









want to use my role as the Waterstones Children's Laureate to encourage creativity. Everywhere. Inside and outside school, in adults and children alike. Allowing ideas to float, collide and connect is, for me, the most inspiring way to learn. Creative thinking helps us to problem solve, to understand who we are, and how we relate to those around us and the world we live in. It is now widely recognised that creativity is as important as literacy or numeracy, and that allowing ourselves the time, space and freedom to be creative is essential for good mental health.

The question I am asked more than any other is: Where do you get your ideas from? It's a profound question, which could take an age to answer, because finding the source of creativity is as fundamental as asking: What makes you you? Fostering creativity is not about knowing where to find your ideas, but how to develop the habit and aptitude for looking.

For me, ideas come from *everywhere*, the particles of them are everywhere: on the pavement, in a supermarket queue, out of the window, in the past, in the moment, a sentence overheard,

a conversation with a close friend, with a stranger, a film watched, a book read, a football kicked and on and on and on.

We all have the facility to link ideas and to allow our minds to be led in new directions, to be inspired, but we need 'mind space' to do so. That's why boredom can be the creator's greatest ally; one's mind struggles with boredom, hating the inactivity, and this is when ideas and thoughts are so often conjured. And by the same token, we stifle our own ability to create by seeking distraction. Tablets and smart phones are incredible tools for some purposes, but they also have the capacity to suffocate reflection, wonder and creative thought.

Sometimes we need to stare into space.

While it is easy to say that I have put nurturing creativity at the centre of my aspirations for my time as Waterstones Children's Laureate, finding a way of putting that into practice is not. One way of trying to do so is to look closely at the ideas of others, consider what the artist wanted to achieve, the thoughts behind their work and the materials used. Can you create something unique using these same techniques, materials or initial ideas?

I have teamed up with Josey Scullard, a talented teacher and creator of arts and crafts. Together, we gathered up books which reflect the theme of my mission. The books explore delight in thought and discovery. They are all at once philosophical, artistic and highly personal.

Here you will find six creative resources to use at home, in schools, in libraries, in museum education rooms and anywhere you like. I hope you find them inspiring and enjoy creating your own projects. If you like you can share your own creations online using #Staringintospace

on Twitter @UKLaureate,

on Instagram **@LaurenChildThatsMe**

or on Facebook
@LaurenChildBooks

Download all the creative resources plus find more information and images

www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/staringintospace.

See Lauren's website **www.staringintospace.me** for more creative inspiration

With my very best wishes,





1. Toast Sculptures:

a Waterstones Children's Laureate creative resource by Lauren Child and Josey Scullard, inspired by Laura Carlin's book A World of Your Own (Phaidon)



© Polly Borland

"Laura Carlin's A World of Your Own is a great starting point for a creative project. How do you relate to the place you live in, to your room, flat or house, your street, village or town? Can you draw it? Or, like this artist, create elements of it by using boxes, or pegs, pebbles, or even a hair comb. Now, can you invent the home, place or city you would like to live in?

I am inspired by the resourcefulness of the artist, finding everyday objects and reimagining them as creatures, buildings and people. She is using items we often discard, repurposing them to make a precious 'world of her own'. This is something anyone can do, there are no special art materials, it doesn't have to cost anything, and there is no right or wrong way of doing it.





Activity by Josey Scullard: Build your world out of toast!

Laura Carlin's book encourages you to look at the world around you in a different way. To look beyond the surface of things (the boring looking shop is a shoe shop for super heroes and that scary looking building is a home for cats!). So here is a chance to look and think in an upside down, inside out sort of way. You could lie on the floor and imagine the ceiling as your floor. Look at the small things in your pockets, bags, or

on the shelves; what other things could they be? Let your imagination run riot. Anything can be anything!

As your ideas grow, so can your world. You can combine things you have made with your drawings and things you have found. All you need are a few everyday objects, your amazing imagination, a sharpened pencil and... toast.

10 bags of sliced bread for a class of 30 (or 6 slices per person) made into toast. Look out for bread that is on offer because it's close to or past its sell by date, stale bread works best and means you don't waste edible food. You can toast the bread the day before if necessary, but quite lightly so it stays flexible (darker toast goes too hard). If possible have a toaster in the classroom to make more toast as needed.

