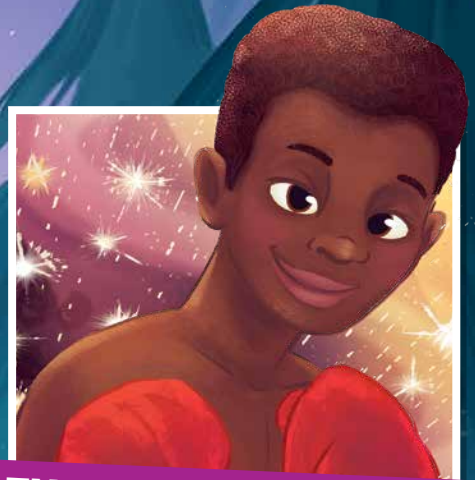


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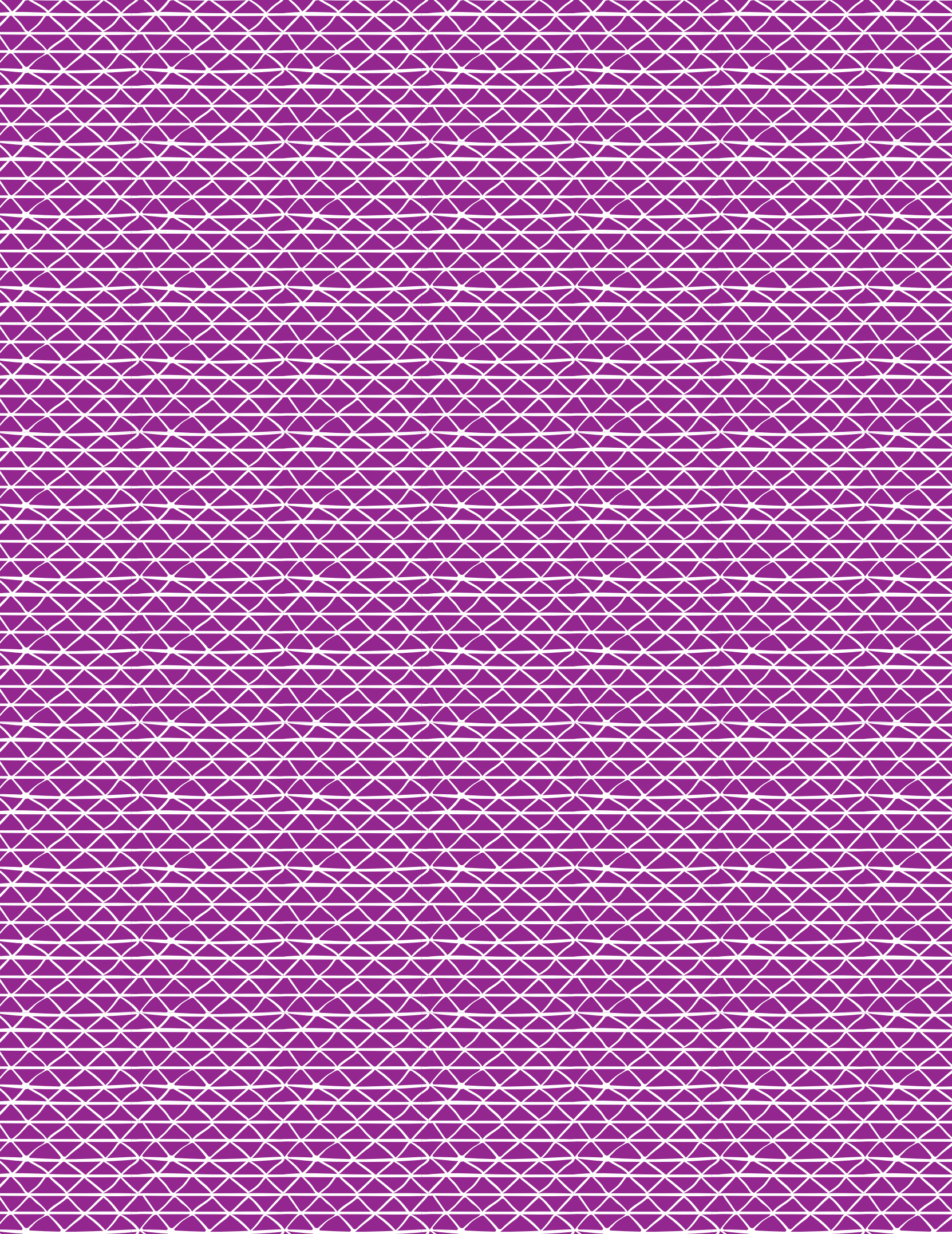
**THE GREATEST KID IN  
THE WORLD** hits it big!



**A DETECTIVE TALE!** Can  
Agatha solve the mystery?

## THE WOLF PRINCE

**The Story of the Year, a new knight in old  
boots, Sleeping Beauty and A FLYING LION!**



# EXCITING ADVENTURES FOR THE NEW YEAR!

**SPOT IT!**

Can you find this  
gazelle hiding  
inside?



This very special issue is  
about all kinds of amazing kids,  
for all kinds of amazing kids!

**THIS ISSUE BELONGS TO:**

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**Storytime™** magazine is published every month by  
Storytime, 90 London Rd, London, SE1 6LN.

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Printed by Warner Group.

**Creative Director:** Lulu Skantze

**Editor:** Sven Wilson

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Boots*

**Maja Barska** *When Uncle Lion Could Fly*

**Marrie-Pierre Oddoux** *The Classroom  
Conspiracy Conundrum!*

**With stories from South Africa,  
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NOW WHERE IS THAT ZEBRA?



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# THE STORY OF THE YEAR

**I**t was New Year's Eve, and a mighty blizzard blew through town, piling snowdrifts in the streets and covering the rooftops with a thick layer of white.

People hurried through the snowstorm to get into their warm houses, where they celebrated the coming of the New Year. However, by midnight, the snowfall had stopped and an icy chill had fallen on the town, freezing the top of the snow into a hard frosty crust.

When the sun came up in the morning, colouring the sky and the snow in purple and gold, two sparrows hopped around on a rooftop, trying to keep warm.







## CRAFT IT!

Whatever season it is, you can make your window more cheerful with some sparrow friends! Download them from [storytimemagazine.com/free](http://storytimemagazine.com/free), colour them in and tape them to your window!

“I’ve just about had enough of this cold!” complained one of them.

“The humans celebrated the ‘New Year’ last night, but things seem just as miserable as they were yesterday!”

“I agree!” grumbled the other. “When will it be spring?”

They were joined by an older and wiser sparrow, whose feathers were turning white.

“The humans have invented things called ‘calendars’ that tell them when a year ends and when seasons begin!” said the old sparrow. “But if you truly want to know when the seasons change, you must go to the countryside. Spring truly comes when the storks return!”

The two younger sparrows decided to go out into the countryside to find out when spring would come, but the older one chose to stay behind.

“My wife and I have a nice nest under the roof of a house, and the owner even puts out bread crusts for us!”



So the young sparrows flew off into the countryside, where snow lay thick on the hills and a chill wind blew through the bare branches of the trees. They looked everywhere for signs of spring, but there were none to be seen.

They asked an old raven perched on the fence post if he knew when spring would arrive. ➡





He said, "Though the humans say it is now the New Year, Old Man Winter still rules this land. Only when the first storks return, bringing the Prince and Princess of Spring, can he leave!"

The sparrows saw Old Man Winter perched on a hilltop, looking to the south with ice-grey eyes as the wind whipped through his stringy frosted hair.

The sparrows stayed in the country for some weeks, huddling for shelter in tree trunks and searching for seeds in the snow, and one day, they noticed

that the snow was melting. As a warm breeze blew up from the south, the first stork of the season flew with it, carrying on its back two golden-haired children. When he saw them, Old Man Winter smiled, and faded away in the warm golden light of the sun.

