



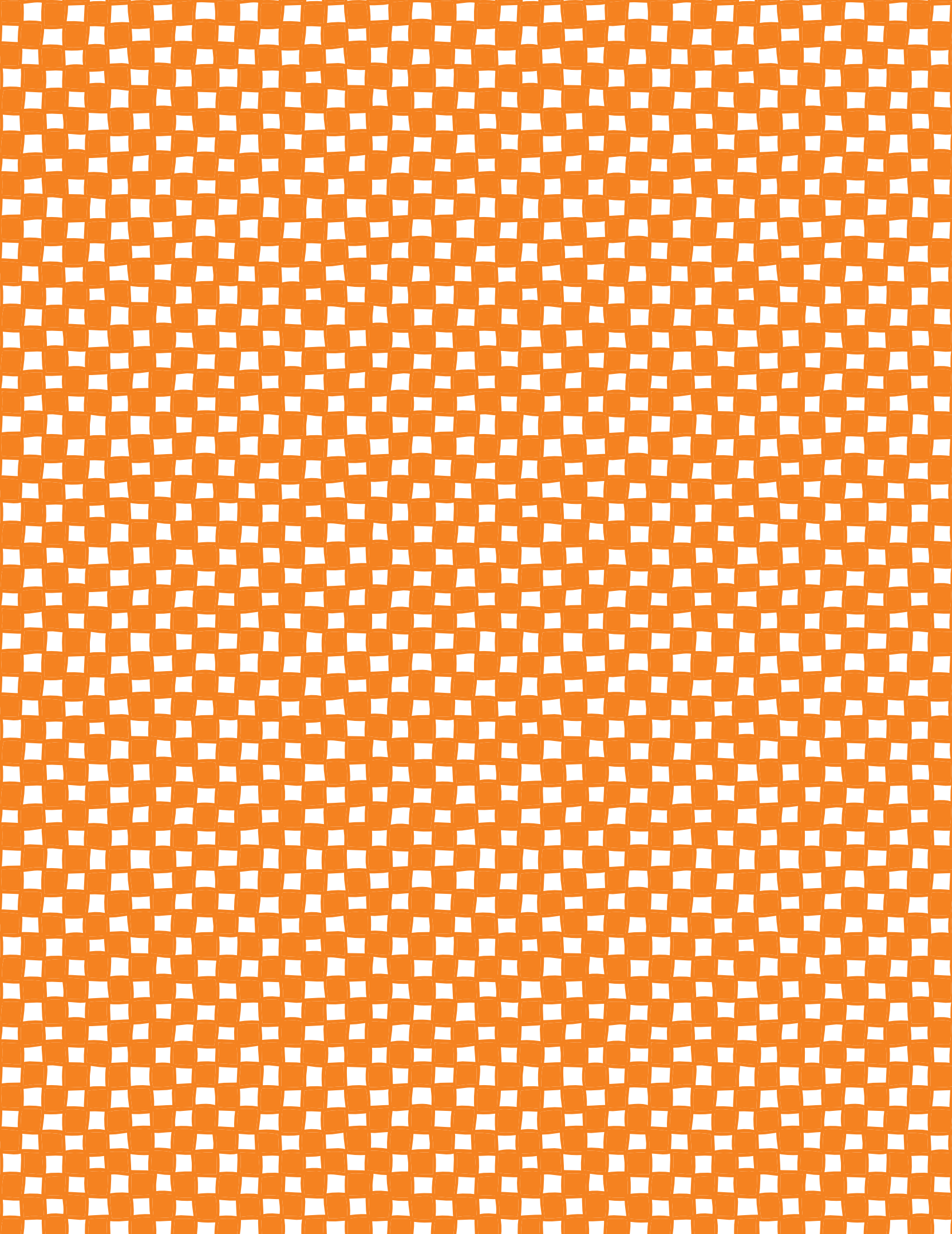
IT'S A WINNER!

# Storytime™

**AWAY  
GAME!**

**THE MAD HATTER** has  
some unexpected guests!

**The Bear in the  
Hut, a Lion that  
Learns a Lesson  
and A BLUE FAIRY!**



# LET YOUR IMAGINATION TAKE YOU ON A JOURNEY!

Visit ancient ages and  
worlds full of wonder –  
or even travel through time!

## THIS ISSUE BELONGS TO:

### SPOT IT!

"She taught him her  
wisdom, and he  
grew strong  
and tall."

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**Carlitos Pinheiro** Away Game!

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**Elena Iarussi** The Bear in the Hut

**Pablo Pino** The Fairy Flag of Clan MacLeod

**Letizia Depedri** Alex's Amazing School

**Pablo Broseta** Osiris and Set

With stories from Scotland,  
Russia and ancient Egypt!



# READ HAPPILY EVER AFTER...

I TAKE PRIDE  
IN MY STORY!

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short stories, Big Dreams

# THE MAD HATTER'S UNEXPECTED GUESTS

**I**t was a strangely quiet and uneventful afternoon in Wonderland. Alice was having tea with the Mad Hatter, the March Hare and the Dormouse.

They had finished the scones and sponge cake, as well as the bread with the finest butter. The Mad Hatter and the March Hare were pouring tea over each other's heads in a friendly way, while the plump little Dormouse had a nap.

That was when the White Rabbit ran up in a panic, waving his watch.

"What are you doing? The Dormouse's relations are visiting at thirteen o'clock, and you've eaten all the food!"

"Oh no!" said Alice, "Can we bake them a cake?"

"How do you bake a cake?" asked the March Hare.

"Well, you need some flour..."







"Some flowers?" squealed the violets and tiger-lilies in the garden. "You can't bake us into a cake!"

"And then you beat some eggs, I think?" Alice continued. "Humpty Dumpty won't like that!" said the Mad Hatter with a grin.

"You are all quite hopeless!" said Alice.

It was then that they heard the sound of many feet marching towards the house. It was the Queen of Hearts, with a whole deck of her card-soldiers!

"I heard you want a cake!" bellowed the Queen. "Not many know this, but I was a baker before I became a queen! How big do you want this cake?"

"Oh, I'm not particular about size," said Alice.

The Queen began yelling out orders, and soon her card-soldiers had found

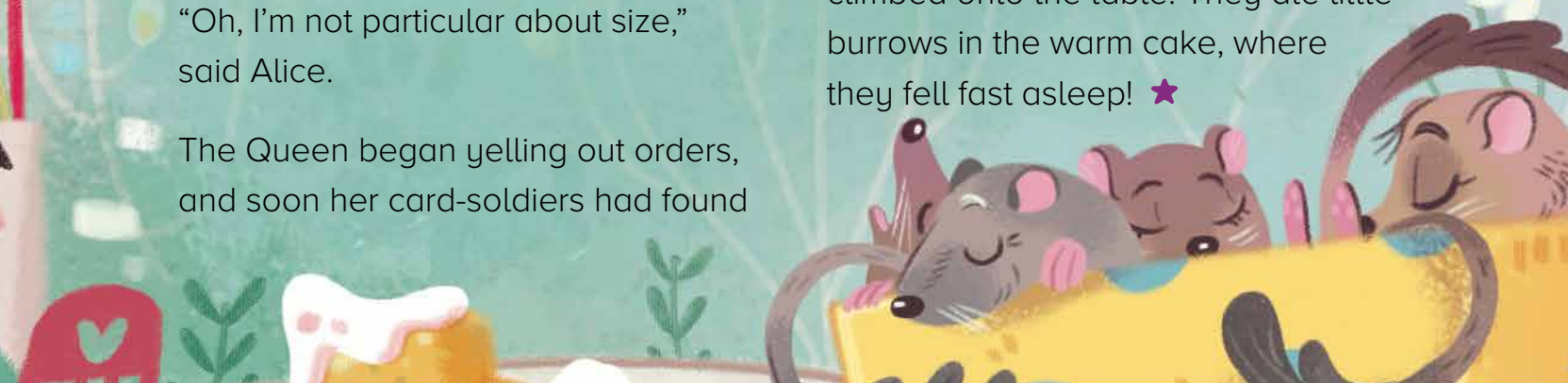
a HUGE bowl, filled it with flour and eggs, and were beating them into a batter. It was poured into a cake-tin and put in the Mad Hatter's oven.

When the Caterpillar arrived at thirteen o'clock, carrying dozens of the Dormouse's sleeping relations on his back, the cake was ready. It was magnificent – as tall as Alice, and so heavy the table groaned beneath it!

"Welcome to Wonderland!" the Queen boomed. "We hope you like this cake!"

The dormice awoke, blinking, and looked at the cake with amazement.

"It is wonderful, thank you most kindly!" said the eldest. With that, the dormice climbed onto the table. They ate little burrows in the warm cake, where they fell fast asleep! ★





# THE LANGUAGE OF ANIMALS

**L**ong ago, in the land of Italy, there lived a wealthy man who had only one son.

He wanted his son to be well-educated, so he sent him off to study at the very best school in the world, which was in a distant country. The boy was clever, and learned many things there. When ten years had passed, the teachers said that they had no more to teach him, and he went home.

