

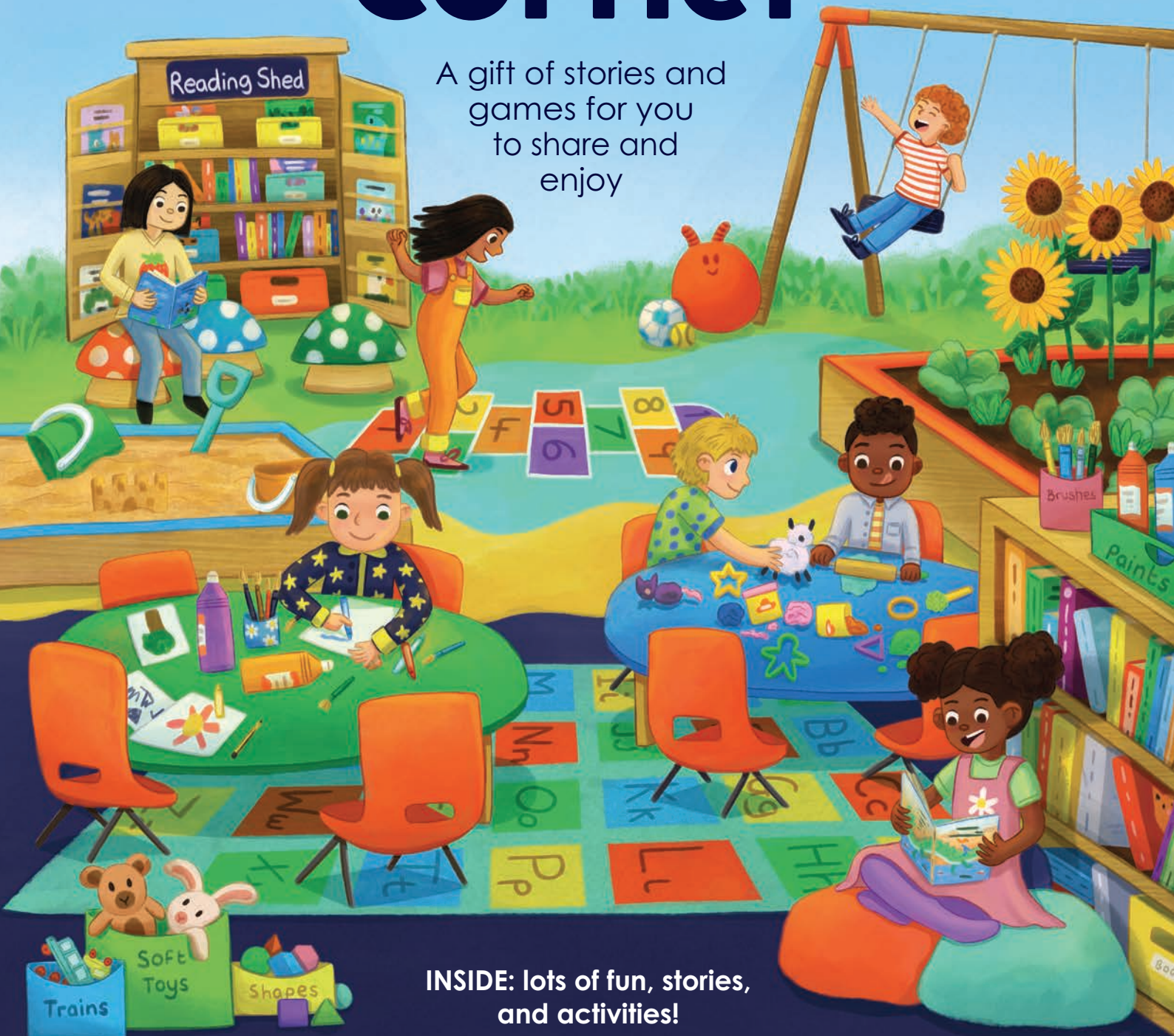


Bookmark
Reading Charity

Story Starter
Programme

The Story Corner

A gift of stories and
games for you
to share and
enjoy



INSIDE: lots of fun, stories,
and activities!