The Prince and Princess of Spring walked hand-in-hand across the land, and wherever they walked, the snow melted and green shoots sprang up. Soon, new leaves were growing and flowers were blooming everywhere they looked.



The sparrows were joined by hundreds of others, all cheerfully chirping, "Spring! Spring is here!"

As the weeks and months passed, the Prince and Princess of Spring grew into the King and Queen of Summer, bringing warm sunshine as the plants and animals grew strong and healthy.

As the days grew shorter and autumn mists came over the land, the King and Queen of Summer became the Rulers of Autumn. Where they passed by, the grain turned golden and the green leaves changed to vibrant yellow and orange.

She kissed her husband goodbye and flew south on the last of the storks to leave the land. Left alone, Lord Autumn's hair turned white, his eyes turned icy blue, and he became Old Man Winter.

A chill wind blew across the barren land, and the first snowflakes fell from a grey sky. The sparrows shivered as the cold went through their feathers. One chirped to the other, "When will it be spring?" ★

Fruit and grain grew ripe and heavy on tree and stalk. The sparrows became fat as they fed on the plentiful berries and grains of autumn...

As chilly winter winds blew in from the north, Lady Autumn looked longingly to the south, and said, "My dear husband, it is time for me to go! My children will come next spring, when your cold vigil is done."

## WORD POWER!

Which *adjectives* (describing words) would you use to talk about **spring, summer, autumn and winter**? Words that describe how warm or cold it is are particularly useful!



# HOW THE DOG AND THE CAT BECAME ENEMIES

**I**n the time when wise emperors ruled China, an old couple lived in a little house beside a great river.

Though they had no children, they *did* have a cat and a dog. The couple also had a golden ring that brought good luck to whoever owned it, so the man and the woman and the cat and the dog always had enough to eat and enough money to pay for what they needed.

The old couple did not know that the ring was magic, though, so they sold it to a merchant who lived in a grand house on the other side of the river.

With the ring gone, the members of the house began to suffer from ill fortune, and even ran out of food.

The couple's faithful dog knew about the magic in the ring, and told the cat, "We must get the golden ring back from the merchant, or we will starve!"





The cat said, “I agree, but how can we do that?”

The dog replied, “I have a plan! You must catch a mouse – but keep it alive! Then I will take us all across the great river to get the ring back.”



That night, the cat caught a mouse and told it that it would not come to harm if it did exactly as it was told. The cat, the dog and the mouse then went down to the river. Because the cat and mouse could not swim, they climbed onto the dog's back and he paddled all the way across.

While the dog shook the water from his fur, the cat took the mouse to the merchant's house.

The cat told the mouse, “You must sneak into the merchant's counting-room. There, you will find a great chest. Gnaw a hole in it and take the golden ring you will find inside!”

The mouse did as she asked, sneaking through the dark house and finding the chest in the counting-room. It then used its sharp teeth to gnaw a hole in the heavy wood until it could squeeze in and find the golden ring. ➡



When the mouse came out of the house, the cat took the ring and let the mouse go. She then slunk back down to the river, where the dog waited.

The faithful hound was overjoyed to see the ring, and his tail began wagging. He paddled back across the river with the cat on his back, but as soon as they reached the far side, the cat sprang away with the golden ring in her mouth. The dog chased her, but the cat could take short cuts by jumping over fences, while the dog had to go the long way around.

So it was that the cat arrived at the house first and proudly presented the ring to the elderly couple.

They were overjoyed. “You are such a good cat!” said the wife. She got her a special cushion in front of the fire and fed her a treat of tasty fish-heads.

When the dog came into the house, wet and muddy, the old couple were less pleased. The old man sent him out, saying, “Why are you bringing mud into our clean home? You are nothing like the faithful cat, who brought us back our ring!”

So the dog had to spend the night outside, wet and cold, while the cat smirked from the window. That is why dogs have hated cats ever since! ★





# THE GREATEST KID IN THE WORLD

**S**ome seventy years ago, a boy called Cassius was born in the town of Louisville, Kentucky, in the USA.

He was his parents' first child, and his mother soon noticed how strong he was! When he was just six months old, he was sitting in her lap. He stretched out his arms – and accidentally knocked one of her teeth out! His mother did not mind, though. She knew it was an accident, and was glad to have such a healthy baby boy.

Cassius's father, Cassius Senior, was an artist and sign-writer who loved to show off and tell tall tales. His mother, Odessa, was a kindly lady who taught Cassius and his little brother, Rudolph, to be polite and truthful and hard-working. The family lived in a nice cottage with a garden, and always had new clothes to wear and enough food to eat. ➡





Like his father, little Cassius loved to be the centre of attention and could talk so quickly that it was hard to keep up! His mother would come home to find dozens of the neighbourhood children on their porch, listening intently as little Cassius told an endless stream of jokes and stories!

He was full of restless energy and didn't like to sit still. If he wasn't helping his father with sign-writing, he would be sweeping the floors of the local library to earn money that he spent on movies and ice cream.

Cassius soon noticed that Louisville was not a place that was fair to people like him. White people lived in the east part of town, and black

people like his family had to live on the west side. They weren't allowed into a lot of the fancy shops or restaurants, had to sit at the back on buses, and white people were sometimes mean to them.

Cassius experienced this many times with his parents. He remembered how, when he was a very young boy, a shopkeeper had refused to let them have a glass of water on a hot day.

He knew that he and his family deserved as much respect as anyone else and was determined not to let anyone push him around.

## FIND IT!

Cassius grew up in Louisville, Kentucky, in the United States of America. Can you find Kentucky on a map? (**Tip:** it's in the southeastern quarter of the country...)





Cassius always had a strong sense of what was right and what was wrong, and when he was twelve, a theft would change his life forever.

On that day, one of his friends told him that there was a special event at the Louisville Service Club – with free popcorn and ice cream!

The chance to get a cool treat on a hot summer's day sounded great to the boys, and Cassius wanted to go for a ride on the fancy new bicycle he had received for Christmas.

It had red and white paint and was the coolest one in the neighbourhood!

Cassius had a great time showing off his bike on the way to the club. He and his friend soon arrived and went inside, where they filled up on treats. However, when Cassius went out to where he had left his beloved bike, it was gone – somebody had stolen it! The boy was so upset and furious, he did not know what to do! ➡








Someone told him that a police officer ran a boxing gym just across the street, so Cassius went there to report the theft. He wanted the police to drop everything and catch the criminal who had stolen his new bike!

The police officer who ran the gym was a kind old man called Joe Martin. He helped Cassius to fill out a report about the missing bike, but told him that the police might not be able to find it. Joe also suggested that maybe Cassius would like to try

boxing, so that he could use his energy and learn how to protect himself against thieves!

Cassius agreed, and began going to Joe's gym every morning to train. The old coach discovered that the boy's hands and feet were just as fast as his mouth! Six weeks later, Cassius had his first real match against another boy – and won! The feeling of triumph was amazing for a boy who loved being the centre of attention. Cassius declared that he would soon be the greatest boxer of all time!



An illustration of a young Black man, Cassius Clay Jr., wearing red boxing gloves and white boxing trunks. He is smiling and looking towards the viewer. The background is a vibrant purple and yellow, with bright spotlights shining down from above and sparkling light effects around him.

He knew that to be the greatest, he would need to work hard! Cassius got up extra-early every morning to run and train, ate healthy food and even practiced his moves in the mirrors of the school bathrooms. However, he never used his boxing skills to bully or hurt other people. He wanted to become the best person he could be – as a boxer and as a human being! ★

## WHAT HAPPENED NEXT....

Cassius's full name was Cassius Clay Jr., and he soon became known as one of the greatest boxers of all time. He was cool, smart and very fast indeed! Cassius won a gold medal for the USA at the Olympics when he was just 18, and then became the World Heavyweight Champion. He was a celebrity too, and would make up fun rhymes about how great he was!

