

BookFest

FOR SCHOOLS

2022

Learning Resource Pack

for Teachers and
Home Educators

Written and produced by
Bournville BookFest CIO

BOURNVILLE
BookFest

Designed by Pete Brown



All activities are based on BookFest for Schools videos and are designed to help schools and pupils to get the most out of the online festival.

BookFest for Schools starts on Monday 28th February to Friday 4th March and coincides with World Book Day 2022 (Thursday March 3rd).

A different video will land each day at 9am on:

www.bournvillebookfest.com

Contents

1. Steve Cole - children's author
2. Zohab Zee Khan - spoken word poet
3. Vashti Hardy - children's author
4. Gary Northfield - cartoonist and author
5. Lucy Walters - Storyteller
6. Tor Freeman - illustrator



We hope your pupils enjoy creating characters, stories, maps and poems!

Why not send some of their work to the Bournville BookFest team?

Share on Facebook: [@BusyParentsNetwork](#)

Share on Twitter: [@B_villeBookFest](#)

Email: sala@bournvillebookfest.com

1. Steve Cole



About Steve

Steve Cole is an editor and children's author whose sales exceed three million copies. His hugely successful *Astrosaurus* young fiction series has been a UK top-ten children's bestseller. His several original *Doctor Who* novels have also been bestsellers, plus his *Young Bond* books, *Secret Agent Mummy* series and most recently *Swarm Rising*, which he wrote with astronaut Tim Peake.



Watch Steve Cole's video with your children or class

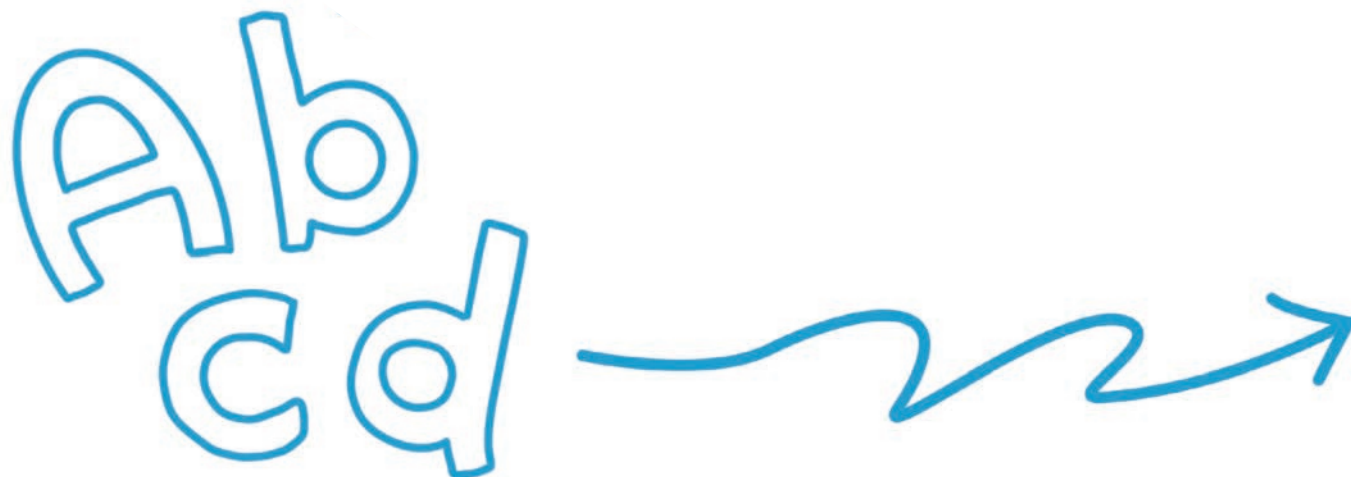
ACTIVITY 1

Squashing words together to make new words!

Steve Cole created his multi-million selling series of books called *Astrosaurus* by squashing the words "astronaut" and "dinosaur" together.

Explore the creative fun of squashing words together to create new words.

On a piece of paper get the children to brainstorm words they like. This could be in 2 columns. Then have fun squashing different words together and see what the children come up with. *Share the new words you have created.*



ACTIVITY 2



Time to warm up!

