



TalkforWriting™

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**NSPCC**

# A message from Talk for Writing

Dear Teacher/Parent/Carer,

**Welcome to the fifth and final batch of our English workbooks.**

We have now produced 40 extended English units, with audio included, all available completely free.

The number of downloads of these resources has been astonishing! We're very pleased to have been able to help schools, parents and children at what we know has been a difficult time.

We also want to say a huge THANK YOU! Through your voluntary donations, we have now raised over £25,000 for Great Ormond Street Hospital and the NSPCC.

For a final time, in exchange for using these booklets, we'd be grateful if you are able to make a donation to the NSPCC.

We are asking for voluntary contributions of:

- **£5 per year group unit**

Schools using or sending the link to a unit to their pupils

- **£2 per unit**

Parents using a unit with their child, **if they can afford to do so**

## **DONATE HERE**

**[www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tfw-nspcc](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/tfw-nspcc)**

The booklets are ideal for in-school bubble sessions and home learning. If they are used at home, we recommend that children should be supported by teachers through home-school links.

With best wishes,

**Pie Corbett**

Talk for Writing

## **What is Talk for Writing?**

Thousands of schools in the UK, and beyond, follow the Talk for Writing approach to teaching and learning. If you're new to Talk for Writing, find more about it [here](#).

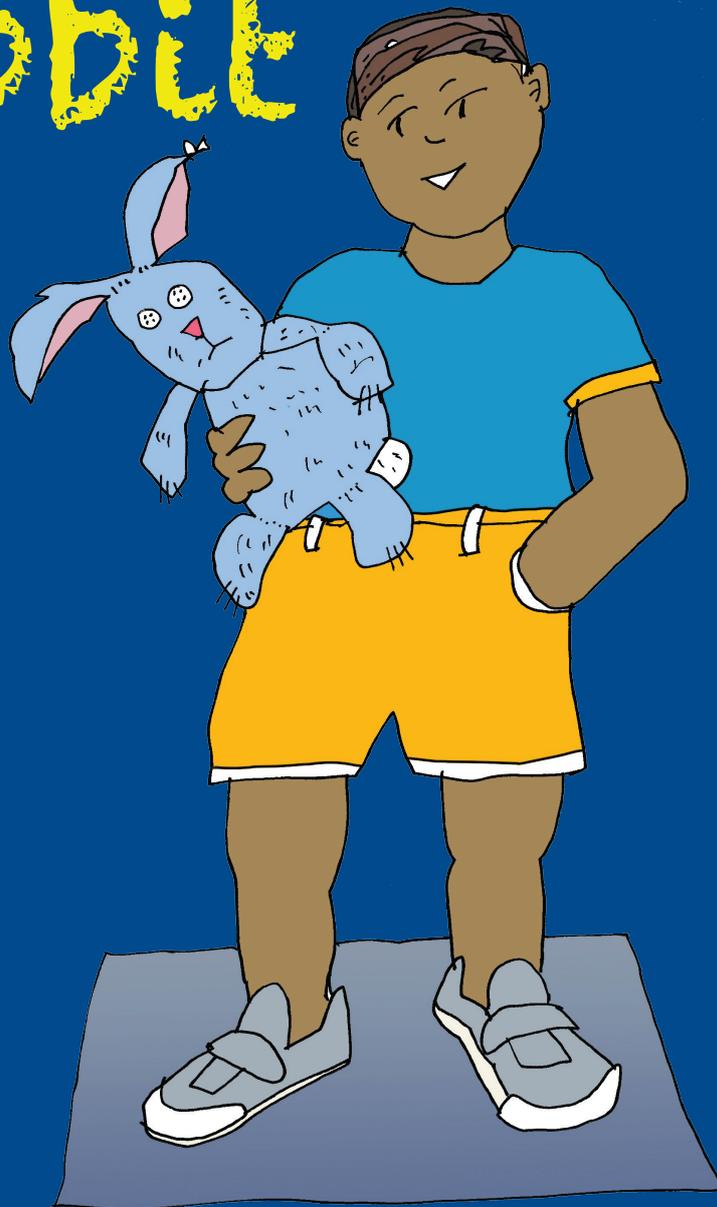


TalkforWriting™

Talk for Writing Home-school booklet

# Rainy-day Rabbit

by Sue Cove



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[www.talk4writing.com](http://www.talk4writing.com)



Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for taking the time to support your child with their learning. This booklet is designed to inspire your child and help them to develop skills and confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing.

Linked to the story, there are a number of engaging, fun and purposeful activities. This booklet starts with a rhyming story and is followed by different related activities:

- Story talk – answering and asking questions about the story
- Word watch – developing vocabulary
- A change in the weather ‘Once upon a *rainy* day’
- Rainy daydreams
- Creative ideas – How to get across the street
- Creative activities: flower boats and bubble pictures
- Writing wishes on stars
- Rhyme time – Little Peter Rabbit, Little Rabbit Foo Foo
- Phonics – Bop the carrot game
- Pop up rainbow cards
- Rabbit and owl rice cake snacks.
- More stories

There are explanations to go with each activity (and extra notes for parental guidance as well in yellow boxes like this one) plus additional ideas and resources.

You can also listen to a recording of the story Rainy-Day Rabbit here: <https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/rainy/s-NGLAB7BCL9T>

At the end of the booklet your child can talk about how they got on with their learning and you can add your comments too.

## Rainy-day Rabbit

Once upon a rainy day,  
a boy gazed out through gloomy grey.  
He watched the rain race down the pane  
and wished the sun would shine again.

Now this young boy, whose name was Ned,  
preferred toy rabbits to a ted.  
His favourite was called - well, you can decide -  
and this rabbit stayed close by Ned's side.