Soon after becoming a champion, Cassius Clay converted to the religion of Islam and took a new name: Muhammad Ali. In 1966, the US government told Muhammad to join the army, which was fighting a war in a country called Vietnam. Muhammad refused, because nobody from Vietnam had ever done him any harm.

Muhammad spoke out against racism and war instead, and became a hero to people who want to make the world a better place. Many think he is the greatest sportsperson of all time!

# SLEEPING BEAUTY GOES TO THE MOON

**F**or the first time in her life, Princess Rosamund (also known as Sleeping Beauty) found it difficult to get to sleep. She tossed and turned, but couldn't drop off.

Finally, she got up and padded down to the kitchen and made some of the special sleepy-time tea one of her fairy godmothers had given her!

After sipping the tea, Princess Rosamund went back to bed and put her head on her pillow. She might have drifted off for a minute, but then she suddenly sat up in bed. A warm gentle wind was blowing, and through the window she could see the great full moon drifting through the sky ...

The wind suddenly picked her up, and before she knew it, she was soaring through the window, clutching her pillow in surprise!

Down below, Rosamund could see the town and the dark woods and the frosty fields, but the warm wind still surrounded her.

It was carrying her up, towards the moon. She could see the face on it, and it was smiling as if in welcome.





Now she was among the stars, which hung like diamonds in the sky. They shone with a bright blue light, and glowing star-fishes swam around them.

Before she knew it, the wind was carrying Rosamund over the moon itself. It looked yellow and smooth, as if it really was made of cheese – and it certainly smelled like it! Below, she could see round cheeses rolling in herds across the yellow hills.

The princess was then carried around the moon, to the mysterious far side that never faces the Earth. It was dark there, but Rosamund saw towering mountains, dark rivers that flowed like treacle, and gardens of glowing mushrooms, tended by great slow-moving snails.

Then Rosamund realised that someone was flying alongside her – it was a girl

in a dusty gown. She had glowing blue hair and mothlike wings with bright purple patterns on them!

“Welcome to the far side of the moon!” said the stranger, “My name is Princess Lepidoptera, and this is my kingdom. We don’t get many visitors – except those who come in their dreams!”

Rosamund curtsied to the moth-princess, and stuttered that she had been carried there by a strange wind and had no idea how to get home.

Lepidoptera gave a tinkling little laugh, and sprinkled her with sparkling powder.

The next thing Sleeping Beauty knew, she was waking up safe and sound in her bed. Had she *really* gone to the moon, or was it just a dream? She didn’t know for sure, but her pillow *did* smell of cheese... ★



# THE WOLF PRINCE

**O**nce upon a time, there was a great kingdom that is now long gone, and it was ruled by a just and mighty king.

The king had three beautiful daughters, and though he did not say so, he loved the youngest one best of all.

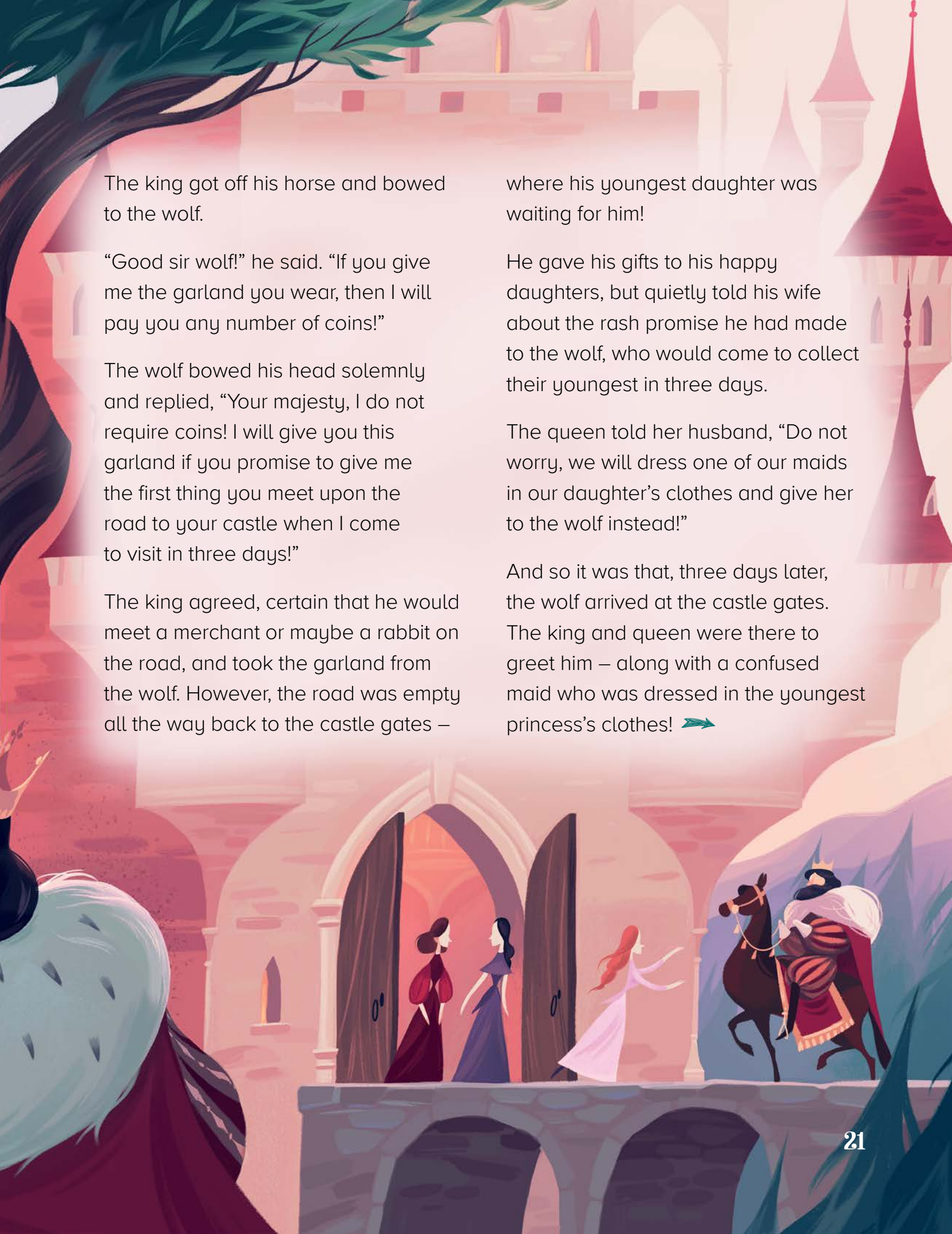
One day, the king announced that he had to journey to the most distant city of his kingdom and asked his daughters what they would like him to bring back as gifts. The eldest asked for a jewelled necklace and the next eldest asked for a pretty dress, but the youngest asked only for a wreath of wildflowers.

The king set off on his journey, and while in the distant city, he bought a fine necklace for his eldest and a fine gown for the next eldest, but nobody could sell him a wreath of wildflowers.

At last, he set off for home. As he was travelling through the forest some miles from his castle, he came across a magnificent white wolf who was wearing a garland of wildflowers.







The king got off his horse and bowed to the wolf.

“Good sir wolf!” he said. “If you give me the garland you wear, then I will pay you any number of coins!”

The wolf bowed his head solemnly and replied, “Your majesty, I do not require coins! I will give you this garland if you promise to give me the first thing you meet upon the road to your castle when I come to visit in three days!”

The king agreed, certain that he would meet a merchant or maybe a rabbit on the road, and took the garland from the wolf. However, the road was empty all the way back to the castle gates –

where his youngest daughter was waiting for him!

He gave his gifts to his happy daughters, but quietly told his wife about the rash promise he had made to the wolf, who would come to collect their youngest in three days.

The queen told her husband, “Do not worry, we will dress one of our maids in our daughter’s clothes and give her to the wolf instead!”