Create a short, noisy, quick-fire poem

Remind the children that Steve Cole said the best way to write a story was not to panic but get warmed up, just like an athlete before a race. And the best way to warm up is to write a short, noisy poem about something they either love or hate, because it evokes strong emotions.

For example:

I HATE bananas! They go brown, then black, then squishy and they smell yucky!

I LOVE chocolate. The way it smells, the first delectable taste on your tongue, the slow melting in your mouth to create a pool of deliciousness floating down your throat.

Strong emotions = good stories.

Ask the children to think of something they either LOVE or HATE. Then on a sheet of paper brainstorm some words that they associate with the thing they have chosen.

Then write a quick-fire poem about the thing they love or hate. It doesn't have to be a prize-winning poem. This activity is designed to get the creative juices flowing and to warm the children up.

You can share some of your quick-fire poems by reading them out.

ACTIVITY 3



What Happens Next?

The children have created a character (their squashed-together word) and they've warmed up. Now it's time to ask the all important 3 words in a story writing situation: *What Happens Next?*

Again, give the children time to daydream and imagine what happens to their character.

A follow up question would be "what if?"

Examples:

What if all the cats in your town or city could talk to one another and they all decided to come to your school one day? What would happen next?

What if a spaceship landed in the school playground? What would happen next?

What if you discovered a secret door to another world? What would happen next?

Ask the children to jot down their ideas.

ACTIVITY 4

Draw your character!



It's so much easier to write about a character if you can picture what they look like. Ask the children to do a drawing of their made-up character. Help the children to understand the link between stories and illustrations.

Former Children's Laureate Chris Riddell loves to illustrate poems and stories. On scrap paper or in a sketch book, ask the children to doodle some ideas for their character.

You can use Chris Riddell's videos on YouTube as a prompt and inspiration. There is a silent one where Chris shows the work in his own sketch book with a very wide range of different characters which you could show the children to inspire them

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ybVLJB5XxQo>

Or if you would like the children to see Chris drawing and speaking about what he is drawing then use this video called How to Create a Character which Chris Riddell produced with the Scottish Book Trust <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlYMT8cwJ7Q>

ACTIVITY 5

Write your Story

The children have made up a character and they know what their character looks like. They've thought about What Happens Next. Now ask the children to write a story about their character and what happened to them. The more imaginative the better!



Steve Cole's Astrosaur's video was filmed on location at the Lapworth Museum on the University of Birmingham campus. It's free to visit, view their amazing collection of dinosaur and ichthyosaur fossils, and discover how the earth formed.

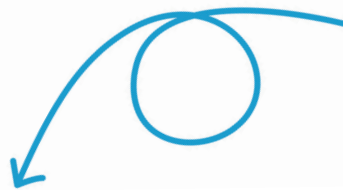
They do free school visits too!

For enquiries please contact Lizzy Goodger at e.goodger@bham.ac.uk

2. Zohab Zee Khan

About Zohab

Zohab Zee Khan is an Australian performance poet and winner of the coveted Australian Poetry Slam competition. Zohab grew up in rural New South Wales and he is a 4th generation Australian with Pakistani heritage. He seamlessly integrates Urdu and Punjabi into his poetry. Zohab is also a trained life coach and motivational speaker. He has conducted over 1,000 poetry, motivational and self-motivation workshops across the globe, with a particular emphasis on working with educators.



A Note on Performance Poetry

Across the world, in almost every culture, people have told each other tales, recited poems and sung songs long before they wrote them down. Rhyme, rhythm and repetition between performer and listener were a crucial part of storytelling, and sharing wisdom between communities and generations.

Activities based on Zohab Zee Khan's video

The following suggested activities are designed for you to pick and choose from or to work through them all across several lessons, depending upon the amount of time you have and the age and level of engagement of the children you are working with.



ACTIVITY 1

Watch Zohab's video with your children or class

Start by reminding the children that Zohab told them that poetry is all about Self-Expression – about who YOU are and what's important to YOU! And that they can have fun and enjoy themselves when they dream up poetry. Remind them to write about something that is important to them.

So, let's give it a go! Give each child a blank piece of paper and a pencil or pen. First, ask the children to spend some time day-dreaming now and to use their imaginations. Don't write anything down. Just day-dream and imagine. Ask the children these questions to prompt them:-

What idea is walking through your door?

What does it look like?

What does it smell like?

What is it doing?

What happens next?