10 tubes of cocktail sticks (for 30 children)

Dinner knives and scissors for cutting

Pastry cutters and bottle tops, for making shapes

Golden syrup (optional for tricky, sticky builds: use sparingly for emergencies -1 bottle per class)

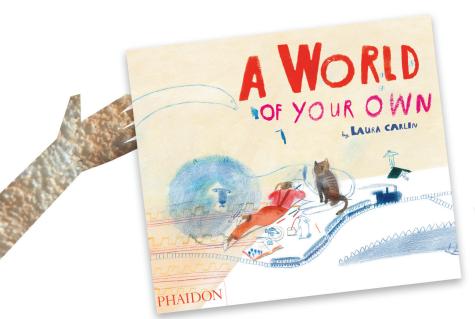
- **1.** Spend a few minutes sketching your ideas. You don't have to stick to your plans but it's good to have a starting point. You can draw anything you like, you can make the decisions. What shape would the houses in your made-up world be?
- **2.** Start with about four pieces of toast; you can cut them into a smaller size or join them together to make larger walls.
- **3.** Try to think beyond the average size and shape of a piece of toast; is your building long and thin, or round and squat?
- **4.** Try bending the toast to make curves and twists, or cut it into small pieces for bricks, steels, beams or cladding.
- **5.** You could use pastry cutters or bottle tops to cut windows and doors; they don't have to be squares and rectangles, they can be circles or hearts!
- **6.** Attach the toast together by pushing cocktail sticks through both pieces. Snip off the ends of the sticks if they are poking out if you wish. Flat pieces could even be stuck on with a little golden syrup, but use sparingly.







- 7. This project can be as complex or as simple as you wish. You can make just one thing, or a whole scene; a cityscape, a village or just a few buildings dotted around a landscape.
- **8.** Use anything you have lying around: cardboard is perfect for making shops or houses for backgrounds; all you need is a little paint!
- **9.** See how simply Laura Carlin has added people by drawing a face on things she had lying around, like a peg or a drinking straw. Draw a person, place them on an old comb or nailbrush or anything you like!
- **10.** You have made a world of your own out of toast and everyday objects. You can eat the toast now if you like; but maybe it's better to photograph it!





A World of Your Own by Laura Carlin (Phaidon).

 $To a st\ artwork\ and\ photos\ by\ Josey\ Scullard.$

Download all the creative resources plus find more information and images

www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/staringintospace.

See Lauren's website **www.staringintospace.me** for more creative inspiration











2. Charcoal Journey Drawings:

a Waterstones Children's Laureate creative resource by Lauren Child and Josey Scullard, inspired by Anthony Browne's book *Into the Forest* (Walker Books)



© Polly Borland

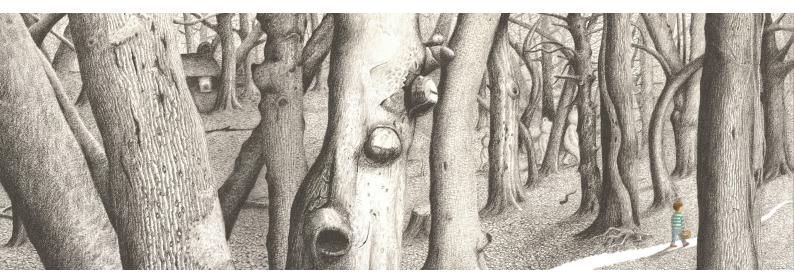
"When we read a book, we interpret the story in our own way. Depending on our experiences or how we are feeling at the time of reading, we might find former Children's Laureate Anthony Browne's book Into The Forest clever, funny, unsettling or even scary.

This is my understanding of the story: a boy has woken in the night to hear an argument between his parents, and in the morning his father is not there. Fear starts to creep into his mind and the boy begins to imagine bad things. While he is walking he is mulling over bits and pieces of the fairytales told to him by his grandmother and gradually these tales begin to merge with the 'real' world of the boy.