The boy's father held a big banquet to celebrate his son's return, and invited many important lords and merchants. After dinner was finished, the boy's father boasted about how well-educated his son was, because he wanted to show off to the important people at the party.





"So, my son, what have you learned at the finest school in the world?" he boomed.

"I have learned many things!" replied his son. "I have learned to understand the language of dogs, frogs and even birds!"

Nobody at the party believed him when he said this, and they began to laugh at him.

"Only a fool would say such a ridiculous thing!" one baron said. "The only person more foolish than you is your father, who wasted so much money on your education!"

The boy's father was furious at his son for embarrassing him. "How

dare you humiliate me with your lies in front of everybody!" he said. "If you are so smart, why don't you leave my house and make your way in the world on your own?"



The son left his father's house with only the clothes on his back, and set out on the road to the nearest city. On the way, he came across the castle of the king's treasurer, and asked if he could sleep in the stables that night.

As evening fell, the dogs in the yard began barking and would not stop. "Why are they making such a noise?" complained the treasurer. ➡







## COUNT IT!

How many blue pigeons  
can you find fluttering  
around in this story?  
**Write the number here!**

The young man could understand what the dogs were saying, and told the treasurer, "They say that a gang of burglars are hiding outside the castle, waiting to break in and steal your gold!"

The treasurer sent his guards to find and arrest the burglars, and thanked the young man for his help. He gave him a fine dinner and some good walking boots, and the young man set off again the next morning.



As evening fell, the young man came to the king's castle. An old lady outside said that the king's daughter was sick, because the frogs in the pond outside her window croaked so loudly that she couldn't sleep.

The young man listened to the croaking of the frogs, and he found out that they

were upset because the princess had dropped a golden necklace in their pond. When he fished it out, they stopped croaking. The princess was so grateful that she invited him to dinner and gave him a nice hat that would protect him from the sun and the rain.

The young man then set off on his journey again and met three other travellers on the road. They walked together and soon became friends.

They decided to camp for the night in a shady grove, but when they sat down, a flock of pigeons settled in the trees and began cooing loudly.

"Why are they making such a racket?" one of his companions asked. The young man listened to the song of the birds, and his eyes widened in wonder.





“The birds say they are excited because the princess of this land will marry soon – and her husband will be one of us!”

With that, a pigeon sat upon the young man’s head and began cooing.

It was then that a messenger on a horse galloped up – which made all the pigeons flutter away.

“I have come looking for the clever young man who stopped the frogs from croaking outside the princess’s window and foiled a robbery at the treasurer’s castle! The princess has decided that she would like to marry him... if he agrees!”

The young man and his companions went with the messenger to the king’s castle, and a wedding was soon arranged between him and the ruler’s daughter.



The young man invited his father to the wedding in the royal castle. His father felt terrible about throwing his clever son out of the house, but the lad forgave him.

The young man and the princess were very happy together. When the king died, they were crowned as the new king and queen, and ruled wisely for many years. ★





# AWAY GAME!

**I**t never would have happened if Jakub hadn't suggested that they take a short cut home.

Lincoln, Jakub and their friend Biggie Dean were walking back to the village after football practice when Jakub said they should turn down Caulfield Lane and cut through the Stony Field.

"It's much faster than going along the main road!" he told them enthusiastically. "We can cut across the fields and jump over my back fence!"





Lincoln wasn't sure, but Biggie Dean just shrugged his shoulders and nodded. It looked like they were taking the short cut.

They set off down the narrow lane in the warm spring sunlight, swinging their schoolbags as the wind blew across the green fields. They had Lincoln's football with them and passed it to each other as they went.

Ahead, they could see the Stony Field and the standing stones that gave it its name. They weren't big and fancy like the ones at Stonehenge, of course.

They were just weather-worn rocks, covered in lichen and arranged in a rough circle about ten metres across. Nobody knew who had built the circle or when, but it was certainly there when the village was founded. They could see the village of Trowbury in the distance beyond the stones, with the row of new houses that they lived in and the old church tower behind.

When they got to the end of the lane and turned into the field, the sun got into Lincoln's face, blinding him for a moment. He blinked hard and then opened his eyes. He could see again, but things looked slightly different. They were still in the Stony Field, and the stones and the walls were still there. But why did they look slightly less weathered and lichen-covered than before? ➡➡







Lincoln saw that the church spire was still in the distance – but where their homes should have been were some white-painted cottages with thick thatched roofs. The fields nearby weren't green with grass – instead, they were covered with golden wheat.

That was when Biggie Dean nudged him and pointed. Three kids were sitting by the wall, staring at them in amazement...

The two boys and the girl were about the same age as them, but their clothes were definitely different! The boys were wearing simple shirts and what looked like woollen tights.

The girl was wearing a woollen vest and a dress made out of rough cloth.

It looked as if they had interrupted a picnic – the kids were eating a big lumpy-looking pie, and there was a small pile of apples in front of them!

Well, somebody had to make the first move! Lincoln walked over to one of the strangers, smiled, and stuck out his hand. "Hello! My name is Lincoln – what's your name?"

The boy looked at him. He was quite burly, with blond hair. After hesitating for a second, he took Lincoln's hand with a smile and shook it.





The big kid then said something to him in a language Lincoln couldn't quite understand. He spoke slowly, and the words seemed to go on for a long time, but he thought he caught the name 'Daniel'.

Daniel then pointed at the other, skinnier boy and the girl, who had freckles and red pigtails that stuck out from her head at strange angles.

"Thomas. Mabel." Thomas gave a shy wave, while Mabel grinned and took a big crunchy bite out of an apple.

Lincoln pointed at Jakub and Biggie. "This is Jakub, he's the best player in our team. And this is Biggie Dean. You can call him Biggie."

The three strangers started talking among themselves while staring at the bright red football kit Lincoln and his friends were wearing.

"What language are they speaking?" asked Lincoln. Jakub shrugged and said, "It's definitely not Polish!"

Biggie then spoke up, which didn't happen often. "It sounds a bit like English – but with different sounds and slower..."

Daniel then pointed at Lincoln's football shirt, and said something that sounded like a question. Lincoln held out the front of his top and said, "This is the kit of Trowbury Rovers, our team. Do you play football?" ➡



Lincoln picked up the ball and showed it to the other kids. “This is a football. You kick it!”

He did a few keepie-uppies, juggling the ball with his feet. Daniel, Mabel and Thomas looked impressed.

He then kicked the ball to Jakub, who did his favourite trick – the around-the-world crossover combo!

Using a lot of pointing, the boys taught the strangers how to play football, and they soon got the hang of it. They divided into teams – Lincoln, Daniel and Mabel against Jakub, Thomas and Biggie.

At first, they thought Mabel couldn’t play because she was in a dress, but she charged about the field with the rest of them! They used the standing stones as goalposts and began kicking the ball about!

Lincoln’s trick of rolling the ball out the way of tackles made Daniel laugh, and Mabel soon figured out how to do that too! Thomas didn’t use fancy footwork, but just charged at the ball with his face curled into a scowl and kicked it as hard as he could! They had a great game, and by the time the sun was going down it was three-all and they were tired out.

“Hey Daniel! Thank you for the game!” Lincoln said. He took off his shirt and handed it to the other boy. “I want you to have this!” Daniel accepted it with a big grin.







It was then that Thomas said something and pointed towards where the sun was setting. Lincoln, Jakub and Biggie looked in that direction, and were temporarily blinded by the orange light of the setting sun...

When they blinked their eyes, they were still in the Stony Field, but the kids in woollen clothes were gone, the sun was setting, and they could see their own houses in the distant village. They weren't sure what had happened, and thought about it in silence as they walked home.

The next day at school, Ms Beeton had a special treat.

"We are starting a module on local history!" she said. "This village has been here for hundreds of years, and this is an old tapestry that shows what life was like here in the Middle Ages!"