Once you've spent some time day-dreaming, explain to the children that now it's time to get their ideas out! Jot down notes of their ideas for their character (who was walking through their door, their appearance and smell), their setting (where did the door lead?) and what happens next.

Now it's time to add some spice! Remind the children about the following tools which Zohab mentions in his video to make poems memorable. Encourage them to use them if they would like to in their own poems.

Rhyme – when lines end with the same sound

Rhythm – the pace and beat of a poem

Alliteration – when words start with the same sound
(often the same letter but not always)

Personification – Zohab's examples were "the wall is staring" and "the tree is dancing"

Remind the children that Zohab said the aim is to "paint some pictures for people's brains".

Now ask the children to write their poem based on the ideas they have dreamt up. Give the children several sheets of paper to work on. Explain about no-one getting a story or poem right first time and that it's important to edit their poems. Explain that it's fine to cross out lines and edit their poem; to go back and improve parts to make them work better; or to play around with different rhymes and endings for their sentences.

You should end this activity with a finished poem that the child feels express the person they are.

ACTIVITY 2

Draw your character!



We've painted some pictures with our words, now it's time to illustrate your poems!

Ask the children to write out their final poem on a large A3 sheet of paper to leave plenty of space around the edges for their illustrations.

Link back to the Chris Riddell video on creating a character (see above).

Create a wall display of the children's illustrated poems

ACTIVITY 3

Zohab Zee Khan said that one of his favourite poems to write is a **Japanese haiku**. Remind the children you are working with of the basic structure of a haiku and remind them of what a syllable is if needed:-

Line 1 – 5 syllables

Line 2 – 7 syllables

Line 3 – 5 syllables

Ask the children to decide what they are going to write a haiku about or you could give them a topic, say *Books* or *Spring*.

Encourage the children to produce a mind map of words they associate with that topic and then to sound out the words and discover the number of syllables in each. Paper and pencil to jot down notes would be helpful here. Finally, ask them to write their own haiku based on a selection of the words they have thought of, with the correct number of syllables in each line.

Share some of the haikus written by reading them aloud.

ACTIVITY 4

Write an acrostic poem based on the word **HAPPINESS**. Give the children an A4 sheet of paper with HAPPINESS written down vertically on the left-hand side of the page.

On rough paper, ask the children to brainstorm lots of words that they associate with the word happiness and to draft some lines of poetry using some of those words.

When they are ready to do so, ask them to write their acrostic poem on the A4 sheet of paper.

3. Vashti Hardy

Writing Adventure Stories & Creating Fantasy Worlds



About Vashti

Vashti Hardy is a writer of children's books spending her time between Lancashire and Sussex. She was a primary school teacher for several years, and has a special interest in children's writing, especially free-writing and the use of journals and creating fantasy worlds.

Now a successful children's author, Vashti's breathtaking middle grade fantasies are published across the world in several languages. *Wildspark* won the Blue Peter Book Award 'Best Story' in 2020 and the FCBG Children's Book Awards and *Brightstorm* was shortlisted for the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, Books are My Bag Awards, among others. The second book of her latest *Harley Hitch* series for younger readers has just been published.



Watch Vashti Hardy's video with your children or class. The children will need plain paper and a pencil to hand when watching Vashti's video so that they can join with drawing their own story map.

In her video, Vashti gives her 5 Top Tips for writing amazing fantasy and adventure stories. These suggested activities are based on Vashti's 5 Top Tips.

Top Tip 1

Think about what you are interested in



Remind the children that Vashti Hardy says we write best about the things we are interested in. This activity is designed to get the children warmed up ready to create their own fantasy world.

You could ask the children to brainstorm all the things that most interest them, for example dinosaurs, robots, space, fashion.

Then ask the children to have a go at mixing up 2 of those different ideas. Vashti's example was ghosts inside of robots.

Share the ideas that are created.

Top Tip 2

It's your world, so you make the rules!

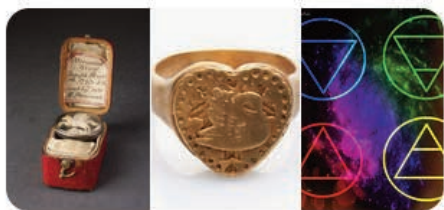
Vashti encouraged the children to dare to imagine their own fantasy world. We want to know exactly how a fantasy world works so we can immerse ourselves in it.

