

TEENY TINY TALES

WEEK BEGINNING 18th May

- An optional task for this week is to create a teeny tiny tale! You are going to write a very short story to read to one of your pets, your much-loved teddy bear, or a favourite character from a film, book or computer game. Once you have written the story, you are going to create a teeny tiny book to write it in, before reading it aloud to your pet, teddy bear or character!



- We've broken the task down into five sections for you, so that you can spread the task out over the course of the week. As ever though, it is entirely up to you whether you choose to work this way – you may decide you want to go ahead and create your entire book on Monday!

MONDAY 18th May - RESEARCHING YOUR TALE: GROWING YOUR IDEA

- It is very important to consider your audience carefully – who will be reading your writing, or will have it read to them? Choose one of your favourite cuddly toys, a book, film or game character, or you might like to write something especially for a pet (even goldfish have the right to enjoy wonderful books ...!).

- Once you've chosen your audience, think about the sorts of stories they might enjoy. Do you want yours to involve something they like doing, e.g. finding the perfect squeaky toy, or hunting for lost treasure in spooky tombs? Would they want to hear about characters similar to those they spend time with, e.g. a threadbare teddy bear, an adventurous wizard?

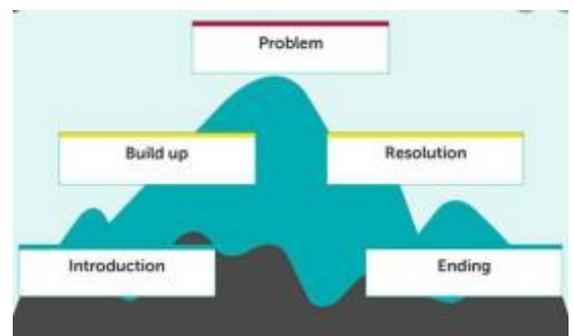


- How do you want them to feel when they are told your tale: reassured, or excitedly nervous about what might happen next? Jot down a few notes or just three or four words to summarise what you are hoping to achieve.

- Now begin to form your ideas into a storyline – remember that it is only going to be a very short story (a teeny tiny tale!) so you need to keep your plot simple! A possible idea might be that someone wants something for a reason so does something to try and get it; they meet a particular difficulty; they deal with this difficulty and end up either with what they wanted, or not but having learned an important lesson. (You can find some basic plot ideas by looking at narrative blueprints here:

<https://www.babcockldp.co.uk/improving-schools-settings/english/reading/narrative-blueprints> - look at the 'Simplified features of plot' column. All stories ever written fit into one of these narrative blueprints!)

- Once you've decided on your simple plotline, practise orally telling it to someone – an adult, a sibling, your pet dog, your teddy bear (just make sure it's not the 'person' that your finished book is going to be for!)



TUESDAY 19th May –WRITING THE FIRST DRAFT OF YOUR TALE

- Remind yourself of your plan from yesterday.
- Jot down some vocabulary that will be useful in describing the characters (it's probably best to stick to a maximum of two), settings and action (think about your verb choices and how to 'show not tell').
- Write the first draft of your story, remembering that you won't have many pages to fill in your book so your story will need to be very short (or your handwriting really tiny!).

WEDNESDAY 20th May EDITING YOUR TALE

- Remind yourself of the notes you made on Monday to summarise how you want your particular reader to feel. Read through your story from yesterday and choose 3 nouns/noun phrases to look at again: are the words you've chosen to build them clear enough and helpful enough for the reader to imagine what you're describing fully?



- Select a few verbs to think about: do they, and any adverbs, properly describe the action you'd intended while also hinting at how the reader should feel about this, e.g. think about the difference between 'snarled' and 'growled' – which is crueller, fiercer, more menacing? Edit your writing, making the necessary improvements.
- Is your writing accurate? Without correct punctuation, spelling and sentences that make complete sense, it will be very difficult (and frustrating) for someone to read. Proofread and correct what you need to.
- This would be a good time to see if an adult can have a read of your story and give you some pointers of what you could improve.