They'd been together from day one  
so now rabbit was coming slightly undone:  
blue fur worn flat, one floppy felt ear,  
yet he was treasured and most dear.

As these good pals peered through the storm,  
they spied alike two friends forlorn.  
From a window, in a house, across the street,  
Olive and her owl stared sadly through the sleet.

She was most fond of her fluffy, orange owl  
and never far away from this feathery fowl.  
Olive too, wondered when this rain would end  
so she could play with her friends again.

Rabbit and Ned considered how they might get together.

Determined to join their chums, despite the dreadful weather.  
Although it seemed impossible, blue rabbit knew for sure,  
that with imagination you can open any door.

Anything can happen, no dream is out of reach  
so, he began to wish about many ways that they could meet.  
Perhaps, across this puddled street, they'd sail a tiny note,  
tucked aboard a flower-shaped, colourful paper boat?

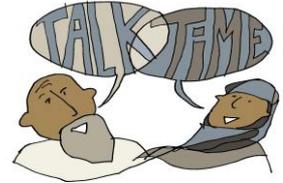
Maybe blow a bridge of bubbles to float and stretch afar  
or scatter stepping-stones from wishes hidden in the stars?  
Over the road, Olive and her owl were certain too  
that with some inspiration they'd connect across the blue.

In stories they had heard of means to travel through the air-  
a magical carpet, a flying car or a wooden wishing chair.  
As these ideas were whirring, an ending seemed quite distant,  
when suddenly Rabbit remembered fortunes can alter in an instant!

Without any warning, a welcome change came in the weather.  
Sunshine brought a reminder that nothing lasts forever.  
At last, doors and windows, one by one, were opened wide  
and finally, from inside their homes, the children stepped outside.

While in the sky a rainbow danced red, orange, yellow, green  
blue, indigo and violet, the brightest colours ever seen!  
For when we come together and our hopes and dreams are one  
There always will be rainbows and every day some sun.

# Talk time!



★ What name would you choose for Rainy-day Rabbit?

★ What did you like most about the story?

- *The part of the story I liked best was ...  
because ...*

★ Tell me about a special toy that you have. What makes this toy special?

★ What do you do when it's a rainy day?

★ Do you think that Rainy-day Rabbit's ideas would work? Why? Why not?

*I think ... because ...*

★ What do you think happened next in the story?

★ Do you know any other stories about rabbits, rainy days or rainbows?



## Word watch!

There are a few alternative words for 'looked' in the story e.g. 'gazed', 'watched', 'peered', 'spied', 'stared' and 'see'. You might want to practise 'staring' together to help children understand the words. A game of 'I Spy' would be good.

Ned and Rainy-day Rabbit looked out of the window. When you look, your eyes are seeing something. Olive and Owl **stared** out of the window. When you stare, you look at something for a long, long time. Can you find some more words like 'looked' in the story.

Some words might be new to children. They will be able to understand many of them by listening to the story and thinking about what is happening. When introducing a new word, first give a short 'child-friendly' explanation. <https://www.vocabulary.com/> Next, use the word in a sentence. Finally, try asking a question related to the word. Here are some examples using words from the story.

### **Treasured**

If something is treasured, it means that it is very important and precious to us. In the story Ned treasured his blue rabbit.

*I treasure photos of my family.*

What things do you **treasure**?

### **Forlorn**

If you feel forlorn, it means you feel left out and miserable. Why did Olive and Owl feel forlorn?

*I felt forlorn when my friends didn't let me join their game.*

Can you think of a time when you felt **forlorn**?

**Fowl** Fowl is another name for a type of bird. You might know this word from the poem 'The Owl and the Pussycat' by Edward Lear.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/43188/the-owl-and-the-pussycat>  
Pussy said to the Owl, "You elegant **fowl**!

How charmingly sweet you sing!

If you've been to a country farm, then you will have chickens. These are fowl.

Which of these is a **fowl** – a rabbit or a turkey?

## A change in the weather!

*Once upon a time* is an important opening phrase to get a story going. Our poem uses the weather to get the story going:

*'Once upon a rainy day'*.

With your child, try using different types of weather to think of as many different ways to start a story as you can think of. Begin by thinking of lots of different weather types – snow, thunder, etc.

Below are some images and ideas to get you going. It makes a fun speaking game to take it in turns saying as many as possible – the loser being whoever runs out of ideas first!

Can you change the first sentence in the story? First, think about all the different types of weather you could use. Now, take it in turns with your helper to say a new opening sentence. Try writing your favourite sentence.