THIS BELONGS TO:

Welcome Parents & Carers!

Even before babies speak or understand words they are fascinated by books. Hold a six-month old baby on your lap with a book and they will want to turn the pages. It's as if they know in their bones that each new page is a new exciting adventure. Engaging in any kind of one-on-one activity with young children is precious, intimate brain-building time. Spending time together with stories and pictures from as early possible hardwires a love of each other and of books and reading into your child's brain.

It's easy to put young children off reading when they start school and the pressure and competition mounts. Some children get the hang of it quickly whilst others take their time. I would say keep reading to your child until they are ready to do it for themselves. They will definitely read eventually, and much more quickly without the pressure.

 **Dr Niki Cooper**
Clinical Director, Place2Be



Place2Be is a leading children's mental health charity providing school-based support and training programmes to improve the emotional wellbeing of pupils, families, teachers and school staff. The charity currently works in over 500 UK primary and secondary schools, supporting a school community of around 300,000 children and young people.

Scan
for more



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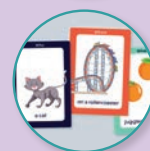
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Bow Meow Wow



written and illustrated
by Priya Kuriyan



How do you
think the dog
is feeling?

-  happy
-  shocked
-  sad



What names would you give to the dog and cat?



Dog's name:

Cat's name:

MEOW!

Follow the paint...

How do you think the cat is feeling?

- 😊 happy
- 😱 shocked
- 😞 sad



How do you think the artist is feeling?

- 😊 happy
- 😱 shocked
- 😞 sad





What do you think will happen next?

Bow Meow Wow (English), written and illustrated by Priya Kuriyan, published by Pratham Books (© Pratham Books, 2018)
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Editorial and design changes have been made by Sarah Harrison Illustration. Artwork by Sarah Harrison © 2024.

Can you put the story in the right order?

