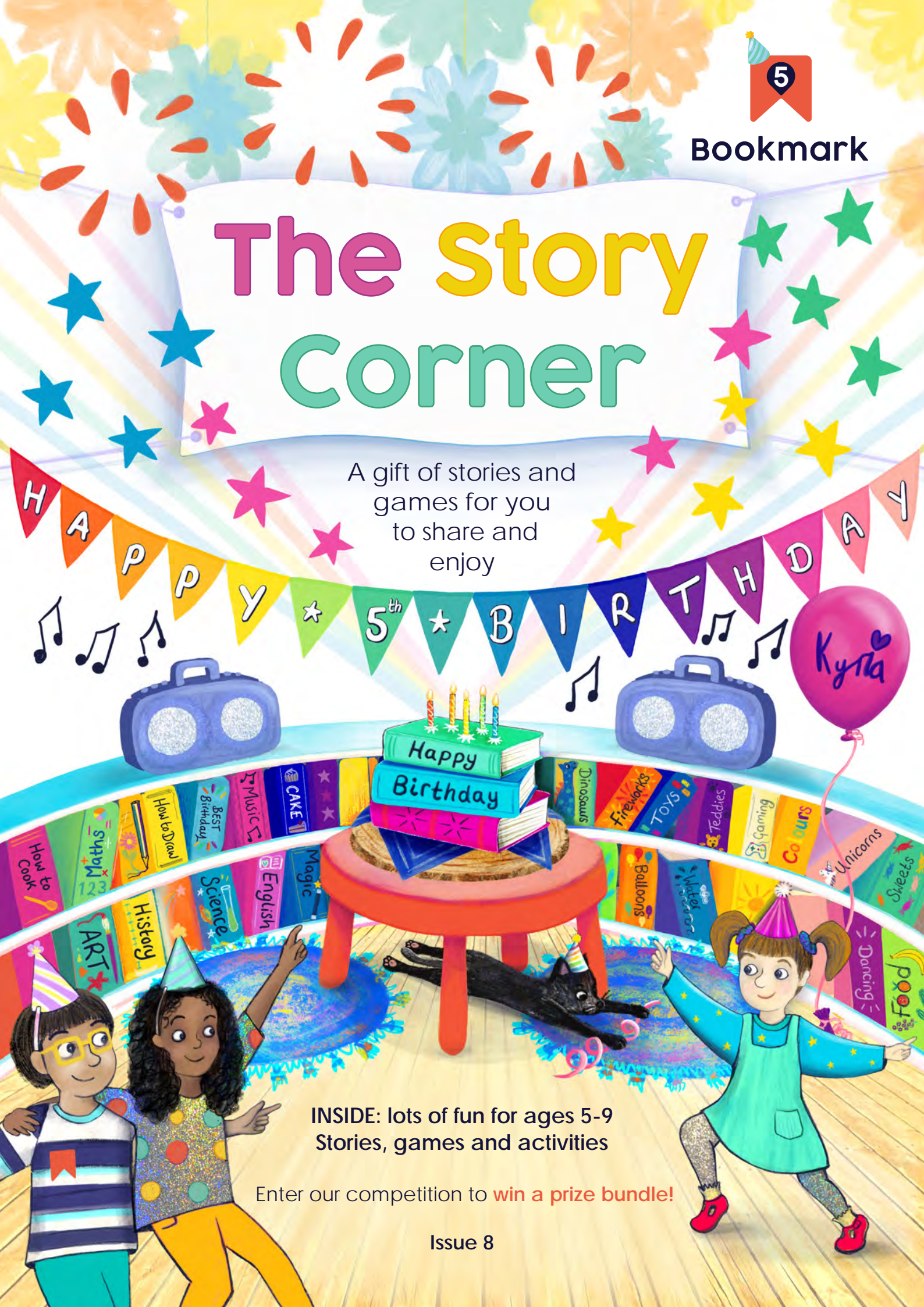




Bookmark

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 8

Hello, are you a reader? A writer?
OR a draw-er? I am all three!

I love to read – I used to read books I love over and over. I still do, even now that I'm a grown up! Right now, I'm reading comics and I am LOVING *'This is Our Pact'* by Ryan Andrews. It's got a talking bear in it!

I love to write – how lucky that it's my job AND my favourite thing! In my book *'Mike Falls Up'*, a boy in the Philippines falls into a hole in the ground and shoots out a chimney in London! What a way to see the world!

Illustrated by
Carles Ballesteros
Published by
Little Tiger 2022



And I love to draw! I draw comics about my life, it helps me think about my day whilst having fun. No need to be tidy. Just pick up a pencil and start drawing. Speech bubbles make your characters talk. Whoosh lines make them move. And **BIG LETTERS** are great for sound effects. **KAPOW!!!**

In this issue of *'The Story Corner'*, our theme is CELEBRATION. Happy reading – and maybe, if you feel like it, why not try writing and drawing too?