She unrolled a big poster of what looked like a big picture sewn in thread. They could see the church, and thatched cottages, and people gathering wheat in the fields. As the class all bent over to have a look, Lincoln noticed something strange, and pointed it out to Jakub and Biggie. In one corner were a girl and two boys kicking a ball made of brown leather – and one was wearing a bright red shirt! ★





# THE LION LEARNS A LESSON

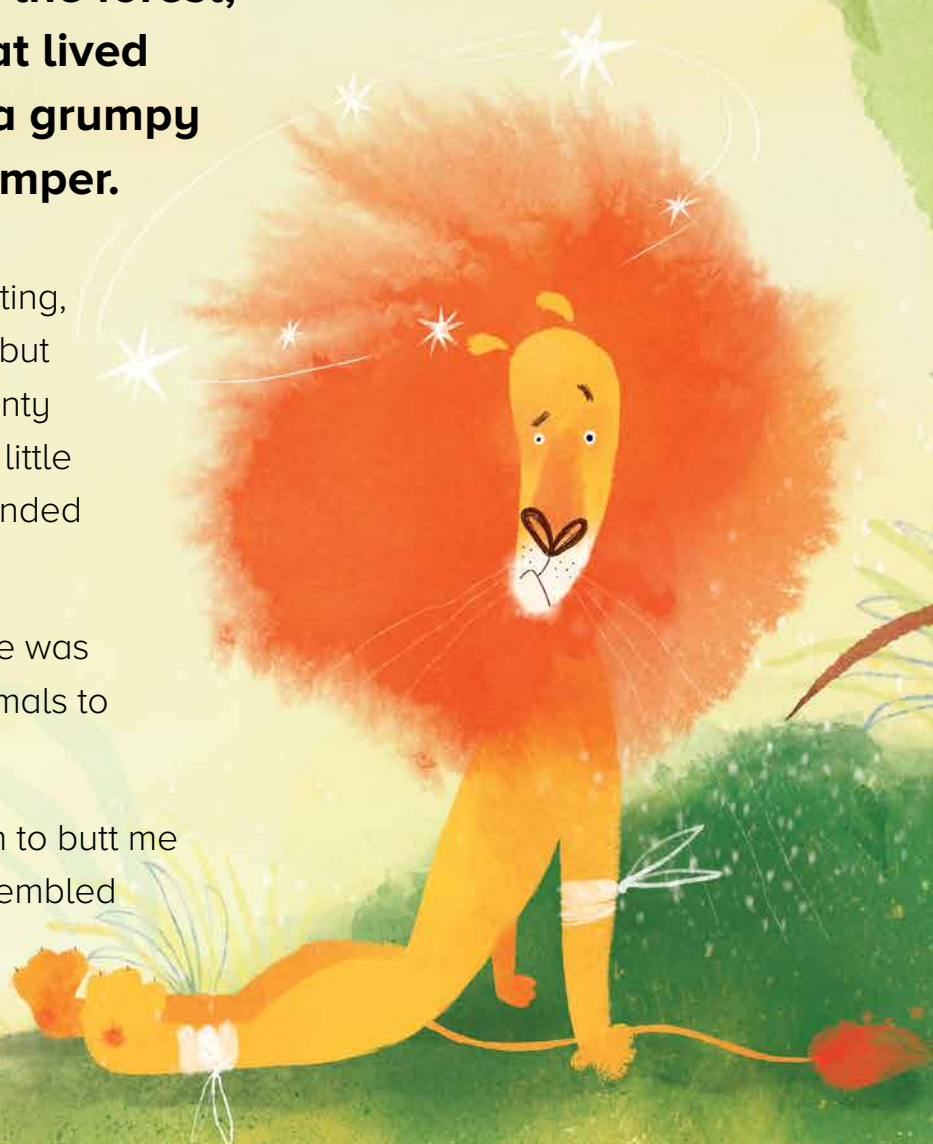
Adapted from Aesop's fable "The Rabbit and his Horns"

**T**he lion was the king of the forest, and all the animals that lived there feared him. He was a grumpy ruler, and had a terrible temper.

One day, when the lion was out hunting, he tried to pounce on a billy-goat – but the billy-goat butted him with his pointy horns and ran away. The lion was a little bit bruised, but what was really wounded was his sense of pride.

He was furious that a mere herbivore was able to hurt him, and told all the animals to gather and hear his announcement.

"Yesterday, a goat was rude enough to butt me with his horns!" he roared to the assembled animals. "All animals with horns must leave the forest!"





The deer, the goats, the elephants, the rhinos, the giraffes and even the tusked elephants were worried, and planned to leave the forest for the lands beyond. Many of the other animals were sad to see their horned friends go, but some of the rabbits muttered that they were pleased, because there would be more grass for them.

The hare heard all of this with his long ears, and it made him sad, because many of the horned animals were his friends.

He said this to a gazelle that was walking past with her fawn, and she said, “Do not worry about us! We will find new friends in a new home, and help make it a better place!”

The hare went to sleep in his nest and woke up the next morning, just as the sun was rising. When he saw his shadow on the ground, the hare got a nasty shock – the shadow of his ears looked a lot like a pair of horns! ➡





“What is wrong?” asked his friend the cricket.

“I just saw my shadow on the ground, and saw that my ears look like horns,” the hare replied. “I should leave the forest too.”

“But why?” asked the cricket.

“I’m worried that one day the lion will mistake my ears for horns, and punish me!” said the hare. “It would be safest if I leave...”

## THINK ABOUT IT!

When the lion gets angry and tells all the animals with horns to leave the forest, the forest becomes a less interesting place! Can you think of a time when you met someone different from yourself, and learned something new and interesting?



That day, the hare and the deer and the goats and the rhinos and the giraffes and the elephants left the forest in a great herd, and went out onto the wide plains beyond.

The next day, when the lion strode through his kingdom, it was very quiet. It felt empty, too, and the few small animals that still lived there hid at the lion's approach.

The lion found that he was sad, as his kingdom was now a miserable and lifeless place. Full of remorse, he sent mouse messengers out far and wide,

letting all the animals know that they were welcome in his forest, whether they had horns or not.

Soon, the hare and the goats and the deer and all their friends returned. The lion was content, for his forest kingdom was happy and full of life once more. ★





# THE BEAR IN THE HUT

**O**nce upon a time, in the land of Russia, a father lived in a cabin in the forest with his only daughter Maroosia – for the girl’s mother had died many years before.

Maroosia was a kind and sweet girl, and her father loved her very much.


One day, Maroosia’s father met a lady that he liked, and he soon married her. But he did not know that this woman was wicked and cruel.

She was very mean to Maroosia and made her do all the work around the house. However, the stepmother wanted to get rid of her stepdaughter altogether. She told her husband, “Take your daughter into the woods in your wagon – and do not bring her back with you!”

This made the man sad, for he loved his daughter, but he felt he could not argue with his wife. So that day, he put Maroosia in his little wagon, drove it into the deep dark forest and gave her a long hug before turning back and returning home by himself.







Maroosia was frightened to be alone in the woods, but after eating some wild strawberries and a crust of bread her father had left for her, she began exploring the forest.

It wasn't long before she came to a tiny cabin. The door was open, and when she knocked there was no answer. She cautiously entered the house and found that no one was there – although there was a bed in the corner, and a spinning-wheel and a pile of flax beneath the window.

She took shelter in the house, waiting for whomever the owner might be, and as the sun began to set, she heard a deep voice sing:

**"Wanderer, outcast, forsaken!**

**Those who the night has overtaken!**

**If you're pure of heart then you might**

**Stay in this cottage overnight!"**

Suddenly, a great bear was at the doorway. He spoke to her in a low and growling voice. ➡



“Hello, young maiden! How did you come to be in my little cottage?”

Maroosia told him the sad story of how her father had left her in the woods, and the beast shook his head.

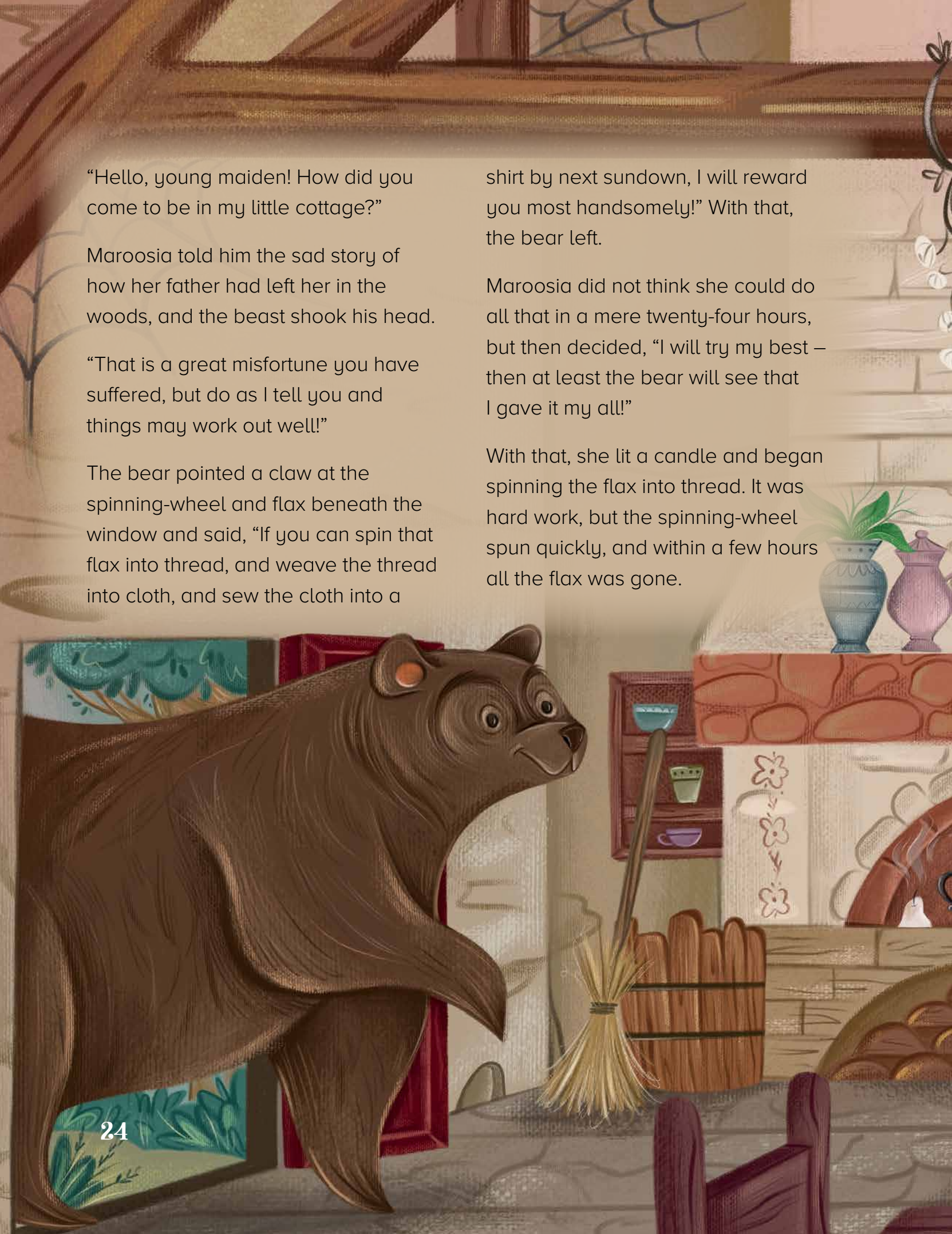
“That is a great misfortune you have suffered, but do as I tell you and things may work out well!”