And so it was that, three days later, the wolf arrived at the castle gates. The king and queen were there to greet him – along with a confused maid who was dressed in the youngest princess’s clothes! ➡



However, the wolf sniffed at the maid and growled, "This is not the girl that was promised!"

The king turned white with fear. His youngest daughter, who had been watching from a hiding-place, came out and said she was ready to go with the wolf and fulfil her father's promise.

The wolf told the princess to climb onto his back, and he carried her out of the castle and into a deep forest. After a long journey, they came to a great mansion hidden in the woods. Once they entered the grounds, the wolf slipped out of his white fur – and was revealed to be a handsome prince!


The princess and the prince lived happily together in that mansion for a year, and the princess realised that she had grown to love him. However, one day, a messenger came to them with exciting news: the princess's eldest sister was getting married!

The prince put on his wolfskin and turned back into the white wolf. He then carried the princess to the king's castle, where the wedding was to take place. At the wedding, the prince stayed in wolf form. Only when they were in their room did he take off his fur and turn into a human again.

However, neither of them realised that the queen had been spying on them!







Thinking that the prince must be a shape-changer or sorcerer, she stole the wolfskin and burned it on a fire.

When this happened, the prince let out a great howl and disappeared in a flash.

The youngest princess was most upset, and immediately left the palace to search for her beloved. She wandered the woods for many weeks, sheltering beneath trees, eating berries, and searching for the mansion where the prince lived, but she could not find it. In despair, she cried out to the wind that howled through the treetops, “Oh great wind, have you seen my beloved?”

The wind replied, “I have blown across the world, but I have not seen him! But put on the shoes you will find beneath this tree and you will be able to travel a hundred paces with one step and fly through the air!”



The princess found the shoes beneath the tree, just as the wind had said, and put them on. She now found that she could walk on air, and flew off in search of her beloved. However, she still could not find him.

She refused to give up, though, and decided to search for him in the sky as well as on the Earth. ➡







That evening, she flew up to the moon in her

## HIDDEN TREASURES

Can you spot all  
of these things on  
these pages?

Answer: there are 4 blue stars.



magic shoes and asked it, "Have you seen my beloved?"



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





The moon replied, “I have not, but ask the sun!”

“When the sun rose, the princess ran high into the air to meet it and asked, “Have you seen my beloved?”


The sun answered, “Yes, I have – he had to leave when your mother burned his wolfskin. He was heartbroken because he thought you had betrayed him. He has chosen to marry someone else – and their wedding is tomorrow! But I will tell you how to get to his mansion, and give you a magic spinning-wheel that can spin moss into silk!”

The princess thanked the sun for its help and flew off to the prince’s mansion, carrying the magic spinning-wheel with her.

When she arrived at the mansion, the preparations for the wedding were underway and nobody realised she was a princess because she was dirty and bedraggled from living in the forest for many weeks. However, she set up her spinning-wheel outside the mansion and began spinning moss into the finest silk cloth.







It just so happened that the prince's new bride-to-be walked past and saw what she was making.

The lady said to her, "Woman! I must have your spinning-wheel. Please name your price!"

The princess replied, "I will give you my magical spinning-wheel if you will let me sleep on the mat outside your husband's door this evening!"

The bride-to-be agreed, and that evening the princess slept on a mat in a draughty corridor outside her beloved prince's bedchamber.

That night, she whispered through the door to her beloved wolf prince, telling him that she was the princess who had ridden to his mansion on his back, and whose mother had burned his wolfskin. She also told him how she had searched for him for many weeks and begged the moon and the sun for help.

The next day, when the wedding was about to begin, the prince stood in the grand hall of his mansion with his bride-to-be beside him. He then spoke to the crowd gathered for the wedding. Among them were kings and queens, dukes and duchesses, and emperors from foreign lands. ➡





"If I had lost the key to my treasure-chest, and had a new key made, but then found the old key – which one would fit the lock better?"

"The old key is better!" the crowd replied.

"In that case," the prince said, "I must put aside my new bride-to-be, and marry the princess that I thought I had lost!"

With that, he called the princess up to him, and asked if she would be his wife. She agreed, and they lived together happily for the rest of their days. ★

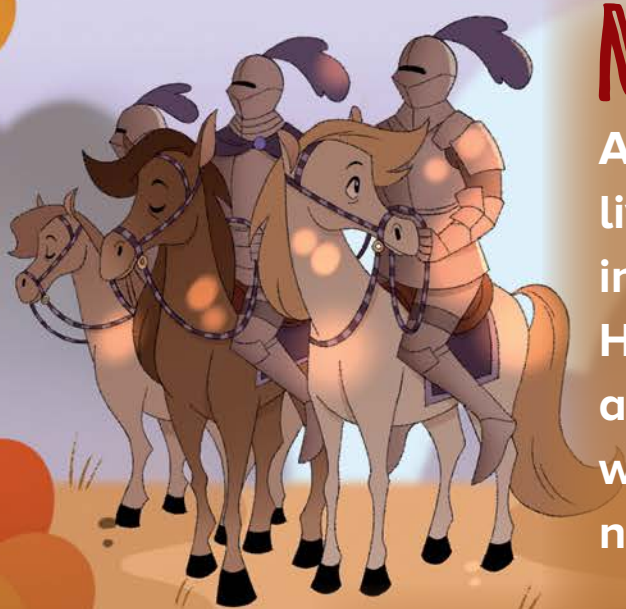
## WHO IS THE HERO?

In many fairy stories, the hero goes on a quest to win the hand of a princess. Can you think of a way in which this story is different?





# THE KNIGHT IN SHEPHERD'S BOOTS



**M**any centuries ago, in the time of King Arthur, a young woman lived in a small hut in the wilderness. Her husband had died, and her only companion was her son, whose name was Perceval.

*He grew up as a simple shepherd who knew all about the ways of sheep and wolves, but knew nothing about civilization. He would care for his flocks, herding them over the treacherous hills, and used wooden spears made of holly wood to fight the wolves that threatened his sheep.*

*One day, as he was looking after his flock, he saw three knights in bright armour riding past on mighty warhorses, with banners flapping on their long lances. He thought these mighty beings must be angels from heaven, as he had never seen knights before. ➡*





Perceval leaped into the path of the horses, which reared up in surprise. The knights were startled by the sudden appearance of a wild-looking young man dressed in homespun wool and wolfskins.

"What manner of beings are you?" asked Perceval.

The leader of the knights replied, "We are knights seeking to rescue three maidens who have been kidnapped by wicked robbers. Have you seen them?"

Perceval ignored the question and pointed at their great lances, which were so much more impressive than his simple spear.

"Dear sirs!" he said, "What are these?"

The knights answered that they were 'lances' and asked again if he had seen the robbers.

Perceval did not seem to hear, but pointed at the knights' horses, so much grander than his sheep.

"And what do you call these?"

The knights replied that they were called 'horses' and then rode off, deciding that the scruffy shepherd was a simpleton.



That evening, Perceval took his sheep back to the pen outside the simple hut where he lived, and told his mother, "Today I met some angels called 'knights', and I am going to join them!"

Perceval's mother knew that her son was determined to go in search of adventure, so she told him, "If you must become a knight, you should serve the greatest lord of them all – King Arthur of Camelot!"





The next day, Perceval set off on his donkey, with a sapling as a lance and a wreath of mistletoe as a helmet. The journey to Camelot was long, and he slept at night in hedgerows, shivering from the cold.



After many weeks of travel, he reached the shining castle of Camelot. The simple shepherd had never seen such a magnificent castle, and gawped in wonder as he trotted through the gates on his donkey.

He found his way to Camelot's courtyard, which was filled with impressive knights in gleaming

armour and ladies in flowing gowns. In the middle of the courtyard was King Arthur himself, an impressive man in armour with a golden crown on his head, and his beautiful queen Guinevere at his side.