THURSDAY 21st May MAKING YOUR MINIATURE BOOK

- Today you are going to make your actual miniature book!
- In the past, miniature books were created to help children learn to read by reading to their dolls! Many famous authors, such as Charlotte Brontë, A A Milne (author of 'Winnie the Pooh') and James Barrie (author of 'Peter Pan') created tiny books, measuring 57mm high and 47mm wide – around the same length as a mouse's tail!
- If you'd like to find out more about these miniscule books, have a look at these weblinks:
<https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/make-a-miniature-book>
<https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/the-infants-library>
- Read on to follow the instructions to make your own miniature book...

How to make your book

Tools & Materials needed to make one 5.5cm x 4cm miniature book

Light weight paper - 1 sheet of A4 plain paper (computer printer paper is perfect); This sheet will make two miniature books. A range of coloured paper for covers, Decorative papers – for example, wrapping paper or origami paper, for covers and endpapers, Scissors; Small elastic band (3cm diameter); Small plastic ruler; Bull dog clip or clothes peg; Pencil; Stick glue



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Fold your paper

Fold the A4 in half, short side to short side – Take your time to try and match the corners and then flatten the paper with your hand. Now hold your ruler between your thumb and fingers and firmly run it along the crease. Use your ruler to firmly crease your paper every time you fold it. Cut or tear the A4 sheet in half, short side to short side. Save one half to make another book later.

Fold the paper in half, short side to short side, and in half again, short side to short side, And in half again, short side to short side. Open the paper up - there will be 8 rectangles. These rectangles will become the pages of your book.

Cut the paper with scissors, so you have four sets of folded double pages. Fold the cut sheets in half, short side to short side. Put the folded pieces inside one another.

This folded block will become the pages of your book. It is called the book block. Put the book block to one side.

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Cut the paper with scissors, so you have four sets of folded double pages.
Fold the cut sheets in half, short side to short side.
Put the folded pieces inside one another.
This folded block will become the pages of your book.
It is called the book block.
Put the book block to one side.



Make your cover boards

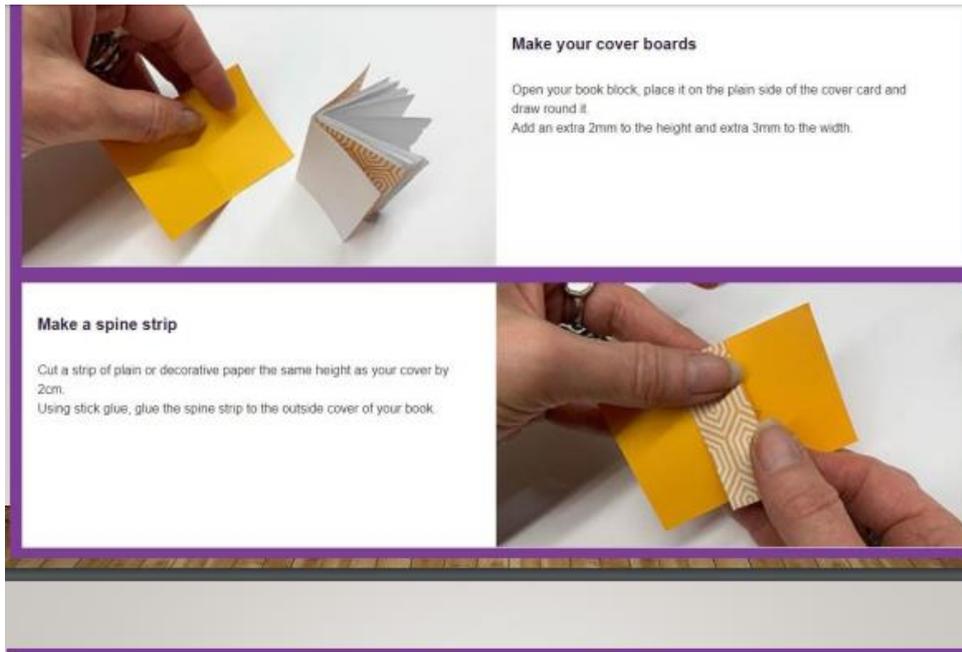
Open your book block, place it on the plain side of the cover card and draw round it. Add an extra 2mm to the height and extra 3mm to the width.