*Once upon a ..... day*

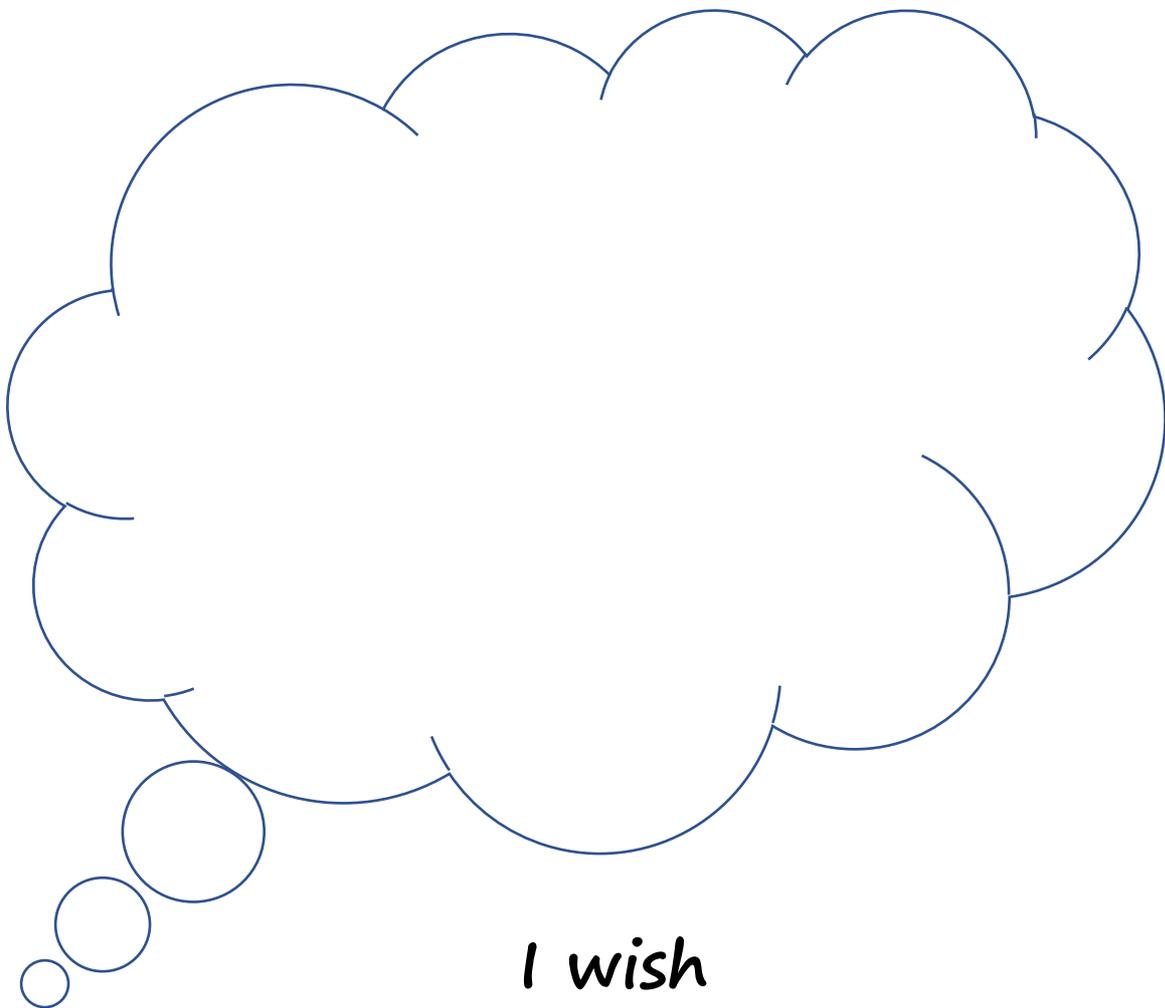
**Extension ideas:** Try using different times of day: *'Once upon a misty morning'*, *'Once upon a stormy night'*.

Or try days of the week: *'Once upon a Friday lunchtime'*.

Or maybe even specific times of the year: *'Once upon a Halloween'* or *'Once upon a Christmas Eve'*.

## Rainy daydreams

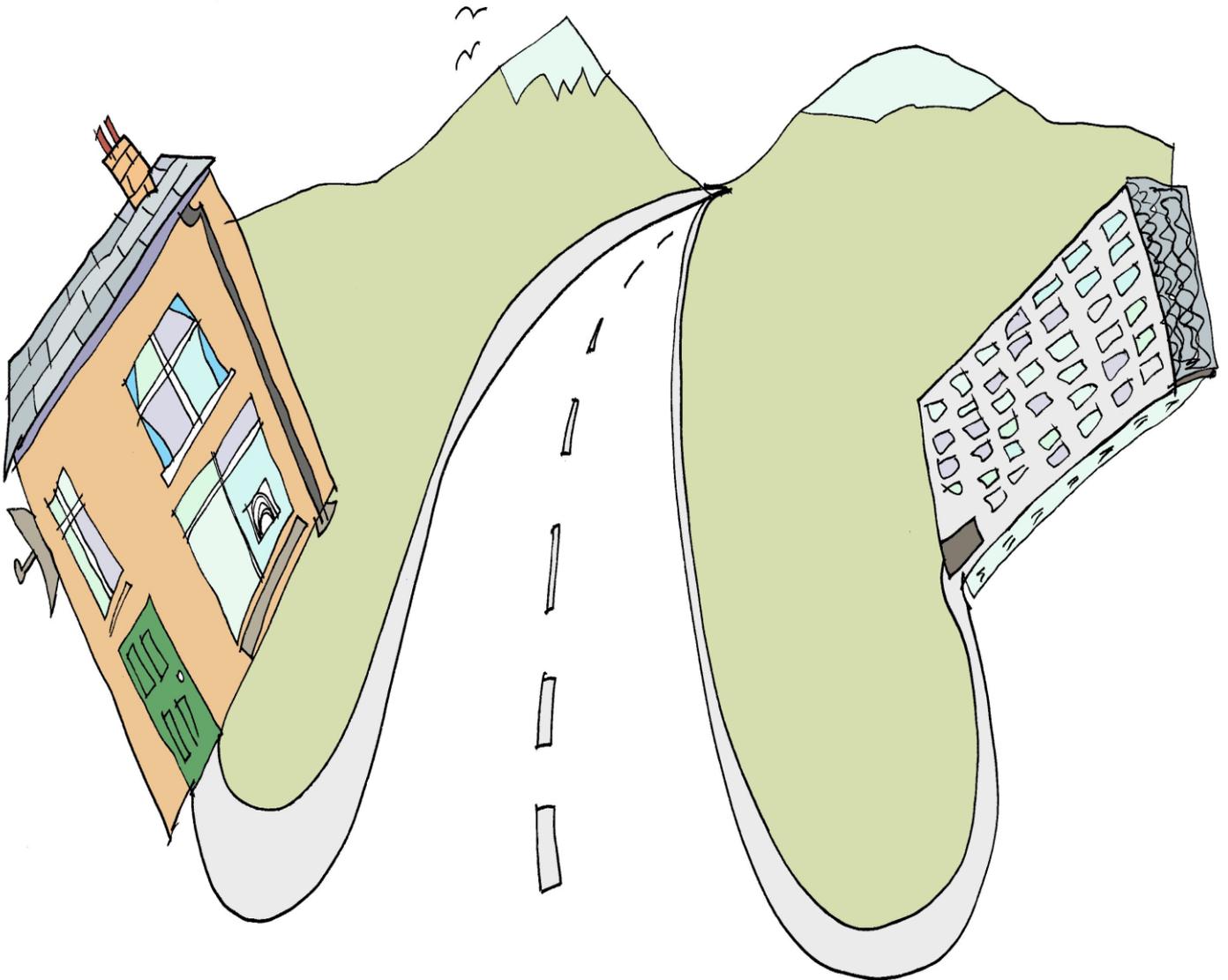
Rainy-day Rabbit, Ned, Olive and Owl wished the sun would shine so they could play together. In Lockdown, we had to stay inside for a long time. There were things that we wanted to do and people we wanted to see but we couldn't. Draw what you most wanted to do in the thought bubble and write down your wishes. You might want to draw something that you still wish to do in the future.



