



Oxford 
International
English

Student Anthology



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OXFORD



Oxford International English

Student Anthology



Compiled by
Sarah Snashall

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France

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In this book you'll find stories, poems and facts from these countries. Have a look!





1

New friends

The Dreaming Tree

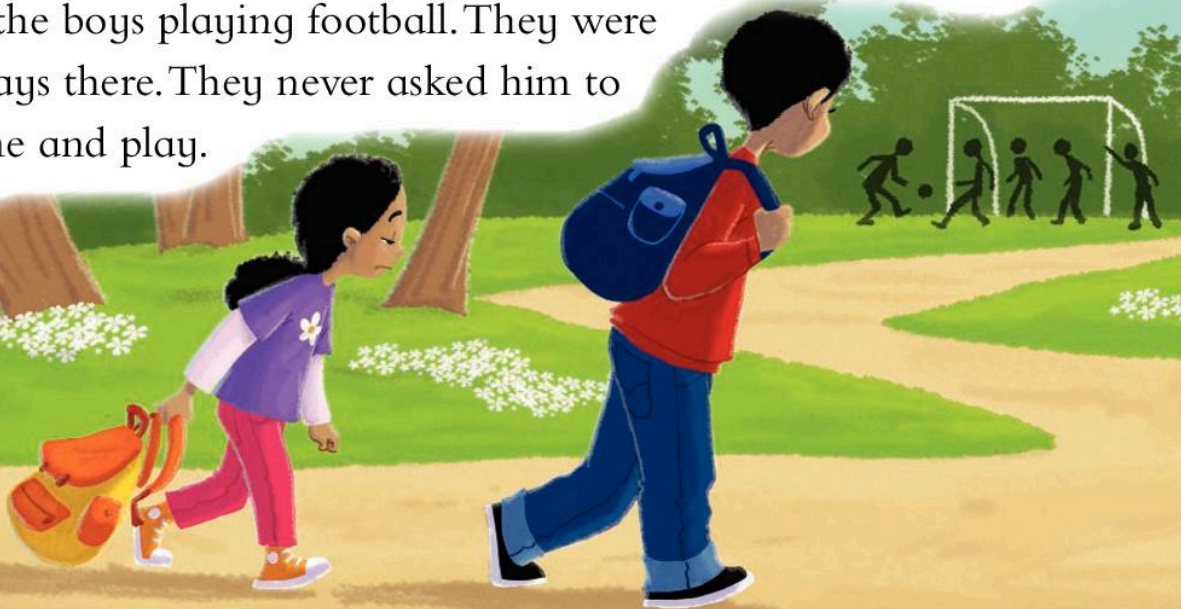
Eithne Massey

Roberto and Amanda were on their way home from school. It was only a short walk through the park. The park was nice. There were lots of trees and flowers. There were lots of children playing. There was a little river.

Roberto had to look after Amanda. She was two years younger than he was. Amanda smiled most of the time. She was not smiling now. She dragged her schoolbag along the ground. She whined.

“You are going too fast,” she said. “I can’t keep up.”

It was true. Roberto was walking as fast as he could. He wanted to get through the park quickly. He did not want to see the boys playing football. They were always there. They never asked him to come and play.



The biggest boy was called Fergus. Fergus was telling the players what team they were on. Today it was the World Cup. Fergus was the captain of the Irish team. He was always the captain. He always got the best players. The goalie, Shane, was his brother. Shane was the same age as Roberto.

Roberto thought he looked nice. He smiled at Roberto and Amanda as they went past.



When they got home their mother was very excited because their grandmother was going to telephone that afternoon.

“You can both talk to Vovó on the telephone,” she said.

Roberto and Amanda had been born in Rio de Janeiro. Their grandmother still lived there. Roberto missed her a lot.

Vovó came on the phone to Roberto. Even though they often spoke English at home now, Roberto and Amanda always spoke Portuguese to their grandmother. She didn’t speak any English at all.



She said: “So, you have been in Ireland all summer now. How is your new school? Have you made any friends?”

“Not really,” said Roberto.

“But you must,” said Vovó. “Why go all across the world if you don’t make friends? Would you like a friend?”

“Of course I would,” said Roberto.

“Well, I have an idea,” said Vovó. “You remember the story I told you?”

“Which story?” said Roberto. Vovó had told him many, many stories.

“The one about the Dreaming Tree,” said Vovó.

“Tell me again,” said Roberto.

“There once was a boy who found a tree in a forest. There were all sorts of different animals lying in it. They lay in its branches. They lay around its roots. There were blue and yellow parrots with their heads hidden under their wings.

A snake was curled around a tapir's tail. A squirrel monkey was stretched out on a caiman's back at the bottom of the trunk. There were baby bats hanging from the branches.

“All of the animals were fast asleep. Some of them shifted in their sleep. Some of them made little noises, as if they were dreaming. None of them woke up when the boy climbed into the tree. He fell fast asleep too. He dreamed that he met a big black jaguar. It was the Jaguar King! The Jaguar King taught him many things. When the boy woke and left the tree he had become very wise. He knew how to get his heart's desire.”



1 New friends

“What’s a heart’s desire?” asked Roberto.

“It is what you really, really want,” said Vovó.

“So, do I have to find a jaguar?” said Roberto. “I don’t think they have them here.”

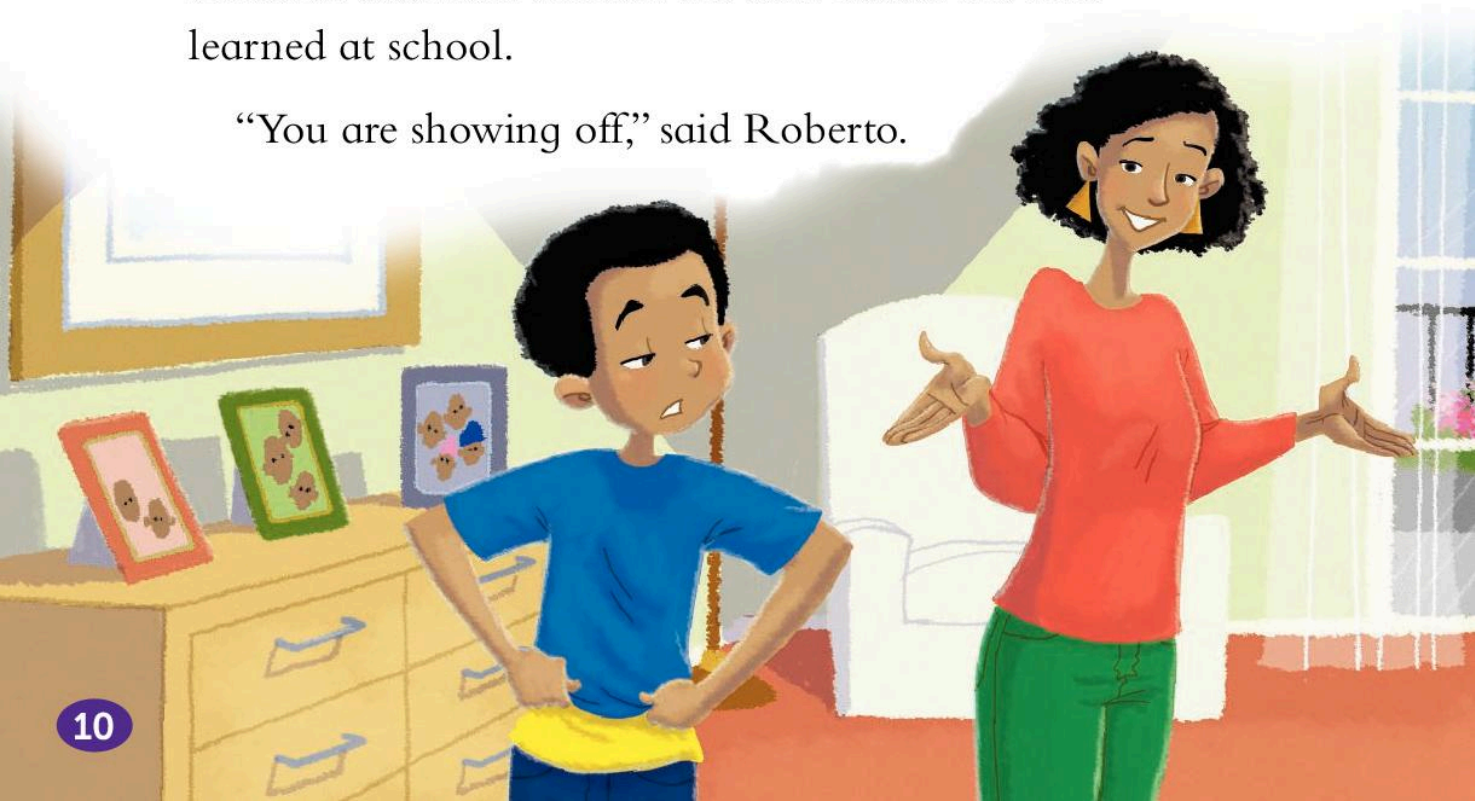
“No, you have to find a tree,” said Vovó.

Amanda was jumping up and down. She wanted to talk to Vovó.

“Let your sister have a go on the phone,” said his mother. “This is costing Vovó a fortune.”

Amanda got on the telephone to her grandmother. She told her all about her new friend. Her friend was called Aoife (Eefa). Tomorrow, Amanda was going to Aoife’s birthday party. When she got off the phone she wanted to show Roberto and their mother the new dance she had learned at school.

“You are showing off,” said Roberto.



Amanda didn't care what he said. She kept smiling and dancing.

"She is not showing off," said his mother. "Amanda is a good dancer. You are good at football. Why don't you show the boys at school how good you are? It's ok to be proud of what you can do. I am proud that I am such a good gardener!"

Roberto's mother was a very good gardener. Even though there was no garden in the apartment, there was a balcony. Roberto's mother had filled it with lots of bright flowers. It was the brightest balcony in the block. Roberto's mother loved bright colours. She made Roberto wear blue and red and yellow shirts.

Roberto hated to look different from everyone else. He hid his shirts under a navy sweatshirt. Now he pulled on his sweatshirt. Amanda was still showing off her dance. He asked his mother if he could go out to the park to play.



“Go ahead,” she said. “But be sure to be back by four o’clock. And come home if it starts to rain.”

“You mean *when* it starts to rain,” said Roberto.

Sometimes, he really missed the weather in Rio de Janeiro, where it was nearly always warm and the sun came out almost every day.

Roberto went to the park. He thought about what his mother had said. But he didn’t go to where the boys were still playing football. Instead he thought about his grandmother’s story. He found a big tree...

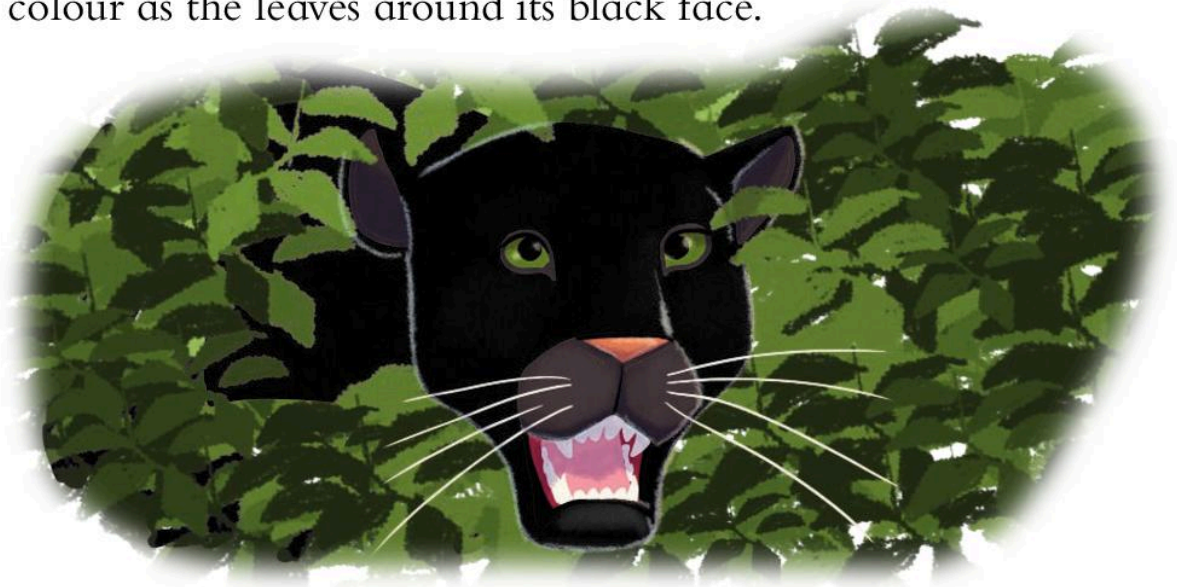
Roberto climbed up into the tree. He felt as if he were a bird in a nest.

The green leaves moved in the sunlight. They went backwards and forwards, backwards and forwards. The green branches swayed in the wind. Rocking him. Backwards and forwards, backwards and forwards.



He could hear water flowing and the sound of the branches moving in the wind and the voices far away. He fell fast asleep. He dreamed about all the animals his grandmother had told him about.

Roberto opened his eyes. A face was peering at him through the leaves. It was a jaguar! The jaguar was huge and black. Roberto looked into its slanted green eyes. They were the same colour as the leaves around its black face.



The jaguar opened its mouth in a huge yawn. Roberto could see its white teeth and pink tongue and dark throat. He could hardly breathe. Then he heard a strange noise. The jaguar was purring loudly. It stretched itself.

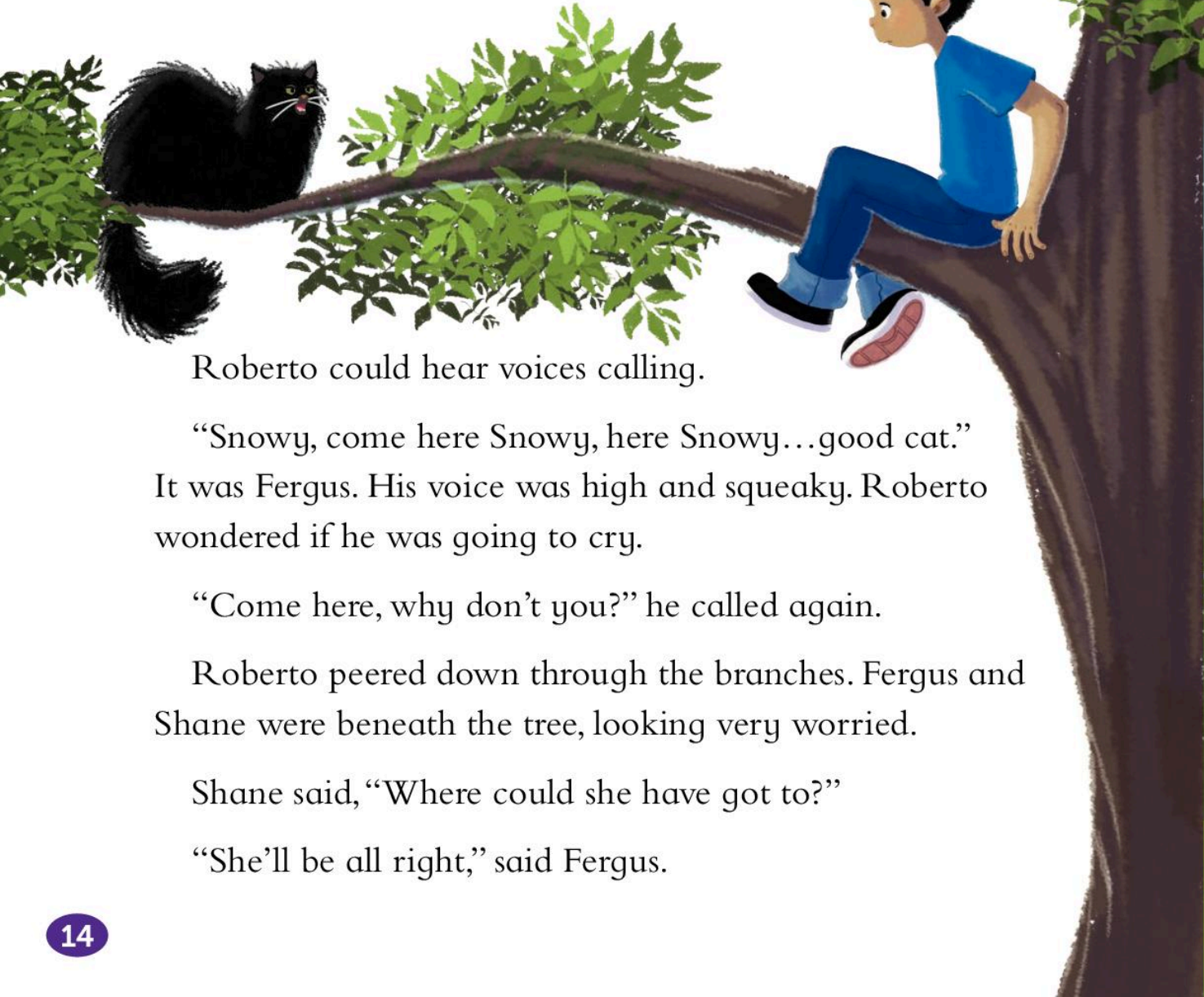
“I am Sinaa,” it said. “The Jaguar King. What do you want?”

“I want a friend,” said Roberto. The Jaguar King smiled.

Roberto opened his eyes. Everything was darker. The leaves were a darker green. The sky was a darker blue.

“It must have been a dream,” he thought. “I must have been asleep.”

But he could still hear purring. He could still see green eyes looking at him through the leaves. He could see white teeth and a pink tongue. But there was no jaguar there. Just a very large, fat, black cat. It was curled in the branches of the tree. It was yawning, as if it had just woken up. Then it stretched itself.



Roberto could hear voices calling.

“Snowy, come here Snowy, here Snowy...good cat.” It was Fergus. His voice was high and squeaky. Roberto wondered if he was going to cry.

“Come here, why don’t you?” he called again.

Roberto peered down through the branches. Fergus and Shane were beneath the tree, looking very worried.

Shane said, “Where could she have got to?”

“She’ll be all right,” said Fergus.

“She might not be,” said Shane. “She has been missing for ages. She could have her kittens any minute.”

Roberto looked at the cat. The cat looked at Roberto.

“Come here, little cat,” he whispered. The cat came over to him. She let him lift her up.

He scrambled down the tree. It was hard to keep a grip on the cat. But he made it. The two boys jumped when he appeared out of the leaves. Then they saw the cat.