Candy Gowley

Contents

-  **Gorilla Has a Party** 1
What does a party need? Lots and lots of hats!
-  **That's Mathematics!** 4
How to be fair when there is something to share
-  **Dance Khuzwayo, dance!** 6
Performing in front of a crowd? No way
-  **Let's Play!** 9
Learn about games from different countries
-  **Listed! - Britannica** 10
Unusual facts about celebrations from around the world
-  **Celebrations** 12
A poem by Claire Culliford, illustrated by Melleny Taylor
-  **Joke Corner** 13
Can you keep a straight face?
-  **Least Expecting** 14
Mouse and Mole are having a party
-  **Meesh the Bad Demon - Spot the Difference!** 16
Can you find the 10 differences?
-  **Alice in Wonderland** 17
Join Alice at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party
-  **Drawing Competition** 20
Enter our competition to win an amazing prize bundle
-  **Make your own Bear Box** 21
What will you fill yours with?

Gorilla Has a Party

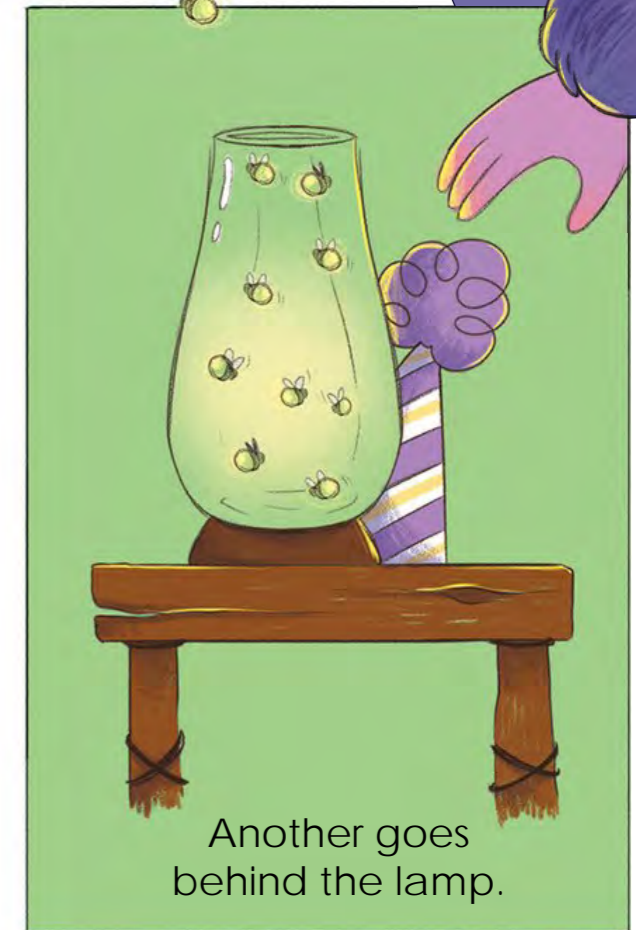


written and illustrated
by Jemma Jose



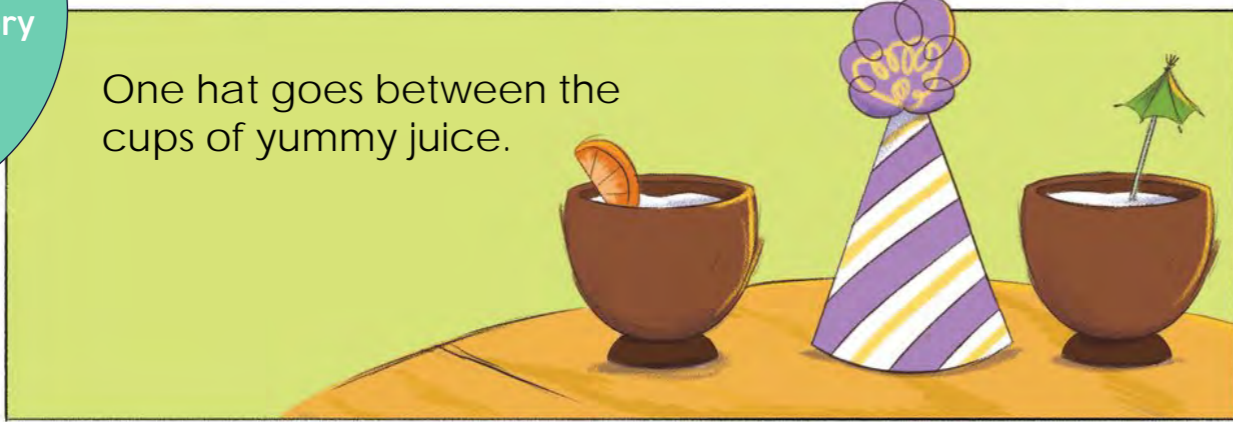
My friends are coming over for a party.
I am leaving party hats everywhere.

What type
of hat would
you choose?