The bear pointed a claw at the spinning-wheel and flax beneath the window and said, “If you can spin that flax into thread, and weave the thread into cloth, and sew the cloth into a

shirt by next sundown, I will reward you most handsomely!” With that, the bear left.

Maroosia did not think she could do all that in a mere twenty-four hours, but then decided, “I will try my best – then at least the bear will see that I gave it my all!”

With that, she lit a candle and began spinning the flax into thread. It was hard work, but the spinning-wheel spun quickly, and within a few hours all the flax was gone.





By this time, it was late at night, and Maroosia was exhausted. The last thing she thought before she fell asleep was that she had no loom to make the thread into cloth!



When she awoke, the morning sun was streaming in through the window – and Maroosia saw that a fine loom had appeared as if by magic. She sat down at it and had soon woven the thread into cloth.

The next task was the hardest: she cut the cloth into the pieces needed for a shirt, and then began sewing

them together. The sun was setting by the time she finished, and as she put in the last stitch, the bear appeared at the cottage door.

He was pleased with the fine shirt she had made, and told her, “You may stay in my house... but you must make me a big basin of porridge for my supper!”

So Maroosia boiled oats in a great pot, and stirred it while it bubbled. While she was cooking, a little mouse crept from behind the stove and said, “Young lady! Might you spare a spoonful of your porridge for me?” ➔





Maroosia gave the mouse a



**SPOT IT!**

Can you spot all  
these objects hidden  
in the kitchen?



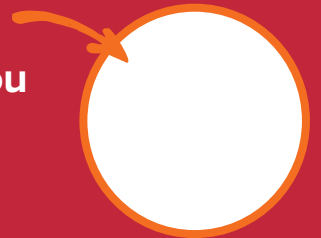
Answer: There are 6 spoons.



*Spoonful, and he was most grateful.*



**How many spoons can you count in this scene? Write your answer here!**







## COLOUR IT!

Why not go to  
[storytimemagazine.com/free](http://storytimemagazine.com/free)  
and download our amazing  
picture of the bear from this  
Russian folk story? Colour it  
in however you like!

She also fed the bear a great basin of porridge. Once he had eaten, he told her, "Thank you for the meal! This evening, I will sleep in this cottage – but you must stay up all night and keep jingling these keys!" He gave her a ring of great iron keys, and went to sleep in the bed.

When he was snoring, the little mouse crept out from behind the stove and told Maroosia, "Dear girl, hide safely behind the stove, and I will jingle the keys for you!"

She did as the mouse asked, and the little rodent began jingling the keys. This made the grumpy bear stir in his sleep and throw a log at where the noise was coming from – but it sailed over the mouse's head and clanged against the stove Maroosia was

hiding behind. Every so often, the bear would hurl a brick or a rock or a candlestick at the source of the jingling noise, but both the mouse and Maroosia were safe.

When the sun rose, the mouse gave Maroosia the keys and hid, while the bear began to stir in his bed.

He stretched, gave a great toothy yawn, and told her, "Thank you, young lady! As a reward, you must look in my left ear!" Maroosia peered into the bear's left ear and saw a great kingdom, with bustling towns, mighty rivers, and fields full of crops.

The bear then told her to look in his right ear, and she saw a fine castle, with tapestries, soldiers, and stables full of horses.



The bear then told Maroosia, “I was once the king of the land and castle you saw in my ears, until I was turned into a bear by a wicked sorcerer! But the things you have done for me have broken his spell!”

With that, he transformed into a strong, handsome prince with hair the colour of the bear’s fur. He kissed Maroosia on the hand and said. “Now that I am human again, I can return to my kingdom and take it back from the sorcerer who transformed me! Wait for me here and I will come to help you.”

The prince departed, and Maroosia stayed in the house for several days, awaiting his return.

One week later, he arrived in a fine carriage, with an elegant gown and beautiful jewellery for her to wear.

At Maroosia’s bidding, the prince took them to her father’s little cottage. The old man wept tears of joy to see his daughter not only alive and well, but in the company of a kind prince. Maroosia gave him a warm hug and forgave him for abandoning her, as she still loved him very much.

But her evil stepmother was furious to see her stepdaughter, who she thought was gone, wearing such finery. She ran off into the woods, and was never heard from again! ★





# THE FAIRY FLAG OF CLAN MACLEOD

**O**ff the wild and beautiful west coast of Scotland is an even more wild and beautiful island called Skye. On the west side of the island is a castle called Dunvegan, which is the home of the proud Clan MacLeod.





In their castle, the Clan MacLeod keep many special heirlooms, including the Dunvegan Cup and Sir Rory Mor's horn, but the most special of all is the Fairy Flag. Legends tell us that they got this many centuries ago.

According to the stories, a young and brave chieftain of the clan fell in love with a fairy princess, whose father ruled the hidden fairy kingdom. The princess begged the fairy king to let her marry the chieftain, but the king did not want her to. He knew that the chieftain would one day die, as he was only human, while his daughter would live on forever, heartbroken.

However, the princess would not give up the idea, so her father finally declared that she could marry the chieftain for a year and one day, but she must then leave and return to his hidden kingdom.

The princess agreed. She and the young chieftain were married, and she soon gave birth to a fine baby boy. The days flew past, and soon it was time for the princess to leave and go back to the hidden kingdom. At the bridge to the land of the fairies, she kissed her baby and her husband goodbye. ➡





“Promise me you will take good care of our child!” she told the chieftain.

“Never let him cry, or I will hear it and it will make me sad!”

The chieftain promised he would, and watched with tears in his eyes as his beloved crossed the bridge into the misty fairy kingdom.

The chieftain returned to Dunvegan with his child, but was sad for many months because he missed his fairy-wife. His friends held a great feast for him, though, with much piping and dancing, and he briefly forgot about his sadness.

The music and dancing were so joyous that even the nursemaid who was minding the baby went down to listen, leaving the child alone.





When the nursemaid came back, she found the baby in the arms of a mysterious fairy woman, and wrapped in a flag of yellow silk.

“I am the baby’s fairy-mother,” the woman said, “and I have come to comfort him. Take good care of both the baby and the banner he is wrapped in! When the banner is unfurled, the fairy king will send help to your clan – but it will disappear the third time it is used!”

The nursemaid told all this to the chieftain, who ordered the flag to be kept carefully in a special chest until it was needed.