“Is this your cat?” Roberto asked. But he didn’t need an answer.

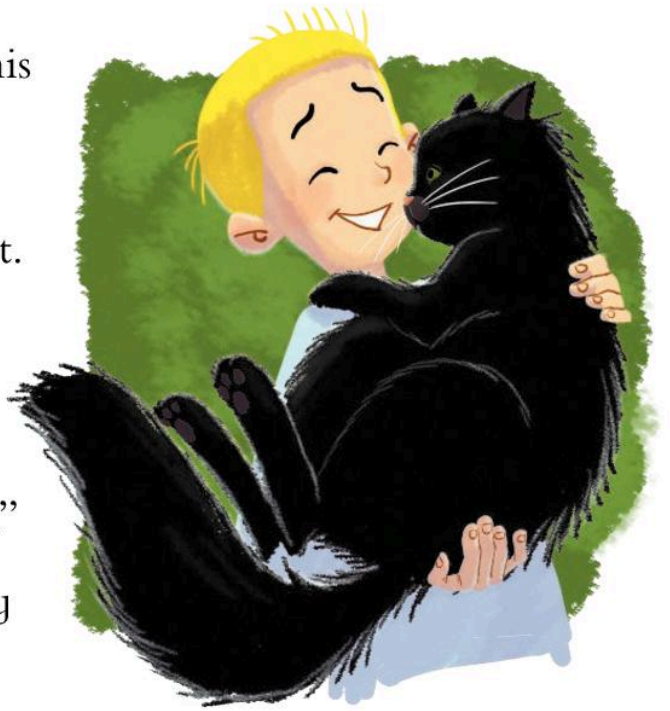


1 New friends

Shane had taken the cat in his arms. He was hugging her tightly. Roberto hoped he wouldn't squeeze the kittens out. Shane and Fergus were smiling at him. Roberto smiled back.

"Why do you call her Snowy?" he asked. "She's black."

"It's a joke," said Shane. They all started to laugh.



The next day, Roberto walked home through the park by himself. Amanda had gone to Aoife's birthday party. He went past the place where the boys were playing football.

"Hey, come over here," said Fergus.

Roberto went over.

"Do you want to be on the Irish team?" asked Fergus.

"You will need an Irish granny," he said. "What's your granny's name?"

Roberto thought very hard. Then he remembered.

"It's Jacinta Santos Silva," he said.

"That's ok then," said Fergus. "I have an auntie called Jacinta. It's an Irish name. You can play for Ireland."

Roberto thought for a minute. Ireland had never made it to the World Cup Final. Not once. Brazil had won the World Cup. Five times.

But then he saw Shane grinning at him. Yesterday, Shane had told him that he could have one of Snowy's kittens. Roberto had told Amanda. The kitten was still a secret from their mother. It was going to be a surprise for her.

"I usually play striker," Roberto said. "Is that ok?" Fergus nodded his head.

The sun was shining. Roberto pulled off his jacket. His shirt was green and yellow today. It had five gold stars on it.



**Word
Cloud**

balcony striker
caiman tapir
jaguar whined

2

Party time!



Party To Do list

- Write invitations
- Make piñata
- Decorate house
- Buy party food
- Make pizzas
- Choose party games
- Practise my party trick

Word
Cloud

decorate
piñata

Invitation

Please come to my party

When: 2pm, Saturday 1st February

Where: 47 Park Lane

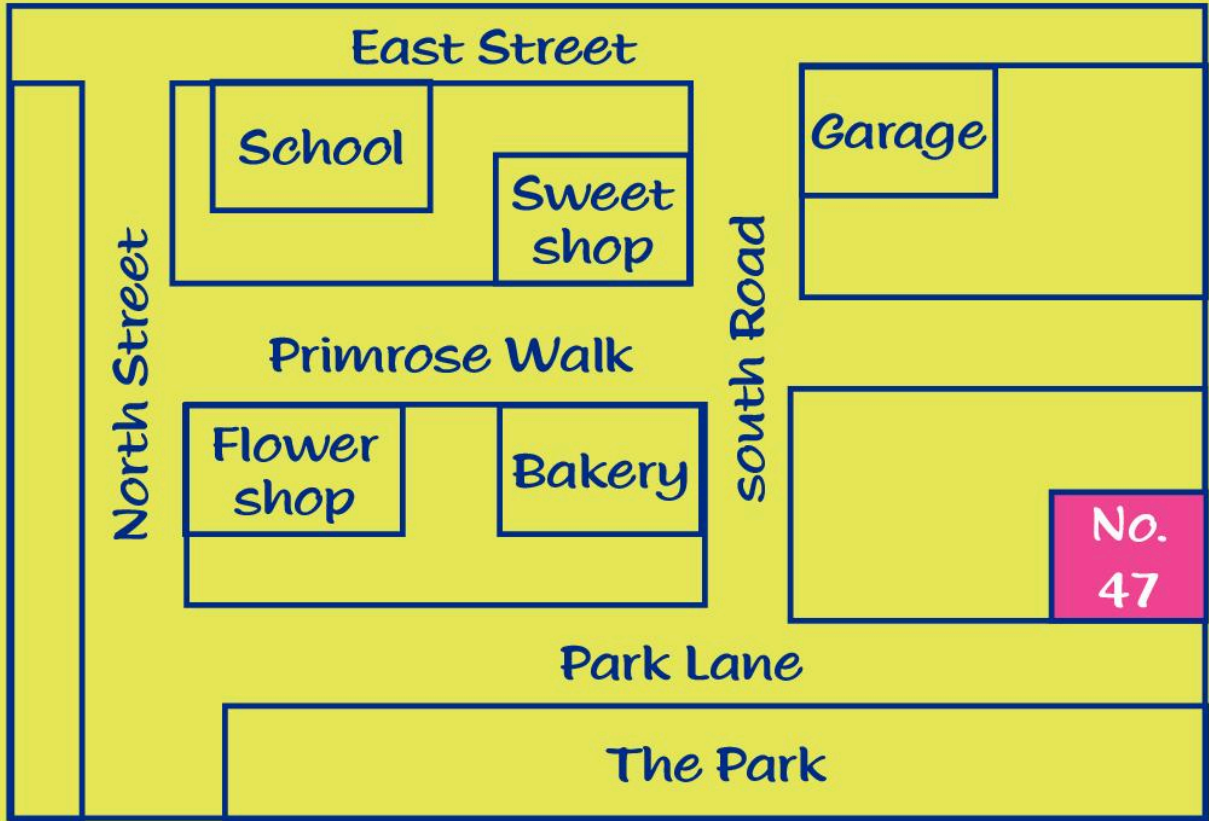
Hope you can come!

May



How to get to my house

- 1 Come out of the school and turn right.
- 2 Take the first road on the right, which is called South Road. You will see a garage on the corner.
- 3 Cross over Primrose Walk and keep going straight. You will see a bakery.
- 4 At the end of the road you will come to Park Lane. Turn left.
- 5 Walk down the road for two minutes. You will see number 47 on your left. It's a yellow house.



How to Make a Pizza

This recipe makes a pizza for four people.

You will need:

One pizza base

Tomato paste

400g of mozzarella cheese

2 fresh tomatoes

Fresh olives

1 red pepper

A handful of fresh basil leaves



What to do:

- 1 First, ask an adult to pre-heat the oven to 220° Celsius.
- 2 Spread the tomato paste over the pizza base.
- 3 Next, ask an adult to slice the cheese into thin slices. Place them on top of the tomato paste.
- 4 Now ask an adult to slice the tomatoes, olives and red pepper. Place them evenly across the pizza.

- 5 Tear up the fresh basil leaves and sprinkle them over the pizza.
- 6 Finally, ask an adult to place the pizza in the oven. Cook the pizza for 10 minutes, or until the cheese has melted and begun to turn brown.

Careful – the oven is hot. Ask an adult to help you.

- 7 Ask an adult to remove the pizza from the oven, allow it to cool, then serve.



Eat the pizza hot or cold.

Word Cloud

mozzarella
spread
sprinkle

The Great Coin Trick

Amaze your friends with this party trick!

You will need:

A clear glass

Two pieces of blue shiny paper

Pencil, scissors and glue

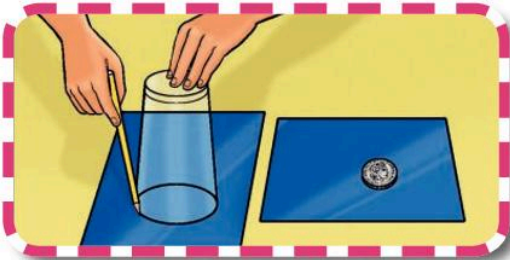
A coin

A piece of silver paper

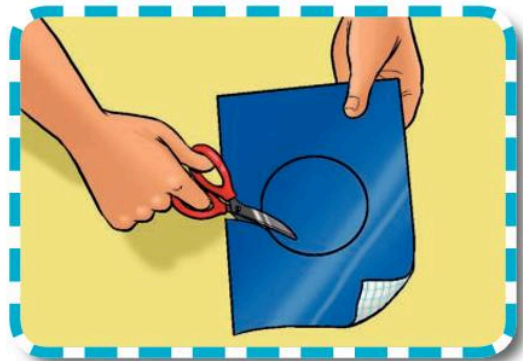
Sticky tape

What to do:

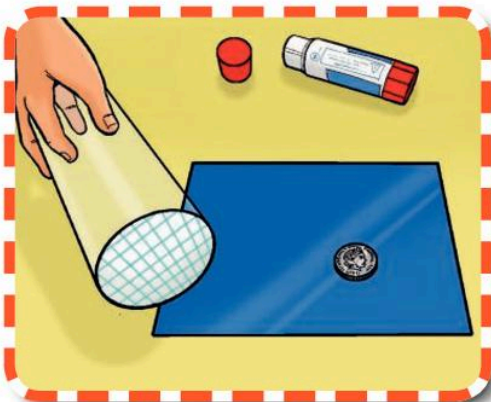
- 1 Place your glass upside down on one piece of blue paper and draw around it with a pencil.



- 2 Cut out the circle you have drawn.



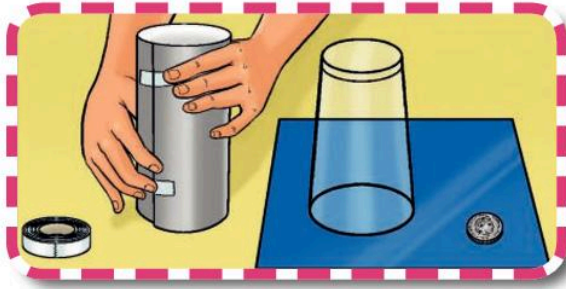
- 3 Glue the circle onto the opening of the glass.



- 4 Place the glass and the coin side-by-side on the other piece of blue paper.



- 5 Roll up the silver paper and tape the sides together to make a tube. The size of the tube needs to be bigger than the glass.



Performing the trick

- 1 Invite your friends into the room.
- 2 Show your friends the glass and the coin.
- 3 Place the tube over the glass, then wave your hands dramatically.
- 4 Pick up the glass with the tube and place them over the coin.
- 5 Remove the tube. The coin will have disappeared.



**Word
Cloud**
dramatically

Dancing Dragon Puppet

You will need:

A piece of A4 sized red card (you will need to cut this in half lengthwise)

A piece of A4 sized green shiny card

Pencil

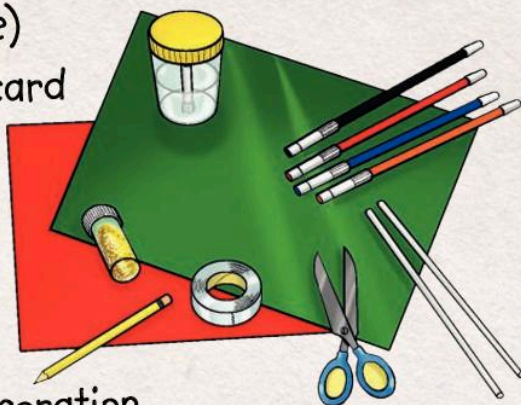
Scissors

Glue

Sticky tape

Coloured pens and glitter for decoration

Two drinking straws (not bendy ones)



- 1 Take your long piece of red card and make a small fold in one end.



- 2 Turn it over and fold the card in the other direction.



- 3 Carry on until you have turned your card into a concertina.



- 4** Draw a dragon's head and tail on the green card. Decorate them with coloured pens and glitter.



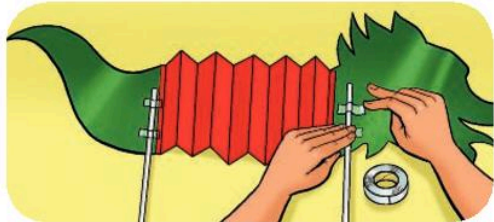
- 5** Cut out the dragon's head and tail.



- 6** Glue them to either end of your red concertina.



- 7** Glue the straws to the back of the head and tail. Add some extra sticky tape to make sure they are secure.



- 8** Take a straw in each hand and make your dragon dance for Chinese New Year.



**Word
Cloud**
concertina
lengthwise

Catch the Dragon's Tail game

This traditional Chinese game is great fun for the playground.

You will need:

- Two different-coloured scarves
- At least 10 children

- 1** Divide yourselves into two teams.
- 2** In your teams, stand in a line and hold on to the shoulders of the child in front of you. The first child in the line is the dragon's head and the last child is the dragon's tail.
- 3** Give the two dragon tails a scarf each and ask them to tuck it into their waist bands.
- 4** Each of the two dragon heads must now chase the other dragon's tail.
- 5** The children in the middle of each dragon must try to stop the other dragon from reaching the tail. They must not break the line.
- 6** The first dragon to pull out the other dragon's tail is the winner.
- 7** The dragon heads then go to the back of the line and the game starts again with new heads and tails.





**Word
Cloud**

divide
traditional

3

Everyday poems

On the Playground



Children bumping
 Children thumping
 Children jumping, jumping, jumping



Children creeping
 Children weeping,
 Children leaping, leaping, leaping



Children crashing
 Children bashing
 Children dashing, dashing, dashing



Children hopping
 Children flopping
 (there goes the bell!)

Children... stopping.

Wes Magee



My Football Counting Rhyme

I kicked my football
 Once against the wall
 Twice in the bathroom
 Three times in the hall

 Four times in the kitchen
 Five times at the door
 Six at my sister
 Then seven more

 Eight against the gate
 Nine against the slide
 Ten against the greenhouse
 And then I had to hide!

Paul Cookson



**Word
 Cloud**
 greenhouse

My Mum's Sari

I love my mother's sari on the washing line
Flapping like a giant flag, which I pretend is mine.

I love its silky softness when it's folded to a square
Which I can roll into a ball and pretend it isn't there.

I love to hold its free bit that swings over Mum's back
And wrap it round my shoulders, like a potato in a sack.

I love the pleats that fall in shape and spread out like a fan
Where my kid brother crouches and says 'catch me if you can'.

I love to wash my dirty hands at the kitchen sink
And wipe them on Mum's sari before she can even blink.

But when she takes her anchal* and ties it round her waist
I know it's time for battle and a quick escape is best!

Bashabi Fraser

**anchal* is the lower edge of a sari



Word Cloud

crouches pleats
flapping sack

Goodbye Granny

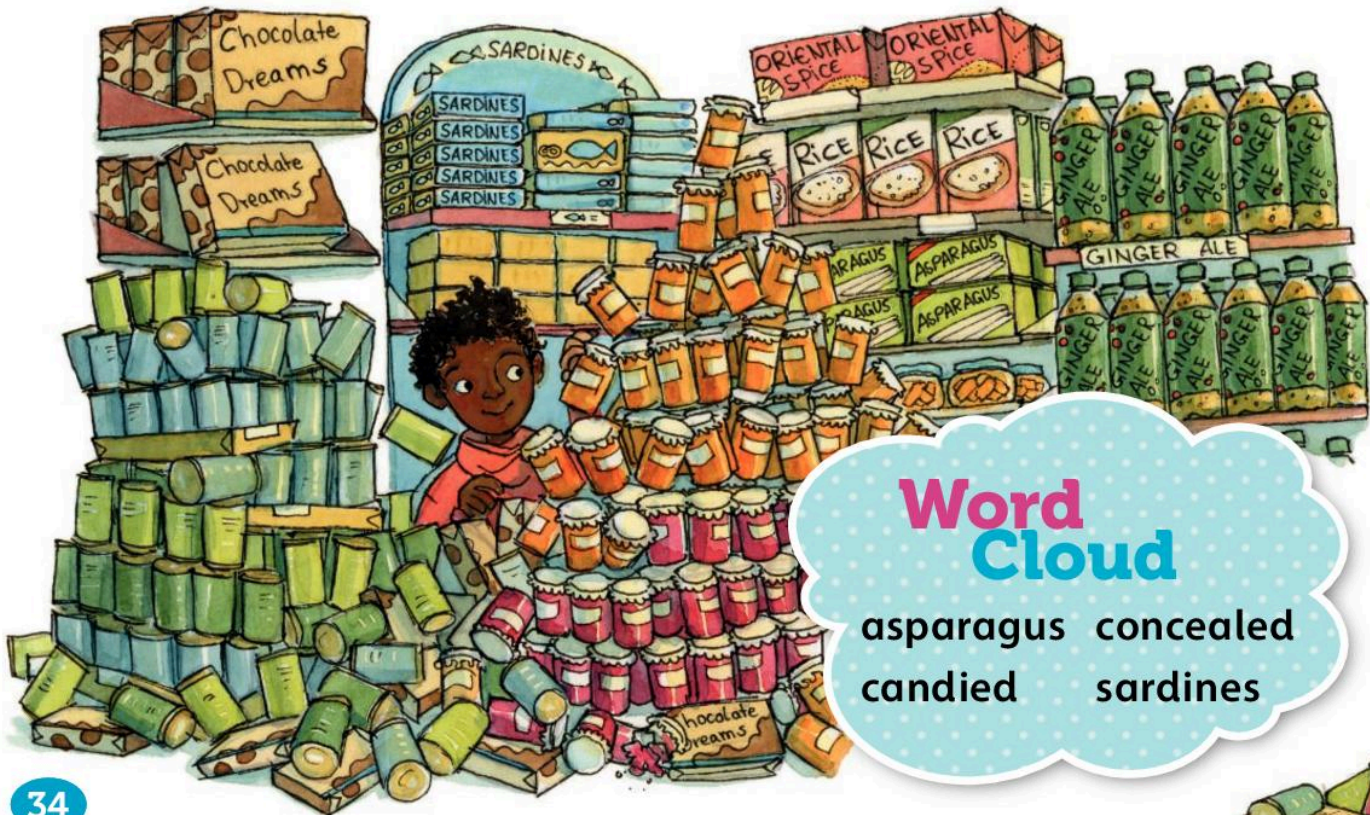
Goodbye Granny
It's nearly time to fly
goodbye Granny
I am going in the sky.
I have my suitcase
and things.
You have packed
me everything
except the sunshine.
All our good times
are stored
up inside
more than enough
for any plane ride.
Goodbye Granny
things will be all right
goodbye Granny
I won't forget to write.
Goodbye Granny
bye! bye!
bye! bye!