Write numbers 1-6 in the circles





The other Way

Find these circles in the story and do the actions

written by Radha Rangarajan
illustrated by Garima Gupta

Stretch
up tall
like a
tree

Tall like a tree

Short like grass

Up in the sky
is a cloud

Down in the soil
is an earthworm

Wiggle like
a worm

Light like a petal

Heavy like a rock

Flap your
arms like a
dragonfly's
wings

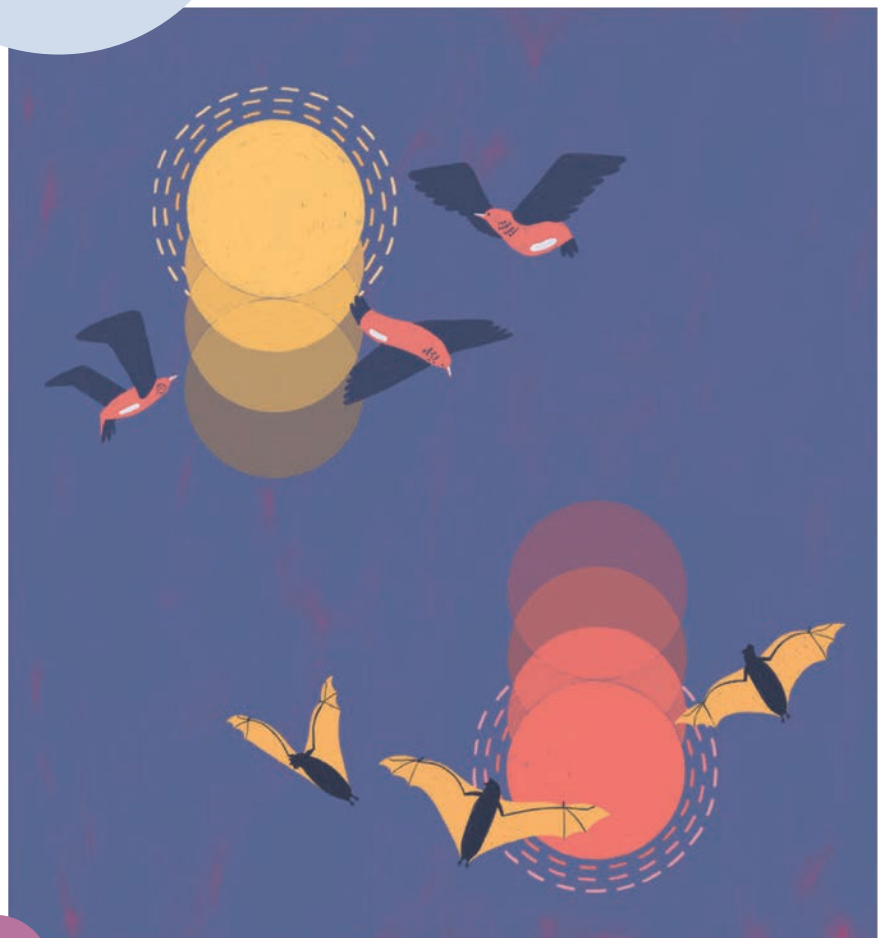
Over the leaf is
a caterpillar

Under the leaf is
a dragonfly

Crawl quickly
like a squirrel



Slide on the
ground like
a snail



Quick as a squirrel

Slow as a snail



Above the tree
is the moon

Below the tree
is you!

The Other Way (English), written by Radha Rangarajan, illustrated by Garima Gupta, supported by Oracle, published by Pratham Books (© Pratham Books, 2018) Under a CC BY 4.0 license on StoryWeaver. Read, create and translate stories for free on www.storyweaver.org.in. Editorial and design changes have been made for *The Story Corner*.



Birds **before** sunrise

Bats **after** sunset



Find the Matching Words

Draw a line between
each pair of opposites



Can you find
the pictures in
the story?



When I Grow Up

written by Michele Fry
illustrated by
Simóne van der Spuy

designed by Jennifer Jacobs,
edited by Zanri Kritzing,

Who do I want to
be when I grow up?



When I grow up, I want to be a
firefighter and put out big fires.

When I grow up, I want to be
a **ballet dancer** and dance
on stage.



When I grow up, I want to be a **doctor**
and make sick people better.



When I grow up, I want to be a
musician and play in a band.



What music
would you
like to play?



Show someone
at home your
favourite dance
moves!



When I grow up, I want to be a
mechanic and fix formula one cars.





When I grow up, I want to be a **teacher** and teach children.



How would you feel if you scored a winning goal?

When I grow up, I want to be a **football player** and score the winning goal.



When I grow up, I want to be an **astronaut** and fly to the moon.



When I grow up, I want to be a **chef** and make food for everyone to enjoy.



MISSING IMAGE

When I grow up, I can choose to be whatever I want to be!



When I Grow Up (English), written by Michele Fry, illustrated by Simóne vander Spuy, designed by Jennifer Jacobs, edited by Zanri Kritzing, published by Book Dash (© Book Dash, 2016). Under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 license. Find out more at bookdash.org/books. Editorial and design changes have been made for *The Story Corner*.

Who do you want to be when you grow up?
Draw it here:



Name

I want to be

Draw the Letters

Aa Bb

Cc Dd Ee Ff

Gg Hh Ii Jj

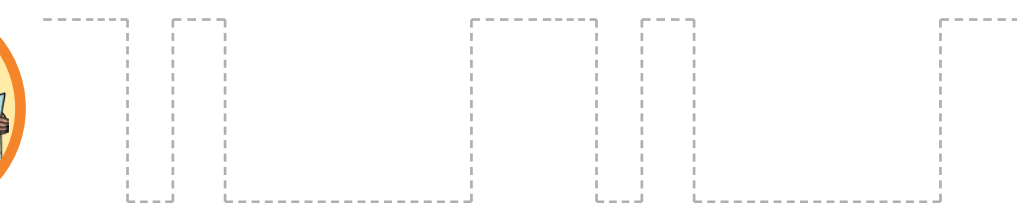
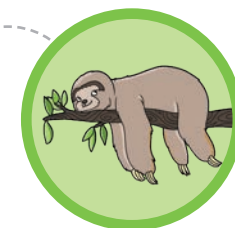
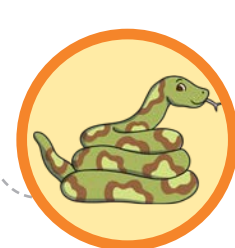
Kk Ll Mm Nn

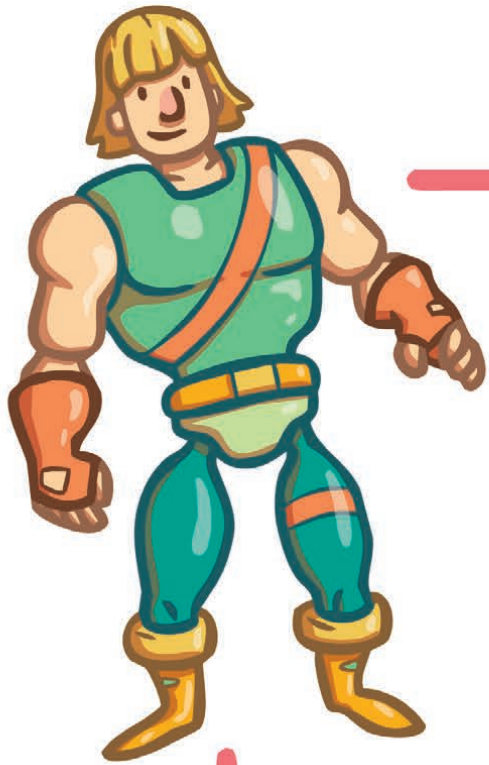
Oo Pp Qq Rr

Ss Tt Uu Vv

Ww Xx Yy Zz

Use your pencil to trace the lines from left to right. Can you follow the patterns to help the children to find the rainforest animals?





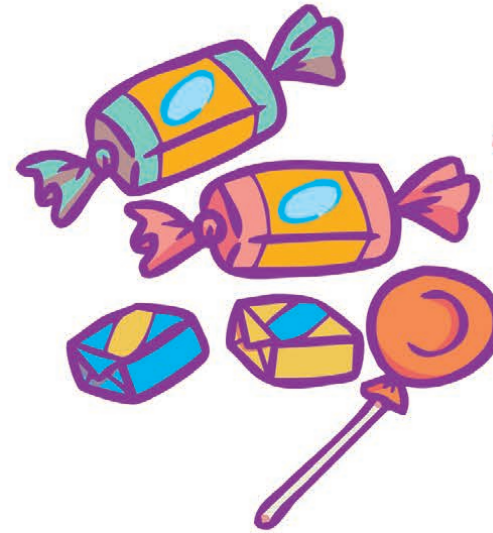
I Like

I like puddles
when it rains.
I like cars and
trams and trains.

I like birthdays,
Bonfire Night
and watching jumbo
jets take flight.

I like burgers,
chunky chips
and Grandma's famous
chicken strips.

I like dogs and
climbing frames,
reading books
and playing games.