Read this story
left to right

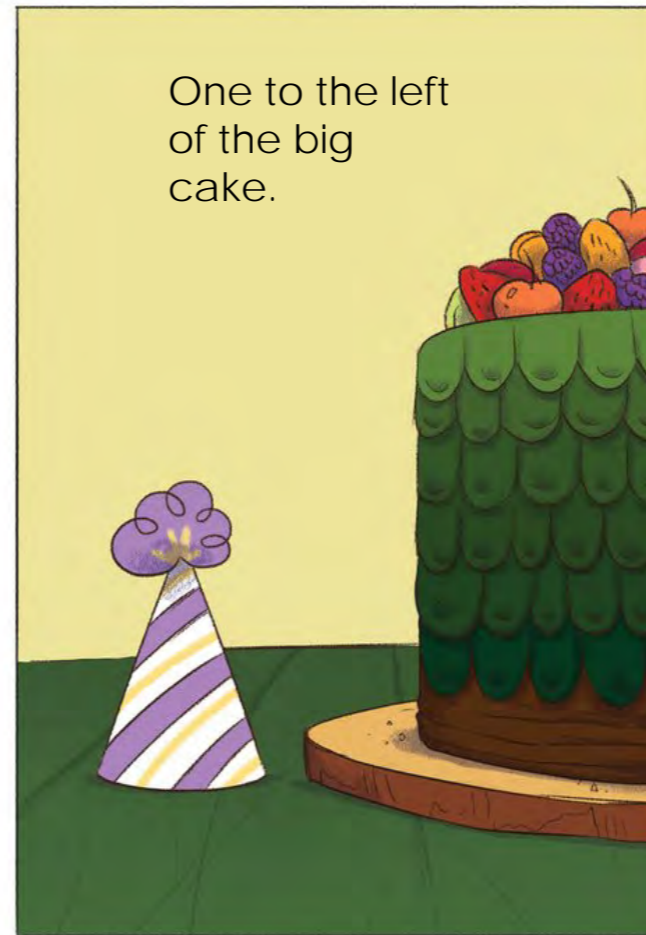
One hat goes between the
cups of yummy juice.



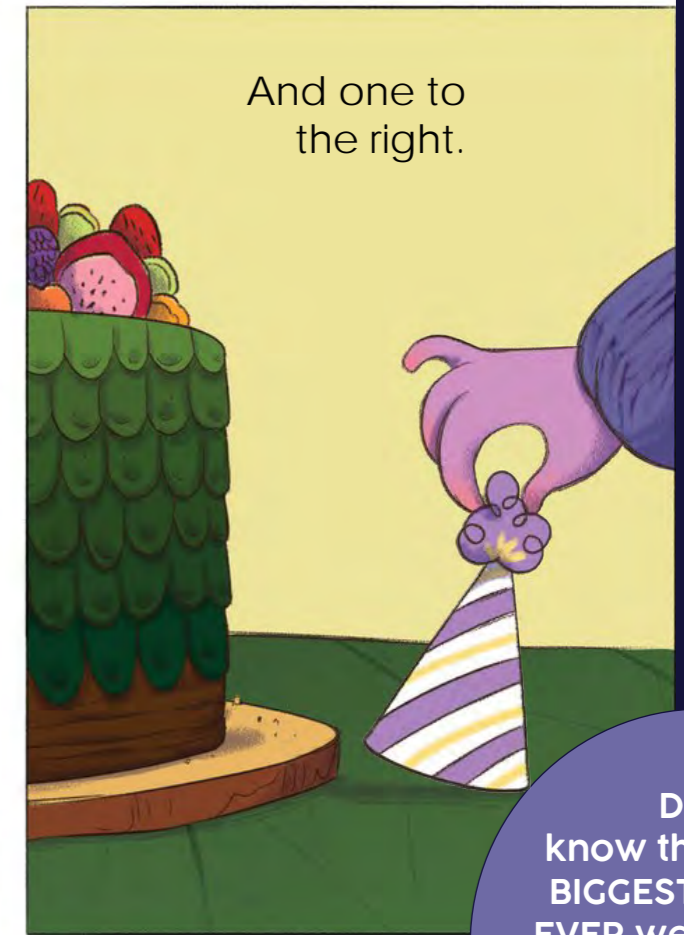
I will leave another
one under the chair.



One to the left
of the big
cake.



And one to
the right.



Did you
know that the
BIGGEST cake
EVER weighed
more than 300
gorillas all sat
together!

How many
of these hats
can you count
in the story?

One more placed upside
down for my friend Bat.



KNOCK!
KNOCK!

Oh! Looks like everyone
already has a hat.



BEING FAIR WHEN THERE'S SOMETHING TO SHARE

In mathematics, sharing means splitting into equal parts. This is called **dividing**. All **even numbers** can be divided by two. So any even group of things – 6 balloons, 8 dog bones or 2 lollipops – can be shared fairly between two people.

THAT'S NOT FAIR!



You've got more than me.



Three each. Perfect!



I'm left with two.



TRY THIS

Look at this bar of chocolate. How many pieces does it have? If three children share it fairly, how many pieces does each one get? What about two, four or six children?

*Online activity sheet available



EXPLORE THIS

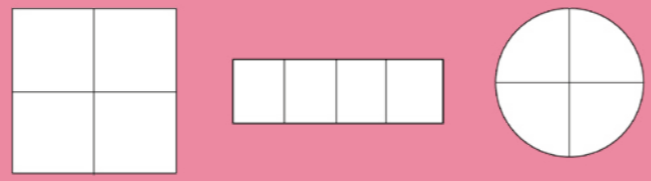
Some numbers, like 12, are nice for sharing, but how about 5 or 7 or 11? Seven bananas can only be shared fairly with seven monkeys. Numbers like this, that can only be divided by themselves or 1, are called **prime numbers**. Can you find any more?