The fairytale world, shown in black and white, represents the boy's anxiety about his missing father. The more one looks at the illustrations the more one sees, which is just what happens when we become

overwhelmed by worry, we begin to see more and more things which might be things to worry about.

Sometimes when I look at these illustrations I am not quite sure if I am actually seeing creatures in the bark of the trees or if I am beginning to imagine them. I particularly like this element to the book because it means I am experiencing that same uncertainty the boy experiences. **



Activity by Josey Scullard:

Charcoal journey drawings!

What if you could make your journey to school more fun with nothing more than your amazing imagination?! What if you started looking at those same things you see every day in a completely different way? What would things smell like or feel

Illustration © Anthony Browne (Walker Books).

like if you were a cat? What if you had special powers to see through things? Is it just letters sitting in that post box or is it someone's cosy home? The more you think, the more you imagine... things are not always quite what they seem...

Sticks of charcoal (x 2 per child)

An eraser

(one between 2) Conte crayons or charcoal pencils (1 per child - optional but good for detail)

White chalk

(optional 1 piece per child)

A3 pieces of paper

(2 per child, ideal if one of them can be thick cartridge paper but ordinary paper will work)

- 1. First of all you need to experiment with using charcoal: so take a stick of charcoal and make as many different marks with it as you possibly can. Make some dots, make some dashes, make soft swirls and hard angled shapes. Turn the charcoal on its side and make sweeping marks right across the paper. Now rub your finger over the surface, you will see how soft your marks become. Try holding the charcoal at the very end, and drag it gently from one side of the paper to the other. See how the line you make is so light it is barely there. Now hold the charcoal firmly and make hard marks. See if you can make the darkest black.
- **2.** You can now start drawing your imagined journey, ideally on a large piece of cartridge paper but normal white paper will do fine. First, completely cover your paper with charcoal and rub it well in; this creates a surface and an atmosphere for you to start drawing on.







- A: Draw it
- B: Smudge it





- **3.** Now very lightly sketch out the basic shapes in your picture, such as the sky, mountains, and the foreground. Keep it big and bold with no detail whatsoever... that comes later!
- **4.** Think about the journey across your paper; does your path go from left to right or is it disappearing into the distance? You could draw buildings or some trees, the simpler the better.
- **5.** Now think about what could be hiding amongst your mass of marks. Something peeking out of a window? Something flying behind the branches of a tree? Camouflage your creatures, show just a little bit of something peeking out.



Free and easy

- **6.** Use your darkest darks to create a moody atmosphere. Then make your lightest lights by using your eraser you can rub the charcoal away to make a moon in the sky, or reflections in windows and puddles.
- **7.** Now for the details! A stick of Conte crayon or a charcoal pencil is good for this, but normal charcoal is fine... are there faces in the tree trunks? You can rub something out with your finger or eraser, and re-draw it in seconds. It smudges a lot so don't worry if you lose an image along the way... something else might happen in your picture as you erase. This is called "serendipity" ... or a "happy accident" and it makes a drawing even better!



Try to cover a whole sheet.



Light and dark / paper and charcoal.



Add white detail with chalk.



Charcoal photos by Josey Scullard using artwork by the children of Rosendale School, London.



Into the Forest by Anthony Browne (Walker Books).

the book...

Download all the creative resources plus find more information and images **www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/staringintospace**.

See Lauren's website **www.staringintospace.me** for more creative inspiration











3. Tell Your Stories Warli style:

a Waterstones Children's Laureate creative resource by Lauren Child and Josey Scullard, inspired by Gita Wolf, Ramesh Hengadi and Shantaram Dhadpe's book *Do!* (Tara Books)



© Polly Borland

"The artwork in the book Do! is created by Gita Wolf together with two artists belonging to the Warli tribal community in Maharashtra, western India. This book demonstrates how it is possible to tell stories by using very simple repeated images. There are only two

colours in this book (brown and white) yet the effect has great impact and is very eyecatching. The drawings narrate what is going on without the need for words and because they are so stylised, repeated over and over, they create patterns and become highly decorative adornment for the houses they are painted onto.

The tales told by these simple images can be dramatic and powerful, used as a warning, or just to illustrate small scenes from day to day life. They have a great joy and energy to them."