Ask the children to brainstorm their fantasy world. **What is it like? How do people get around?** (by air ship in Vashti's novel *Brightstorm*). **Where are the hazards or threats?**

Top Tip 3

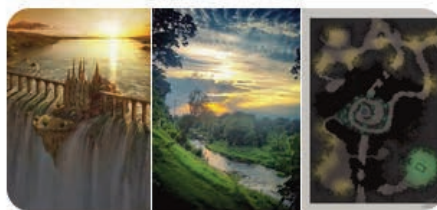
Use Pictures

Vashti encouraged the children to create their own scrapbook or Pinterest board and to collect pictures to inspire them. [Here's](#) Vashti's own board for *Darkwhispers*: Pinterest, but you could cut out pictures and colours from magazines too, or ask the children to do this as homework.



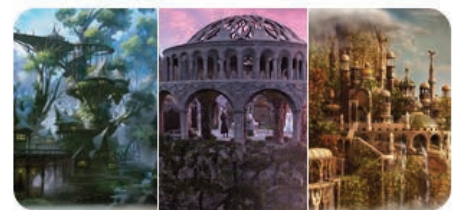
Tattoos and clues

9 Pins



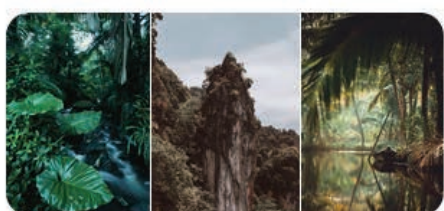
Stella Oceanus

18 Pins



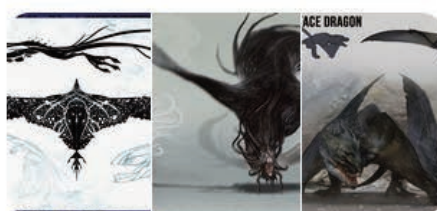
Rainforest tech houses

51 Pins



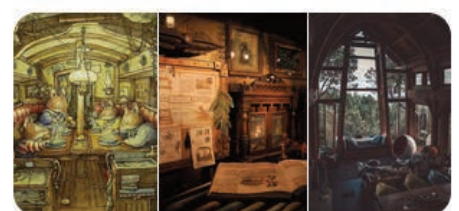
Rainforest

109 Pins



The darkwhispers

16 Pins



Sky-ships

16 Pins

Once the children have collected pictures and made a board or scrapbook, they should start asking questions of the pictures. For example, **where did the white owl come from?**

Encourage the children to have the pictures in front of them when they are writing their story.

You can also use music as a prompt to creative writing. You could listen to some excerpts of Holst's *The Planets* (*Mars* is particularly evocative) or the film music from the Disney version of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* or one of the *Harry Potter* films. Ask the children **how does the music make them feel? What pictures is the composer trying to paint with the music?**

Top Tip 4

Draw a Story Map

Draw a Story Map of your fantasy world. Then decide what is your character's quest? Where does your character start on the map? And where do they need to get to? What are the 3 hazards they will encounter on the way? And how will they overcome them?



Top Tip 5

Create a Sidekick Character

All good adventure stories need a sidekick character. Vashti encouraged the children in her video to dream up their own robot pet.

Activity 1

Taking all of Vashti's top tips above, create your own fantasy story maps.

This can be done in pairs or small groups, ideally on a large A3 sheet of paper, or as a class. Watch the ideas flow!

The children can then annotate their maps with any of the following:-

- a). A compass
- b). Notes on their map – e.g. how things work
- c). A key
- d). An enlarged illustration of what part of their map

Activity 2

Using their story maps, you can do the following activities with the children:-

- a). Write a scene from their story, or the whole story
- b). Draw a central character with their sidekick character
- c). Write a picture book for a child in Reception based on their fantasy world
- d). Create a Fantasy Fact File for their story map world