## Let your ideas fly!

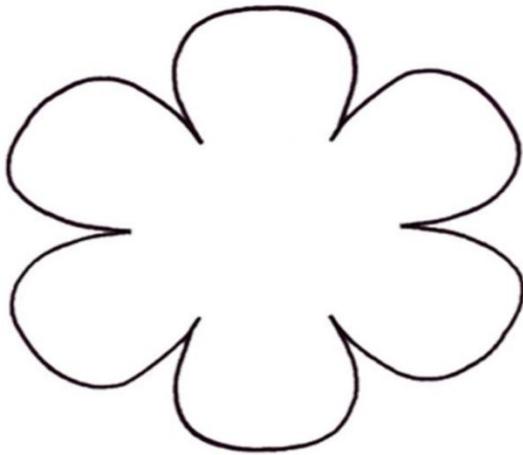


In the story, Ned, Rabbit, Olive and Owl thought of ways to reach each other's homes. Can you think of more magical ways they could have travelled? Draw them on the picture below:



# Float a note on a flower-shaped boat!

In the story, Rainy-day Rabbit thought about sending a note on a boat. These colourful notes are easy to make. Follow the instructions below to make your own flower-shaped boat notes!



## What you need:

- Regular printer paper
- Markers or crayons
- Scissors (make certain an adult helps you with these)
- Wide container filled with 1-2 inches of water  
(To make it more fun, add blue food colouring and biodegradable glitter to the water.)

Use the template downloadable at:

<https://thematernalhobbyist.com/blooming-puddle-paper-flowers/>

## What you do:

1. Print the free Blooming Puddle Paper Flowers Printable above.
2. Colour the paper flowers with crayons or markers and write a message on them. If you use markers, make sure to let the paper dry completely before doing this activity.
3. Cut the flowers out around the black outline.
4. Fold the flower petals into the centre. Do not crease the petals tightly, just loosely fold the petals or they will not open well.
5. Gently place each flower into the water and watch the petals unfold.

# A bridge of bubbles

If you haven't yet discovered the inspiring art and craft activities created and shared by Mrs Darlington, then do take a look. You'll find a wealth of creative ideas that are easy to follow and have stunning results.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCu5cN0pC2Dj2OaubXpLHF2g?app=desktop>

Mrs Darlington's ideas boards, like the one below, can be downloaded from

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resources/shop/Dellydar>

**Book to share!**

**'Bubble Trouble'**  
by Tom Percival

'Best friends Rueben and Felix love blowing bubbles, and the bigger, the better. But after Rueben challenges Felix to a contest, the two go head-to-head and bubble-to-bubble . . . with disastrous results. Can they keep their friendship from going POP?'

**BUBBLE TROUBLE**  
THE PICTURE BOOK

**Outdoor Art - Bubble, Bubble, Bubble, Pop!**

**Oil Pastel Rainbow Bubbles**

Use a black or bright coloured piece of paper as your background. Fill the paper with white circles of different sizes. You could draw these freehand, draw around objects or even print the circles. Once you have your circle shapes you can play around with adding white marks to indicate the light falling on the bubbles and add rainbow coloured patterns to make your bubbles look real!

**Bubble Pop Painting**

Add a little bit of food colouring to bubble mixture. Using a bubble wand blow bubbles at a piece of paper. When the bubbles pop they leave a mark and create a lovely bubble picture!

**Apron required!**

**Bubble Wrap Printing**

I love a bit of bubble wrap! Get the children in your group to paint a design straight onto some bubble wrap then place plain paper on top to print the image. You could use your bubble wrap print as a background (like the water in the above image) then collage on top or just paint a picture! I find it helpful if you attach the bubble wrap to something or hold it down at the corners to make it easier for children to paint without it moving or blowing about.

**Bubble Blowing**

Use shallow pots (yoghurt pot size is ideal), and mix together water, washing up liquid and paint (half paint and half bubble mixture). Use a straw to blow bubbles then place your paper on top. These make great back-grounds for publishing writing as well as lovely works of art!

**Make sure children blow and don't suck through the straw!**

**Exploring Bubbles!**

If you're going to paint and talk about bubbles it's a great idea to actually explore them! Give children the opportunity to blow bubbles and study the iridescent nature of them. Can they spot the colours of the rainbow? Watch them soar, watch them pop! Can they catch them on their bubble wands?