* visit: www.mamamakesbooks.com/activities-thats-mathematics

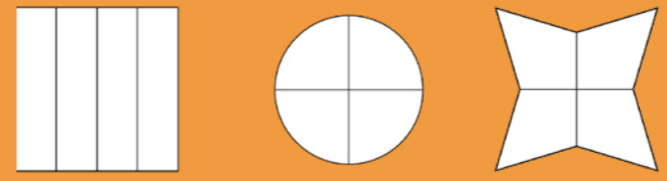
Shade $\frac{1}{2}$ (one half) of each shape.



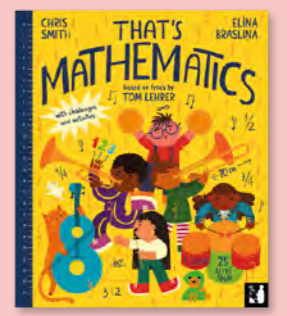
Shade $\frac{1}{4}$ (one quarter) of each shape.



Shade $\frac{3}{4}$ (three quarters) of each shape.



From *That's Mathematics*
ISBN 978-1-7397748-4-4
© Mama Makes Books Ltd
Authors Tom Lehrer/Chris Smith
Illustrations © Elina Braslija





Dance Khuzwayo, dance!

written by Fiske Serah Nyirongo
illustrated by Jess Jardim-Wedepohl
designed by Job Mubinya
edited by Zanri Kritzinger

Read this story
left to right



Everyone knows that Khuzwayo loves to dance. When the village leader chooses him to be the next Ingoma dancer, no one is surprised.

Khuzwayo's family is proud.



Ingoma is a dance to celebrate the first crops at the beginning of the year



It is a Zulu dance from South Africa



But Khuzwayo is worried.

He normally only performs for a few neighbours.

How will he dance in front of so many people from so many villages?



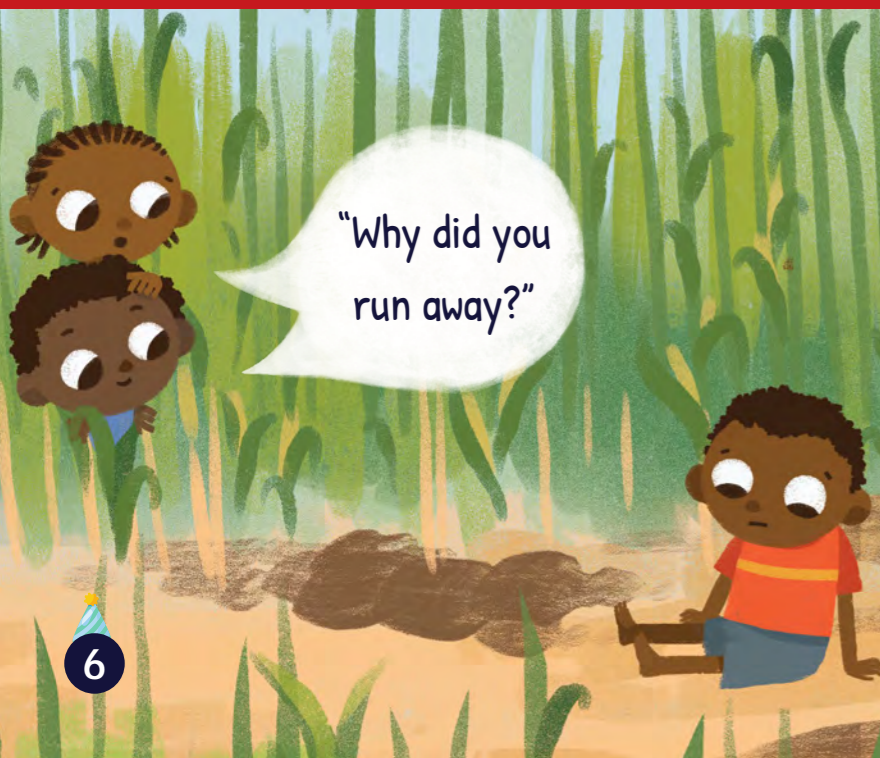
"I can't do it! It's too scary."

He runs away ...



Everyone wonders where he is. No one can find him.

But Khuzwayo's best friends know exactly where he would be!