Pauline Stewart



Supermarket

I'm
lost
among a
maze of cans
behind a pyramid
of jams, quite near
asparagus and rice,
close to the Oriental spice,
and just before sardines.
I hear my mother calling, "Joe.
Where are you, Joe? Where did you go?"
And I reply in a voice concealed among
the candied orange peel, and packs of Chocolate Dreams.



Word Cloud

asparagus concealed
candied sardines



“I
 hear
 you, Mother
 dear, I’m here –
 quite near the ginger ale
 and beer, and lost among a
 maze
 of cans
 behind a
 pyramid of jams
 quite near asparagus
 and rice, close to the
 Oriental spice, and just before sardines.”



But
 still
 my mother
 calls me, “Joe!
 Where are you, Joe?
 Where did you go?”

“Somewhere
 around asparagus
 that’s in a sort of
 broken glass,
 beside a kind of messy jell
 that’s near a tower of cans that fell
 and squashed the Chocolate Dreams.”

Felice Holman

4

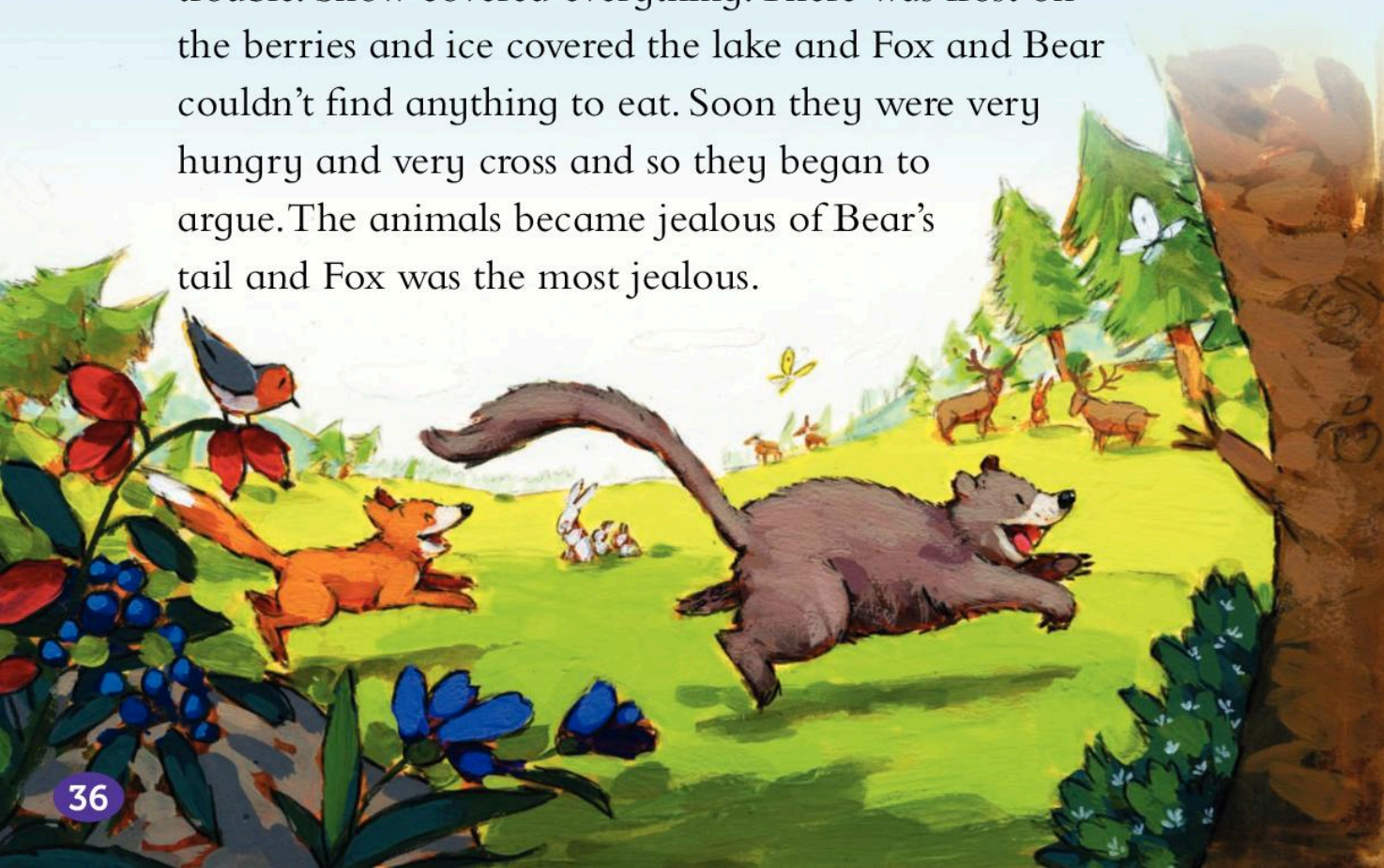
World stories

How Bear Lost His Tail

A tale from North America retold by Sarah Snashall

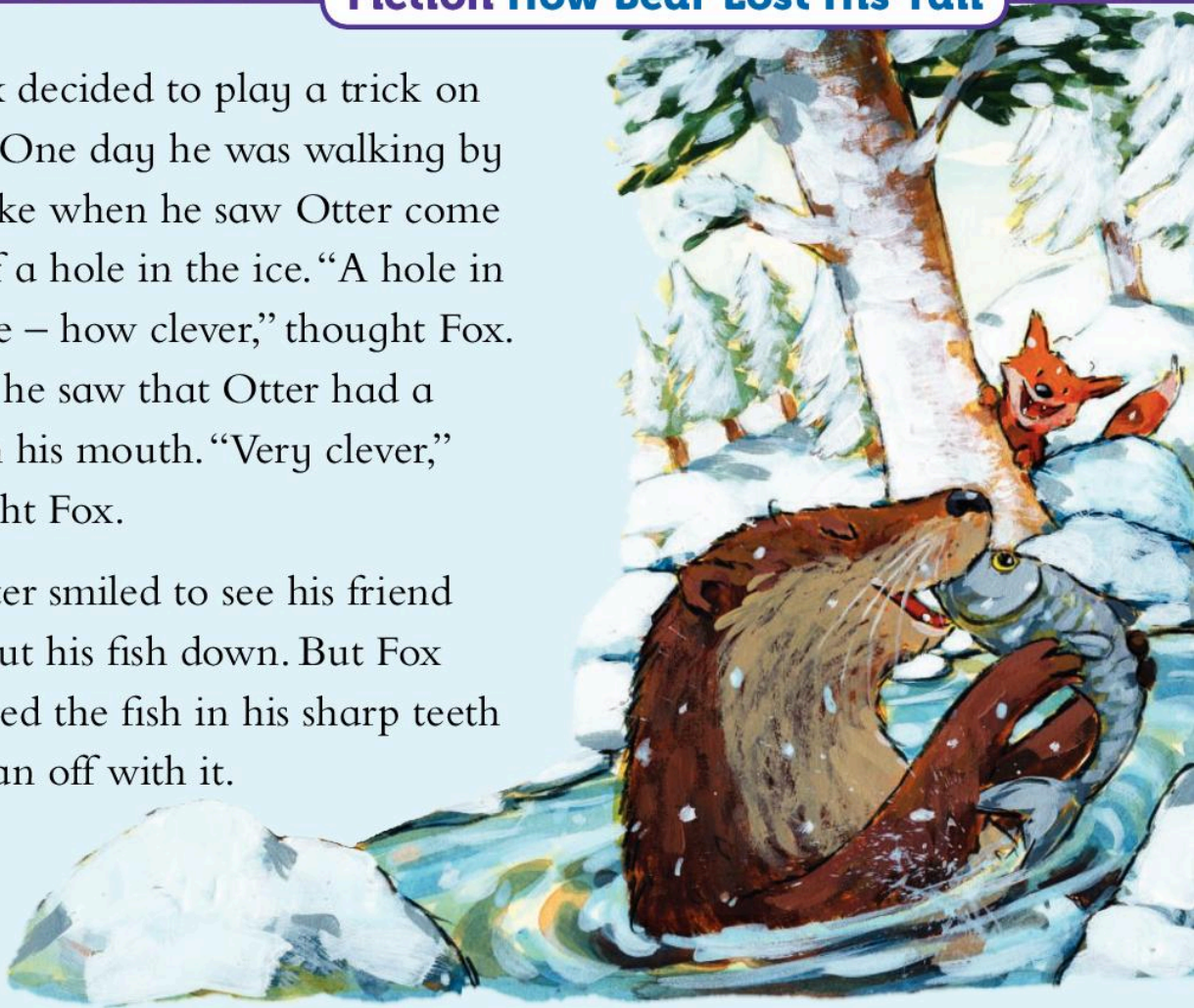
In the first days, when the world was new, Fox and Bear were the best of friends. Bear had the longest, fluffiest tail you could imagine. He would swish it this way and that and all the animals loved Bear and his tail. The animals spent their days playing together. The forest was warm and there was lots of food to eat.

But then the first winter came and with it came the first trouble. Snow covered everything. There was frost on the berries and ice covered the lake and Fox and Bear couldn't find anything to eat. Soon they were very hungry and very cross and so they began to argue. The animals became jealous of Bear's tail and Fox was the most jealous.



Fox decided to play a trick on Bear. One day he was walking by the lake when he saw Otter come out of a hole in the ice. “A hole in the ice – how clever,” thought Fox. Then he saw that Otter had a fish in his mouth. “Very clever,” thought Fox.

Otter smiled to see his friend and put his fish down. But Fox grabbed the fish in his sharp teeth and ran off with it.



Never had a fish tasted so good. He had nearly finished it when who should come along but Bear.

“Hello, Bear,” said Fox. “You’ve just missed lunch.”

“How did you catch a fish?”

“It was easy. I’ll show you,” said Fox, with his nicest smile. “I made a hole in the ice and put my tail in. The fish nibbled on my tail and I pulled out my tail, fish and all. Your tail is so long you’ll catch even more fish than I did.”

Fox made a hole in the ice and helped Bear to put his tail into the freezing water.

“Now stay there and don’t move a hair. I’ll hide behind this tree and tell you when your tail is covered in fish and then we’ll have a feast!” said Fox. But he didn’t hide behind the tree – he went back home and laughed and laughed.

Bear sat as still as he could, dreaming of the fish he was going to catch. Soon his tail started to tingle but he waited for Fox to call him. His tail tingled more and Bear imagined it covered in juicy fish. At last Bear could stand it no longer and leapt up. But, oh, his tail had frozen in the water and snapped off completely. Bear looked at his tail with horror.

“Fox!” he cried. He looked behind the tree. When he saw that Fox was not there he knew that it had been a trick. He roared with anger and ran off to find Fox. But he was nowhere to be seen.

Since that day, Bear has trusted no one. He keeps to himself, grumpy and sad.



Word Cloud

argue nibbled
fluffiest swish
horror tingle
jealous

The Golden Slipper

A tale from Iraq retold by Sarah Snashall

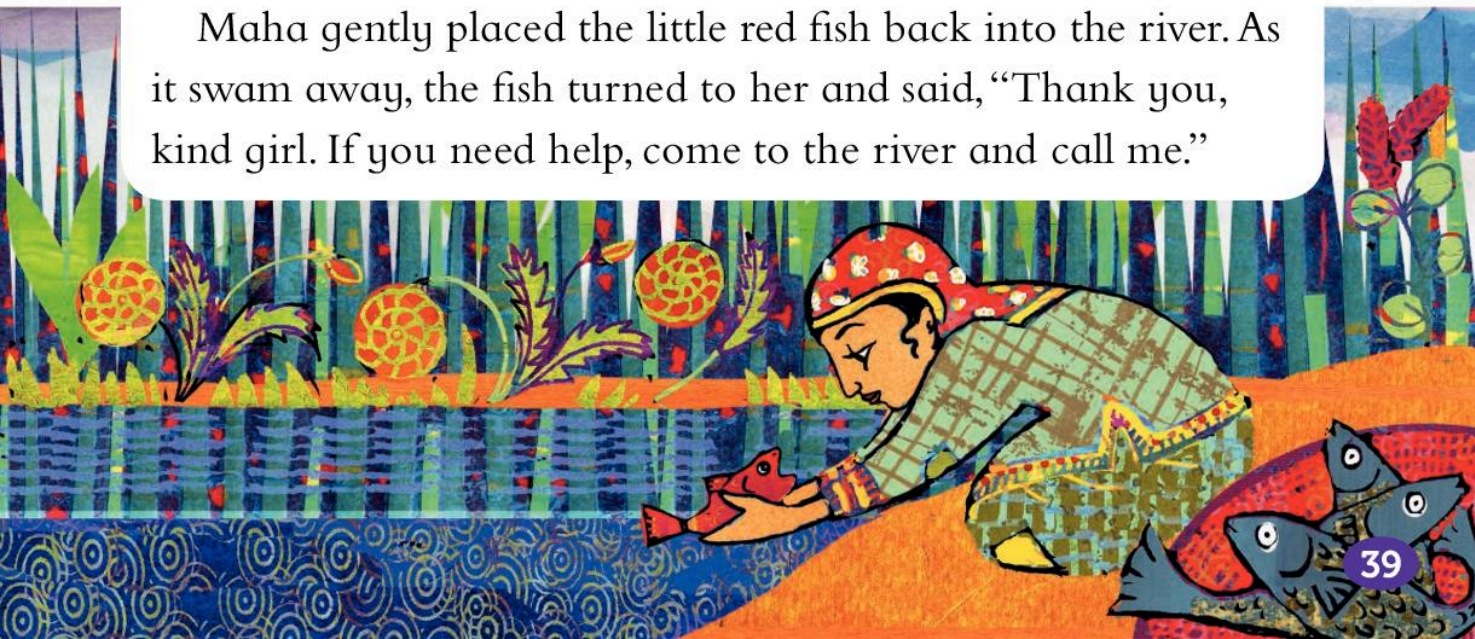
Once upon a time in Iraq lived a girl called Maha. When she was young, her mother died and her father, a kind fisherman, took a new wife – a stepmother for Maha. Her name was Hutun and she was jealous of Maha. From sunrise to sunset Hutun made Maha wash, sweep, cook and mend whilst she and her daughter slept, ate and shouted.



One day, Maha was carrying a basket of fish home when she heard a frightened cry coming from the basket. “Please throw me back into the river. Let me live!” said the voice.

Maha gasped and carefully put down the basket. There amongst the fat grey fish was a little red fish, gasping for breath.

Maha gently placed the little red fish back into the river. As it swam away, the fish turned to her and said, “Thank you, kind girl. If you need help, come to the river and call me.”



Weeks passed by. Maha often crept to the river bank and told the little red fish her sorrows. The little red fish's wisdom and friendship gave her strength. One day she said, "Oh little red fish, all the ladies in the town have gone to the merchant's daughter's henna party. I so want to go but I am not beautiful enough and I have nothing to wear."

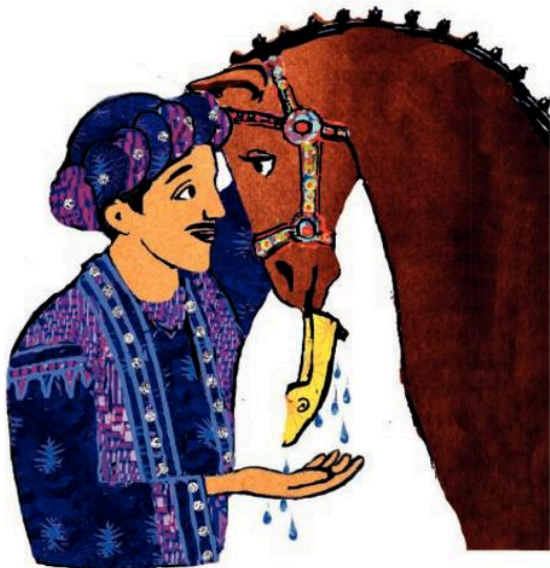
At once the little red fish dived down and returned with a bag which it threw onto the river bank. "Your beauty is your kind heart. Here are clothes to match it."

In the bag, Maha found a green dress of the smoothest silk and a pair of golden slippers. She washed and changed and ran to the party.



As Maha entered the henna party room all the women turned to stare at such a beautiful woman. No one knew who she really was. "I'm sure I have seen her before," Hutun whispered to her daughter.

Maha, feeling happy for once, watched the dancing, ate delicious dates and baklava and listened to the chatter. When she saw her stepmother leaving, she quickly thanked the hostess and dashed to get home first. In her hurry she tripped and one of her golden slippers fell into the river. She got home just in time to change her clothes and muddy her face.



All night, the lost slipper bobbed along the river, then stopped near the royal palace. At daybreak the prince's horse nibbled at it as he took a drink. When the prince took the delicate, tiny slipper in his hands, the beauty of it filled his heart. He rushed home and begged his mother to help him find its owner.

From the richest mansion to the shabbiest shack, the queen searched throughout the town for the owner of the golden slipper. Finally she arrived at Maha's house. Hutun forced Maha to hide behind the kitchen door as she tried to squeeze her daughter's foot into the tiny golden slipper. Suddenly, the queen spied Maha hiding and asked her to try on the slipper. It fitted perfectly and Maha showed everyone the other golden slipper.



“Will you be my son's bride?” the queen asked Maha.

The prince loved Maha from the moment he met her and soon they were married and lived happily ever after.

Word Cloud

baklava jealous
henna silk
hostess wisdom

Yoshi the Stonecutter

A tale from Japan retold by Becca Heddle

Long ago in the mountains of Japan, there lived a stonecutter called Yoshi. He was a poor man with a bent back and hard hands from cutting stone.

People said a spirit lived in the mountains where Yoshi worked. They said it granted wishes. But Yoshi had never seen the spirit.

One day, Yoshi took some stone to a rich man's house. Yoshi loved the rich man's beautiful home, his silk clothes and his clean, soft hands.

"Oh, I wish I could be a rich man," whispered Yoshi.

A cool wind blew and the mountain spirit appeared. It whispered, "Your wish is granted, Yoshi – a rich man you now shall be."