Activity by Josey Scullard:

Tell your story Warli style

This project gives you an opportunity to tell the rest of the world your stories. You may have a tradition in your family that has been handed down through the generations; you might have a funny story to tell that involves you and your friends; maybe you want to tell Illustration © Gita Wolf, Ramesh Hengadi and Shantaram Dhadpe (Tara Books).

your story of a particularly exciting trip you recently went on. The Warli style is perfect for telling a story and including lots of information and it's very easy to copy.

Blackboard paint painted onto a wall or some board (most ideally painted down a school corridor)

White chalk

And/or

Plain paper

preferably brown, of various sizes, or wallpaper roll (at least 3 pieces per child)

White pencils, pens or chalk if using dark paper or black pencils, pens or chalk if using light paper or wallpaper

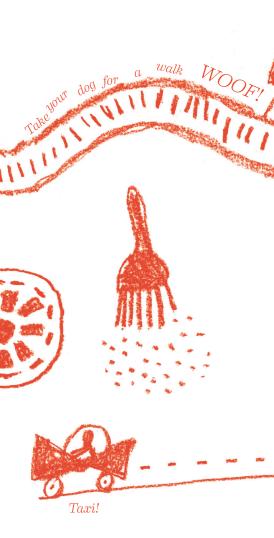
Steps to create:

- 1. First work out what you are going to use to draw on. Ideally paint an area of wall with blackboard paint. Not only does this look amazing, the drawings can be easily rubbed out and redrawn as you go along. In a perfect world, paint down a long corridor. Otherwise paint bits of hardboard or even thick cardboard. Or use bits of brown paper; you can stick some together or you could even use rolls of lining paper or reversed unwanted wallpaper.
- **2.** Now you need to practise your Warli style either on paper or on the blackboard. The drawing technique is really very easy! Turn to the back of *Do!* or go to the 'more information' pages on www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/staringintospace for the step-by-step guide or look at the pictures on this page. Start with copying the stick figure and see how it can be adapted to bend; you can draw the arms and legs in different positions and give it things to hold.





3. Do! is a book about an Indian village; think about how to adapt this style in your environment. You may not see a monkey every day, but you may see a dog, a cat, birds, or even a pet hamster.





- **4.** Now you can start working on drawing your story either on the blackboard or on pieces of card or paper. If you are working individually, you can draw on your own piece of paper, maybe adding more pieces as your story grows. If you are a larger group you can use larger pieces of paper or wallpaper.
- **5.** Try to imagine your scene as a whole and structure it by adding something like a path or buildings. You can add objects such as a post box, vehicles, bicycles in the foreground, for the people you draw to walk around. Remember this is your story and you can style it how you want.
- **6.** You really don't have to be a master artist to use the techniques shown in this book, the simplest of shapes can tell you what the person is doing and what their role in the story is. You may have noticed someone using a walking stick, or a baby in a swing cot. Once you have mastered the basic stick figure you can make anything!









for more creative inspiration

www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/staringintospace.

See Lauren's website www.staringintospace.me





4. Make Your Own Book:

a Waterstones Children's Laureate creative resource by Lauren Child and Josey Scullard, inspired by Sara Fanelli's book *The Onion's Great Escape* (Phaidon).



"Sara Fanelli's The Onion's Great Escape is a book which discusses 'us': who we are inside, how we think and what makes us tick. Sara gets us to consider some interesting questions, for example, 'would you be different if you had a

different name?' and 'can your memory become full?' and with each turn of the page she gives us another press-out image to slot together and assemble. What gradually appears is a three dimensional paper onion, the onion of course being a

metaphor for the 'self'. Every question in the book represents a new layer and the layers build up to make an onion figure which represents 'you'. Here the artist uses colour, collage and letterforms to create something deeply personal."