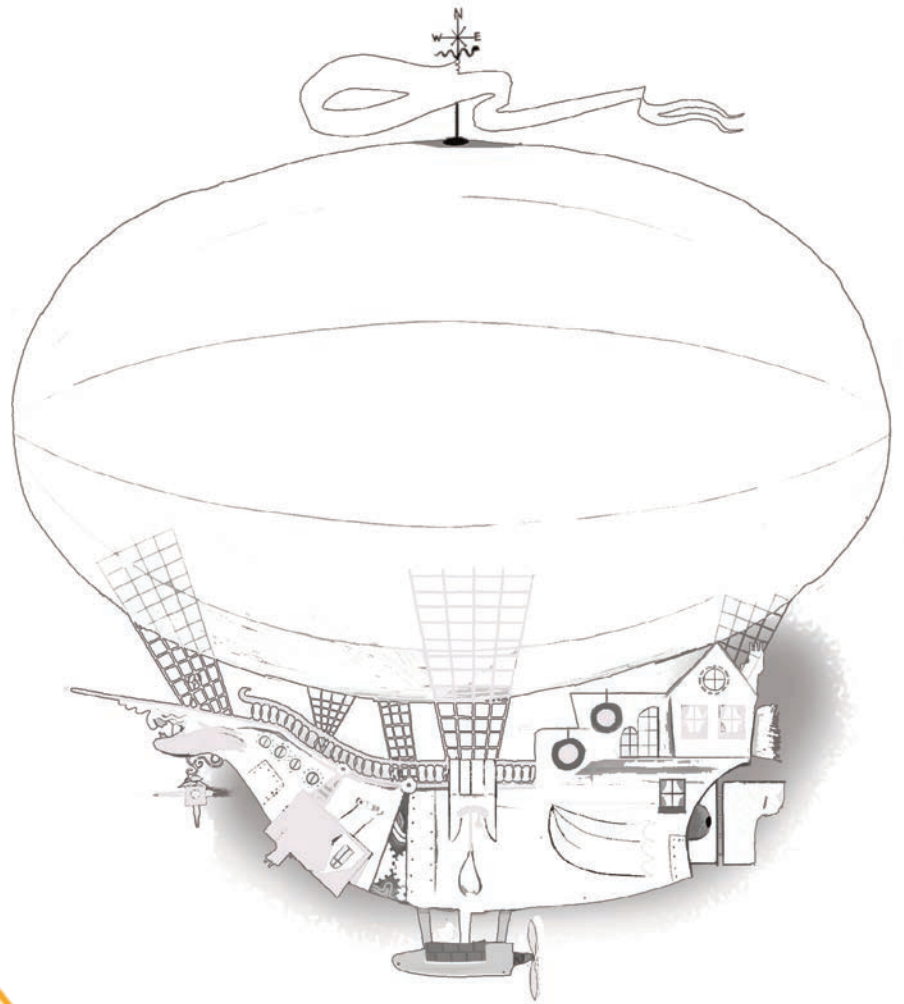
ACTIVITY 3

recommended for Years 5-7

As a class, read Vashti Hardy's story *Brightstorm*. This could be aloud in the classroom or with children reading chapters at home, or a mixture of both.

Vashti Hardy has a vast array of downloadable resources based on *Brightstorm* for you to use with your children or class on her website

<https://www.vashtihardy.com/download-resources>



4. Gary Northfield



About Gary

Gary Northfield has been writing and drawing comics since 2002. He is most famous for *Derek the Sheep* - a comic strip that appeared in *The Beano* and created many jolly comics for magazines such as *National Geographic Kids* magazine, *The Phoenix*, *The Dandy*, *The DFC*, *Horrible Histories* magazine, *Horrible Science* magazine and *The Magical World of Roald Dahl*.

Gary is also the author of the highly-acclaimed books, *The Terrible Tales of the Teenytinysaurs*, *Gary's Garden* and the brilliant *Julius Zebra* series from Walker Books.