Can you find the
things you like too? If not,
draw them around
the poem

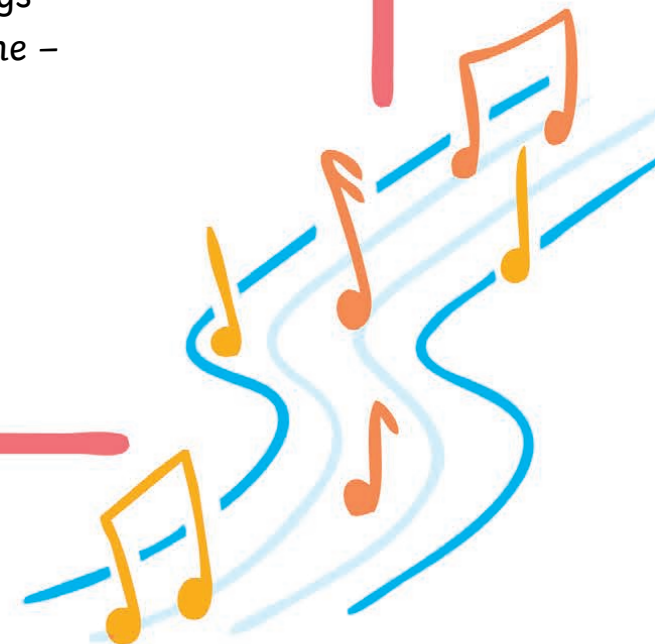
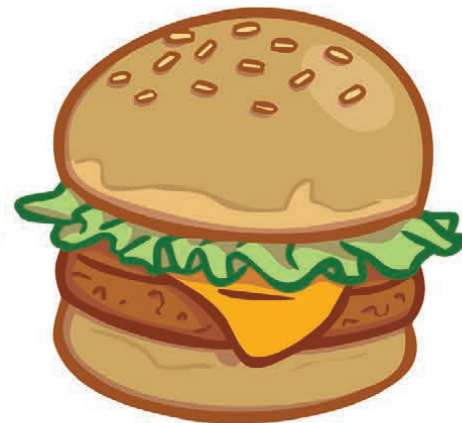


I like the colour
of my eyes.
I like the way
my hairdo lies.

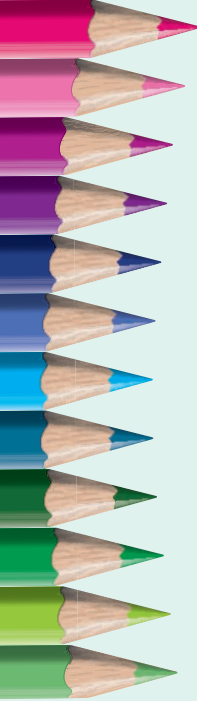
I like the way
I treat my friends
and share my sweets
and toys and pens.

I like it when
I get a chance
to be myself;
to sing and dance.

I like the things
that make up me –
this is who
I like to be!



scan here for a free poetry taster pack!



colour me in!

can you spot the...



fox



bird



cat



hedgehog



Story Builder Game

Your Story Starter Programme pack includes a set of Story Builder cards

Let's make a story together using those cards!

In the box, you will find three types of cards

Who

Character e.g.
a pirate, a cat

Where

Settings e.g.
in a rainforest,
on the moon

What

Actions e.g.
juggles oranges,
flies a kite

How to Play

- Split the cards into the correct categories
- Shuffle each category and place on the right box above
- Turn over the top card, or ask your child to select a card from each pile
- You should then have the following
 - 1 'Who' card
 - 1 'Where' card
 - 1 'What' card



Scan here
for more
playing tips!

Build Your Story

Help your child create a fun, silly, or exciting story using the three cards.

For example:
"Once upon a time, a cat (Who)
on a rollercoaster (Where)
juggles oranges (What)!"



Top 10 Tips for Family Reading

Reading helps your child's wellbeing, develops imagination and has educational benefits too. Just a few minutes a day can have a big impact.

1. Read aloud regularly

Try to read to your child every day. It's a special time to snuggle up and enjoy a story. Stories matter and children love re-reading them and poring over the pictures. Try adding funny voices to bring characters to life.

2. Encourage reading choice

Give children lots of opportunities to read different things in their own time - it doesn't just have to be books. There's fiction, non-fiction, poetry, comics, magazines, recipes and much more. Try leaving interesting reading material in different places around the home and see who picks it up.