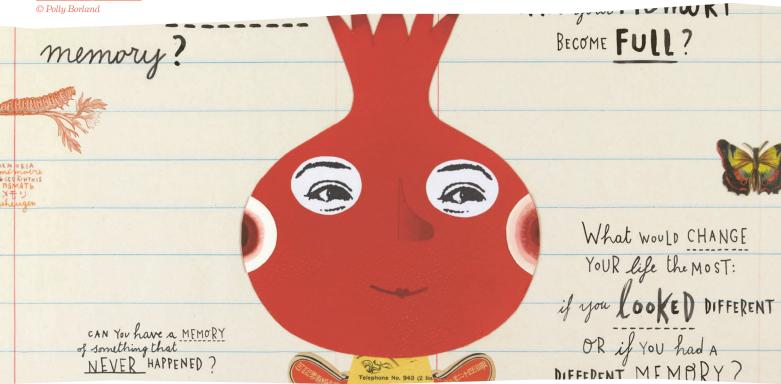


Illustration © Sara Fanelli (Phaidon).

Activity by Josey Scullard:

Make Your Own Book!

At the end of this project you can help your own onion escape the hard confines of the pages! You will have made a book of your own, full of interesting new facts

and your thoughts. You can carry the book around with you, adding to it whenever you want, perhaps even changing your mind as you challenge yourself.

A4 plain or coloured card (1 piece per child for book cover)

A4 or A5 plain or coloured paper (7 pieces per child)

Photocopies of questions from the book (see childrenslaureate.org.uk/ staringintospace for extra resources for questions)

Felt tip pens
Glue sticks
Scissors
Crayons
Coloured pencils

Stapler

(or you can use needle and thread to sew pages together)

Pictures of faces cut out from magazines (optional)

Watch your fingers!

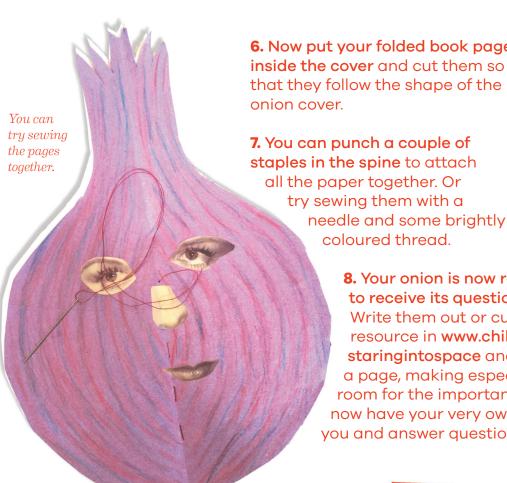
Steps to create:

- **1.** Take some time to discuss some of the questions the Onion poses. You can then choose some of the Onion's questions that you personally would like to think about.
- **2.** Take seven pieces of plain paper. You can either use A4 to make a pocket sized book, or A3 to make a book bag sized book.
- 3. Fold each piece in half, short side to short side, and stack on top of each other so that they are like the pages in a book. Take your coloured card for the cover of your book and fold in half the same way you made your book pages. Open it up again and using Sara Fanelli's Onion as a guide, draw your own Onion, making sure the fold of the card is directly down the middle of it.



4. Use some coloured pencils to draw in the detail of the surface of the onion and either draw on eyes, nose and mouth or cut out some from a magazine and stick them on.

5. Fold the cover in half again. Hopefully you have an eye on the front and back of the book and a nose and mouth somewhere near the middle. Start cutting around the outline of your onion, but make sure that you leave that straight edge uncut! You should be left with a cover to your book, with a spine in the middle of the two symmetrical halves.



6. Now put your folded book pages inside the cover and cut them so that they follow the shape of the onion cover.

7. You can punch a couple of staples in the spine to attach all the paper together. Or try sewing them with a

cut

coloured thread.

8. Your onion is now ready to receive its questions.

Write them out or cut them out from the extra resource in www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/ staringintospace and glue each question on a page, making especially sure to leave lots of room for the important bit... your answers! You now have your very own onion book to carry with you and answer questions when you are inspired.



Download all the creative resources plus find more information and images www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/staringintospace.

See Lauren's website ${\bf www.staringintospace.me}$ for more creative inspiration



Onion book making photos $by\ Josey\ Scullard.$











5. Make a 3D Space of Your Own:

a Waterstones Children's Laureate creative resource by Josey Scullard, inspired by Lauren Child's book Clarice Bean, That's Me (Hachette).