Make a spine strip

Cut a strip of plain or decorative paper the same height as your cover by 2cm. Using stick glue, glue the spine strip to the outside cover of your book.

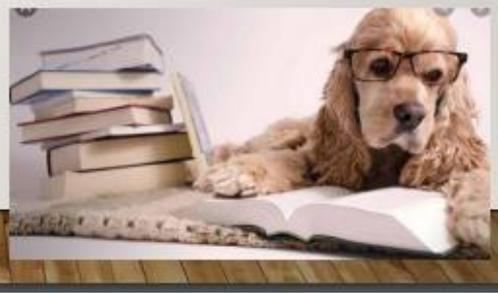
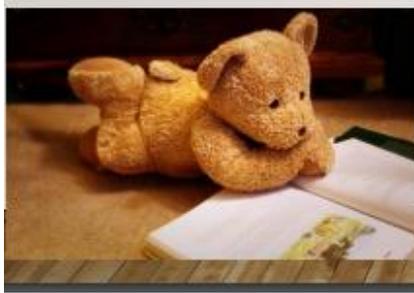
Assemble your book

Wrap the cover around your book block. Open the entire book to the middle page and "bind" your book together with the elastic band.

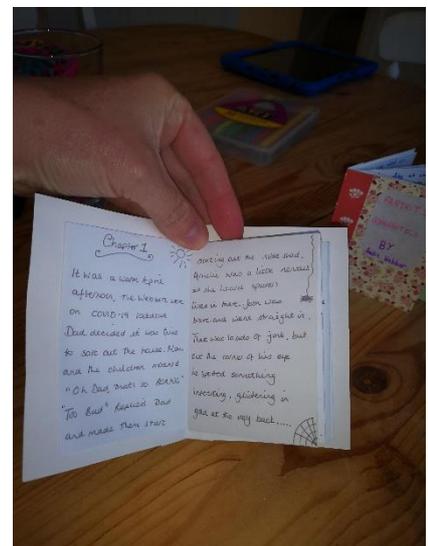


FRIDAY 22nd May –WRITING THE FINAL DRAFT OF YOUR BOOK

- Before you start to write up your teeny tiny tale, think carefully about how you will split up the story so it will fit on the limited number of pages you have in your tiny book. You can always make a few more pages if you need to as long as you re-secure them with the elastic band – you need to make that decision now though, before you start writing, as the additional pages will end up in the middle of the book.
- Neatly write your edited story into your miniature book and illustrate if you wish and have enough space.
- We'd love to see some examples of your work, so email us some pics!



Mrs Webber has had a lot of fun making teeny tiny tales with her children...she even made one herself!



AND FINALLY, SHARING YOUR TEENY TINY TALE!

• Settle yourself down somewhere comfortable with your favourite toy, obedient dog, or whoever else you've written for. Enjoy reading your teeny tiny masterpiece aloud to them!
IF YOU'VE ENJOYED MAKING YOUR TEENY TINY BOOK, HERE ARE SOME IDEAS FOR A SECOND BOOK

• Think about the interests and opinions of a different toy/character/pet. Edit your story to create a second version tailored especially for them. You will need to think about the vocabulary you choose to use – should it be easier for a younger or less confident reader, harder, more descriptive, more comforting and positive for toys that get easily scared or more chilling for braver ones, for example? What about your sentences? Should they be longer or shorter, written so it takes more time before the action is revealed in order to keep this new reader in suspense (e.g. with a fronted adverbial and then the verb later on or with use of the passive voice to hide the person doing the action at first, etc.)

• Create a sequel or prequel... or whole trilogy!

• Write and make another book that the same toy/character/pet might be interested in having read to them. Try a non-fiction text this time, for example. What might they enjoy finding out more about?