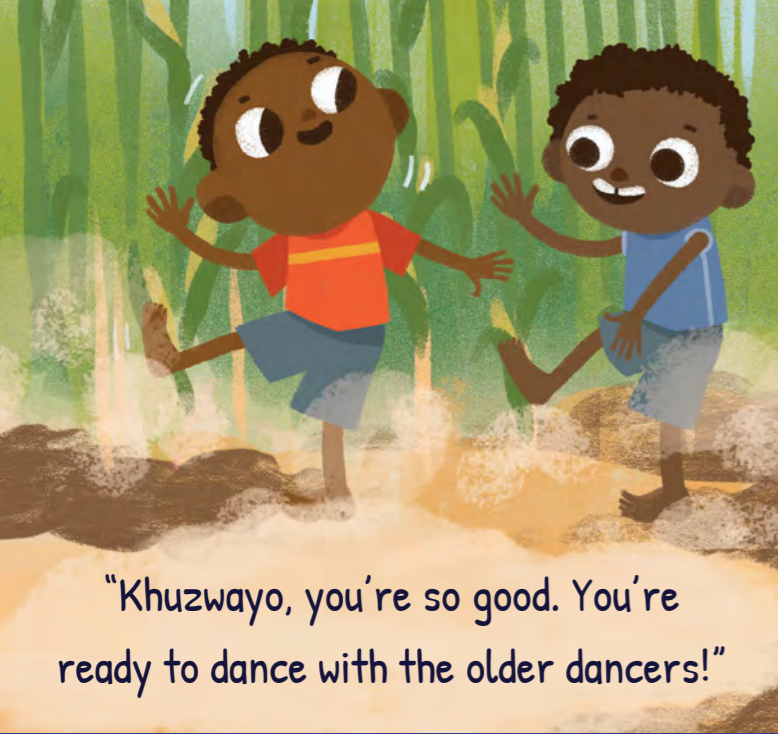


"Why did you run away?"

"I am nervous. What if I make a mistake?"



"We can help you. Let's all practise together!"

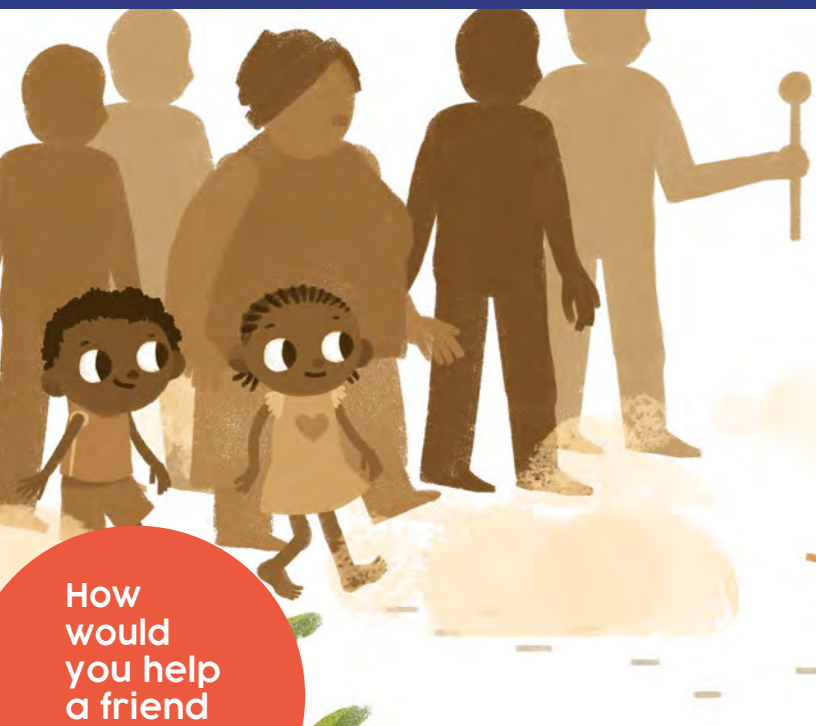


"Khuzwayo, you're so good. You're ready to dance with the older dancers!"



Khuzwayo grows more confident.

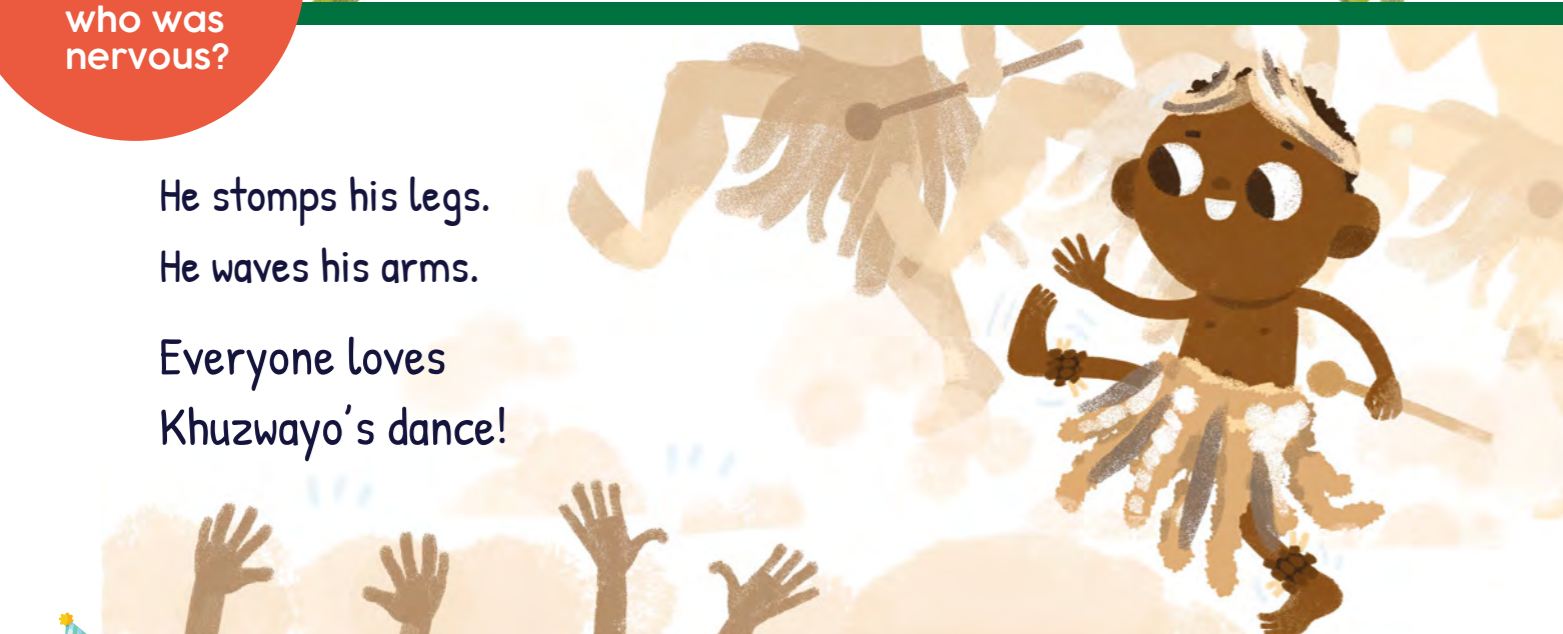
What is your favourite dance?