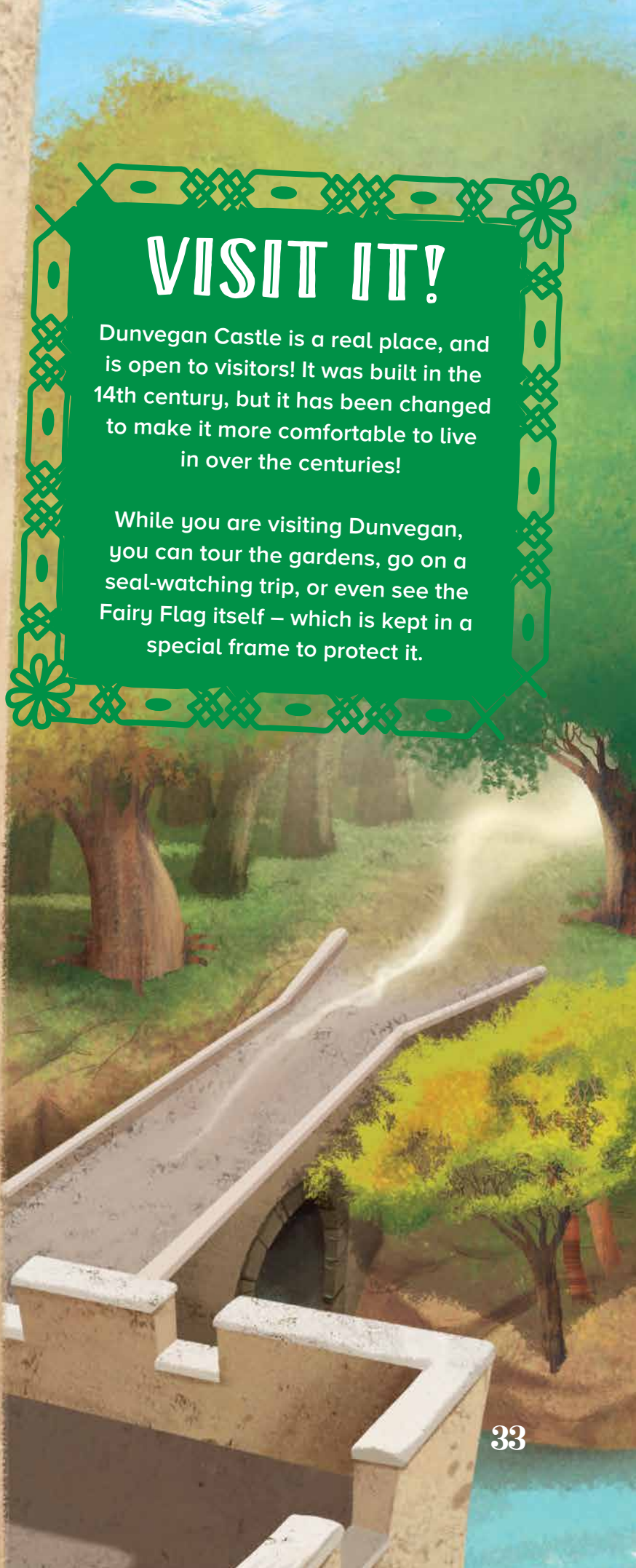


Many years later, the MacLeods were attacked by their enemies the MacDonalds, who burned their castle and trapped the remaining MacLeod warriors on a beach. However, the MacLeod chieftain unfurled the fairy banner, and the MacLeod warriors were joined by a great host of fairy knights in shining armour. They let out a mighty yell and drove the MacDonalds away. ➡

## VISIT IT!

Dunvegan Castle is a real place, and is open to visitors! It was built in the 14th century, but it has been changed to make it more comfortable to live in over the centuries!

While you are visiting Dunvegan, you can tour the gardens, go on a seal-watching trip, or even see the Fairy Flag itself – which is kept in a special frame to protect it.





The MacLeods were proud of their flocks of sheep, which provided fine wool in plenty. One year, the sheep became sick, and the clansmen were worried that they would lose their animals. However, the chieftain unfurled the banner again, and suddenly an army of fairy knights in shining armour charged across the bridge from their hidden kingdom. They touched the sheep in the MacLeod flocks with their shining swords, and the sheep were instantly cured!

The fairy banner is still kept safe by the Clan MacLeod in Dunvegan, and they can still unfurl it if danger threatens... ★





# ALEX'S AMAZING SCHOOL

**S**ome 2400 years ago, in the kingdom of Macedonia, a very special boy was born.

His mother, who believed the legendary hero Achilles was her ancestor, was called Olympias, while his father, King Philip II of Macedonia, claimed to be descended from Hercules himself! They named their son Alexander, and were sure he would be just as mighty as his legendary ancestors!

Macedonia was a wild and mountainous kingdom just to the north of Greece. It was always at war with its neighbours, and Philip had to be smart and tough to protect his kingdom. He wanted Alex to be the same, so he would be a strong king one day.

Philip fought many battles against the Greek cities, but he admired the people of Greece.

"The Greeks are brilliant at art and philosophy and science!" Phillip told his son. "I will get you a Greek teacher, so you can learn how to be a great king!" ➡







Alex's first teacher was a Greek called Leonidas of Epirus. Leo was very strict – especially about meals!

“Early-morning marches will give you an appetite for breakfast – and a scanty breakfast will give you an appetite for dinner!” he said. Mean Leo would even search Alex's room to make sure that Olympias didn't sneak him any treats!

Alex didn't like Leo much, but the grumpy man taught him how to read, write, and play music on the lyre (a kind of harp). Alex also got to have some fun – he learned how to ride horses, hunt, and fight with a sword and shield with his friends. They were the sons of Macedonian lords, and were called his Companions.

By the time he was thirteen, Alex had learned everything Leonidas could teach him, and Philip decided to get his son the very best teacher money could buy. Someone who was an expert in physics, biology, politics, maths, languages, poetry and much else besides!

The Greek philosopher Aristotle was said to be the most brilliant man in the world at the time, so Philip chose him to be Alex's teacher.

Philip gave Aristotle a temple in the countryside to be his classroom. The philosopher often taught Alex and his Companions out in the sunshine, and they also had fun running around and exploring the green hills and fields.



Aristotle taught Alex how to think things through, and what it meant to be a good and just leader, because he knew that the boy would need this knowledge in the future. He also showed Alex maps of far-off lands, and the lad was thrilled to learn about distant countries like Egypt and Persia. Alex quizzed visitors from other countries about where they came from – and especially about their armies and treasures!

Aristotle loved to study animals, and he passed on this love to his pupil. Alex often asked Macedonian hunters to bring them more animals to study.


The things Aristotle had taught him came in useful when Philip showed Alex a big, powerful horse that he wanted to buy. The problem was, the horse was so fierce and nervous that nobody could ride it!

Alex watched the horse carefully to see how it behaved. After thinking it through, he realised that the animal was scared of its own shadow! He carefully moved the horse around to face the sun, so that it couldn't see its shadow – and was able to mount it with no problem.

King Philip was impressed, and bought the horse for Alex. the boy named it Bucephalus, and they would ride everywhere together. ➡



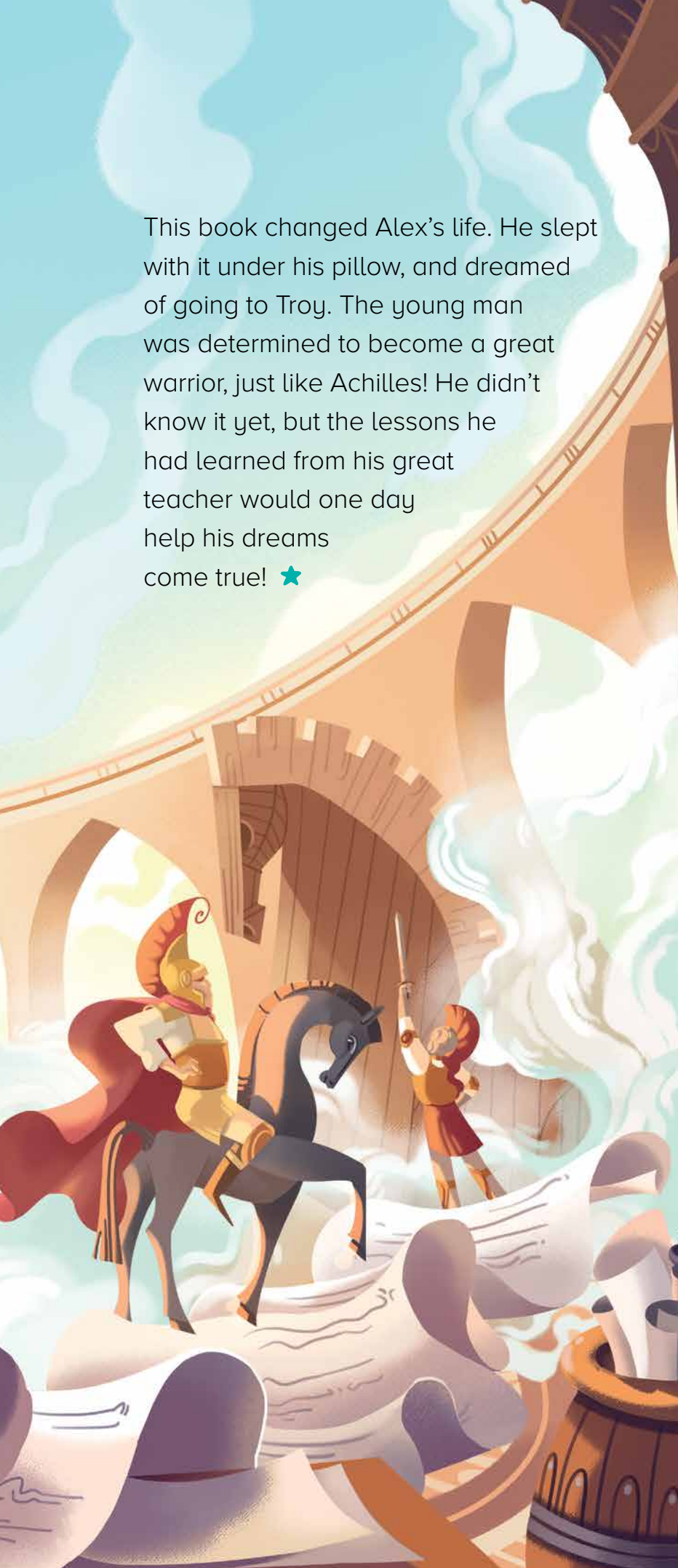


An illustration of a classroom scene. On the left, a teacher with a long blue beard and a red cape stands behind a desk, holding a scroll. On the right, a young boy with curly brown hair, wearing a purple tunic with red trim, sits at a desk, looking up at the teacher. The desk is cluttered with scrolls, a quill pen in a green inkwell, and other writing tools. The background shows a large, arched window with a view of a bright, sunny day. The overall style is colorful and cartoonish.