Perceval tried to give a grand speech asking to serve King Arthur, but his clumsy words and his rough and muddy clothing made the knights and ladies laugh at him. He wished the ground would swallow him up.

Just then, another person entered the castle – a gigantic knight in a shaggy fur cloak and a suit of rough and dented red armour! ➡





*This mysterious figure knocked a tray of goblets to the ground in the courtyard, shoved his way through the king's knights, and bellowed out an insult at Queen Guinevere.*

*The Red Knight then challenged anyone there to a fight in the field outside the castle. King Arthur and his knights called for their horses and lances and put on their helmets, but the first to get to the field where the Red Knight waited was Perceval on his donkey!*

*The Red Knight was enraged, for he thought this simple shepherd on a donkey must be Arthur's jester, sent*

*to mock him. He charged at the young man, and a glancing blow knocked Perceval off his mount. However, Perceval got to his feet, and was cheered by the knights and ladies of Camelot, who had gathered on the field to watch.*

*As the Red Knight charged again, hoping to trample the shepherd beneath his horse's hooves, young Perceval thought, "Why, this big red bully is just like a wolf – and I know how to take care of wolves!"*

*With that, he threw his holly spear so hard that it knocked the Red Knight off his horse. Perceval tried to pull*



off his unconscious enemy's armour, but could not do it, and ended up dragging the knight around the field while he yanked at his leg-plates!

One of King Arthur's knights patted him on the shoulder and showed him how to unbuckle the red armour.

"That was a fine battle, my lad! The armour of this defeated foe is now yours!" Under his armour, the Red Knight wore fine boots and a silk shirt, but Perceval did not take them.

"My simple shepherd's boots and the woollen smock my mother knitted are good enough for me!" he said.

Perceval put on the red armour and Arthur made him a Knight of the Round Table – a knight with a peasant's woollen smock and shepherd's boots. He would go on to have many more adventures, including meeting the mysterious Fisher King and finding the Holy Grail – but those are stories for another time! ★





# WHEN UNCLE LION COULD FLY

**I**n a time so long ago that only the oldest animals remember it, Uncle Lion could fly, and he was the most feared creature on all the plains of Africa.

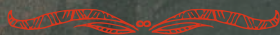
He had great wings like those of a bat, and when his shadow fell on the dry grass, all of the animals fled – but how could they escape a mighty cat that could fly?

Uncle Lion snatched up whatever prey he liked in his claws and ate them in his nest, high atop a great rock that pierced the clouds. The bones would turn white in the sun, but for some reason he never cracked them with his great teeth.





Brother Toad lived in a mudhole down on the plains, and he was a wise creature. He alone among all the animals knew why Uncle Lion kept the unbroken bones in his nest, and one day he decided to use this knowledge to end the big cat's reign of terror.



He crawled on his belly across the golden grass of the plains to the rock spire where Uncle Lion dwelt. He then used his webbed feet to cling to the rock and slowly, carefully, climbed upwards for a day and a night.

It was morning when the toad finally reached the summit, and he found that Uncle Lion was not there.

However, he saw piles of bones everywhere, and many white-feathered crows who looked nervously at their visitor.

"Hello, my good crows!" said Brother Toad. "How did you come to be here?"

One of the crows croaked, "We are the white crows that serve Uncle Lion. We must do whatever he says and guard his bones to make sure that no one ever touches them!"

"We are tired of having to stay here and obey him – especially on such a beautiful morning!" squawked another. "We would rather fly off and find something to eat!" ➡





This gave Brother Toad an idea. “You should all go and get some breakfast!” he said. “I will keep the bones safe for you!”

The white crows agreed and took flight, cawing loudly. Once they had disappeared, Brother Toad seized a rock and used it to smash the bones scattered around, one by one.

At that time, Uncle Lion was soaring far above the plains, looking for his breakfast. Did he want a juicy gazelle, a tasty springbok, or perhaps a fresh and stripy zebra?

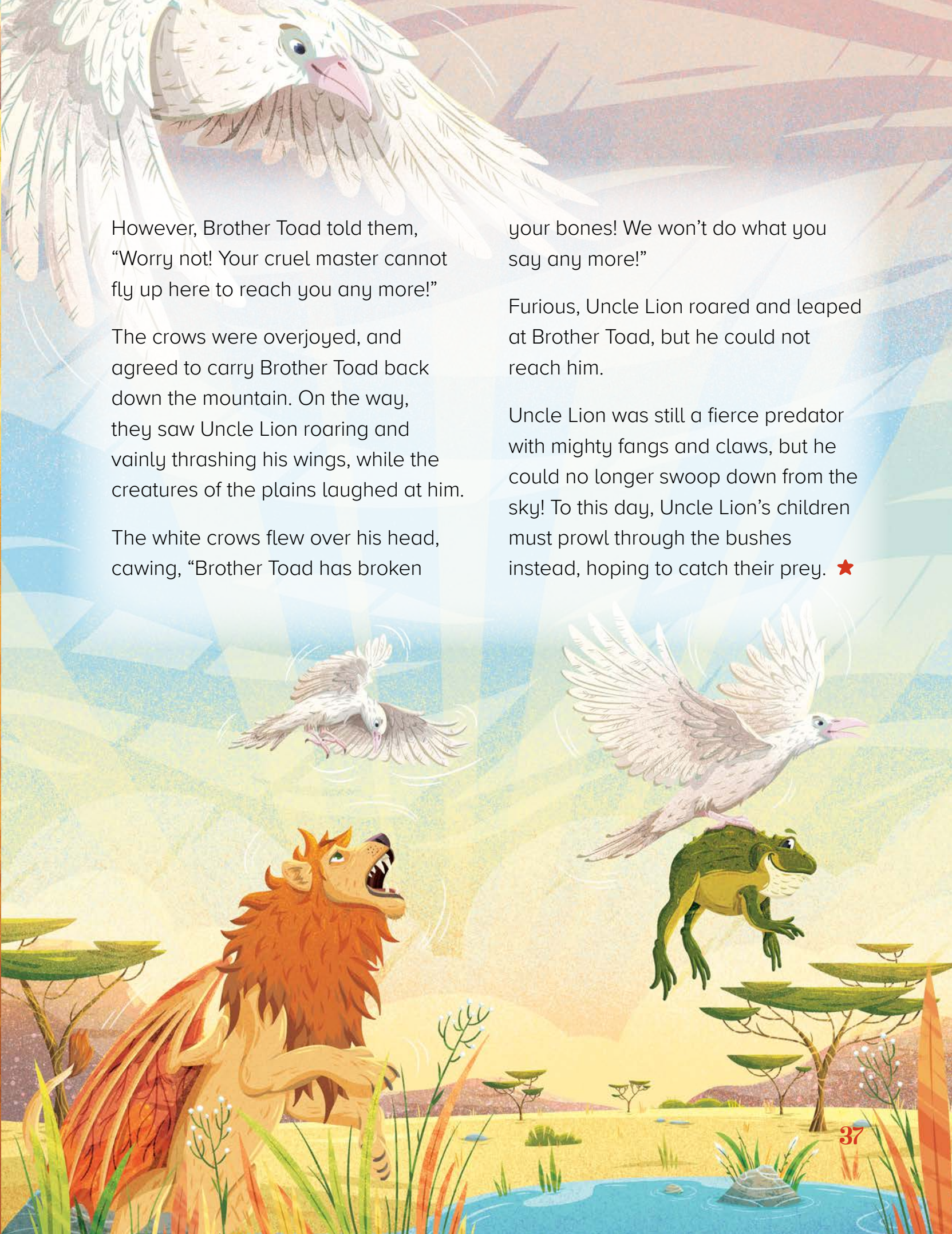
He suddenly felt his wings grow weaker. No matter how hard he flapped, he couldn’t stay in the sky, and plummeted to the ground. He scrambled to his feet and flailed his wings, but they could no longer carry him into the air.