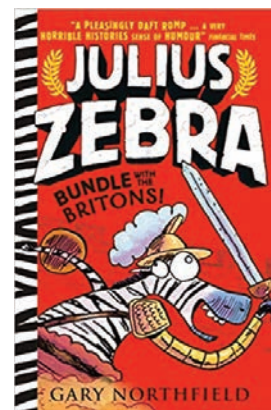
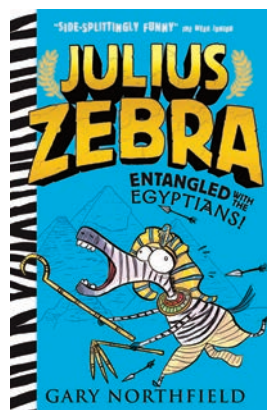
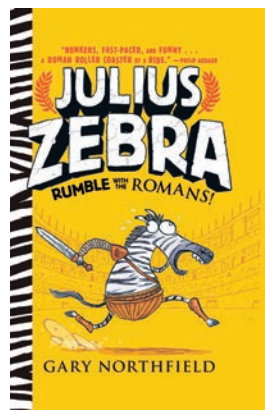
One of his favourite subject matters is animals and their jolly lives and he often wonders what they think about the world they live in.



www.garynorthfield.com

Watch Gary Northfield's video with your class. It's the ideal video for World Book Day as it includes a good amount of Gary reading aloud from his funny story *Julius Zebra: Rumble with the Romans* and a draw-along for the children to join in with.

Materials needed: - paper and pencil for draw along
(learning how to draw Julius Zebra)



ACTIVITY 1

Create your own cartoon character



Ask the children to think of an animal to base their own cartoon character upon.

Next ask the children to write down a few key words to describe their character's personality – examples determined, fierce, feisty, gentle, meek etc.

Now spend some time doodling their character. Ask the children to draw their character in different moods – happy, angry, surprised. It's all in the eyebrows! Use different eyebrows (lines up or down or flat) to create different moods for their characters, as well as smiles and frowns.

Game idea!

A great game to play here (to get them started) is pulling faces: Firstly face a partner. Then one person covers their mouth and nose and then pulls a face. Their partner has to try and guess the mood of the other person by eyes and eyebrows alone. This causes great hilarity and is also useful in getting them to think of the facial expressions their characters might have.

Time to give our character a story!

Use the following open questions to prompt the children's thoughts and imagination:-

What has happened to this character?

You could think of a period of history to put your character in – Saxons, Romans, Vikings, Tudors.

Where have they come from?

Have they been on a journey or are they about to set off on a quest?

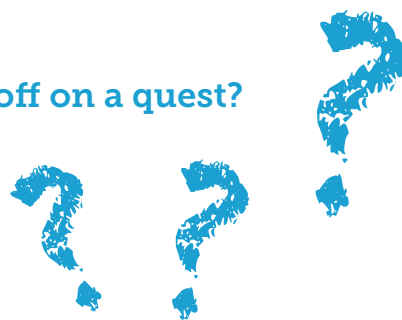
What happens next?

Who do they meet on the way?

Do they get into any trouble or danger?

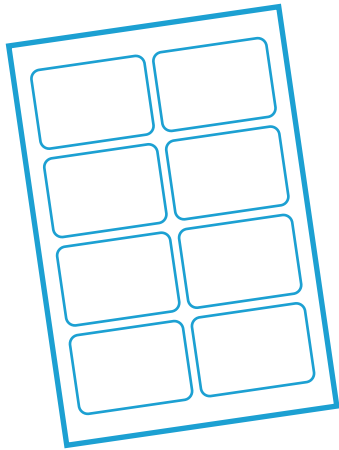
Who rescues them or do they rescue themselves?

If you have time, you could ask the children to jot down the main points of their story and divide these events into 8 different scenes.



ACTIVITY 2

Create your own comic strip



You could print out the template on the following page OR

Take a piece of A4 paper and draw 8 equal boxes on to it (draw a horizontal line across the centre, then a vertical line centre and 2 more equal lines either side of the centre line).

Ask the children to draw the 8 scenes to tell their story.

Remind them that when creating speech bubbles to write the words and then put the bubble around afterwards!

This is a great activity for children to learn that they can tell a story in mainly pictures rather than words and also to think carefully about the few words they can use. It's ideal for children who find writing a struggle but also a great challenge for children who like to write to think about pictures as the driver for a story.

Walker, the publishers of Gary Northfield's Julius Zebra books, have produced a fantastic and highly comprehensive chapter-by-chapter reading guide for teachers and home educators which is bursting at the seams with further activities based on the *Julius Zebra: Rumble with the Romans!* book. You can download their guide here:

https://www.walker.co.uk/UserFiles/file/Julius_Zebra_Teachers_Notes.pdf

5. Lucy Walters

Alice in Wonderland Story Time



This is the ideal introduction for children in Years 1 and 2 to learn how to create their own story character.