Of all the subjects Aristotle taught him, Alex liked poetry best of all. The philosopher introduced him to a poem called *The Iliad*, which became the boy's favourite. It was about the battles between two great heroes, the honourable Trojan Hector and the fierce Greek warrior Achilles, during an ancient conflict called the Trojan War.

Aristotle told Alex that *The Iliad* could teach him everything he needed to know about being a soldier, a general and a king. Alex was enthralled by the story, especially the bits about Achilles, who was said to be one of his ancestors.



An illustration of Alexander the Great on a dark horse, wearing a red cape and a golden helmet with a red plume. He is holding a sword aloft in his right hand. He is leading a charge through a city with a large bridge in the background. The scene is filled with smoke and fire, suggesting a battle. The sky is blue with white clouds. The bridge is made of stone and has a wooden walkway. The city is built on a hillside. The overall style is a stylized, colorful illustration.

This book changed Alex's life. He slept with it under his pillow, and dreamed of going to Troy. The young man was determined to become a great warrior, just like Achilles! He didn't know it yet, but the lessons he had learned from his great teacher would one day help his dreams come true! ★

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT...

Alex put his education to good use! When he was just 20 years old, his father died, and Alex became king. The Greek cities declared war on him, but the young king taught them a lesson by beating them in battle.

The young man then set off on one of the greatest expeditions in history. Riding Bucephalus, and with his Companions at his side, he would invade the mighty Persian empire and conquer it in just a few years. However, that was not all. He also took over Egypt and became its pharaoh, and led his troops all the way to India, where he won many battles.

Alex's cleverness, bravery and determination helped him to become one of the most famous rulers in history – he would be known forever after as Alexander the Great!

You can visit the temple where Aristotle taught Alexander, at Mieza in Macedonia.



# OSIRIS AND SET

**I**n the long-ago age of myths and legends, the god Osiris was the ruler, or pharaoh, of all Egypt. He was married to Isis, the sky goddess.

Under Osiris's rule, the mighty river Nile flooded at the right time, bringing rich soil to the farmlands. The crops grew in plenty, and the people were well-fed and happy.

But Osiris's brother Set, the god of storms and the desert, was jealous of him. He plotted to get rid of Osiris and become pharaoh in his place.

So Set used his powers to change into a giant crocodile, and he lurked in the river where Osiris liked to bathe. When Osiris came down to the river, Set seized him and dragged him beneath the dark waters!

Isis was worried when she found out that Osiris had disappeared, and she used her magic to turn into a bird called a kite so she could fly high above Egypt and look for him.





Meanwhile, Set turned back into his usual form, and declared that he was now pharaoh of Egypt. However, as he was not the rightful ruler, the Nile did not flood at the right time, the crops did not grow, and the people became sick and hungry. All the good health and prosperity Osiris had brought to the land were now gone.

Isis never stopped looking for her husband, and at long last, she found Osiris in the mud beside the river. He was unconscious, caught between life and death.

Determined to save his life, Isis took Osiris to the god Thoth, who was known for his great wisdom. He was the master of healing magic, served

as a judge in arguments between the gods, and had also invented writing.

With help from the jackal-headed god Anubis, Thoth wrapped Osiris in bandages, and Isis used the power of her love to bring him back to life. While Osiris healed, they stayed in hiding together and soon had a child – a falcon-headed boy named Horus.



However, Osiris never fully recovered, and knew in his heart that it was time for him to leave the world of the living. He told Isis and Horus that he loved them, and told the boy that he must one day take back the throne of Egypt and make it a better place. Osiris then passed on to the afterlife, while Isis and Horus promised to honour him. ➡





Isis was scared that Set would hunt for her and Horus, so she took her son to a secret island of reeds in the Nile. Horus lived there in hiding with his mother. She taught him her wisdom, and he grew strong and tall.



When it was time, the brave and heroic Horus left the island behind to claim his father's throne. He challenged Set to see who should be the true pharaoh of Egypt, and while the rest of the gods looked on in judgement, they fought a mighty duel that lasted for many days. Horus was wounded in one eye and Set was injured in the stomach, but in the end Horus won.

In a grand ceremony, the god Thoth healed Horus's eye, and he was then crowned as the true pharaoh and successor to Osiris.

For his part, the wounded Set was transformed into a snake and banished to the desert. From there, he tried to cause trouble for the people of Egypt, and Horus promised to one day hunt down his cowardly uncle.

Horus was a kind and just pharaoh, and under his rule the Nile once again flooded at the proper time, the crops grew plentiful, and the people of Egypt were happy. ★

A purple text box with a decorative border containing the following text:

In ancient times, the land of Egypt was ruled by great kings (and queens!) called pharaohs. They were said to be the heirs of Osiris and Horus, and people believed they helped the land of Egypt to flourish.



# storytime

# PLAYBOX

Have a tabletop penalty shootout, work out what animals are saying, and find out how to bake a delicious cake!

## 1 HIDING HORNS!

Four horned animals are hiding from the lion in the woods.

**Can you spot and name all of them?**



## 2 QUICK QUIZ

What did Maroosia see when she looked into the bear's left ear?

A

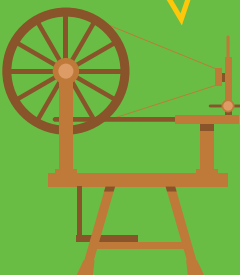
Spindle

B

Keyring

C

Kingdom



## 3

## COUNT IT!

Alexander has left his books on these pages! Can you find them all and write how many there are here?





4

# FAMILY FLAG!

The Clan MacLeod are proud of their special flag. **What would YOUR family flag look like?**

Draw a flag here.  
What should be on it?  
Don't forget to colour it in and do a pattern around the border.

5

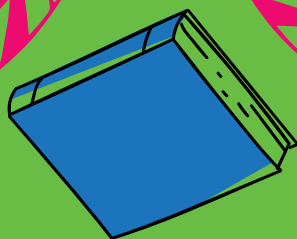
## A PHARAOH WITH A DIFFERENCE

Can you spot the **six differences** between these two pictures of the new Egyptian pharaoh, Horus?

A



B





## 6 ANIMAL TALK

The young man wants to work out what these creatures are saying – but the letters have been mixed up! **Can you unscramble the words?**

**Tip:** The clues are in the story!

BASHNUD

ECKLANCE!

GLURARBS!

ASK A GROWN-UP!

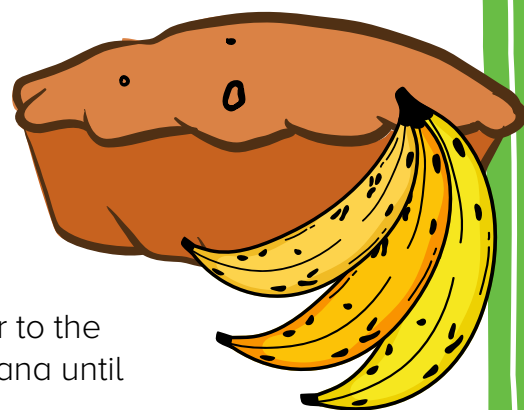
## 7 BAKE A TOTALLY BANANAS CAKE!

**Follow this recipe to make a cake that the Queen of Hearts would be proud of!**

### YOU WILL NEED:

- large bowl
- cake tin
- fork
- whisk (optional)
- teaspoon
- 3 ripe bananas
- 150ml sunflower or vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs, beaten
- 100g soft brown sugar
- 275g self-raising flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- icing sugar and sieve for dusting (optional)

- Preheat the oven to 180°C (160°C in fan oven) or Gas Mark 4.
- Peel the bananas and mash them in the bowl with your fork.
- Add the oil, beaten eggs and sugar to the bowl and mix into the mashed banana until well combined.
- Add the flour, baking powder and cinnamon to the bowl and mix with the other ingredients to make a batter.
- Rub the inside of the cake tin with extra oil.
- Pour the cake mixture into cake tin and put it in the oven.
- Bake for 40 minutes or until a fork stuck into the middle of the cake comes out clean.
- Let the cake cool in its tin for 10 minutes.
- Turn out onto a plate or baking rack to cool. If you want, dust with icing sugar by putting a tablespoon of icing sugar in a sieve over the cake and tap the sieve to make the icing sugar come out.