When Yoshi got home, his hut had become a fine house. Yoshi was rich. He put away his tools and rested, looking out of the window.

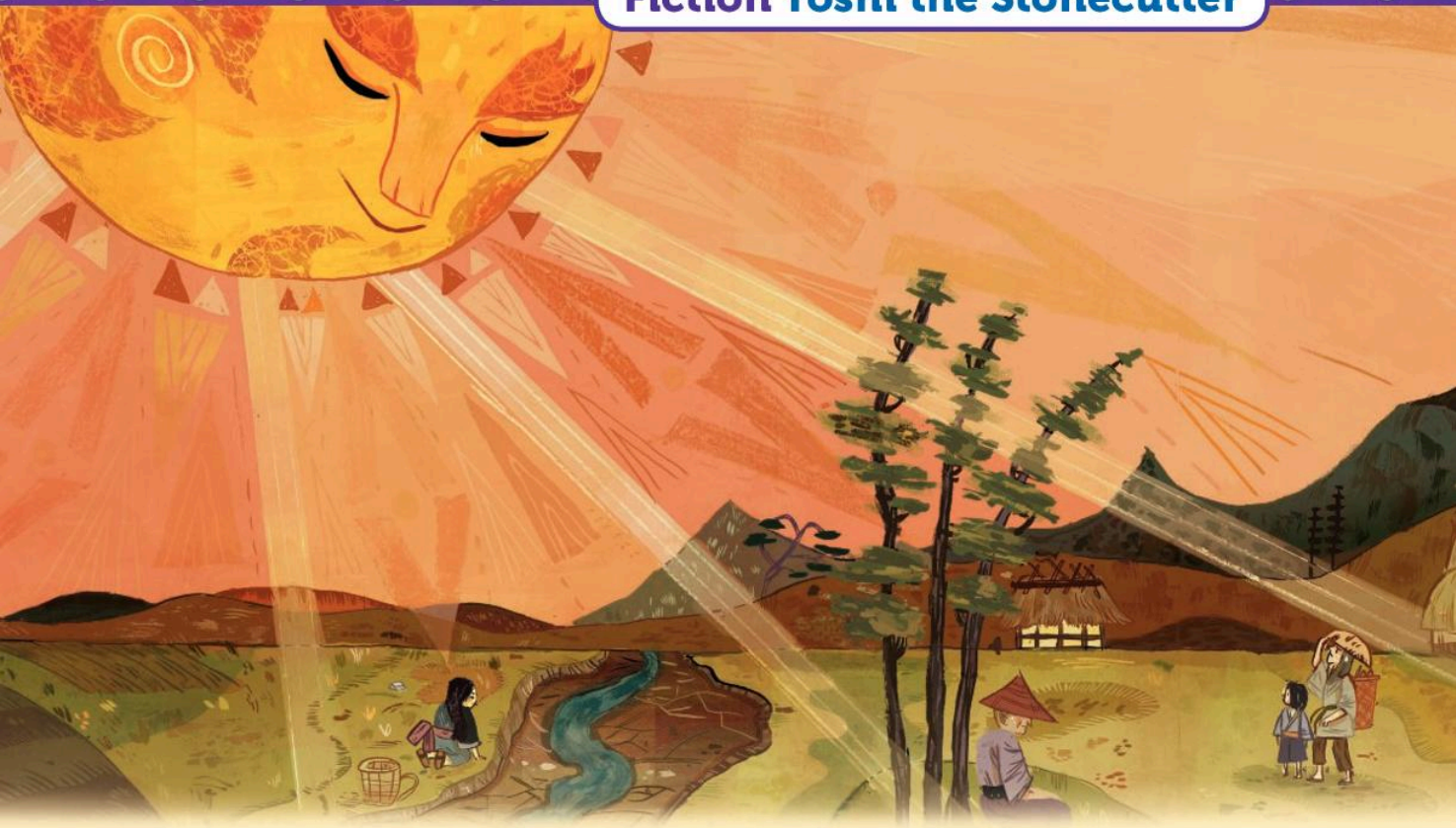
The day grew hot. Yoshi saw a prince ride by. Servants fanned the prince to cool him and shaded him with golden umbrellas.

“I wish I could be a prince,” said Yoshi.

The spirit said, “Your wish is granted, Yoshi – a prince you now shall be.”

Now Yoshi was a prince, riding in a carriage with servants around him.





Prince Yoshi smiled as he sheltered from the sun under golden umbrellas. His servant gave him water in a jewelled cup and Yoshi happily sipped it.

Prince Yoshi soon felt very hot – even the umbrellas didn't help. When he splashed water on his skin, the hot sun soon dried it up.

“The sun is more powerful than me,” muttered Yoshi. “I wish I could be the sun.”

The spirit spoke again. “Your wish is granted, Yoshi – the sun you now shall be.”

Yoshi felt himself rise into the sky and start to shine. He really was the sun! He sent powerful rays down to Earth.

Yoshi shone harder. He made people sweat and burned their skin. He dried out the land and made the grass wither. Everything could feel his power.

One day, Yoshi the sun could not see the ground. A cloud was in his way. He shone with all his might, but the cloud would not go.

“Can a cloud blot out my power?” cried Yoshi. “Then I wish I could be a cloud.”

“Your wish is granted, Yoshi – a cloud you now shall be,” replied the spirit.

Yoshi became a big, thick, grey cloud. He shut out the sun’s heat and shaded the people. He cooled the land, and then he began to rain.

Yoshi’s rain made streams and rivers flow and made puddles on the ground. The grass soon turned green again and the crops began to grow.



Yoshi the cloud rained harder and harder. In the mountains, the little streams became great waterfalls. Rivers overflowed and drowned the crops.

The flood water came rushing down roads and poured into villages. Only the huge rocks on the mountains stood firm and would not move.

“Rocks are more powerful than clouds,” grumbled Yoshi. “I wish I could be a rock.”

The spirit replied, “Your wish is granted, Yoshi – a rock you now shall be.”

Now Yoshi was a rock – huge, hard and solid. He did not fear the sun nor the rain.

“Nothing can be stronger than me,” he boasted.

Then Yoshi the rock felt tools cutting into him. “A stonecutter is stronger than me!” said Yoshi. “I wish I could be a man again.”

The mountain spirit smiled. “Your wish is granted, Yoshi – a man you now shall be.”

Yoshi the stonecutter picked up his tools and started to work. His back was bent and he was poor – but now he was happy.

Word Cloud

granted silk
muttered wither
sheltered

5

How things work

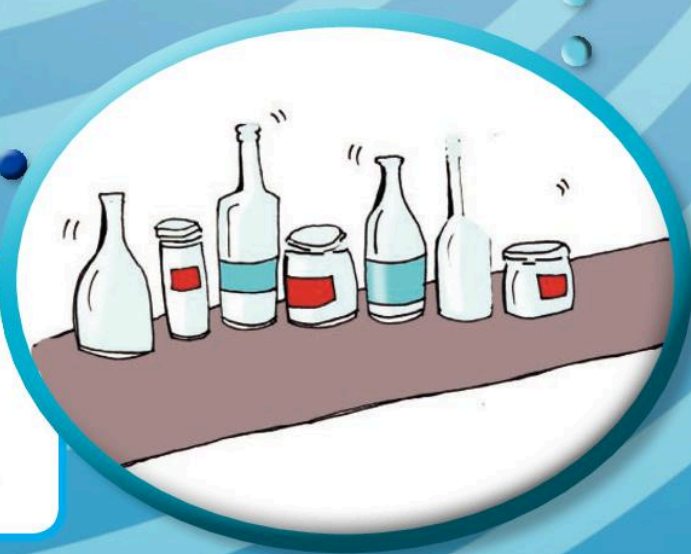
How Glass is Recycled

What happens to your empty drink bottles and food jars when you take them to be recycled? Read on to find out.



1 Glass bottles and jars are put into the recycling bin.

2 All the same coloured bottles are put together.





3 The glass is now cleaned.

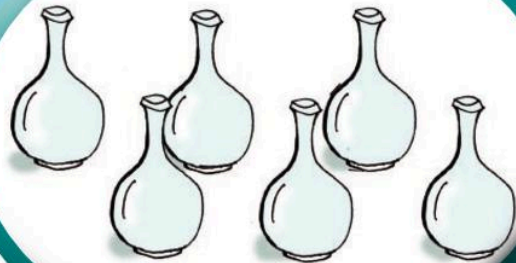
**Word
Cloud**

melted
recycled
shaped



4 Then it is melted.

5 The melted glass is shaped into new bottles.



Exploring Volcanoes

A volcano is a mountain with an opening at the top where hot air, ash, gases and lava come up from deep within the earth. When a volcano is erupting, it is called an active volcano. Up to 70 volcanoes around the world erupt each year. It is dangerous to be near an active volcano, yet there are people who live very close to them.



About 3 million people live near Mount Vesuvius in Naples, Italy.

World's most dangerous volcanoes

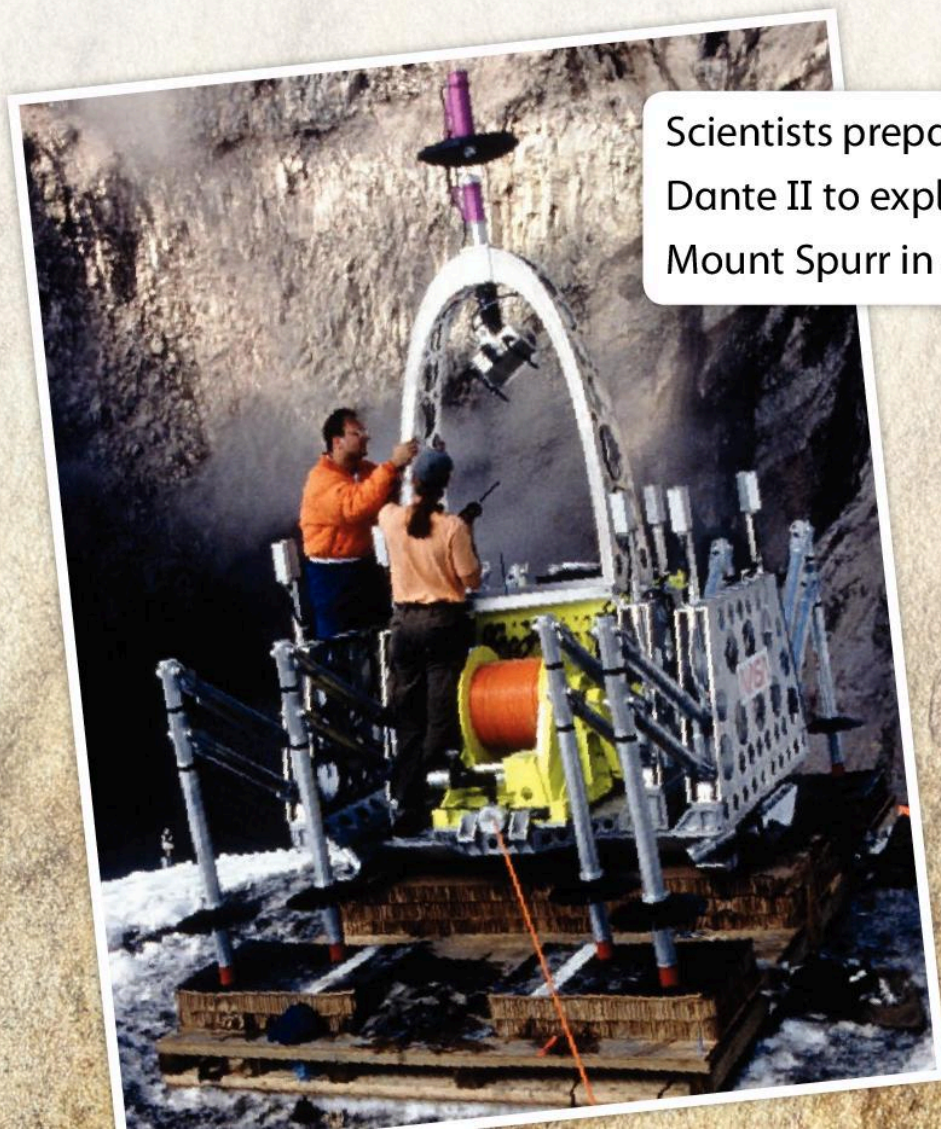
Name	Country	Interesting fact
Vesuvius	Italy	Erupted in 79 CE. Ash covered nearby towns, including Pompeii.
Merapi	Indonesia	Smoke comes out of this volcano at least 300 days a year.
Sakurajima	Japan	Many tourists go to see the lava flows on this mountain.
Galeras	Columbia	Nine people were killed at the top of this volcano when it erupted suddenly in 1993.

Inside an active volcano, the air is hot and full of toxic gases. It is not safe for people to go in or near one. So how can people study and explore volcanoes if they can't go inside them?

Dante II

Dante II is a robot which is used to explore the inside of a volcano. People safely remain outside while they direct the robot where to go and what to do inside the volcano.

Dante II moves around and records information. This information is sent back to the control room. Inside the control room a computer uses the information to work out how hot the gases are inside the volcano. This information can help people to work out how soon the volcano may erupt. Dante II can also collect rock samples.



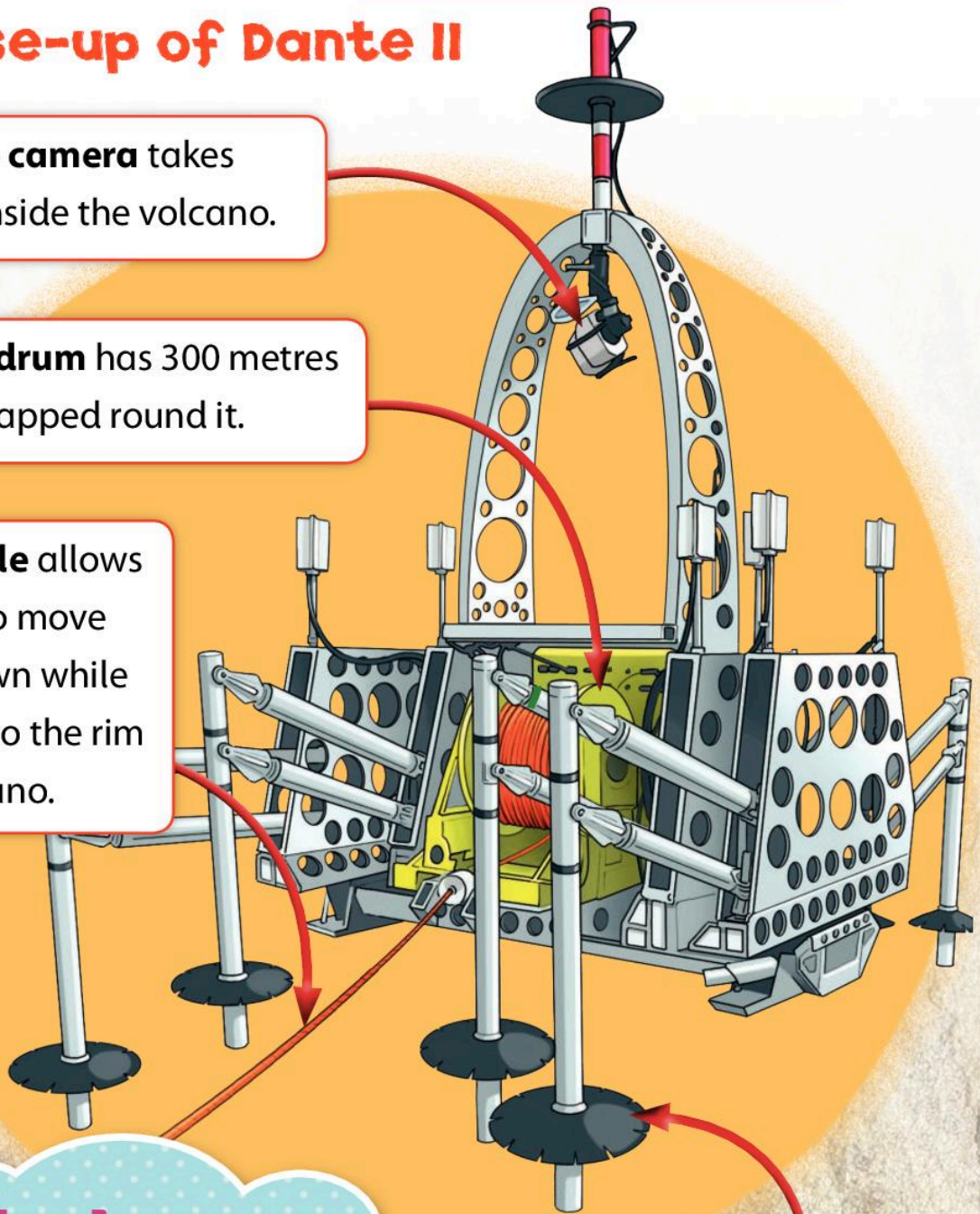
Scientists prepare Dante II to explore Mount Spurr in Alaska.

A close-up of Dante II

The **video camera** takes pictures inside the volcano.

The **winch drum** has 300 metres of cable wrapped round it.

A **long cable** allows the robot to move up and down while being tied to the rim of the volcano.



Word Cloud

CE
control room
erupt
lava
rock samples
toxic
winch drum

It has **eight legs** which have been built for walking and climbing over rocky ground.

How to Create a 3D World

Jon Stuart lives and works in Brighton, in England.



Jon lives here!



Jon

Jon creates amazing illustrations for the series *Project X*, but he doesn't use paints and paper. He uses the latest computer technology to create a virtual world that you feel you could almost walk into.

Members of Team X



- 1 First, Jon uses the computer to create a skeleton for one of the characters. The skeleton is then covered in skin and clothes. When Jon moves the skeleton, the skin and clothes move with it.



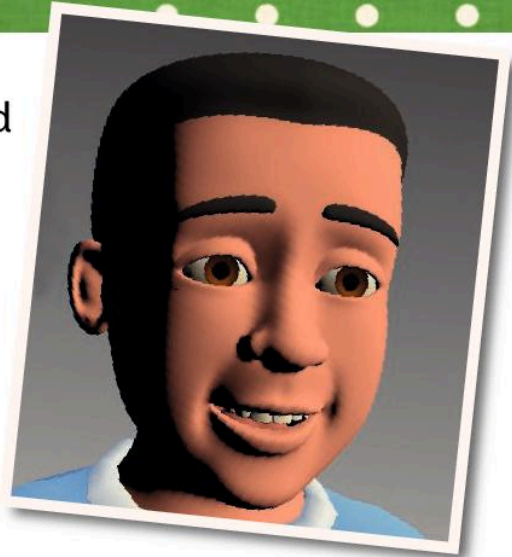
Because the character has a skeleton, it can move like a real person. Jon moves the skeleton into a pose to show the character sitting, pointing, looking startled, and so on. He can spin the character round to look at it from every angle and then choose the angle that suits the story.



