



Staring into Space –

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)



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“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.

What you need:

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)

Steps to create:

- 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.



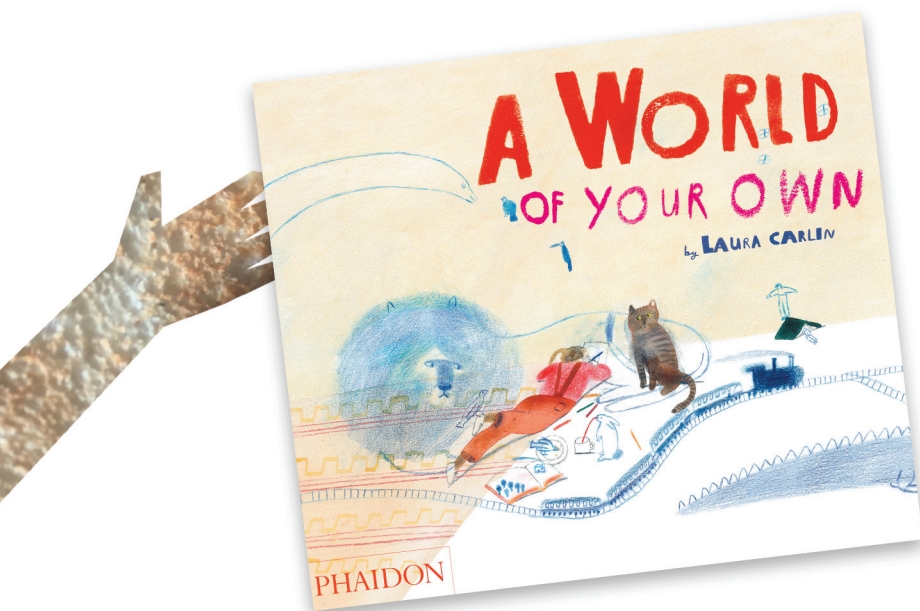


7. This project can be as complex or as simple as you wish. You can make just one thing, or a whole scene; a cityscape, a village or just a few buildings dotted around a landscape.

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).

Toast 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