*When I did this with my class I bought a job lot of party bag size bubble packs with wands so they could have one each.*

## Cloud art

Look up at the clouds. What pictures can you see in them? If it is a grey day, like in the story, you can use these pictures and your imagination. Draw what you see on the cloud pictures. If you can, take pictures outside of clouds and print them out. You could join them together in a sky full of cloudy pictures. Try writing a sentence 'In the clouds, I can see ...'.

In the clouds, I can see a rabbit. What can you see?



© Mr Clarke Executive HT Lea Forest Primary Academy

*In the clouds, I can see ...*



*In the clouds, I can see ...*



# Rabbit rhymes

If you have access to the Internet, you can download a song sheet with Makaton signs from <https://singinghands.co.uk/?s=rabbit> to accompany the song. There is also a downloadable audio track that you can use.

Another great song to accompany this story would be 'You are my sunshine,' sung and signed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iIRpmxkmGE>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZifUxfcQS30>

## Rhyme time!

Little Peter Rabbit

Little Peter Rabbit had a fly upon his nose,  
Little Peter Rabbit had a fly upon his nose.  
Little Peter Rabbit had a fly upon his nose,  
So, he flipped it and he flopped it  
And the fly flew away.

Powder puffs and curly whiskers,  
Powder puffs and curly whiskers,  
Powder puffs and curly whiskers,  
So, he swished it and he swashed it  
And the fly flew away.

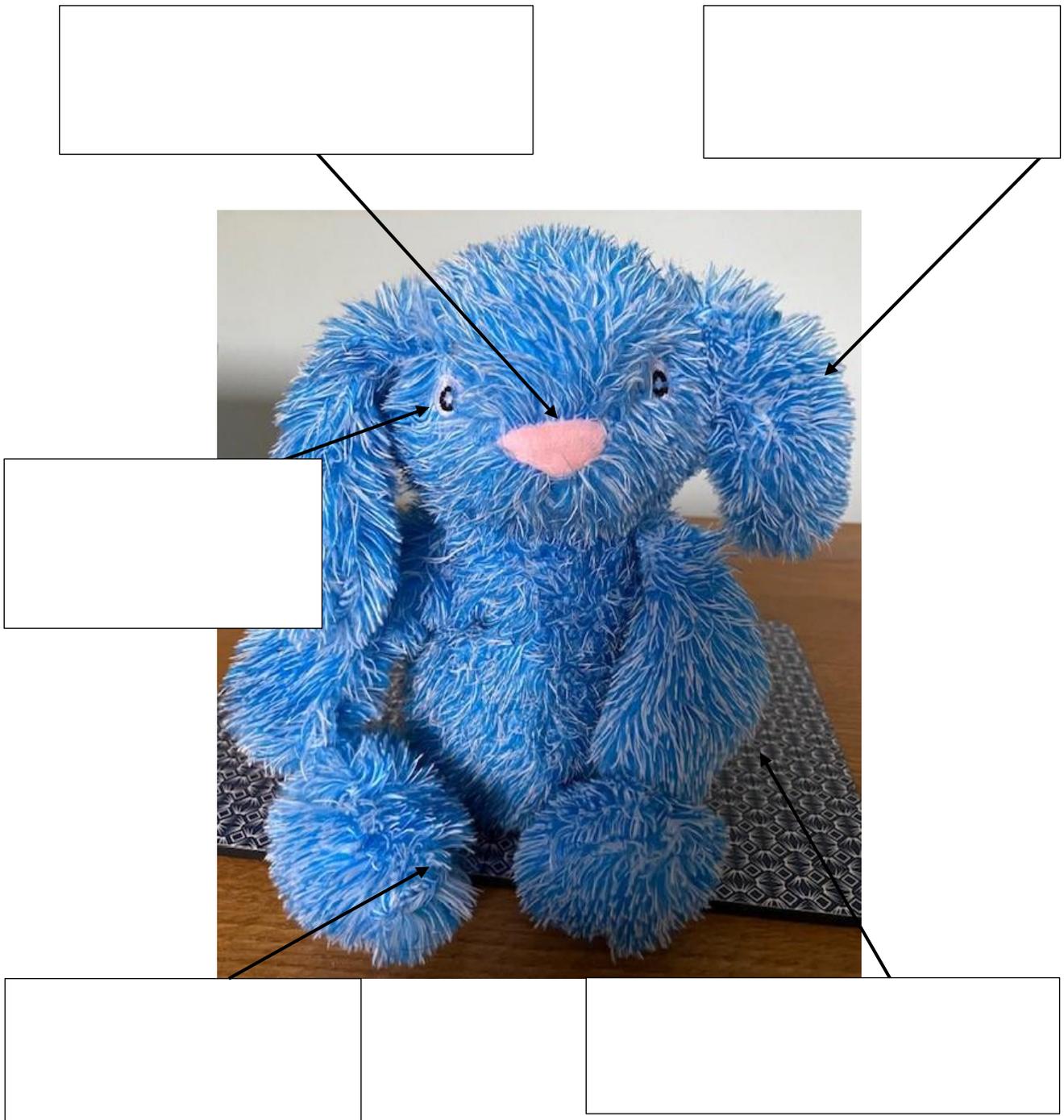
Next verses: Little Peter Rabbit had a fly upon his paw....

Add other body parts as required.



# Rabbit Labels

Can you label the different body parts of this toy rabbit?  
Try drawing a 'powder puff and curly whiskers' for him. Do you know who this blue rabbit belongs to? Here is a clue if you have read my earlier units - his name begins with 'M'!  
Find out if you are right at the end of this booklet!