3. Read together

Choose a favourite time to read together as a family and enjoy it. Make a calm, comfortable place for your family to relax and read independently - or together. This might be everyone reading the same book together, reading different things at the same time, or getting your children to read to each other. This time spent reading together can be relaxing for all.

4. Introduce the features of a book

While reading, draw their attention to the parts of the books - the cover, the author, the page number. Demonstrate how to handle books and turning the pages one at a time. Show children where the text is, and how English print is read left to right and top to bottom. Point out that sentences start with capital letters and end with full stops. Explain the idea of a 'word' to children, and that some words are longer than others and how there is always a space before and after a word.

5. Make use of your local library

Libraries are a great place to explore all sorts of reading ideas. Local libraries also offer brilliant online materials, including audiobooks and ebooks to borrow. You can find your local library using your postcode on this website - www.gov.uk/local-library-services



6. Talk about books

This is a great way to make connections, develop understanding and make reading even more enjoyable. Start by discussing the front cover and talking about what it reveals and suggests the book could be about. Then talk about what you've been reading and share ideas. You could discuss something that happened that surprised you, or something new that you found out. You could talk about how the book makes you feel and whether it reminds you of anything.

7. Bring reading to life

You could try cooking a recipe you've read together. Make a shopping list for the recipe and ask them to help you find the items in the shop. See if they can find the words on the shelves. Alternatively, play a game where you pretend to be the characters in a book, or discuss an interesting article you've read.

8. Make reading active

Play games that involve making connections between pictures, objects and words, such as reading about an object and finding similar things in your home. You could organise treasure hunts related to what you're reading. Try creating your child's very own book by using photos from your day and adding captions.

9. Try different types of reading

You can listen to audiobooks almost anytime and anywhere as a family - whether you're in the car or the kitchen, during bath time or bedtime. In the days of tablets, smartphones and smart speakers, listening to digital stories is easier than ever before. You could also try turning on the subtitles while children are watching a programme on TV or a device. This is an easy and inexpensive way to supplement reading skills.

10. Engage your child in reading in a way that suits them

You know your child best and you'll know the best times for your child to read. If they have certain educational needs or disabilities, then short, creative activities may be the way to get them most interested. If English is an additional language, encourage reading in a child's first language, as well as in English. Wordless books are a great starting point for a child's literacy journey, they are engaging and encourage prediction, critical thinking and storytelling. However you read with your child, what matters most is that they enjoy it!

Hello!

My name is Lauren and I'm a member of the Bookmark Reading Charity team.

I've always loved books. Ever since I was young, my favourite thing has been to curl up with a book and get lost in the wonderful worlds created between the pages. When I became a primary school teacher, I got to pass on the joy of reading to the children I taught and reading became a huge part of our daily routines.

Now, at Bookmark, I get to talk about books all day and continue to spark reading enjoyment, especially with our exciting and fun filled *The Story Corner* magazine.

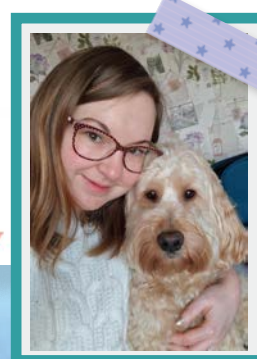
This special issue of the magazine is filled with stories, games and activities for children to enjoy before they start school. It's a great way to find some favourite stories and talk about them with all the new friends you'll make soon!

We've also included some brilliant top tips for families to help bring reading to life and, most importantly, make it fun!

So enjoy the magazine, have fun reading and remember to write your name on the front!

Lauren and Bailey

Lauren 



Try out
these jokes!

What flies in the
sky and wobbles?

A Jelly-copter!

What is a crocodile's
favourite game?

Snap!



This magazine is full of
exciting content thanks to:

StoryWeaver.org.in

BookDash.org

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