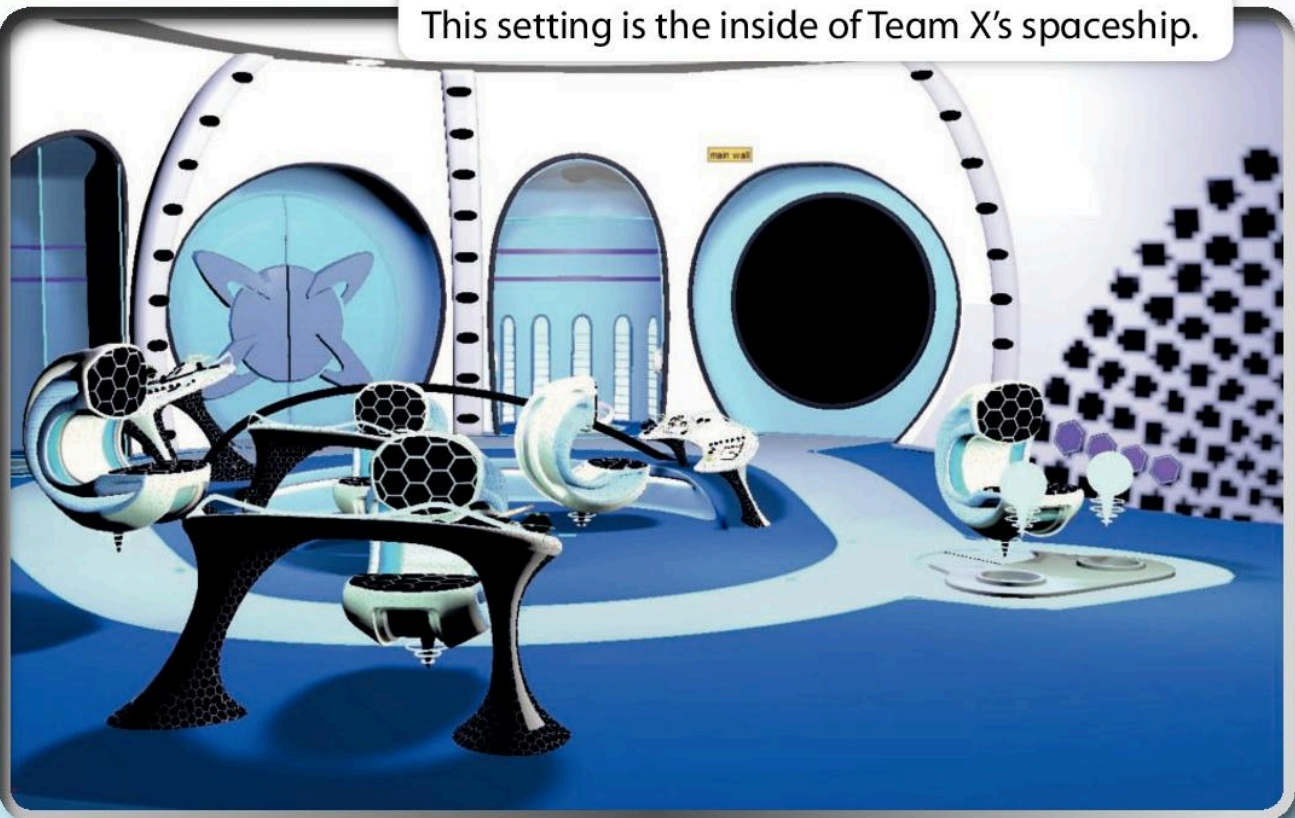
This character is called Max.

5 How things work

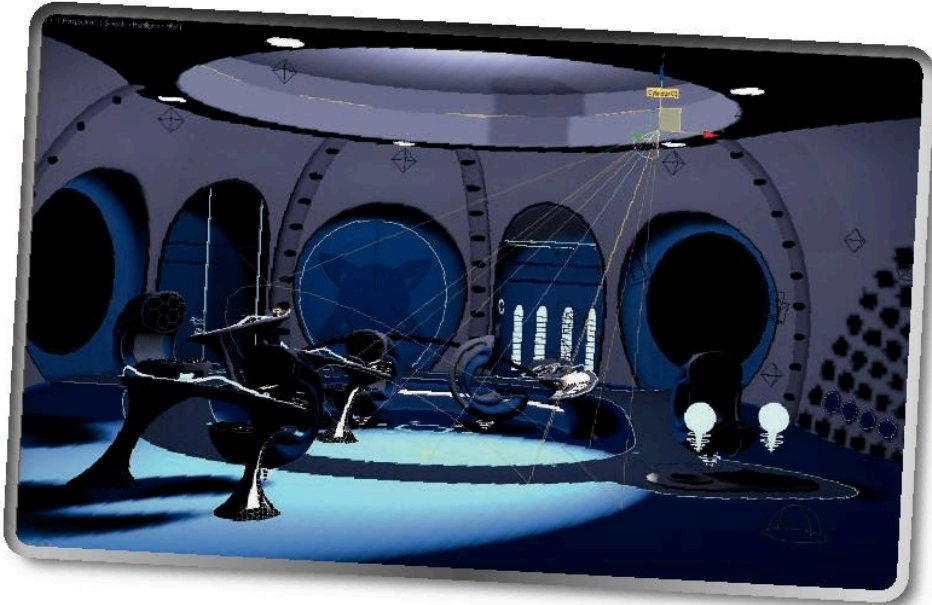
- 2** Jon zooms in on the face and creates Max's expression. He can move the jaw and eyebrows to create the look he wants – for example, cheeky, upset, happy or confused.
- 3** It's time to put the character into a setting. Jon has created each of the settings in the book. Each scene has been created like a virtual film set on the computer. Jon can move around the set and choose which angle he would like to see it from.



This setting is the inside of Team X's spaceship.



Like a movie set, each setting has different lights that can be turned up or down and angled. The lights can throw shadows and add atmosphere to the scene.



4

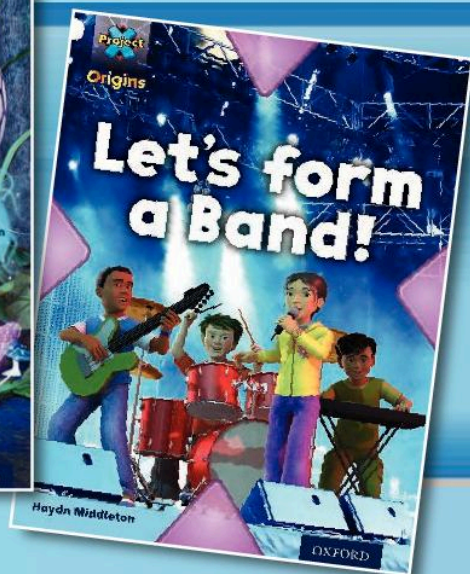
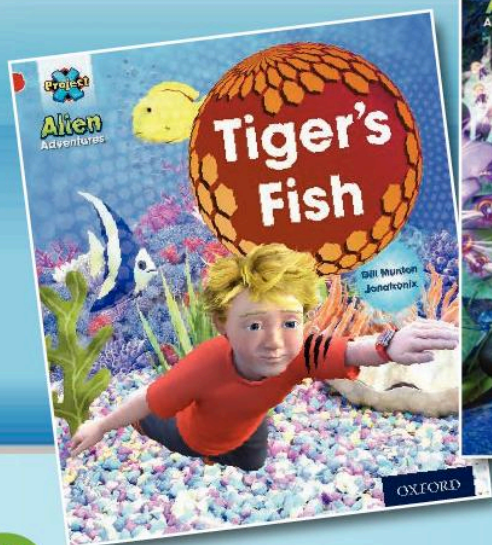
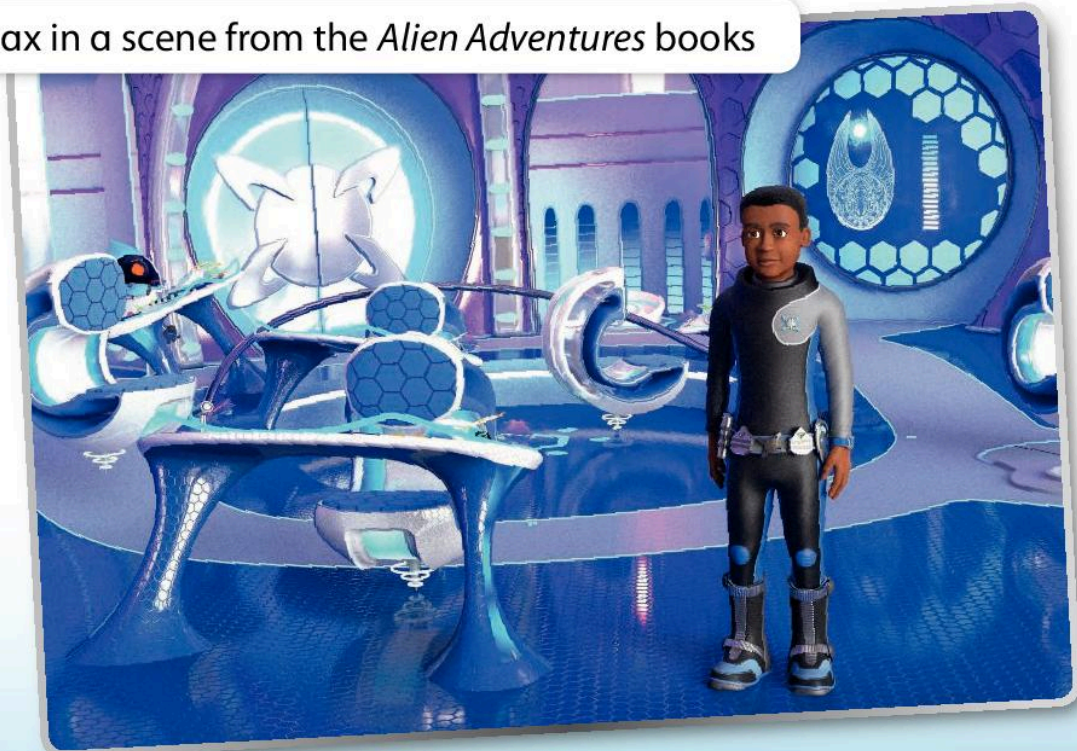
Jon places the characters, gadgets and robots in the setting and the scene is set. For a final touch, Jon moves the eyes of the characters to show where they are looking.



5 How things work

- 5 When Jon is happy with what he sees on the computer he asks the computer to select that scene and turn it into an illustration that will go into a school reading book. The books are in a series called *Project X*.

Max in a scene from the *Alien Adventures* books



Word Cloud

angle scene
atmosphere startled
expression virtual world

Max, Cat, Ant and Tiger in *Alien Adventures*.



6

Caribbean trip

I'd Like to Squeeze

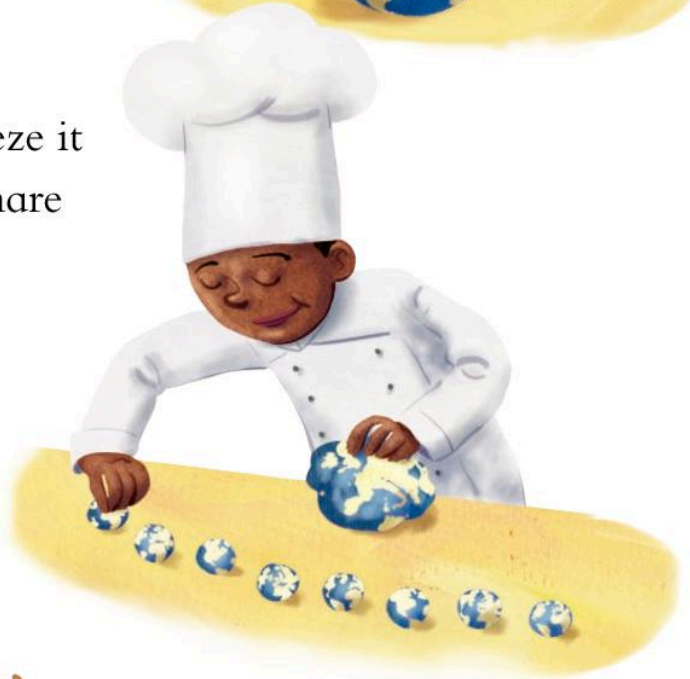
I'd like to squeeze this round world
into a new shape

I'd like to squeeze this round world
like a tube of toothpaste

I'd like to squeeze this round world
fair and square

I'd like to squeeze it and squeeze it
till everybody had an equal share

John Agard



**Word
Cloud**
equal share



Flying Fish

Flying fish
flying fish
what is your wish?

In water
you swim
yet like to skim
through wind

Flying fish
flying fish
make up your mind

Are you a bird
inside a fish
or just a fish
dreaming of wings?

John Agard

**Word
Cloud**
skim

Classes Under the Trees

My teacher, Mrs Zettie, says,
'Children, we can't breathe in here.
Come on! We're going
under the breadfruit tree!'

We leave the one room schoolhouse
these hot days in June
for the breeze outdoors
below blue skies.

Reciting our lessons
in singsong fashion,
we hear twittering birds
recite theirs, too.

Monica Gunning

**Word
Cloud**

breadfruit
recite
singsong



Water Everywhere

There's water on the ceiling,
And water on the wall,
There's water in the bedroom,
And water in the hall,
There's water on the landing,
And water on the stair,
Whenever Daddy takes a bath
There's water everywhere.

Valerie Bloom



**Word
Cloud**
landing

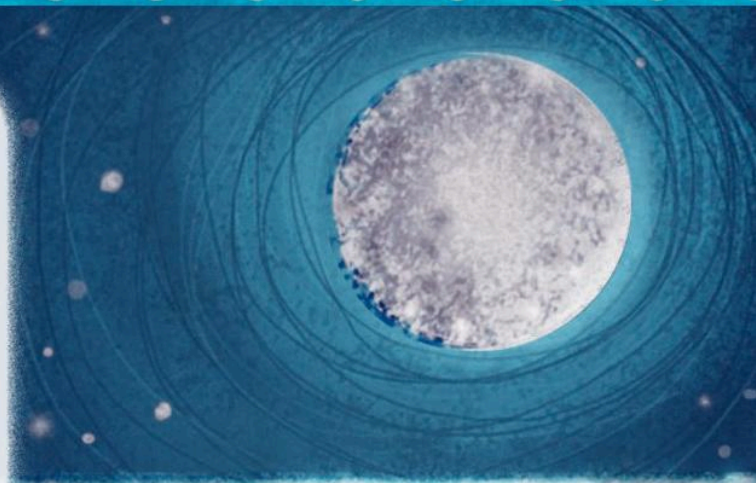
Crab Dance

Play moonlight
and the red crabs dance
their scuttle-foot dance
on the mud-packed beach

Play moonlight
and the red crabs dance
their side-ways dance
to the soft-sea beat

Play moonlight
and the red crabs dance
their bulb-eye dance
their last crab dance.

Grace Nichols



**Word
Cloud**

bulb-eye
scuttle-foot

Granny Granny Please Comb My Hair

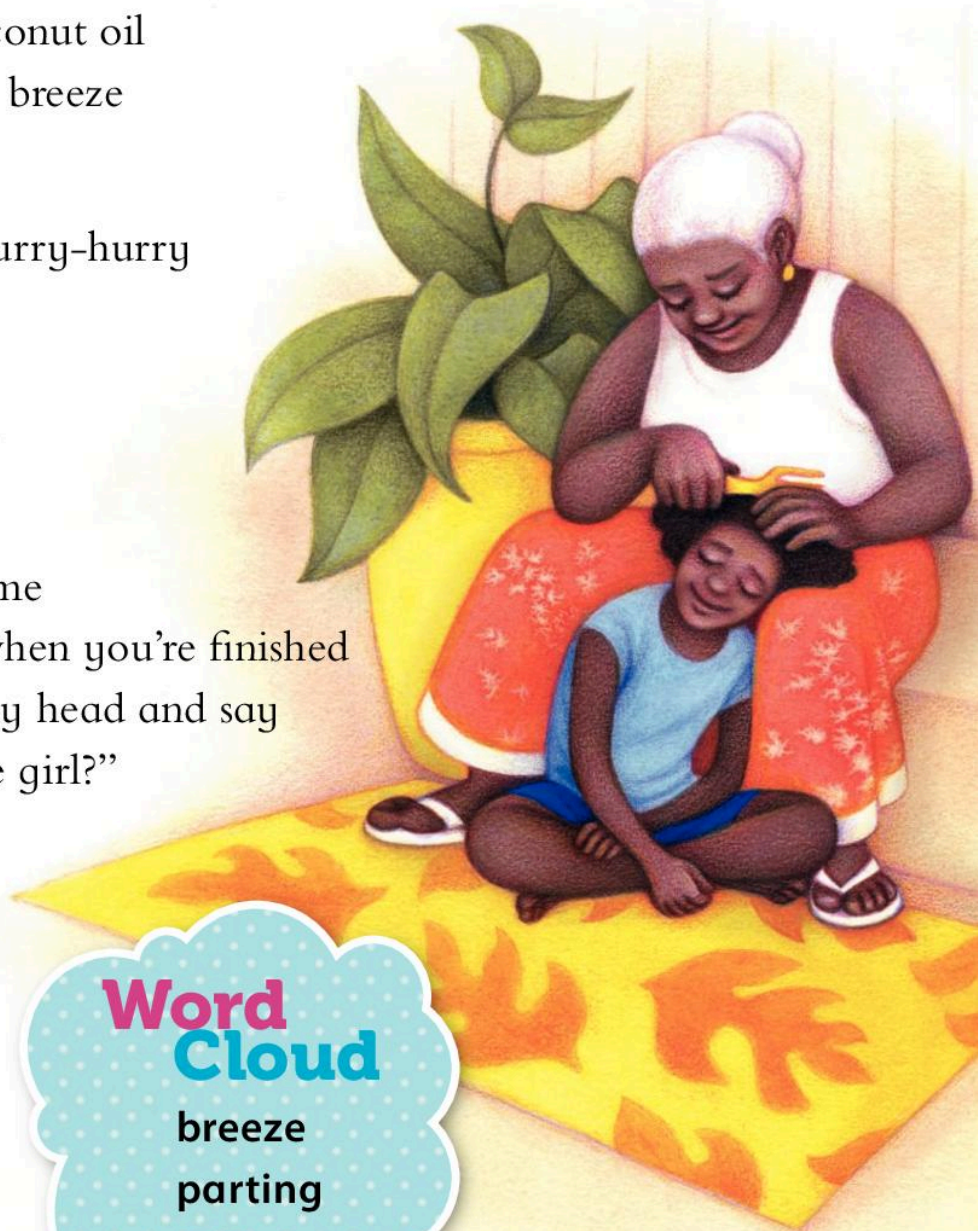
Granny Granny please comb my hair
 you always take your time
 you always take such care

You put me to sit on a cushion between your knees
 you rub a little coconut oil
 parting gentle as a breeze

Mummy Mummy
 she's always in a hurry-hurry
 rush
 she pulls my hair
 sometimes she tugs

But Granny
 you have all the time
 in the world and when you're finished
 you always turn my head and say
 "Now who's a nice girl?"