You see, many ages ago, the Creator had given Uncle Lion the ability to fly, but if the bones of the creatures he hunted were ever broken, he would lose his wings.

When the white crows returned to the nest and saw the broken bones, they were afraid of being punished.





However, Brother Toad told them,  
“Worry not! Your cruel master cannot  
fly up here to reach you any more!”

The crows were overjoyed, and  
agreed to carry Brother Toad back  
down the mountain. On the way,  
they saw Uncle Lion roaring and  
vainly thrashing his wings, while the  
creatures of the plains laughed at him.

The white crows flew over his head,  
cawing, “Brother Toad has broken

your bones! We won’t do what you  
say any more!”

Furious, Uncle Lion roared and leaped  
at Brother Toad, but he could not  
reach him.

Uncle Lion was still a fierce predator  
with mighty fangs and claws, but he  
could no longer swoop down from the  
sky! To this day, Uncle Lion’s children  
must prowl through the bushes  
instead, hoping to catch their prey. ★





# THE CLASSROOM CONSPIRACY CONUNDRUM!

**A**gatha was in the library, reading the latest book in the *Myrtle Featherstone: Girl Detective* series, when she noticed something strange.

Her best friends, Timmy and Florence, were over by the computers talking to each other in whispers – while keeping a good, safe distance apart, of course! However, when she waved at them, they looked away.

Things only got stranger in art class. Timmy and Flo went to sit at a different table from Agatha and were busy painting, but they kept passing something between them and peeked at her when they thought she wasn't looking.





Now, Agatha considered herself to be something of a detective. After all, she had read the adventures of Eagle-Eye Jones, the *Solve-It Twins* books, and all twelve volumes of the *Shirley Holmes Junior Mystery Compendium*! When the rest of the class went out for lunch, she sneaked over to Timothy and Flo's table and examined it with the magnifying glass she kept in her bag.

There was glitter, paint, and red and pink construction paper, as well as some wooden popsicle sticks with glue on them. What could they be doing? This was definitely a mystery that needed solving!

Agatha went outside to eat lunch with her friends in the playground. They chatted to her as if nothing was going

on, but they kept smiling at her in a slightly strange way. Of course, Agatha could have just asked them what they were up to, but then they might have told her – and then she wouldn't have a mystery to solve!

Agatha didn't get much work done the rest of the day, as she spent most of the time writing down diagrams and clues about the mystery, all pointing to the words, 'THE CLASSROOM CONSPIRACY CONUNDRUM!'

Agatha liked big words almost as much as she liked detective stories – she knew that a 'conspiracy' was when people secretly planned something, and a 'conundrum' was a very tricky puzzle. ➡





On the way home from school, Flo and her mum Sunita ended up walking ahead of Agatha and her mum, and they went into the bookshop on the high street. Agatha thought this was a bit strange. Flo didn't read much – no matter how many detective stories Agatha recommended to her!

When Agatha and her mum got home, they each had an apple for a snack. Mum liked to keep the kitchen clean, but Agatha noticed that a bowl had been left on the counter, as if her mum had forgotten to clean it away before going to pick her up. Agatha used a finger to scoop out some of the pinkish stuff inside. Mmmm, raspberry icing – her favourite! Why would Mum

be making that? Was she in on the conspiracy too?

Agatha tried to tell her mum about the strange way her friends were behaving, but she was busy getting dinner ready. Agatha decided that it was time to take care of her pet tortoise, Hercules.

As a detective, Agatha knew that it was important to have a faithful sidekick to explain her clever solutions to, and Hercules was great at that! The reptile had even solved the Mystery of the Disappearing Lettuce. It had rolled under a cupboard while dad was unpacking the shopping, and Hercules had found it. However, he was not so good at solving mysteries that did not involve vegetables.

Answer: there are 11 lamps



## COUNT IT!

How many lamps can you find in all five pages of this story? Write in **how many** you find here!



While Agatha was taking care of Hercules and telling him all about the clues she had found, her dad got back from work. She could hear him putting his helmet, boots and overalls in the laundry, but instead of going into the kitchen to say hi to Mum, she heard him pulling down the ladder to the attic. How strange!

The next day at school, Agatha did her best to keep an eye on her friends and work out what they were up to, but they seemed determined to keep things secret. She even asked them if they would like to play tomorrow after school, but they said they

couldn't because they were busy. Even more mysterious...

The next day, Agatha spent more time doodling clues in the margins of her notebook than paying attention to what the teacher was saying. There had to be something that connected all of the strange things that had been going on, and she was determined to get to the bottom of it...

However, by the time Mum came to pick her up, she still had no solution. If only Hercules was there to help – but after what had happened last year, Agatha knew that tortoises were NOT allowed at school! ➡





On the way home, Agatha was so distracted that she hardly paid any attention to her mum or what was going on around her. When they arrived, Mum helped her take off her jacket and said she should go into the living room.

Agatha opened the door, and heard many voices shout, **"SURPRISE!"**

When she entered the darkened living room, the lights came on suddenly. Dad was there, grinning, and on the TV were the faces of Flo and Tim, as well as Nanna and Grandad and Nanny Dot. On the table was a cake with candles and pink icing, a pile of wrapped presents, and a big red and pink birthday card.

It had the words **'HAPPY BIRTHDAY'** written on it in glitter.

"Many happy returns, dear!" said Nanny Dot, and Flo added, "We hope you like the card!"

Mum laughed. "Little Aggie was so distracted by the mystery she was trying to solve, she forgot that today was her birthday!"

Agatha got down to the serious business of opening all her presents. She got a new magnifying glass and a hat just like the one that Shirley Holmes wore, and Florence had even bought her the latest *Solve-It Twins* book, *The Great Chocolate Heist*. Agatha might not have solved the Classroom Conspiracy Conundrum, but it was still a wonderful birthday! ★





# storytime

# PLAYBOX

Solve a tricky jigsaw puzzle, race home as a cat or a dog, find a missing bike and work out who ate the birthday cake!

## 1 NAME THAT SKELETON

In 'When Uncle Lion Could Fly', Brother Toad goes to Uncle Lion's nest and finds lots of bones. Can you help him work out **which animal each of these skeletons came from?**

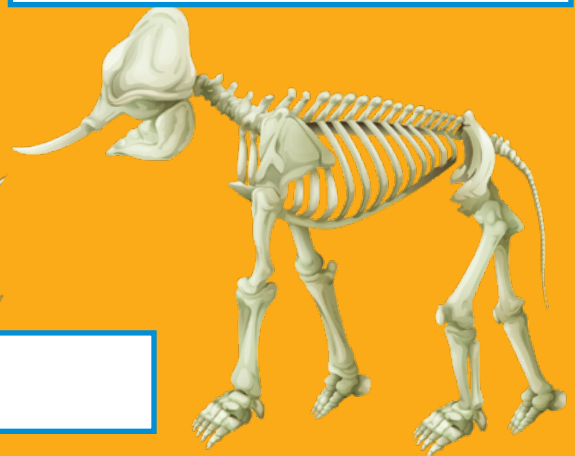


B



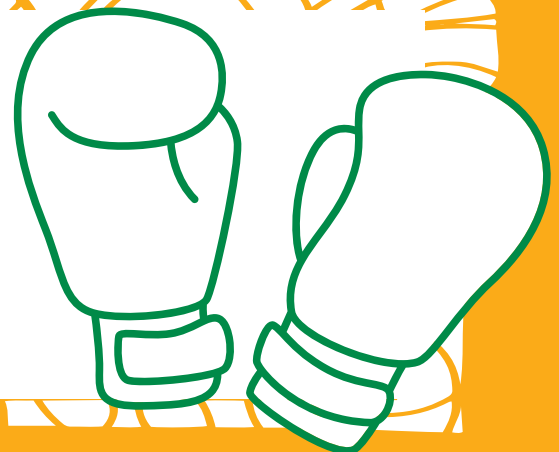
C

A



## WHERE'S MY BIKE?

Someone has hidden Cassius's new bicycle somewhere on these pages. Can you spot it?  
**Colour in his boxing gloves when you find it!**





# 3 THE SHEPHERD'S BOOTS

Now Perceval has become a knight, he wants to brighten up his footwear! **Colour in his boots** with a funky new design!