On the day of the Ingoma dance, Khuzwayo leads his village to the arena wearing a special outfit.

He still feels a little nervous, but the rattles on his feet guide him.

How would you help a friend who was nervous?



He stomps his legs.
He waves his arms.
Everyone loves Khuzwayo's dance!

TRIPAS DE GATO

The name of this Mexican game means 'cat guts', but don't worry – no animals are harmed! The name comes from the twisting lines you draw – they look a bit like your insides!



INDOORS

PEN AND PAPER

PUZZLE GAME

1+ PLAYERS

This game can also be played with a friend. Take it in turns to connect the pairs. The first person who can't make a connection is the loser.

1 On a piece of paper, write the numbers 1 to 10, spread out randomly across the page.

2 Do it again so that there are two of each number.

3 Start with the ones, and draw a line to connect them.

4 Now try to do the same with the remaining pairs of numbers. But beware! Your line is not allowed to cross or touch any of the other lines.

5 How many pairs can you connect before you get stuck?

You don't have to use numbers in this game. You can use words, shapes or emojis! Anything will work as long as they come in pairs.



JEGICHAGI

This game is played with a toy called a 'jegi', traditionally made from a piece of paper and a coin with a hole in the centre. You can make your own!



INDOORS OR OUTDOORS

CRAFT SUPPLIES

ACTIVE PLAY

1+ PLAYERS

1 Using paper or plastic cut from a carrier bag, cut two squares measuring about 30 cm on each side. Lay one on top of the other.

2 Put a few coins in the centre and gather up the sides. Tie them with a piece of string, just above the coins.

3 Cut the rest of the paper or plastic into strips and fan them out. Your jegi is finished!

4 Play jegichagi by kicking the jegi with the inside of your foot. The goal is to keep it from touching the ground. You can use either foot.



You can also play jegichagi with friends. Try passing the jegi around a circle, or see who can get the most kicks without dropping it.

LISTEN!

Prepare to be amazed (and amused!) by the unusual facts crammed into these celebratory lists.

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Ten unique ways birthdays are celebrated around the world

1 Canadians grab the person celebrating their birthday and coat their nose in butter in order to ward off bad luck.

2 At birthday parties, Mexicans hit a papier-mâché piñata (which is pictured on the right) with a stick while wearing a blindfold. After repeated hits, the piñata breaks open and the sweets and toys stashed inside fall to the ground.

3 Jamaicans throw flour all over the person celebrating their birthday in a tradition called 'antiquing'.*

4 Argentinians pull the ears of the person celebrating their birthday: one tug for each year of their life.

5 In Ireland, children celebrating their birthdays are sometimes held upside down by family

and friends and then gently 'bumped' on the floor once for every year of their life – with an extra bump at the end for good luck.

6 In the Netherlands, people celebrate particular birthdays more than others. These special years are called Crown Years and happen when



you're aged five, ten, fifteen, twenty and twenty-one.

7 In Ghana, instead of celebrating birthdays with a cake, children are given a special breakfast treat called oto, which is made from fried yams,

which are a type of root vegetable.

8 In Russia, instead of a birthday cake, the person celebrating a birthday receives a homemade pie which has a personal message carved into the dough on the top.

9 In China, people eat a bowl of long noodles on their birthdays. The noodles, which you can see a Chinese girl eating in the photo on the left, represent long life and the aim is to slurp the noodles into your mouth as far as possible before taking a bite. The longer the noodles you manage to suck up into your mouth, the longer you will supposedly live!**

10 Australians prepare a special treat called fairy bread on birthdays, which is buttered bread covered in coloured sugary sprinkles. It sounds delicious!

*In the nearby South American country of Brazil, antiquing gets even messier because it also includes eggs!

**In China, people sometimes also 'skip' certain birthdays because these years are

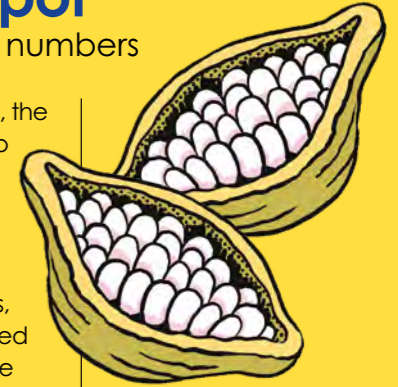
considered bad luck. For example, some Chinese women avoid celebrating their 30th, 33rd and 66th birthdays, while some Chinese men don't celebrate their 40th birthday. Instead, they simply stay 29, 32, 65 or 39 for two years in a row!