## Little Rabbit Foo Foo

Little Rabbit Foo Foo is a well-known children's poem about a mischievous rabbit who is annoying the field mice and other creatures. There have been many translations and innovations on the basic theme. If you have access to the internet you can join in with the wonderful Michael Rosen as he engages us with an expressive rendition of the poem. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y3mYPD7BK-I>

(Sung to the tune of 'Down by the Station')

Little Rabbit Foo Foo,  
Hopping through the forest,  
Scooping up the field mice,  
And bopping them on the head.

(Spoken) Down came the Good Fairy, and she said,

"Little rabbit Foo Foo,  
I don't want to see you,  
Scooping up the field mice  
And bopping them on the head."

(Spoken)

"I'll give you three chances,  
And if you don't behave,  
I'm gonna turn you into a goonie!"

Little Rabbit Foo Foo,  
Hopping through the forest,  
Scooping up the field mice,  
And bopping them on the head.

[Verses 2-4 start 'The next day', or 'That evening', or 'Later that night'. You can change the animals that are being harassed. Following decreasing chances, the Good Fairy finally says:]

"I gave you three chances,  
And you didn't behave,  
And now I'm gonna turn you into a goonie. POOF! "

## Foo Foo phonics!

This is a fun game that can also be played outdoors. (Hoops, rabbit masks and hopping are optional!)

### You will need

- ★ Carrot shapes with letters on. There is a PDF of the carrots to adapt. If you have access to a printer, [download it here](#). Or make your own.
- ★ The phonic sounds your child has been working on to put on the carrots, e.g. **ai**, **ar**, **ee**, **igh**, **oa**.
- ★ Fly swatters or rolled up newspapers to 'bop' the 'carrots'.
- ★ One or more children ready to play. Each will need a 'swatter'.



### What you do:

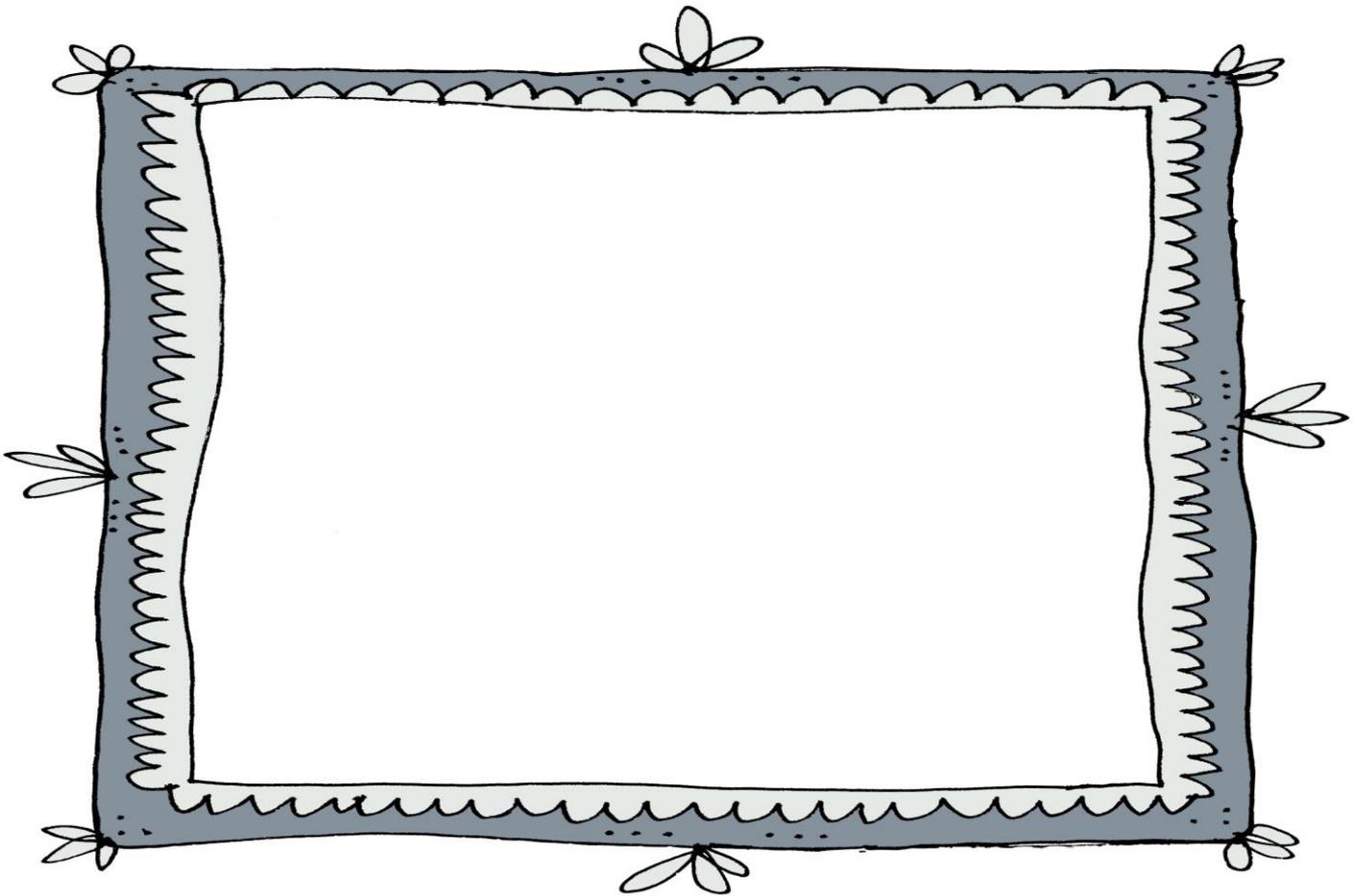
- First, hold up all the carrots you are using and say, "What sound do you say when you see these letters?"
- Explain that you are going to say some words that have that sound in them.
- The children have to run to the carrot with the letters they can hear. For example, if you said 'rain', they would need to run to the 'ai' carrot and bop it with their 'swatter'. If you said 'coat' they need to run to the 'oa' carrot and bop it?
- If you are working on single letters, explain that they have to find the letter they hear at beginning of the word, e.g. If you say the word 'cat', they have to swat the sound they hear at the beginning of the word.