© Polly Borland

"Clarice Bean, That's Me was my first book and creating it taught me a great deal about how we read images.

As an illustrator I am not simply drawing pictures to go with the words. What an illustrator actually does is to translate words into image and draw out meaning from the text. Sometimes I might want to provide a visual setting for the story, other times simply to conjure mood and atmosphere.

Very often the illustrator takes us beyond the words, illustrating things which are not quite said but rather, felt. How does it feel to be told off? Do you suddenly feel very small? Do you experience feelings of remorse, or feel full of poisonous thoughts? How do you show poisonous thoughts? Does the world feel without colour when you find yourself in trouble?

I always work with cut

paper and each piece is layered one on top of the other. I like the effect this has of making the illustration not quite flat and how you can see a slight depth to the image. Working in collage also allows a certain freedom to rethink an idea, even while I am constructing the final artwork. I am able to keep moving the image around, reposition characters and objects until the composition works as I want it to. **



Activity by Josey Scullard: $Make\ a\ 3D\ Space\ of\ Your\ Own$

All Clarice Bean wants is a space of her own. This activity is about making a 3D space of your own using the technique of collage. It can be an indoor or an

outdoor space – and it's your imagined space so make it just the way you want it.



An old shoe box (1 per child)

Thin card (a few sheets/cereal box per child)

Coloured or patterned paper

White paper for photocopied images (a few sheets per child)

Old magazines (a couple per child)

Pencils, coloured pencils and crayons

Scissors (1 per child)

Glue sticks (1 stick between 2 children)

- 1. Choose whether you want a long, flat scene, or a tall, thin scene and turn the box on its side or its bottom depending on what you want. Long flat scenes are good for rooms, cityscapes, or a desert scene, and tall thin scenes are good for forests, or a sci fi city.
- 2. You need a background to go on the side and rear walls, floor and ceiling of your box: they can all be different or all be the same. You might find a picture of a beach, or far away hills or what works as crazy patterned wallpaper in an old magazine. You might want to draw your own background and stick it in. Lauren often photocopies her background so she has enough for her picture. The ceiling could be a cloudy sky if it's an outdoor scene or even a cloudy sky floor. Glue sticks are perfect for sticking everything together; you will have to cover a lot of your chosen paper in glue to make it stick down flat!
- 3. Now you can move on to filling your scene with people and objects. Think about what objects go at the back and front. You can look for images in old magazines and cut them out. If you can't find an actual picture of what it is you really want, then you can draw it yourself, colour it in, and then cut the shape out. You could create animals and plants by using different images OR you may want cosy things in your space, perhaps some shelves with some books and a lamp to read them by?





A space of my own (by Josey).

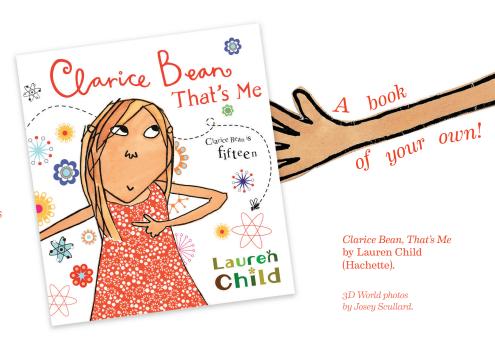
- **4.** To make your objects 3D, glue them onto card so they are stiff enough to stand up. To attach your objects in your box, you'll need to make a tab. This is a piece of extra card glued to the back at the bottom of your image with 1cm of card sticking out, so that you can bend it back and attach it to the box.
- **5.** The objects don't all have to be on the bottom of the box, they can stick out from the side or even hang from the ceiling. Just use the tab technique.

You can now play with your world and change it as you like!



Download all the creative resources plus find more information and images www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/staringintospace.

See Lauren's website **www.staringintospace.me** for more creative inspiration













6. Make Your Own Miniature World:

a Waterstones Children's Laureate creative resource by Josey Scullard, in consultation with Lauren Child and inspired by *The Princess and The Pea* by Lauren Child, with photography by Polly Borland (Puffin).