Above: in Mexico, people celebrate birthdays by hitting a piñata to release the sweets and toys inside.

Sweet Spot

Chocolate in numbers

Eaten on their own, the seeds of the cacao tree – shown in the illustration on the right – have a strong, bitter taste. But once the seeds, which are also called cocoa beans, have been correctly prepared, their insides can be ground into cocoa, which is the key ingredient of chocolate.



Mars Sr. Mars Sr. had the clever idea during the Spanish Civil War, when he noticed soldiers eating small chocolates with sugary shells. As well as being sweet and tasty, the sugary coating stopped the chocolate from melting in their hands.

4.4 million

The approximate weight in tonnes of all the cocoa produced each year.

5,792.5

The weight in kilograms of the world's heaviest chocolate bar, which is the same as three pickup trucks. The gigantic chocolate bar was approximately 4 metres long, 4 metres wide and 35 centimetres thick.

1,200

The average number of cocoa beans produced by one cacao tree in a year.

1847

The year the world's first chocolate bar was made. It was produced by the English company Fry's, which later became part of the chocolate and sweets company Cadbury.

1941

The year sugar-coated M&M's were first produced by Forrest

50

The number of cups of hot chocolate the great Aztec emperor Montezuma II drank each day from a golden cup.

45

The number of cacao beans it takes to make a typical 50-gram bar of chocolate that you might buy in a shop.

30

The percentage of the world's cocoa beans that come from the Ivory Coast in west Africa.



To find out more, go to: whatonearth.co.uk

Celebrations

written by Claire Culliford
illustrated by Melleny Taylor



Melleny
www.mrsarty.com



C. Culliford
www.claireculliford.com

Celebrations are a happy time,
Joyful events that make us smile,
Across the world, with family or friends,
Lots of fun that we don't want to end!

Food and drink of a very special kind,
Cakes, balloons and dancing for a while,
Songs to sing to and colourful clothes to wear,
There are so many ways of showing that we care.

For anniversaries and birthdays we hold dear,
Christmas and Eid and the Chinese New Year,
Bar or bat mitzvah and Diwali too,
There really is so much celebrating to do!



Why is ice cream
always invited to
a party?

Because
it's cool!

Why did the
astronaut leave the
party early?

Because they
needed some
space!

What type of
music are balloons
scared of?

Pop music!

What does every
party end with?

The letter Y!

What's the worst
thing about throwing
a party in space?

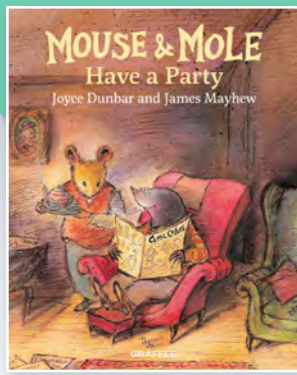
You have to
planet!

How do Minecraft
players celebrate?

They throw
block parties!

The Joke Corner

In which
story do
you meet
each of
the joke
tellers?



Least Expecting

written by Joyce Dunbar
illustrated by James Mayhew
published by Graffeg



James and Joyce
with Mouse and Mole

An extract from: 'Mouse and Mole Have a Party'

Mole and Mouse waited, trying as hard as they could to least expect the arrival of a mystery parcel from a secret well-wisher.

They did a spot of weeding.



They made a cup of tea.



They played a game of ping-pong.



Then they went running to the door to see if the mystery parcel from a secret well-wisher had arrived. It hadn't.

'Mole, you didn't least expect hard enough,' said Mouse.

'Bah!' said Mole. 'I don't believe in this least expecting. It doesn't work. Nothing exciting happens whether you expect it or not. I give up.'

'So do I,' said Mouse.

And with that, they slumped down in their fireside chairs.



There was suddenly a knock at the door. 'Don't answer it!' said Mouse. 'Why not?' asked Mole.

'Think who you would least expect it to be.'

'I least expect it to be my long lost Uncle,' said Mole.

'The very rich one, with-'

'And I expect it is Rat, come to borrow some sugar,' said Mouse.



It was Rat, but he hadn't come to borrow some sugar. He was wearing a party hat.

In he burst, followed by Rabbit and Hedgehog and Owl, all wearing party hats.

'Happy Birthday, Mole,' they said, handing him a large apple pie and a present done up with string.

'Birthday? Who? Me?' said Mole.

'Mouse told us a week ago,' said Rat.

'It isn't easy to least expect,' said Mouse. 'You have to do it just right.'

'So you do,' said Mole. 'And so we have. Where's that custard, Mouse?'



'Here's to Mole', said Rat, raising his glass.

'To Mole,' said everyone else.

'To me,' sighed a very happy Mole.



Extract from graphic novel written and illustrated by **Michelle Lam**
Published by Faber 2023

Spot the difference!

Can you circle 10 differences between the 2 pictures below?



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



What is your favourite party game?