Decide on all the words you are going to focus on and then see if your child can read them at the end of the game. For example:

star	road	boat
float	jar	sleet
light	owl	fowl
carrot	rain	meet

## My special toy

My special toy is called little Ted. He is special because he was given to me by my Uncle Norman when I was born. He is quite worn like Rainy-day Rabbit but still a treasured toy. Do you have a special toy that you've had a long time? Can you draw your toy and say why they are special.



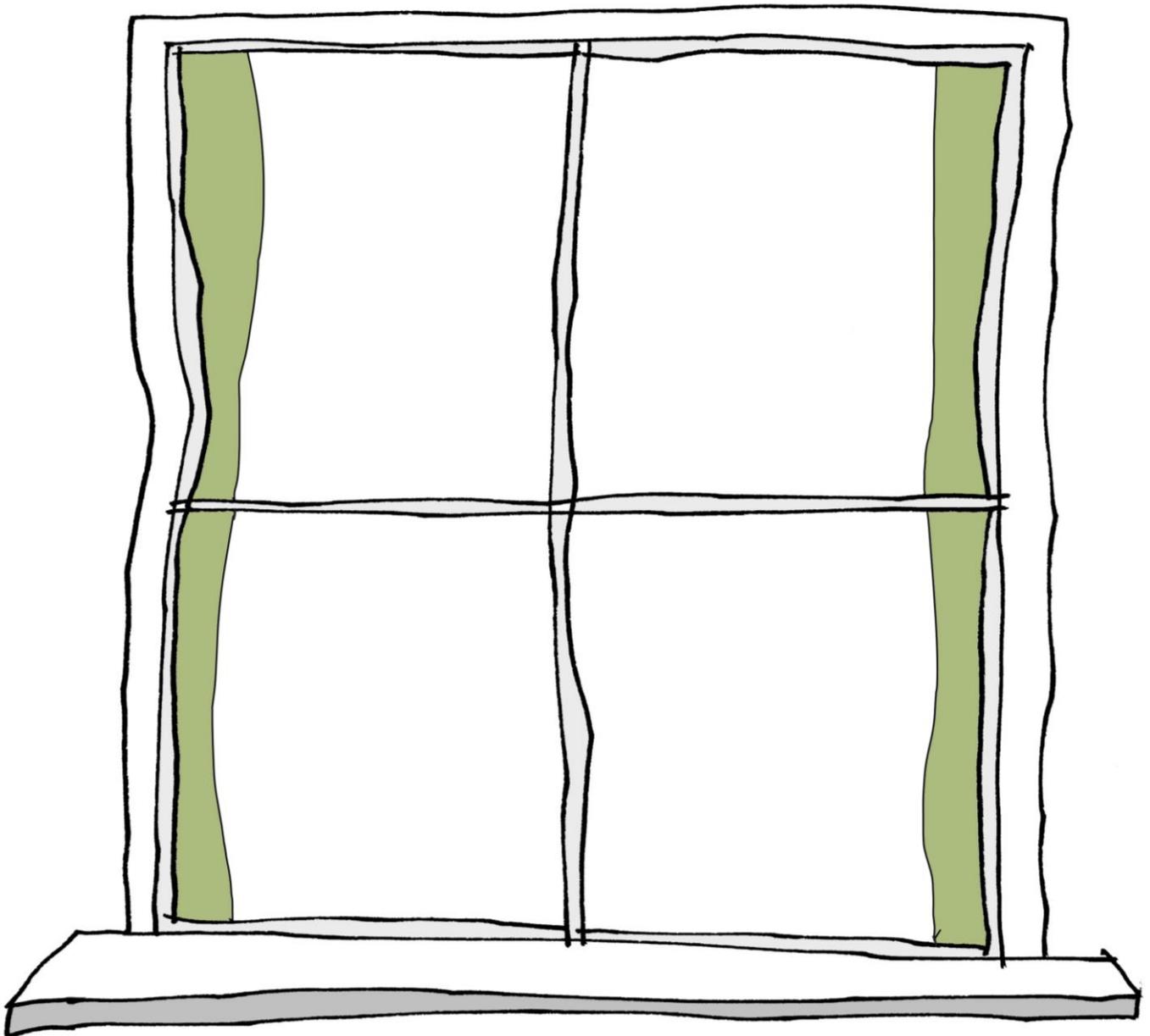
My special toy is called .....

They are special to me because

.....

## Through the window I can see ...

When you are at home, you sometimes have visitors who come to your home. Recently, there won't have been visitors to your home. Can you think of visitors you might see if you looked out of the window? The postman comes to my house nearly every day. Draw one visitor in each of the four windowpanes. You could draw a friend or relation who you hope will visit. Write their name or who they are in the windowpane.



## Wish upon a star!

This activity is great for strengthening little fingers to help children to hold pencils and write more easily.