**TIP!**

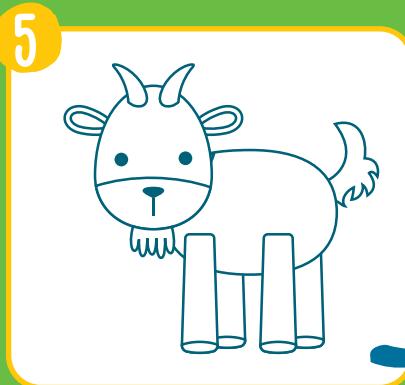
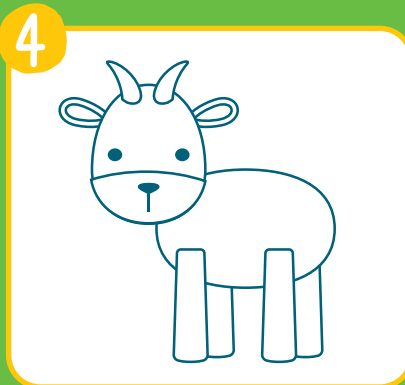
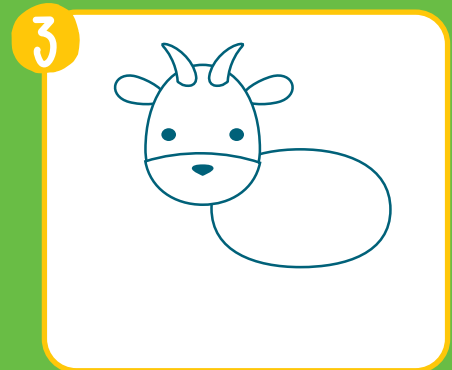
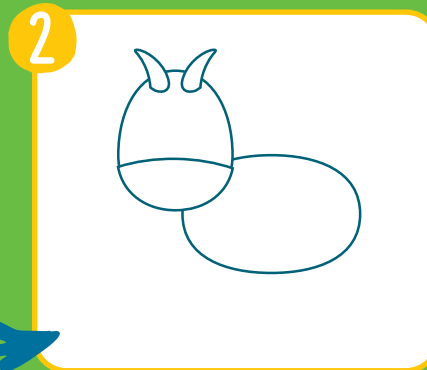
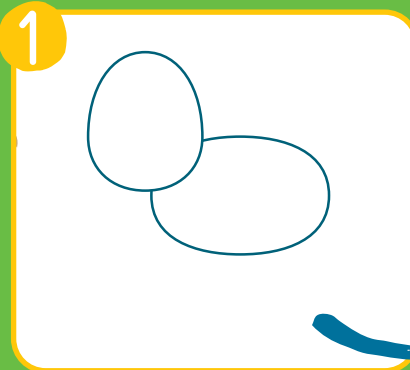
**You can add chocolate chips to your cake for an extra-delicious touch!**



# 8 DRAW A GOAT!

Want to draw a picture of a billy-goat?  
Just follow these five simple steps!

Don't forget  
the horns!



TEE-HEE!

**Q.** Why do they put  
bells on cows?

**A.** Because their  
horns don't work!



**ANSWERS:** 1. Hiding Horns! – a deer, a goat, a rhino and a giraffe are hiding in the forest; 2. Quick Quiz – C; 3. Count It! – 5; 5. A Pharaoh with a Difference – see right; 6. Animal Talk – the words are husband, necklace and burglars.





# storytime

## BIG QUIZ

Can you answer all these tricky questions correctly?



1 Set was Osiris's brother (and Horus's uncle).

TRUE FALSE

2 Maroosia hid behind the table to avoid the things the bear threw.

TRUE FALSE

3 Alexander the Great's favourite poem was *The Odyssey*.

TRUE FALSE

4 The White Rabbit told the Wonderlanders that visitors were coming.

TRUE FALSE

5 Pigeons knew that the hero of 'The Language of Animals' would marry a princess.

TRUE FALSE

6 Biggie Dean was the best player in Trowbury Rovers.

TRUE FALSE

7 The hare left the forest because he missed his friends.

TRUE FALSE

8 The MacLeods used the power of the Fairy Banner twice.

TRUE FALSE



ANSWERS: 1. - true, 2. - false, 3. - false, 4. - true, 5. - true, 6. - false, 7. - false, 8. - true.





# PENALTY SHOOTOUT!

Lincoln and his friends from 'Away Game!' are having a penalty shootout! Challenge your friends to this game of table-football skills...

## How to Play

You will need two or more players. Cut out the finger-puppet players opposite (including the finger-holes) or download them from [storytimemagazine.com/free](http://storytimemagazine.com/free).

★ To set up your game, you will also need:

- A place to play! It could be a tabletop or even a smooth area of floor.
- A ball! Use a marble, a rubber ball, a ping-pong ball, or even a bottle cap.
- Goalposts! you will need two. You can use books, cans, or stones.
- Chalk or tape to mark where the penalty spot is!
- A ruler, and a pen and paper to keep score!

★ Put the goalposts 15cm apart to make a goal.

★ The penalty spot is 20cm away from the goal. Mark it with chalk or a square of tape.

★ Players take turns trying to kick the ball through the goalposts with their pointer finger (with their finger puppet on), while another player puts their pointer and middle fingers (with finger puppet on) between the goalposts as the goalie. The youngest player takes the first shot.

★ When in goal, try to block the shots with your goalie!

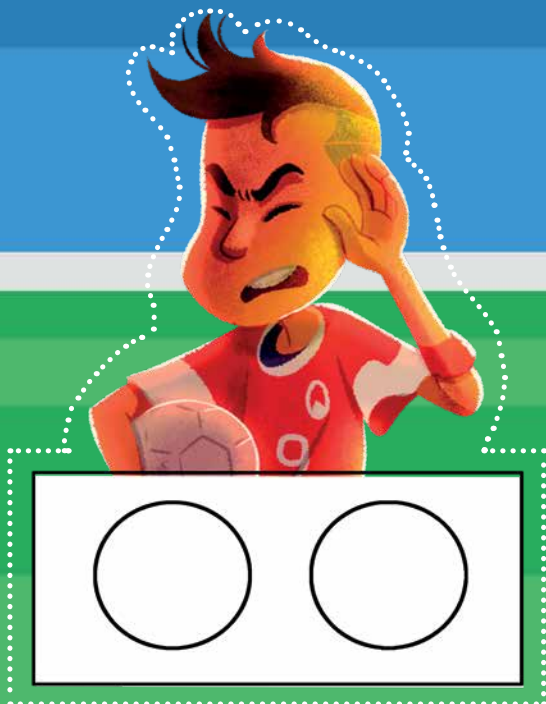
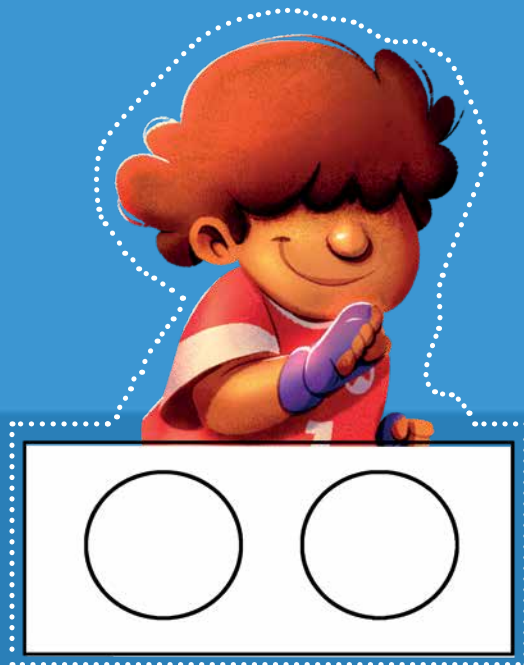
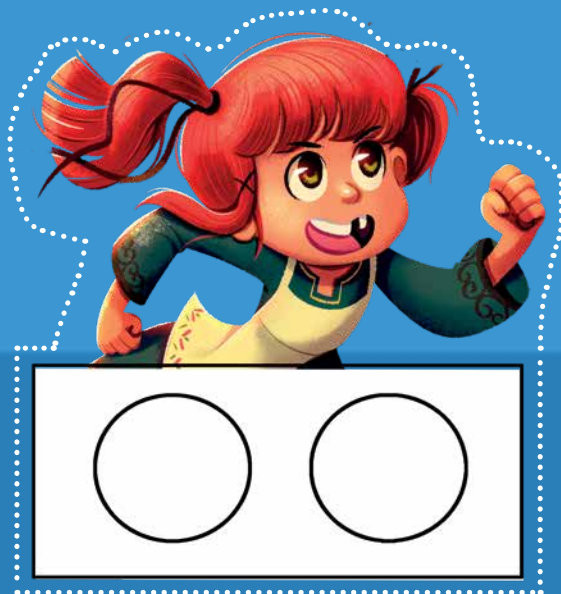
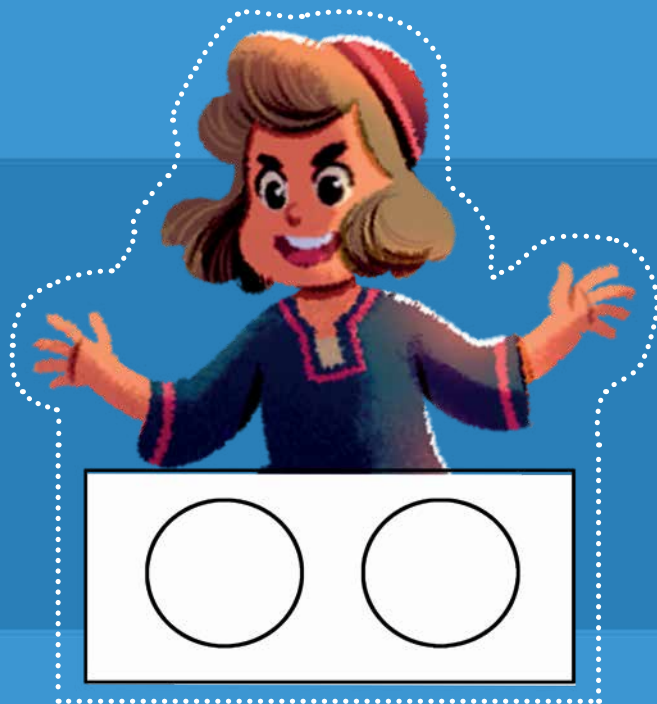
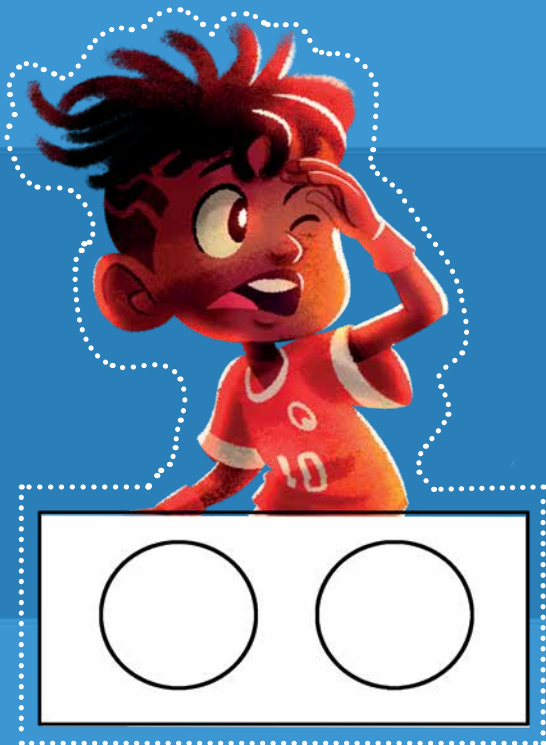
★ After each player has taken five shots, the player with the most goals wins.