Grace Nichols



Word Cloud

breeze
 parting
 tugs

7

Mountain bear adventure

The Dancing Bear

Michael Morpurgo

Roxanne lived with her grandfather in a mountain village. One day, when she was seven years old, Roxanne found and adopted a wild bear cub. Her school teacher remembers the day it happened – it changed all their lives.

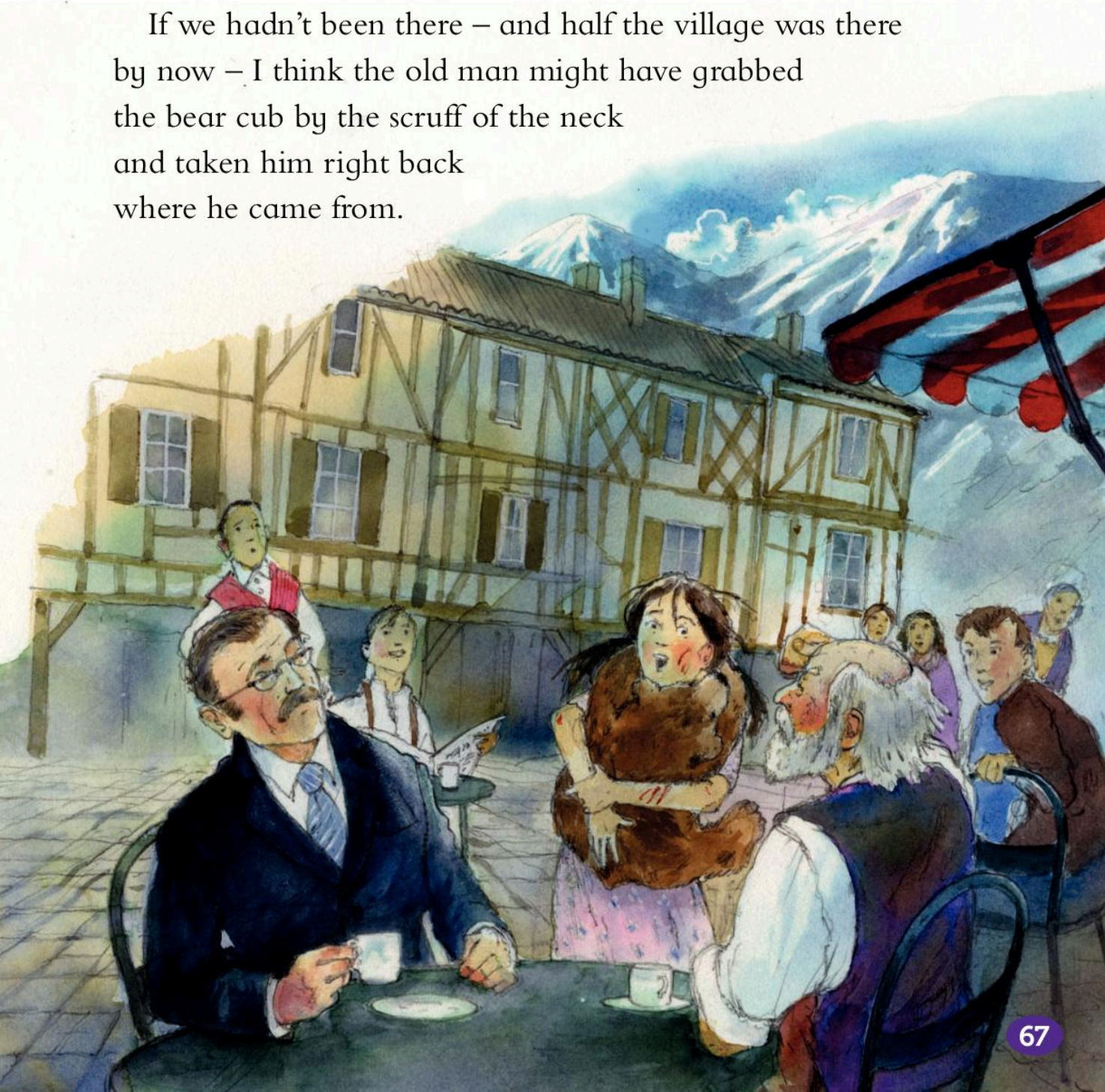
It was a Sunday morning in April. We were in the café before lunch. The old man was going on about Roxanne again, and how she ate him out of house and home...

“Gone off again, she has,” he grumbled. “...Nothing but trouble, that girl.”

Just then we heard shouting in the village square and, glad of any diversion, we all went out to look. Roxanne was staggering towards us, clutching a bear cub in her arms, with its arms wrapped around her neck. She'd been scratched on her face and on her arms, but it didn't seem to bother her. She was laughing and breathless with joy.

“Bruno!” she said. “He’s called Bruno. I was down by the stream. I was just throwing sticks and I felt something stroking my neck. I turned round and there he was. He patted my shoulder. He’s my very own bear, Grandpa. He’s all alone. He’s hungry. I can keep him, can’t I? Please?”

If we hadn’t been there – and half the village was there by now – I think the old man might have grabbed the bear cub by the scruff of the neck and taken him right back where he came from.



7 Mountain bear adventure

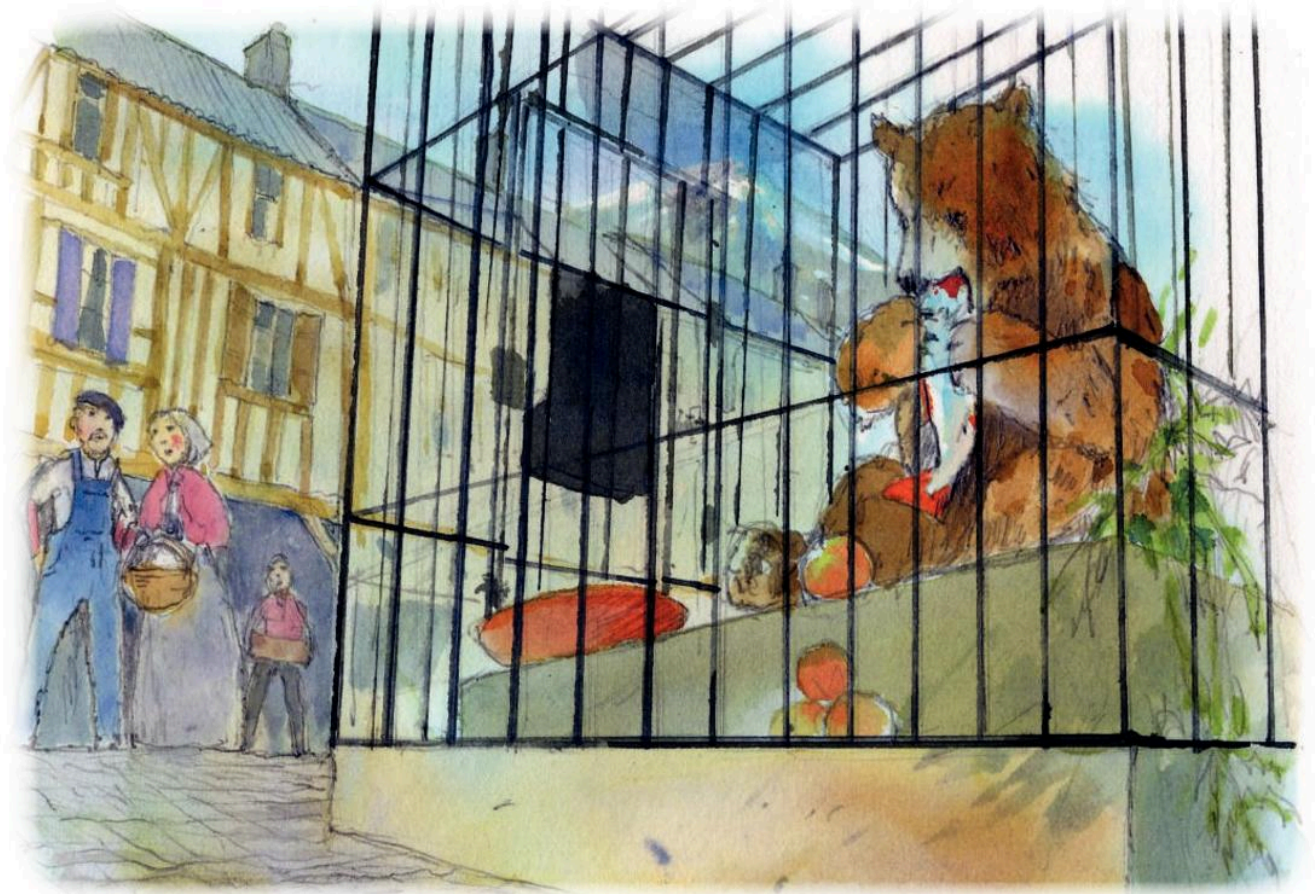
“Look at him,” he said. “He’s half starved. He’s going to die anyway. And besides, bears are for killing, not keeping. You know how many sheep we lose every year to bears? Dozens, I’m telling you, dozens.”

Some people were beginning to agree with him. I looked at Roxanne and saw she was looking up at me. Her eyes were filled with tears.

“Maybe” – I was still thinking hard as I spoke – “if you kept him, you know, just for a while. It wouldn’t cost much: some waste milk and an old shed somewhere. And just suppose” – I was talking directly to the old man now – “just suppose you made ‘bear’ labels for your honey jars – you could call it ‘Bruno’s Honey’. Everyone would hear about it. They’d come from miles around, have a little look at the bear and then buy your honey. You’d make a fortune, I’m sure of it.”



I'd said the right thing. Roxanne's grandfather had his beehives all over the mountainside, and everyone knew that he couldn't sell even half the honey he collected. He nodded slowly as the sense of it dawned on him. "All right," he said. "We'll try it. Just for a while, mind."...



The cage was built in the village square and Bruno moved in. Roxanne looked after him as she had promised.

Every day, she laid fresh bracken in his den at the back of the cage, and gave him fresh water, fresh vegetables and fresh fish. I would help her catch trout in the stream and the vegetables were supplied from all over the village.

7 Mountain bear adventure

Then someone wrote an article about Bruno in a local newspaper and there was a piece on the radio. People flocked to the village to see the bear, and the old man's honey sold out in a few weeks. He bought more hives. After that there was never another mention of selling Bruno. He had a notice put up on the cage door, with a large collection box underneath:



The box filled fast. There were more newspaper articles and a programme on the television. People came in droves. Now it wasn't just honey they could buy: there was "Bruno's Jam", "Bruno's Beeswax", even "Bruno Teddy Bears" in rose-pink, lavender-blue or bear-brown. Roxanne's grandfather was raking in the money.

Roxanne took no notice of any of this. So long as Bruno was happy, she was too. She lived for the moment after school each day when she would let him out of his cage and they would run together across the fields.

Often I saw them sitting together on a hillside. She'd be talking to him or singing to him, and when she sang now, she shamed even the skylarks to silence. Roxanne sang as I hope the angels sing.

**Word
Cloud**

donations
raking in the money
scruff of the neck
shamed
skylarks



7 Mountain bear adventure

Years went by and Roxanne and Bruno grew up. One day, a film crew came to the village to make a pop video for a pop star called Niki. The director wanted Bruno to dance for the video. Roxanne refused to make Bruno dance. The first days of filming didn't go well.

The Director blamed everyone: the cameraman, the sound man, the weather – even, at one point, Niki. By late afternoon he was talking of abandoning the whole project, packing up and going home. Eva, the red-headed Wardrobe Mistress, was in tears because he shouted at her once too often.

We rehearsed for five minutes and stood around for five hours waiting. Filming, I decided, was hard on the feet, mostly boring and definitely bad on the nerves. We all went home thoroughly fed up and dreading doing it all again the next day.



After supper, I was just going out for my evening stroll when I heard someone singing. It could only be Roxanne. No one sang like she did. She often sang to Bruno in the evenings before she said goodnight to him. The sound of her singing drew me down towards the village square. Roxanne was sitting in the cage with Bruno standing beside her, and she was singing Niki's song. I looked across the square. Niki was listening outside the café, the Director behind him. The entire film crew was there too. Roxanne saw none of them. As I watched, Bruno began to sway from side to side. Then Roxanne was on her feet and dancing too.

When it was over, Niki started to clap loudly, and then everyone did. I did too – I couldn't help myself. Roxanne was caught quite unawares. She was embarrassed, even a little afraid, I thought.





“That girl’s magic!” exclaimed the Director as he hurried past me. “Pure magic.” He liked that word.

“Did you see? He was dancing!” said Niki. “The bear, he was dancing!” Niki grasped the Director’s arm and they stopped close by me. “I have an idea,” he whispered.

“So have I,” said the Director. “And if your idea’s the same as my idea, then it’s brilliant.”

“We sing it together, right? Her and me,” said Niki.

“Her and you together,” said the Director. “We’ll hardly need to change a thing. You come to the village, just like we planned – a wandering minstrel with your bear – but you’ve got a girl with you, your girl. You do the song together. The bear dances. The children come out and dance, then the rats

too. They've got to dance. They can't stop. The Mayor and Corporation see what's happening and ask you to rid them of their rats. You and the girl, with the bear behind you, you lead the rats out of the village and drown them. And then the beggars won't pay you. So you and the girl start singing again and the bear starts dancing and the children dance and they follow you both out of town and up into the mountains."

"Do you think she'll do it?" said Niki.

The Director laughed. "Do it? Of course she will. What girl wouldn't, eh? The chance to sing with Niki. And think of the publicity! Niki and his shepherdess fresh from the mountains and a bear that dances. I'm telling you, it's a winner, Niki, a winner. Sell millions. Go on, you go and ask her; and don't take no for an answer. I'll see to the grandfather. He's a tight-fisted old goat, but I'll make him an offer he won't refuse."

I stood and watched from the shadows as Niki walked over to the cage. Roxanne was just closing the door behind her. She turned and saw him. "You startled me," she said.

"With a voice like that," said Niki, "you shouldn't be stuck away up here."

"What do you mean?"

He reached out and took her hands in his. "I want to ask you a favour," he said, his voice silky soft. "I want you to sing with me – you know, in the video."

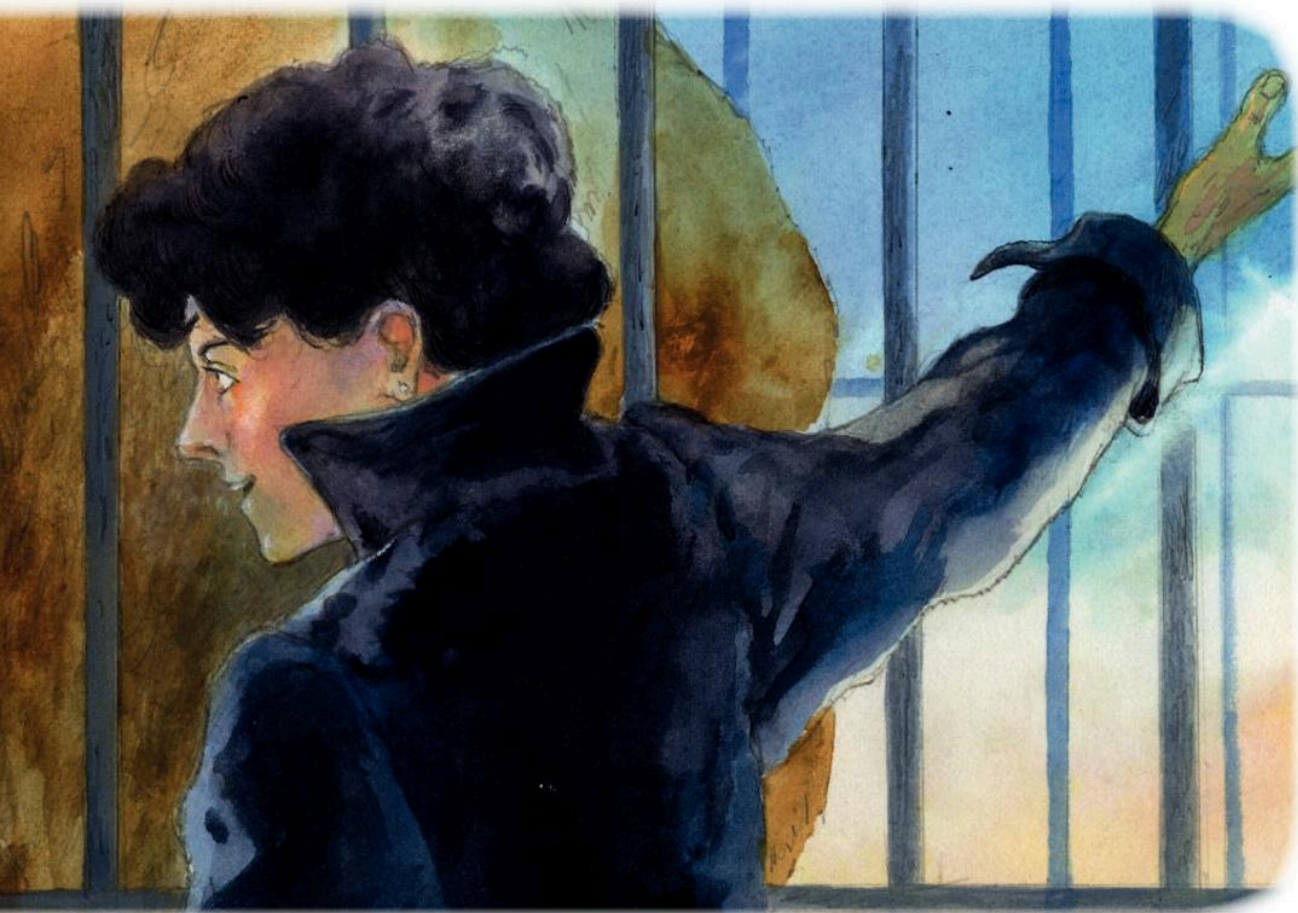


“Me?” said Roxanne.