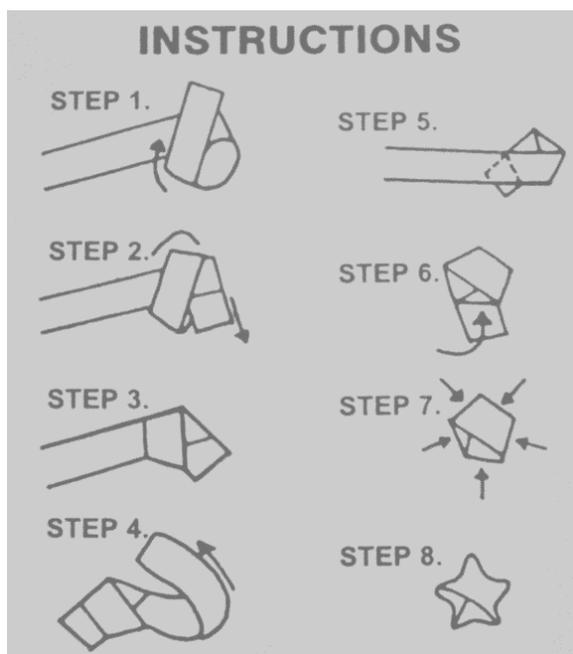
### What you need:

- Pipe Cleaners
- Star Shaped Biscuit Cutters
- Ribbon to hang them up.

### What you do:

- Bend the pipe cleaner around the star shaped biscuit cutter, leave a little extra for hanging it up.
- If you're feeling adventurous and want to add some sparkle to your stars, you can make crystal ones. Following the link below.

<https://onelittleproject.com/how-to-make-crystal-stars/>



These paper stars are easy to make and help children to practise fine motor skills. Some help may be needed, but they can write wishes on the strips of paper before they are folded.



## Make a pop-up rainbow card

Try making this pop-up rainbow card to send to a friend or relative. Write a message telling them that you are thinking of them.

The link below will help:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Mv\\_HwVSrU0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Mv_HwVSrU0)



Many thanks to the family at this house for kind permission to share this inspiring photograph.

You will have seen lots of rainbows and pictures in windows that families have created. These are to thank the NHS doctors, nurses and carers and their support staff plus key workers for all their hard work. These rainbows let us know that we are not alone at this time and that we all share the same hope. Once you've made your rainbow, you could put it in the window.

## Rice cake rabbit snacks

These rabbit and owl inspired rice cakes are a creative way to involve children in preparing a snack. You can adapt the ingredients to fit what you have available or choose to eat. The children can enjoy munching them while listening to more rabbit themed stories. These links will help you:

<https://www.kidspot.com.au/kitchen/recipes/rice-cake-rabbits/1u7xd70v>

<https://www.superhealthykids.com/recipes/fun-food-kids-owl-rice-cakes/>



### What you need:

- 2 rice cakes (halved)
- 2 tsp cream cheese
- 1 slice ham or more carrot (halved)
- 2 slice carrot
- 1 slice cheese
- 2 choc chips
- 3 chives (halved)

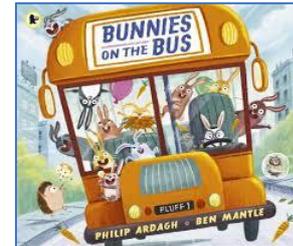
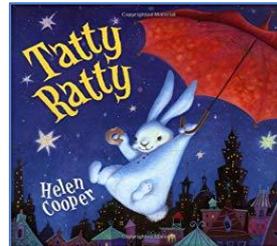
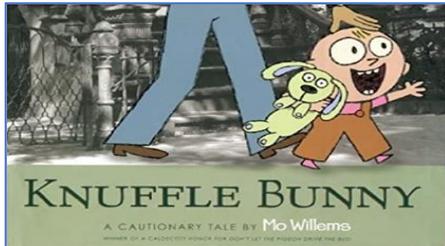
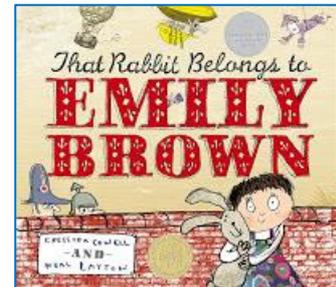
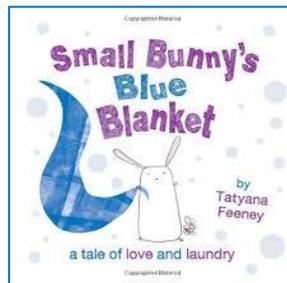
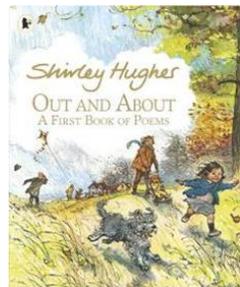
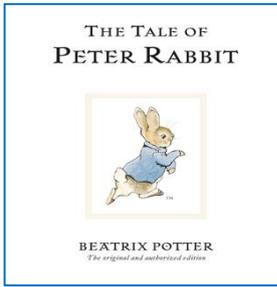
### What you do:

1. Take 2 rice cakes and lay on plate. Ask your helper to cut one carefully in half using a knife to make 'ears'.
2. Spread cream cheese over both rice cakes.
3. Slice ham/carrot to make shapes for rice cake 'ears'.
4. Cut out 'teeth' and 'nose' from carrot slices.
5. Cut out 'smile' from cheese slice.
6. Position choc chips as eyes.
7. Position halved chives as whiskers.



Or you could work out how to change the ingredients and create owl treats instead!

## More stories about special rabbits & treasured toys



Well done! I hope you enjoyed the story and activities.

Did you guess who blue rabbit belongs to? Yes! This blue rabbit belongs to Max! It is one of his favourite toys!



How did you get on? Colour in the weather symbols to say



how well you think you've done.

What was your favourite activity?

My favourite activity was ..... because

.....  
 .....

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Sue Cove, former Deputy Headteacher and Senior Primary National Strategy Consultant now works with Talk for Writing to help schools develop the approach.

Edited and designed by Julia Strong

Prepared for online distribution by Nick Batty

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Many thanks to Jon Ralphs for the cartoons: [jonralphs.com](http://jonralphs.com)

And thanks to Olive McGuire for inspiring me about your owl.