# 4 MIDNIGHT MOON JIGSAW!

Rosamund made a nice picture of her trip to the moon – but then she dropped it and broke it!

The princess is trying to put it back. **Which three pieces belong in the picture?**





5

WHO AM I?  
?

During her birthday party, Agnes encounters a new mystery – who ate her birthday cake when everybody else was in the garden?  
**Guess who it was from these clues!**

1. I have a shell!
2. I once found a lettuce!
3. I am named after a hero!



ASK A GROWN-UP!

## 6 MAKE A FLOWER GARLAND

**Here's how to make a flower necklace worthy of a wolf prince!**

- You will need the flower templates printed out from [storytimemagazine.com/free](http://storytimemagazine.com/free), several sheets of different-coloured paper, scissors, a small nail, string, a ruler, and two paper drinking straws cut into 3cm pieces.
- First, cut out the squares around all four of the flower templates.
- Put four or five pieces of paper in a pile and line them up.
- Put a flower template on one corner of the stack of paper and then cut all the sheets of paper into the square shape of the template.
- Keeping the template on top of the square stack of paper, cut out the flower shape to make a pile of paper flowers. When a stack is done, use a nail to poke a hole through the middle of the flowers.
- Cut out stacks of flowers using all of the templates, and don't forget to punch a hole in the middle of each with the nail!
- Cut a 60cm-long piece of string and tie a knot in one end. Then thread two paper flowers onto the string.
- Thread a 3cm-long piece of straw onto the string, then two more paper flowers, and then another piece of straw. Keep doing this till you run out of string!
- Tie the ends of the string together to finish your garland!



TIP!

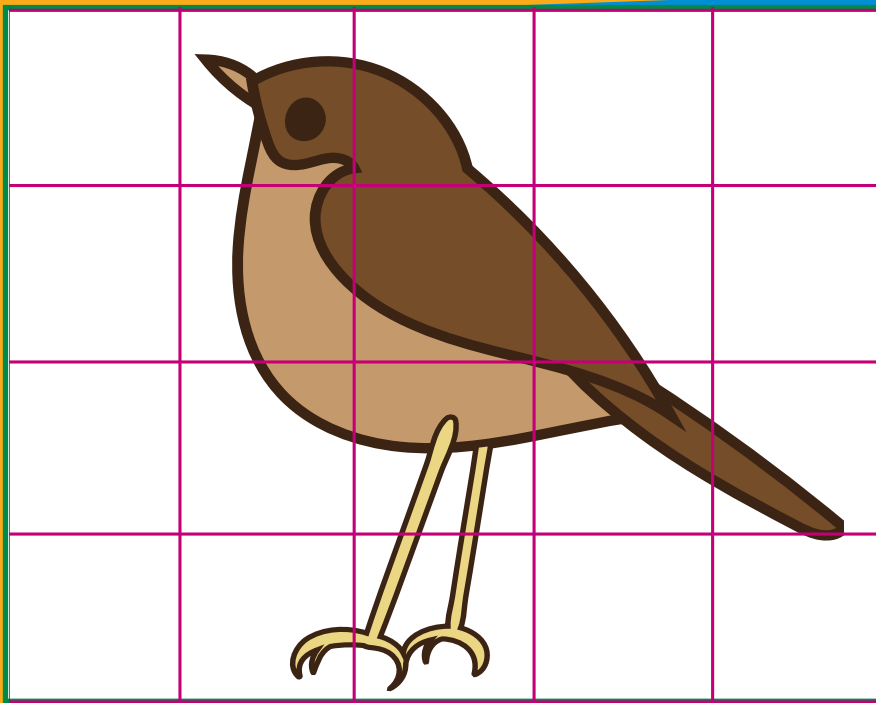
**Make sure you have an adult to help you cut out the flower shapes and punch holes in the middle of the flowers. Mix and match the flowers shapes!**



7

# DRAW A SPARROW!

Want to learn how to draw a sparrow like the cute ones in 'The Story of the Year'? Just follow the grid!



Can you draw another kind of bird as well?

TEE HEE!

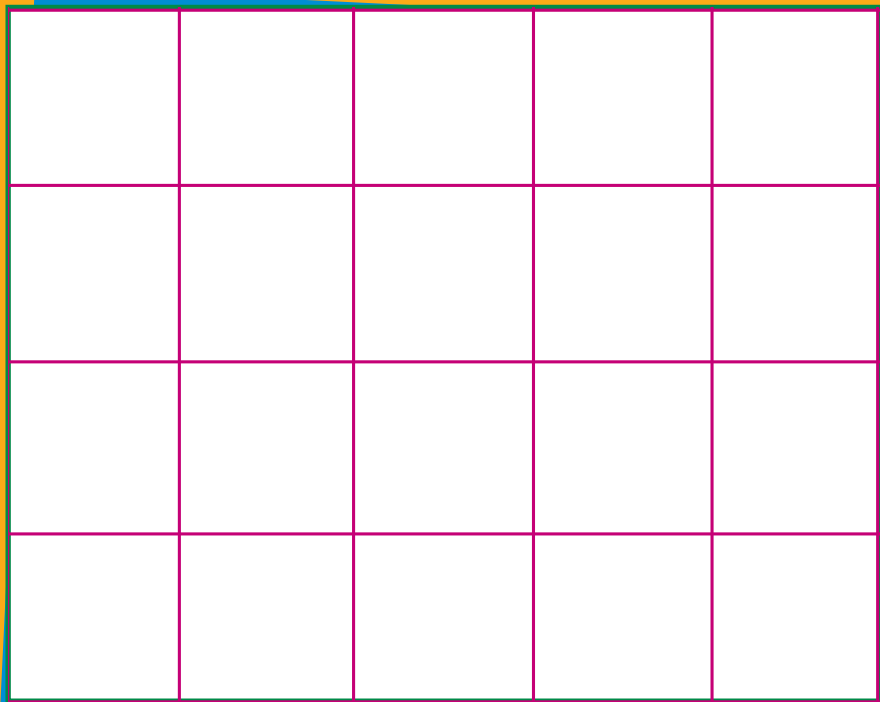
**Q.** Why don't mountains get cold in the winter?

**A.** They wear snowcaps!

HA HA!

**Q.** How does a bird with a broken wing manage to land safely?

**A.** With its sparrowchute!



**ANSWERS:** 1. Name That Skeleton – A. giraffe, B. frog, C. elephant; 2. Where's My Bike? – page 45; 4. Midnight Moon Jigsaw! – D, G, H; 5. Who Am I? – Hercules the tortoise.





# WILD WORD SEARCH

Can you find the characters from this month's stories?  
Words can run up, down, backwards, forwards and diagonally.