© Polly Borland

⁶⁶The Princess and the Pea is my retelling of a well known fairytale with photography by Polly Borland. Fairytales inhabit peculiar worlds filled with witches, bad fairies, fairy godmothers, trolls and enchanted spinning wheels. $The \ strangeness \ is \ exaggerated$ by the very straightforward way these tales are usually narrated. For example, we might be told that the way to determine whether a princess is a "real" princess is by placing a pea beneath 12 feather mattresses, as if this is a completely normal thing to do.

I wanted to reflect this oddness by making my illustrations look slightly odd. I did this by putting my drawn characters into a three dimensional setting.

The rooms are miniature, created from cardboard cut into sections and painted so the walls appear to be panelled and the floors appear to be wood or tile. Miniature furniture and objects furnish the rooms. The effect is almost like a dolls' house but the figures are obviously illustrated and, but for a little folding of their paper clothes, pretty much flat.

For the outdoor scenes I used twigs as branches, a tree stump became a house, and moss, gravel and leaves are used to create the forest. I purposely kept the leaves large because I want to keep reminding you that this world is peculiar, the scale is strange, not in keeping with the characters. Polly's lighting of the scenes and capturing on film lends this world another degree of oddness, making it seem somehow alive, magical and slightly unsettling. 99



Activity by Josey Scullard: Make Your Own Miniature World!

Have you ever looked at something through a magnifying glass or microscope? Everything looks so different up close, it's like entering another world. In *The Princess and the Pea*, Lauren has used things from the normal sized world, such as fluffy dried grasses as

Princess Harvonia's duster. And the 'real' princess's house, if you look closely, is made from an old gnarly piece of tree branch. We have probably all daydreamed about a world in miniature – and now you are going to make your own!

What you need:

Biscuit tin or plastic box or large glass jar (one per child)



Bag of fine gravel (one bag per class of 30 children)

Small bag of compost (one bag per class of 30 children)

Box of moss (this costs around £6 in a garden centre) and any found moss (one box per class of 30 children)

Cocktail sticks (two boxes per class)

Air drying clay or plasticine (one bag per class of 30 children)

Thin gardening or florist's wire (one roll per class)

Pieces of twig, driftwood, shells, conkers and natural things

Small stones (bucket full)

Tiny plants, such as succulents (ideally one or two per child)



Paper, card, scissors, glue and pens if you want to draw anything to add to your scene









- 1. This project will help you make your own miniature world with the natural things around you; all you need to do is think 'small scale'. You have to re-think the things in your normal sized world and think tiny; what would work and what would just be too huge?
- **2.** First line the bottom of your container with a layer of gravel about 5cm deep. Next add compost, making sure there is room to add your objects!
- **3.** You can create your landscape by planting the mosses. You may want to make a gravel path or make stepping stones. Gently plant your plants into the soil, the ground doesn't have to be even, there could be a hill or mound.



- **4.** Once you are happy with your mini landscape, you can add stuff to make your world! You may want to add a few sticks for a fence or shelter. Or take any dried natural material, for example twigs, conker shells, pinecones or seashells for scenery. These can easily be bound together with thin wire to make more complex shapes and pushed into the moss with cocktail sticks.
- **5.** People and animals can also inhabit this landscape. You can make them out of clay or plasticine or natural objects you have collected. You could even use tiny dolls or figures you may have.
- **6.** You may want to add figures in the same way Lauren Child does in The Princess and the Pea by photocopying them (and shrinking them down) or drawing them. Then roughly cut the figure out, stick onto card, cut around it as accurately as you can and make a little tab (an extra piece of card glued to the back at the bottom of your image with 1cm of card sticking out so you can bend it back and let the figure stand). Laminating your figures will make them waterproof!
- **7.** You now have a miniature world that you can play with. Make new characters to go in it and change the objects if you wish. All you need to do is water it now and then and it should last for ages, or even forever!



Download all the creative resources plus find more information and images **www.childrenslaureate.org.uk/staringintospace**.

See Lauren's website **www.staringintospace.me** for more creative inspiration

The Princess and The Pea by Lauren Child and Polly Borland (Puffin).

Miniature worlds by Josey Scullard and the children at Brockwell Park Community Greenhouse in London.









Your pape

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with the