★ If any players get the same number of goals, the players take turns shooting at the goal – the first one to score, wins!

### SPECIAL RULE:

If the goalie player touches the ball with a finger that is *not* their pointer or middle finger while stopping a goal, that counts as a goal for their opponent!







# STORY MAGIC

This month's books star a hungry monster, a real-life rabbit and a bashful penguin who performs at the circus!

## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

★ **WOLFBOY** by Andy Harkness (Bloomsbury) stands out because of its unique art style – the characters and scenes are all sculpted out of modelling clay! The story, about the wild and hairy title character and his hunt for bunnies, is great fun to read out loud.

★ **THE GREATEST SHOWPENGUIN** by Lucy Freegard (Pavilion) is about Poppy, a penguin who grows up performing at a circus with her family. But when she realises that being in front of a crowd is not for her, she finds a new career! A sweet and beautifully illustrated tale that might inspire readers to think about what they would really love to do as a job!

★ **BEATRIX AND HER BUNNIES** by Rebecca Colby & Caroline Bonne Müller (Nosy Crow) tells the real-life story of a girl named Beatrix and her rabbit friend. When her bunny passes away, Beatrix creates wonderful books about him, which become bestsellers. This gorgeously illustrated tale is sure to appeal to any fan of animal stories!

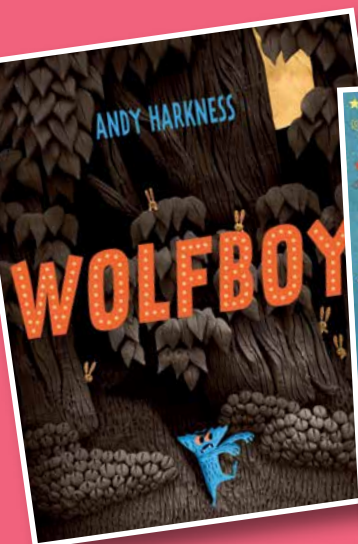
## MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR PAPER

Lots of trees get cut down to make paper – so make the most of it! Don't throw it away after writing or drawing on it. Use both sides of each sheet, and then use it to make origami or paper planes. Also remember that wrapping-paper can be reused for other presents!



**Do you know which story the quote on page 3 is from?** Send us your answer and you could win the books reviewed on this page – just go to:

[storytimemagazine.com/win](http://storytimemagazine.com/win)

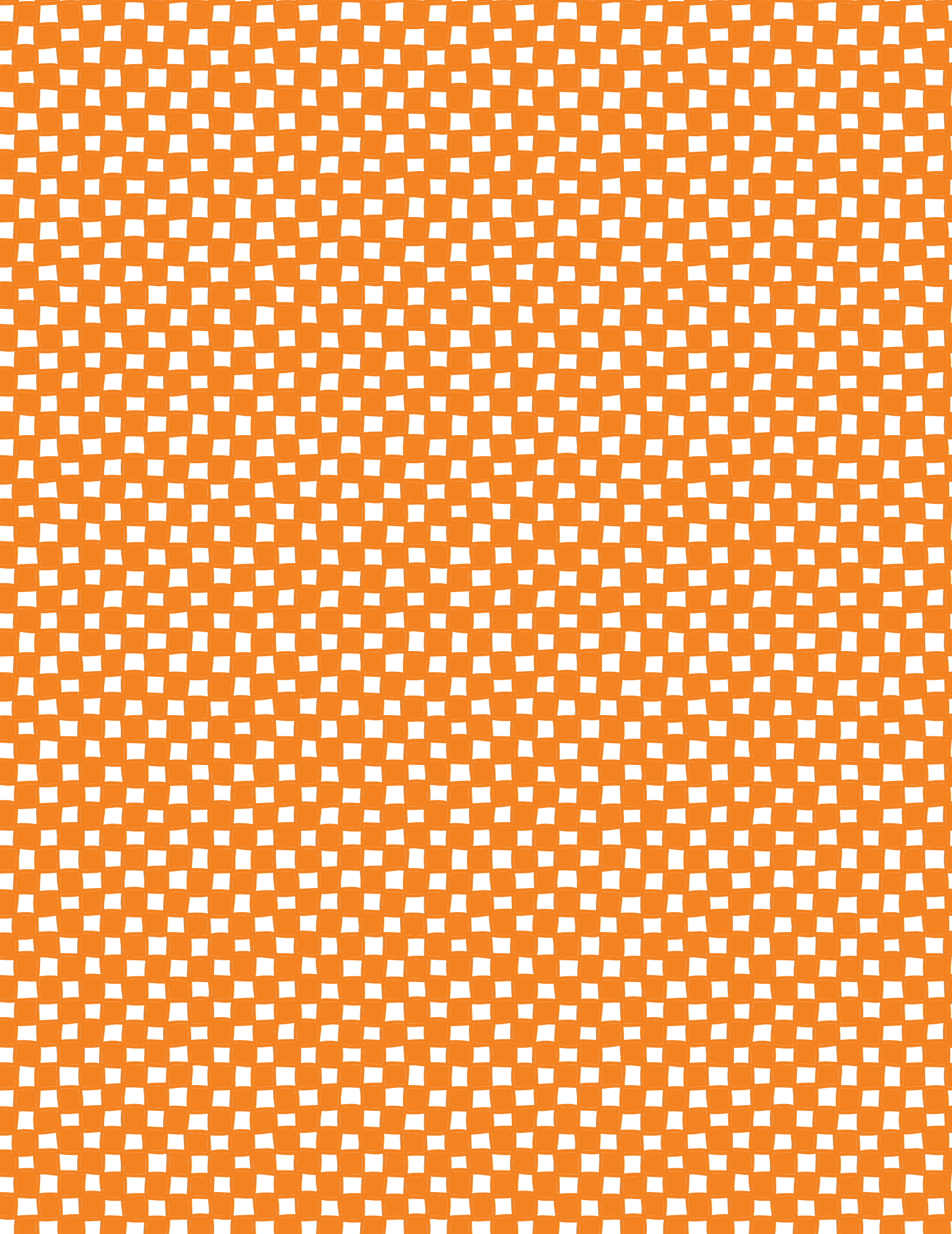


WIN!

**NEXT MONTH:**  
Sail away with a pirate princess!!









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