D	S	L	U	Y	C	A	T	I	P	G
J	E	U	I	R	B	H	U	L	E	H
U	U	V	I	Y	N	T	B	R	R	P
Q	F	C	T	S	V	A	T	O	C	D
H	Q	L	B	T	S	G	S	J	E	Y
L	G	W	O	R	R	A	P	S	V	J
U	I	G	H	W	M	Z	C	B	A	O
N	M	O	X	U	Z	X	M	J	L	N
T	N	D	N	D	F	B	K	D	H	D
P	P	D	G	B	L	Z	R	F	R	L
S	E	O	T	U	T	B	N	W	T	E

I	M	N	B	I	U	T	O	S	E	O
T	R	F	Z	T	C	D	P	D	P	P
H	G	K	D	F	D	N	D	N	T	N
N	T	r	X	U	Z	X	M	J	L	N
O	A	V	C	B	A	O	G	I	U	O
J	A	S	A	P	R	A	O	W	L	G
Y	E	r	S	O	S	T	E	T	O	H
D	C	O	C	A	V	A	T	S	I	O
H	E	T	I	N	T	A	V	I	A	N
P	H	E	T	H	U	B	R	I	J	S
O	A	T	I	P	O	S	L	S	E	O

ANSWER:

AGATHA  
CASSIUS  
CAT

DOG  
LION  
PERCEVAL

ROSAMUND  
SPARROW  
WOLF





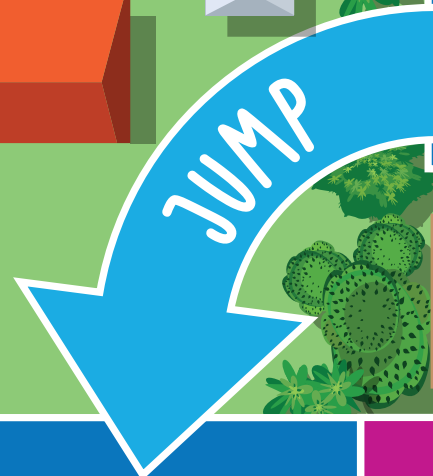
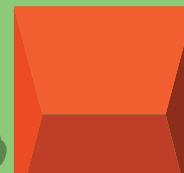
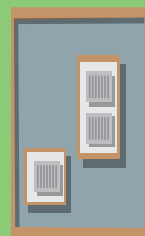
# CAT VS. DOG BIG RACE!

## How to Play

You need two players, two dice, two counters, and the game board on these pages. You can download and cut out counters from [storytimemagazine.com/free](http://storytimemagazine.com/free) or use counters from another game. Place both counters on the START space.

- ★ The youngest player chooses whether to play as the cat or the dog. (The dog is faster, but the cat can jump over walls.) The cat player has the first turn.
- ★ When it is the cat player's turn, they roll two dice and can move the number shown on one of the dice – they get to choose which one!
- ★ If the cat player lands on a square with a JUMP arrow leading from it, they get to 'jump' to the square the arrow points to!
- ★ When it is the dog player's turn, they roll two dice and add the numbers together. That is how far they can move.
- ★ If the dog player lands on a square with a bone on it, they miss their next turn because they are chewing on the bone!
- ★ The first player to reach the FINISH square wins and gets to go into the house.

The quick dog and the clever cat from this month's fable are racing to see who can get home first! Who will win?







START

FINISH

JUMP

JUMP

23

24

22

21

20

19

18

17

16

15

14

13

12

8

7

6

5

4

3

2

1



# STORY MAGIC

Check out these new books about kung fu animals, a magical melody and how to talk about your feelings!



## BOOKS OF THE MONTH REVIEW IT!

★ **THE DON'T PANIC GANG!** by Mark Sperring, illustrated by Sarah Warburton (Bloomsbury) is a must-read for kids who are fans of kung fu, zany adventures and non-stop hi-jinks. When there's something scary in the toilet, Sumo Cat, Ninja Bird and of course King-Fu Worm spring into action! The cartoonish art brings the fun characters to life.

★ **THE SONG FOR EVERYONE** by Lucy Morris (Bloomsbury) is a sweet and special story about a beautiful tune coming out of a window, lifting the spirits of everyone who hears it and bringing the town together. The rhyming text and poetic illustrations complement each other perfectly.

★ **FEELINGS** by Libby Walden, illustrated by Richard Jones (Little Tiger) is a heartfelt book about the emotions we all feel inside. The beautiful text and illustrations help readers to identify different feelings, and the book makes it clear that feeling emotions is an important part of being human. An eye-opening read for children and adults alike!

To develop your child's critical thinking skills, ask them to review a story they've just read. Can they write a sentence about what they thought of it? Why did they like it or dislike it?



Do you know which story the animal on page 3 is from? Send us your answer to enter a draw to win this month's books – go to:

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

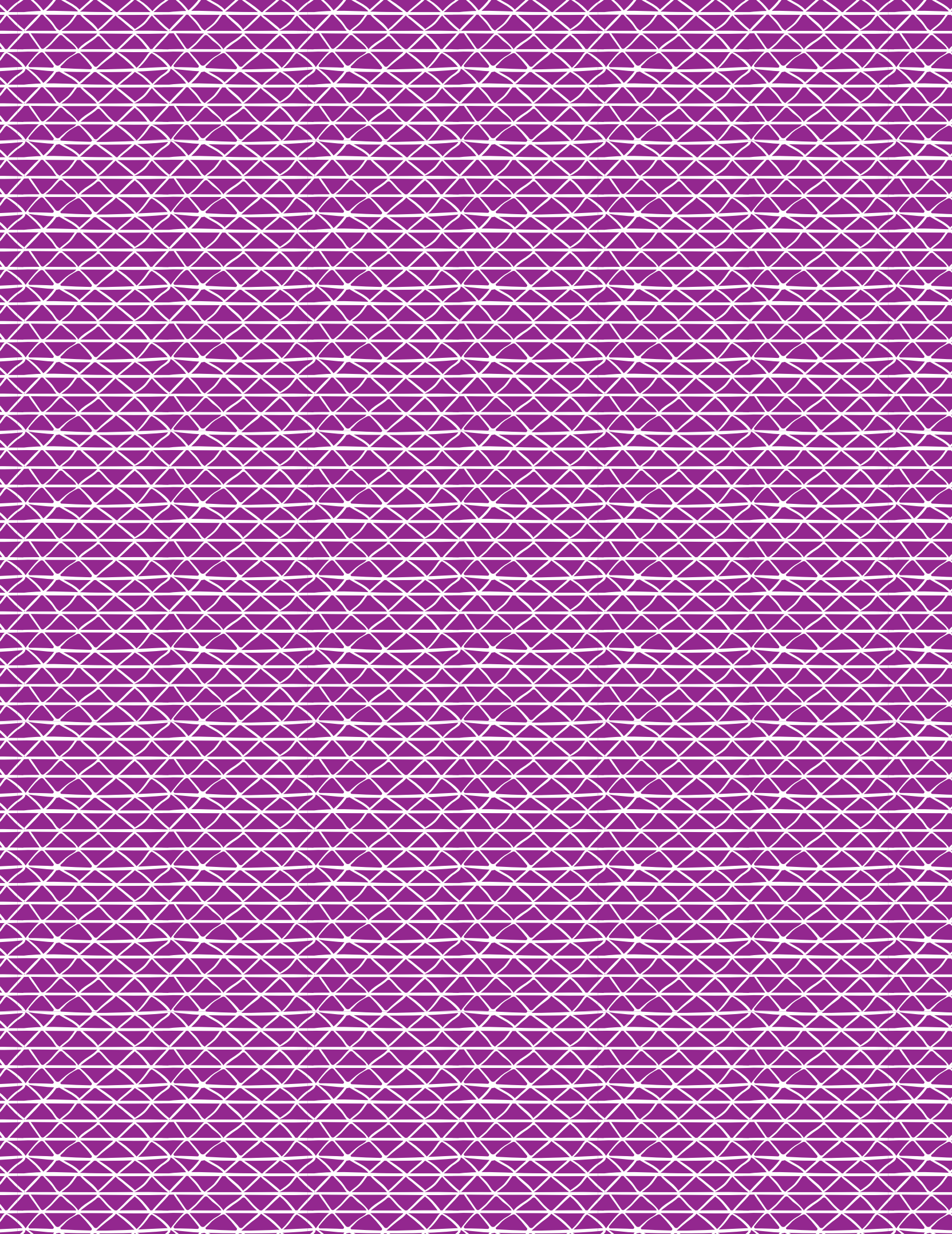
WIN!

NEXT MONTH:

A little prince gets lessons from the wisest man in the world!







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# ARE YOU READY FOR ANOTHER WONDERFUL YEAR OF STORIES?

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