Lucy-Walters ©Michael-Wharley-2020



Watch the Lucy Walters video with your children

**As a class, create a character and give it a name.
Come up with some story ideas.**

Then when your class is feeling more confident, ask the children to work by themselves or in pairs working through the following steps as Lucy outlines in her video.

1. Name your character
2. Once your character has a name, ask yourself lots of questions about your character, for example:-

What does your character look like?

What are they like as a friend?

Where do they live?

What do they like doing?

What don't they like doing?

What are they afraid of?

Do they have any secret superpowers?

And the most important question of all:

What do they want more than anything else in the world?

You could print these questions out with answer boxes to help the children create a mind map of their character.

3. Put your character in a situation and write down what they say and do

Confident writers can then write a short story about their character and what happened to them.



6. Tor Freeman Storyboarding

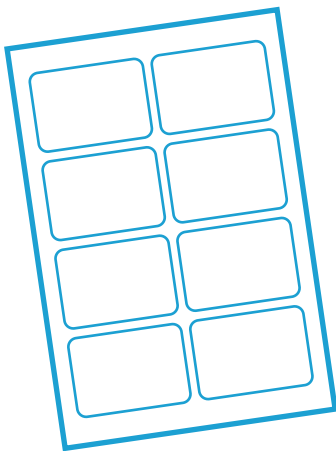


About Tor

Tor Freeman is an author, illustrator and comic artist. Over the last 19 years, she has illustrated picture books and chapter books, written her own stories and been published in the UK and worldwide. She is a regular contributor to weekly story comic, *The Phoenix*. She has won both the Sendak Fellowship and the Observer/Cape/Comica graphic short story prize.

Tor's most recent books include the *Digby Dog* series, *The Toucan Brothers* and an all-ages comic, *Welcome to Oddleigh*. Tor lives in London and shares a studio in Soho.

www.torfreeman.com



Get your story brains working!
Make your own story board!

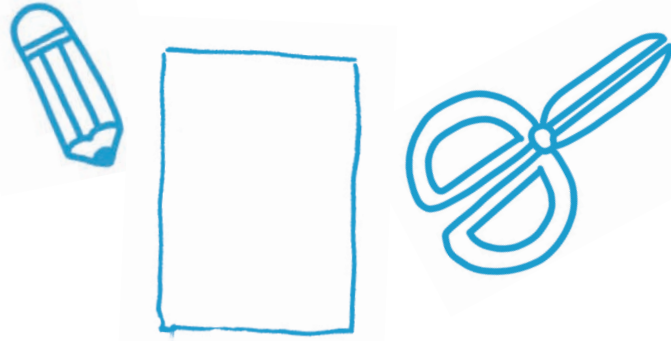
Each pupil will need some blank A4 paper, a pencil and scissors to make their own short comic story with different endings.



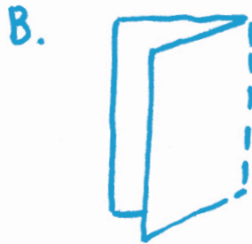
Storyboard Worksheet

You will need:

- A4 Printer Paper
- Scissors
- Pencil / Pen



1. Take a piece of A4 paper and fold it into four:



2. Open out and cut along fold lines - now you have four slips of paper.

3. On one piece (*landscape layout*, ) **DRAW YOUR CHARACTER**

Character prompts (pick one or choose your own)

Cat in trousers Alien Worm with a hat Robot Wizard

4. On your second piece draw **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...**

Prompts (or choose your own)

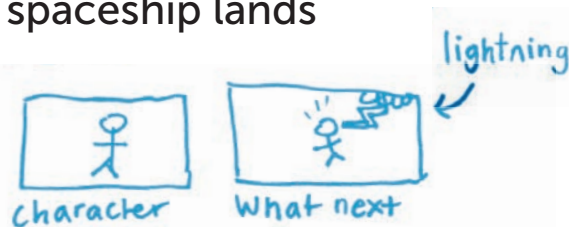
A weird weather event

Another character appears

Character falls down

A spaceship lands

5. Now you have two panels:



6. Now we will imagine **TWO DIFFERENT** possible endings.

Make them as different from each other as they can be!

DRAW TWO DIFFERENT PANELS!

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES!