“When you sing,” Niki went on, “everyone listens. When you sing the bear dances. I must have a dancing bear, and he only dances for you, doesn’t he? I need you to sing with me, Roxanne. I need you.”

“I don’t know,” she said shaking her head.

“It’s easy,” Niki went on. “You sing it like you did just now, but with me.” He lifted her chin so that she could look him in the eyes. “You could be a star, Roxanne. You could be big, the biggest. Look what it’s done for me. Everyone knows me.



I've got houses all over the world: Paris, California, south of France. I've got four cars. I've got a plane. I can have anything I want. I can go anywhere I please. You could be the same. You could leave all this behind."

"No," she said turning away from him. "I can't leave Bruno; I won't."

Word Cloud

abandoning	grasped
blamed	Mayor
Corporation	tight-fisted

8

Animal world


Amazing Leatherback Turtle Facts

Prehistoric animals

Turtles have lived on Earth for 150 million years – since the time of the dinosaurs!

Longest journey

Leatherback turtles travel thousands of kilometres from the beaches where they lay their eggs to the oceans where they catch jellyfish.



Leatherback turtles can dive as deep as 1,000 metres under the sea. That's about the length of 10 football pitches!

Not many left

Number of female turtles laying eggs



Turtles in danger

Leatherback turtles are in danger because people collect their eggs to eat. Some turtles also get caught in fishing nets and others die when they eat plastic bags, thinking they are jellyfish.

One in a thousand

A female leatherback turtle lays about 1,000 eggs. However, not all the eggs will hatch and only about one in a thousand eggs will become a grown-up turtle. Lots of animals like to eat turtles.

Baby turtles have a dangerous journey to the sea.

Word Cloud

hatch prehistoric
length travel
million

Animals in Danger

Many of the world's animals are under threat of extinction. Let's look at two animals that people are trying to save.

Amur leopard

Most leopards live in Africa but the Amur leopard lives in the snowy forests in Russia. They like to live alone and they travel a long way to find food. Their favourite food is wild boar.

ENDANGERED!



What is the problem?

- The forests where they live are being cut down.
- Hunters are killing them for their fur.
- The food that they like to eat is becoming hard to find.

How many are left?

- About 30 animals

Where do they live?

- Russian Far East

How are they being helped?

- In one area 20,000 Korean pine trees have been planted. Wild boar love to eat pine nuts and Amur leopards like to eat wild boar.
- In another area, a new national park has been created, called 'Land of the Leopard National Park'.

An Amur leopard has the thickest fur of all the leopards so it can stay warm in the snow.

Javan rhino

There are five types of rhino in the world which are all under threat, but the Javan rhino is the most threatened. It lives in the tropical forests in Java and has one horn which is about 30 centimetres long.

What is the problem?

- Hunters kill the rhinos for sport.
- Hunters kill the rhino to make medicine out of its horn.

How many are left?

- About 35 animals

Where do they live?

- Java, Indonesia

How are they being helped?

- They live in a protected national park. Workers help to make this park as good as it can be for rhinos.
- Some rhinos will be moved to a new park on a new island to create a new population of rhino there.

The Javan rhino has skin that looks like armour.

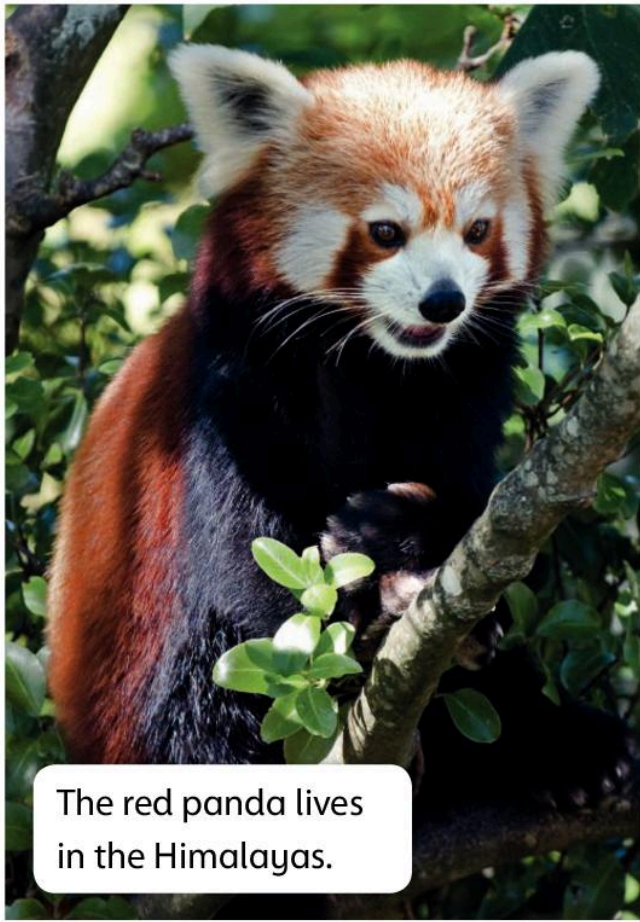


Word Cloud

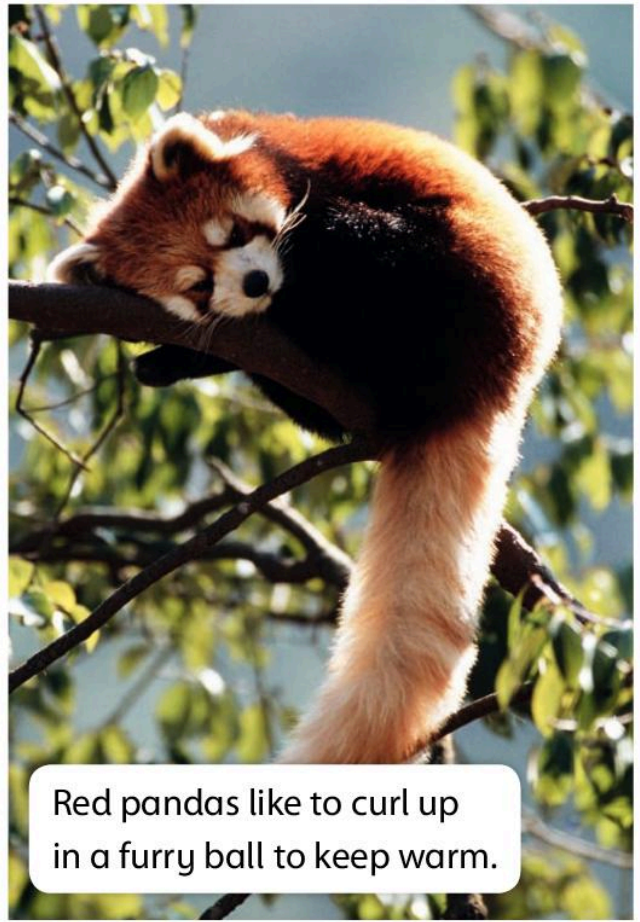
armour threatened
endangered tropical
extinction wild boar
national park

YOUNG EXPLORERS

Red Pandas in danger



The red panda lives in the Himalayas.



Red pandas like to curl up in a furry ball to keep warm.

Chilly home

Red pandas live in the cold bamboo forests near the highest mountains in the world. Their main food are the shoots and leaves of bamboo plants, but they sometimes eat birds, insects and eggs.

There are only 10,000 red pandas left in the wild.

Hidden pandas

To save the red pandas people called conservationists need to study them. A red panda can be hard to find, because when it curls up, it looks like a bump on a log!



The Himalaya mountains
– where red pandas live.

Trapped!

Over the last 20 years, half of the forests where they live have been chopped down. Some parts are cut off from each other, making lots of small forests amongst the snowy mountains. The red pandas have less food to eat because they cannot travel easily between the forests.

What will the future bring?

Conservationists are asking the villagers who live near the red pandas not to cut down the forests. Other people are replanting new bamboo plants. Together they are trying to bring back a big area of bamboo forest for the red panda to live safely in the wild.

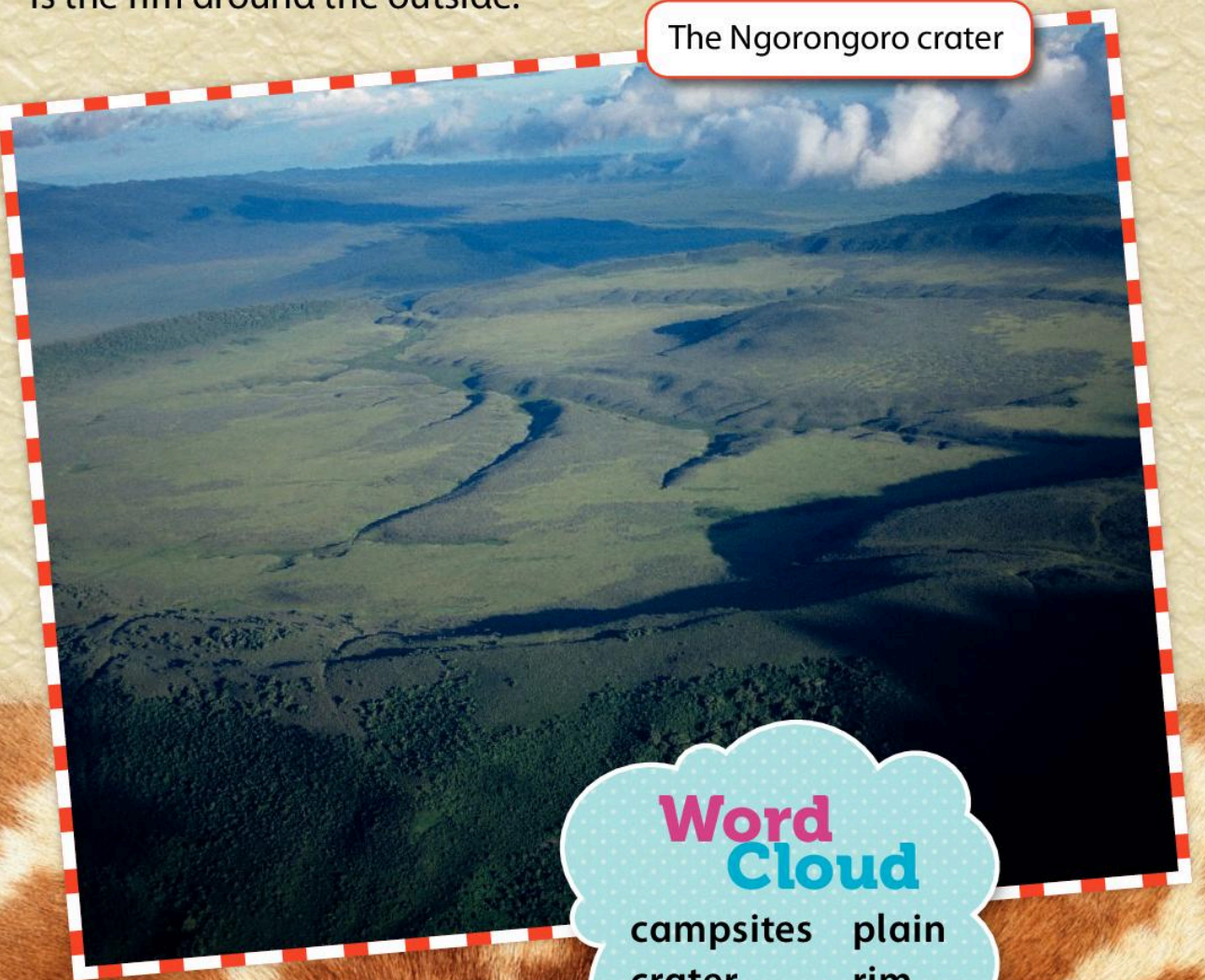
Word Cloud

bamboo
conservationists

Ngorongoro Crater

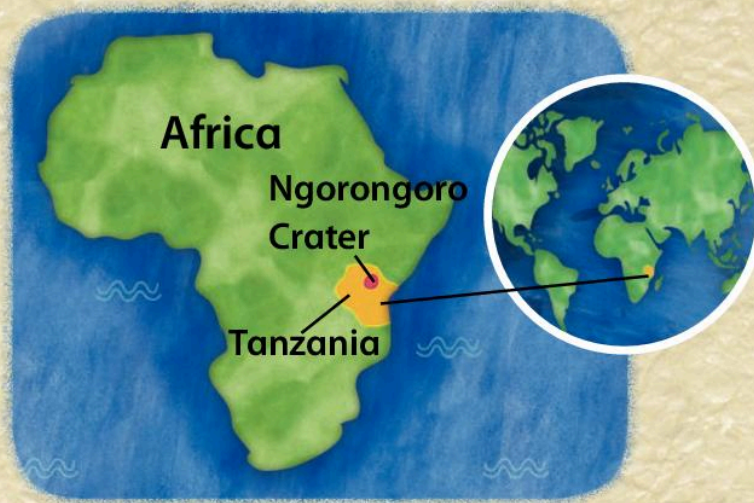
The Ngorongoro crater, a huge grassy plain in Africa, is home to 25,000 animals. It was formed when an enormous volcano erupted over 2 million years ago. All that is left of the volcano is the rim around the outside.

The Ngorongoro crater



Word Cloud

campsites plain
crater rim
erupted



The Ngorongoro crater is in Tanzania, Africa.

Visiting the crater

Many people visit the Ngorongoro crater to see the animals that live there. They stay in campsites or hotels called lodges.

Tourists watch a black rhino in the crater.

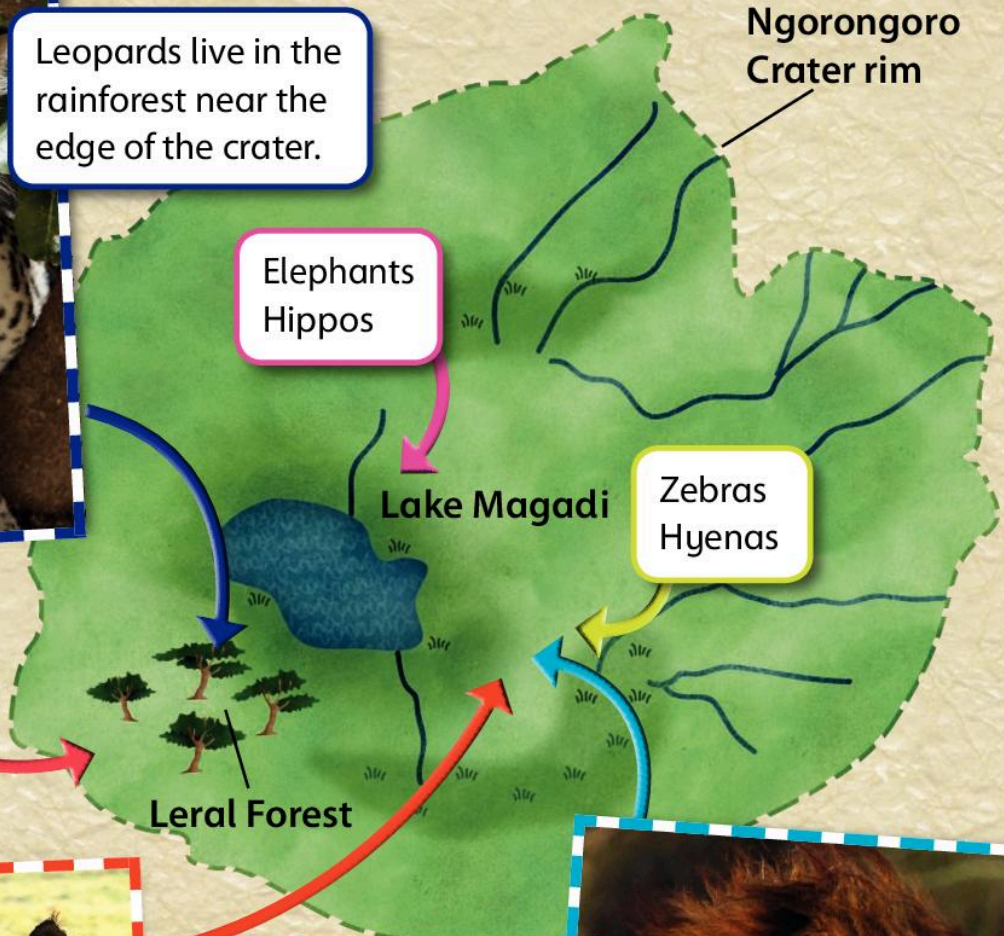


Animals in the crater

Most African animals can be found living in the crater.



Leopards live in the rainforest near the edge of the crater.



Ngorongoro Crater rim

Elephants
Hippos

Lake Magadi

Zebras
Hyenas

Monkeys
Baboons
Elephants

Leral Forest



The crater is a safe place for the endangered black rhino.

Lions stay inside the crater because there is plenty of food.

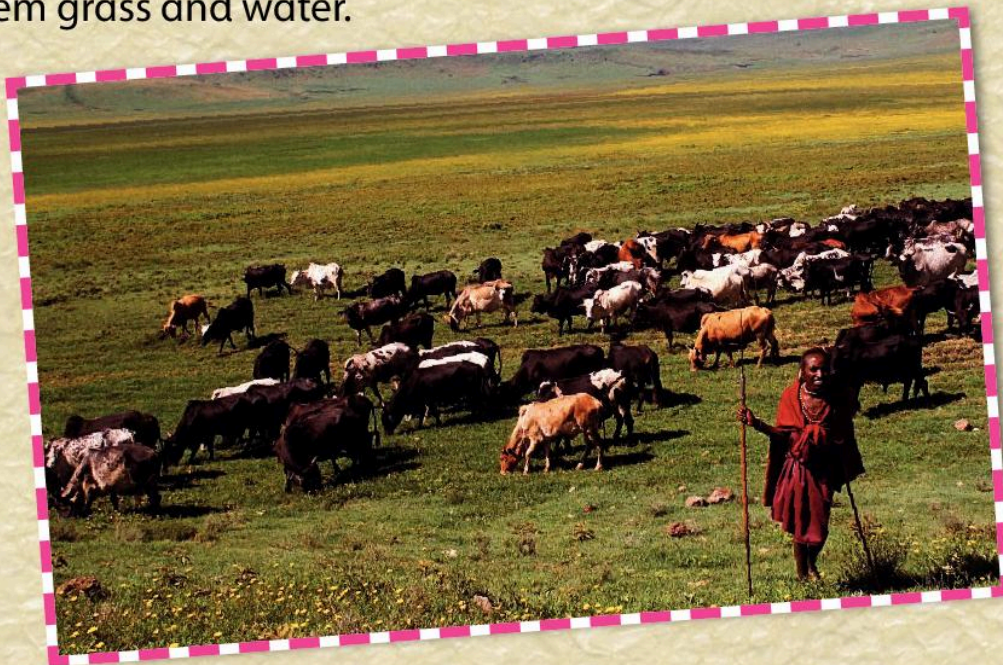


Flamingos live on the lake in the middle of the crater. Zebras stay close to other animals to keep safe.