Alice in Wonderland

written by and illustrated by **Emma Chichester Clark**
Published by Collins



Under a tree was a long table where the March Hare and the Hatter were sitting at one end, having tea. They were resting their elbows on a dormouse that was fast asleep.

"No room! No room!" they cried as they saw Alice coming.

"There's plenty of room!" said Alice indignantly, and she sat down in an armchair. The Hatter stared at her. "Your hair needs cutting!"

"You shouldn't make personal remarks," said Alice. "It's rude."

The Hatter's eyes opened even wider. "What's the difference between a raven and a writing desk?" he asked as he took out his watch and held it to his ear. "And what's the date today?"

"The fourth," said Alice.

"Bother! Two days wrong. I knew butter wouldn't fix it!"

"It was the best butter," the Hare said quietly.

"But it had crumbs in it," moaned the Hatter.

The Hare reached for the watch and dipped it in his tea.

"Can you answer the riddle yet?" the Hatter asked Alice.





"No," replied Alice wearily. "I give up. What is the answer?"

"I haven't the slightest idea," said the Hatter.

"Twinkle, twinkle, little bat!" the Hatter was singing. "How I wonder what you're at! Do you know it?"

"I've heard something like it," said Alice.

"It goes on: Up above the world you fly, like a tea tray in the sky. When I sang it to the Queen, she threatened to cut my head off," he said sadly.

"She said I wasn't keeping time, and it's true: time never works for me, so now we let it stay at six o'clock."

"So it's always tea time?" asked Alice brightly.

"Yes," sighed the Hatter. "And no time for washing-up."

"So you keep moving round the places," Alice guessed.

"Exactly," said the Hatter.

"But what happens when you get to the beginning again?" asked Alice.

The March Hare yawned. "Let's change the subject. I vote the young lady tells us a story."

"I'm afraid I don't know any," said Alice.

"Then the Dormouse will!" the Hare and the Hatter cried, pinching him fiercely.

The Dormouse gasped, "There were three little sisters who lived in a well ..."

"What did they eat?" asked Alice.

"Treacle," replied the Dormouse.

"Time to move round!" announced the Hatter.

That was enough for Alice.

She got up and walked away.

Nobody seemed to notice or care, as she'd half-hoped they would.

The last thing she saw was the Hatter and the March Hare trying to stuff the

Dormouse into the teapot.

"That was the stupidest party I've ever been to," she said to herself.

Just as she said it, she noticed a little door in one of the trees.

"That's very curious," she thought, "but everything's curious today."



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© Carles Ballesteros
© Candy Gourlay | Little Tiger
© Katy Halford | DK

COMPETITION!

Prize:

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Draw your own celebration

Personalised Children's Books
www.theelephantstrunk.com

- Who would you invite?
- What is the theme?
- Where would it be?
- What would you eat?



Name

Age

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

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

The Story Corner (issue 7) 'design your dream home' drawing competition!

WINNER!
Name: **Priya**
Age: **7** Well done!

© b small publishing | Party Crafts | Clare Beaton | 2023 | www.bsmall.co.uk

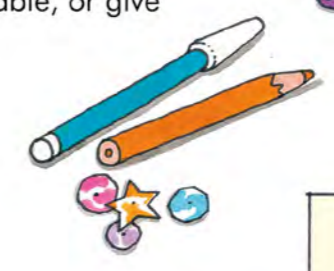


Bear box



Make some of these boxes for your friends. Fill them with sweets, balloons or a tiny present. Place them on plates at the party table, or give them as 'going home' presents.

- What you will need:**
- ✿ coloured paper or thin card
 - ✿ tracing paper
 - ✿ pencil
 - ✿ scissors
 - ✿ crayons, paints, felt-tip pens
 - ✿ sticky shapes, sequins, glitter
 - ✿ ruler
 - ✿ glue



You could write each person's name on the lid or the front of their box.

Trace this template on to paper or card. Use a ruler to help with the straight lines. Cut out along solid lines. Decorate the other side. Then fold up your box along the dotted lines and glue the flaps as shown.

glue other side

glue other side

glue other side

glue other side

scan QR code for print at home | template |

Lid flap. Do not glue

Bookmark



Which page is the present hidden on?

in issue **8**



Which page is the smiley hidden on?

in issue **9**



Which page is the rocket hidden on?

in issue **10**



Find the hidden item in each magazine this school year. Mark the page number in the right circle. Cut out and keep this handy bookmark so you can use again. Check back in Issue 10 for how you can join our Hall of Fame!

The Story Corner is brought to you by **Bookmark Reading Charity**. We're a children's reading charity that exists to change children's life stories through the joy of reading. 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

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Thank you.



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fundraising@bookmarkreading.org



On our charity's 5th birthday, we wanted to take the time to say thank you for your contribution to making Bookmark's mission a reality.

We know that igniting the joy of reading in a child can help them shape a better future. In just five years together, we've supported over 5,000 children on their way to becoming confident readers.

To celebrate, we asked our readers to help us design the artwork for the front cover with the theme of 'celebrations'. Every single entry was fantastic! Thank you to everyone who took part.

Congratulations to **Kyria, age 7**, for winning the competition! Check out their brilliant entry [here](#), which has inspired the front cover.



Bookmark



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This magazine is designed to last. Please read me, share me, keep me.