Living in the crater

The Maasai people live near the Ngorongoro crater and take their cows, donkeys, sheep and goats into the crater to give them grass and water.



9

Wordplay poems

Over My Toes

Over my toes
goes
the soft sea wash
see the sea wash
the soft sand slip
see the sea slip
the soft sand slide
see the sea slide
the soft sand slap
see the sea slap
the soft sand wash
over my toes.

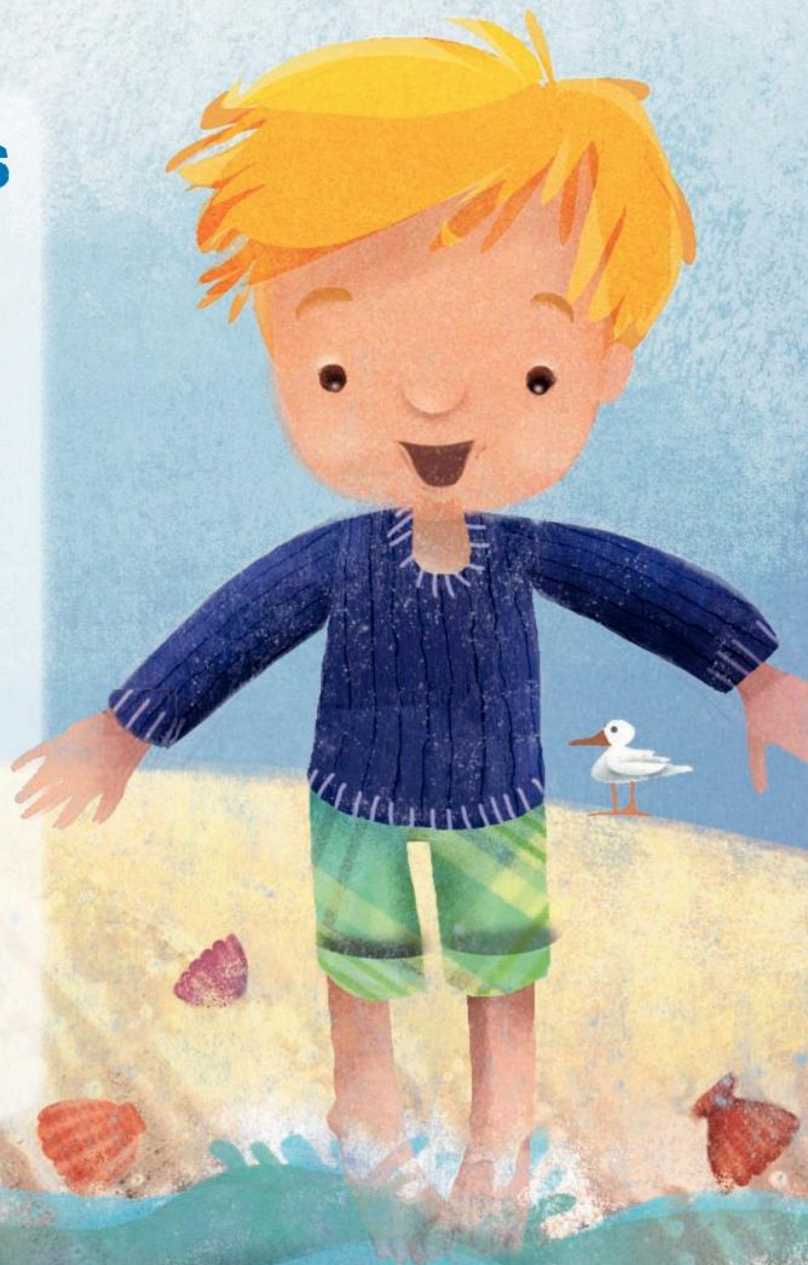
Michael Rosen

Word Cloud

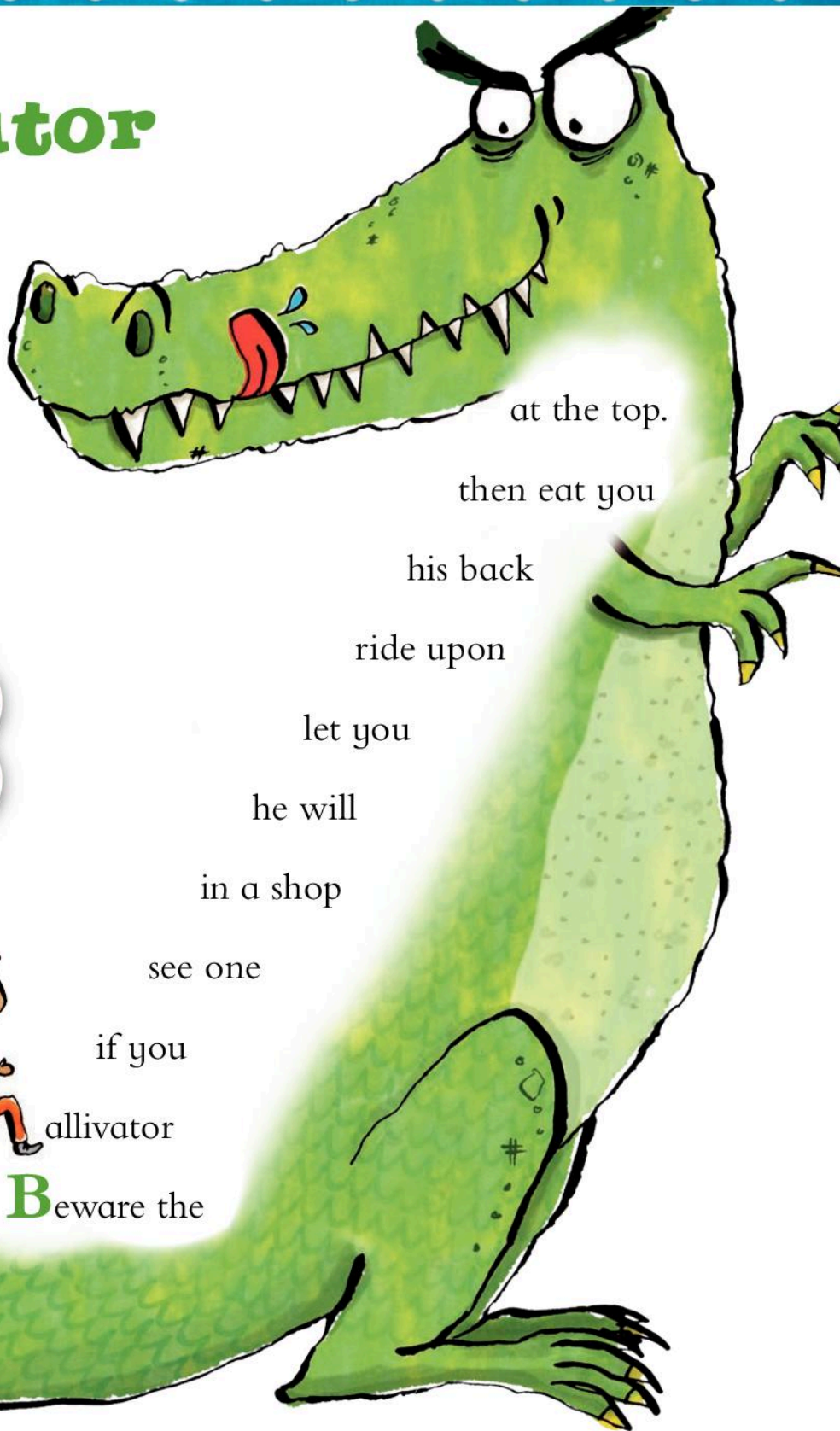
slap

slide

wash over



Allivator



at the top.

then eat you

his back

ride upon

let you

he will

in a shop

see one

if you

allivator

Beware the



Word
Cloud

beware
upon



Roger McGough



Tree Poem

t h e
l e a v e s
h a v e
a l l l e f t
b u t
t h e
t r e e
w i l l b e
a l l
r i g h t

John Hegley

Name That Dragon

Dragons have the OLDEST names,
Dark as danger, fierce as flames.

Golden-fang or Spiny-tail,
Fury, Roary, Rattle-scale,

Sky-lord, Grabber, Princess-catcher,
Shadow-lady, Hero-snatcher,

Thunder-tooth or Smoky-jaw,
Smoulder, Scorch or Cinder-claw,

Leather-wing or Sorrow-maker,
Cavern-king or Treasure-taker,

Battle-queen or Mighty-biter,
Sword-snap, Bone-crunch, Fiery-fighter.

Dragon names are secret things,
Wild as weather, swift as stings.

Clare Bevan

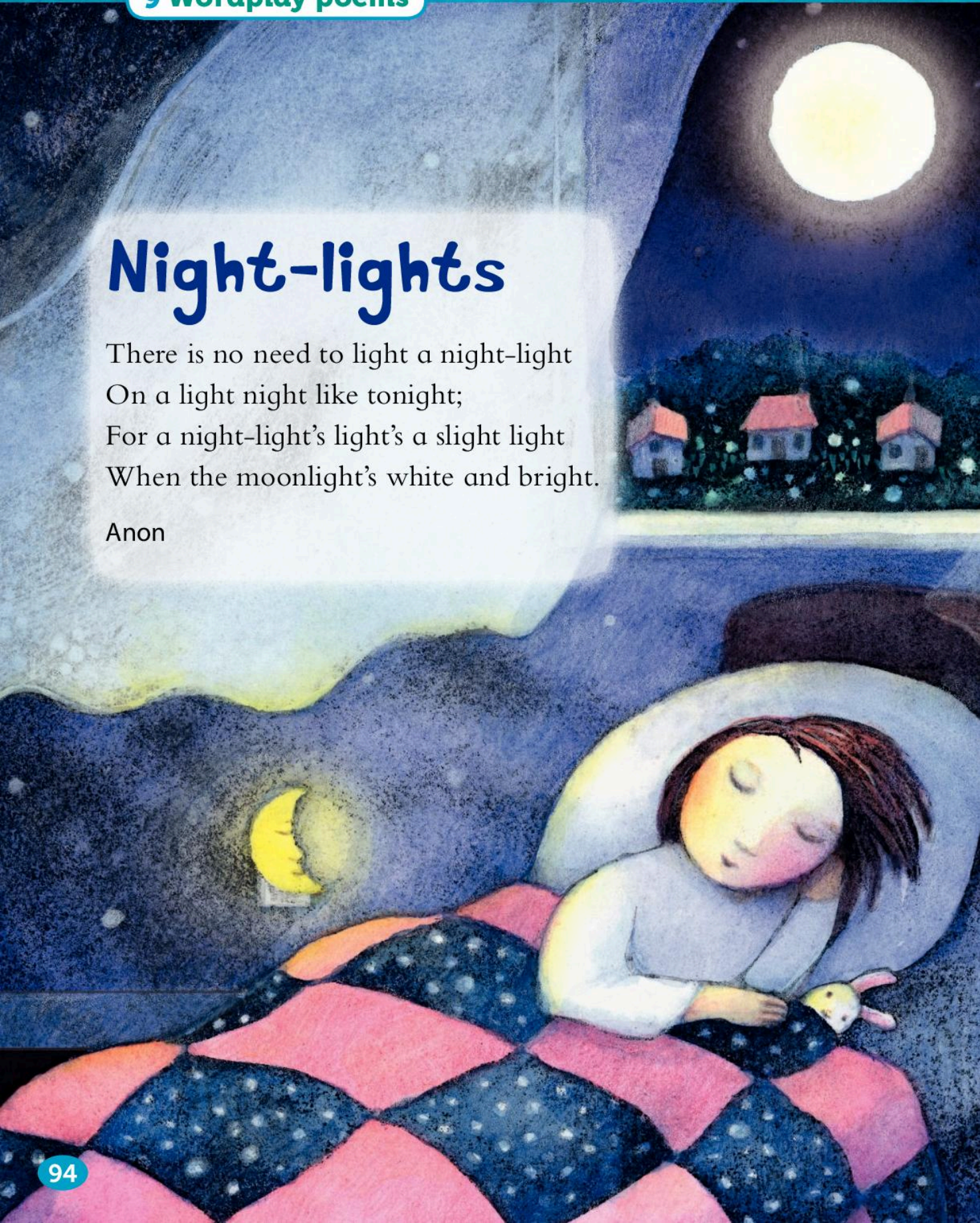
Word Cloud

cinder	smoulder
scale	snatcher
smoky	sorrow

Night-lights

There is no need to light a night-light
On a light night like tonight;
For a night-light's light's a slight light
When the moonlight's white and bright.

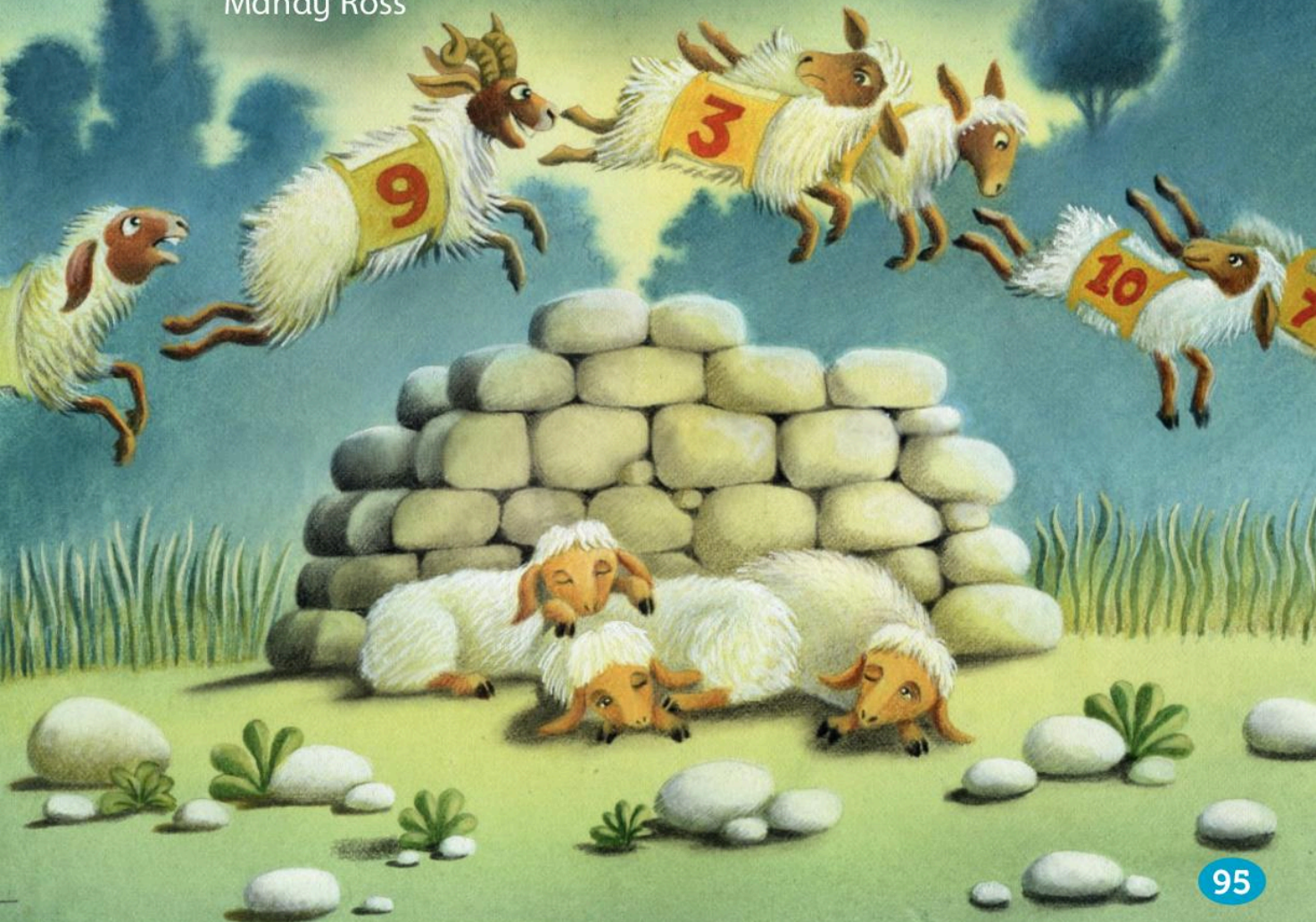
Anon



Sheep

When we caa-aan't sleep
We aa-aall count sheep.
We count each other's
Faa-aathers, mothers,
Uncles, aa-aunties,
Sisters, brothers.
Over the waa-aall, we count them leap,
And very soon, we're aa-aall asleep.

Mandy Ross



Word Cloud

A

abandoning
angle
argue
armour
asparagus
atmosphere

B

baklava
balcony
bamboo
beware
blamed
breadfruit
breeze
bulb-eye

C

caiman
campsites
candied
CE
cinder
concealed
concertina
conservationists
control room
Corporation
crater
crouches

D

decorate
divide
donations
dramatically

E

endangered
equal share
erupt/ed
expression
extinction

F

flapping
fluffiest

G

granted
grasped
greenhouse

H

hatch
henna
horror
hostess

J

jaguar
jealous

L

landing
lava
length
lengthwise

M

Mayor
melted
million
mozzarella
muttered

N

national park
nibbled

P

parting
piñata
plain
pleats
prehistoric

R

raking in the
money
recite
recycled
rim
rock samples

S

sack
sardines
scale
scene
scruff of the neck
scuttle-foot
shamed
shaped
sheltered
silk
singsong

skim
skylarks
slap
slide
smoky
smoulder
snatcher
sorrow
spread
sprinkle
startled
striker
swish

T

tapir
threatened
tight-fisted
tingle
toxic
traditional
travel
tropical
tugs

U

upon

V

virtual world

W

wash over
whined
wild boar
winch drum
wisdom
wither

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📖 Oxford Level 8 Project X/ORT

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Oxford International English **2**

Student Anthology

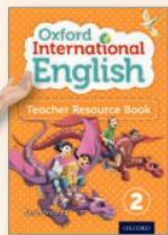
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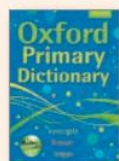
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