



Staring into Space –

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).



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“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.”

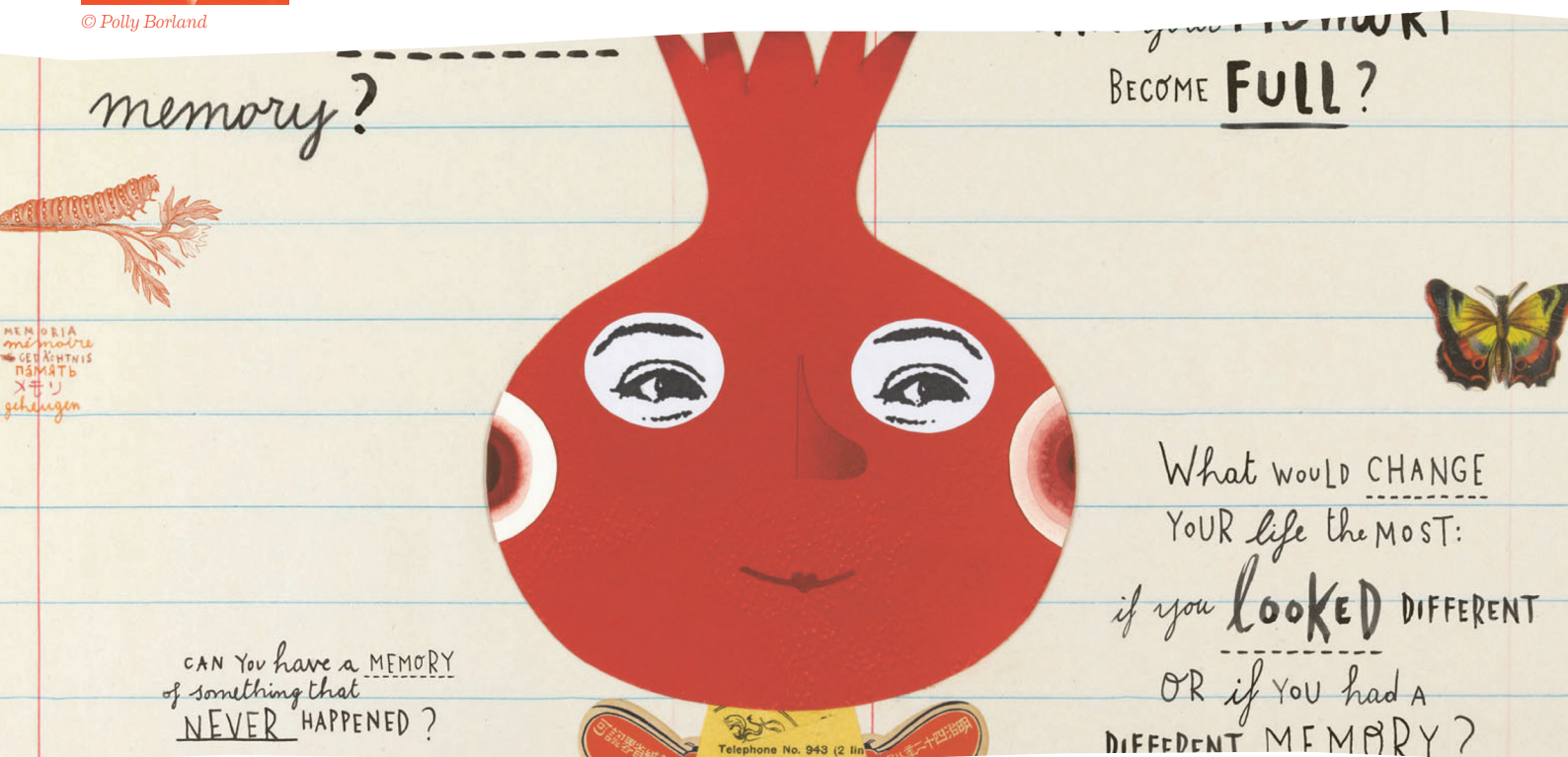


Illustration © Sara Fanelli (Phaidon).

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.

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.

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

Pictures of faces cut out from magazines (optional)

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.

You can try sewing the pages together.

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 needle and some brightly coloured thread.

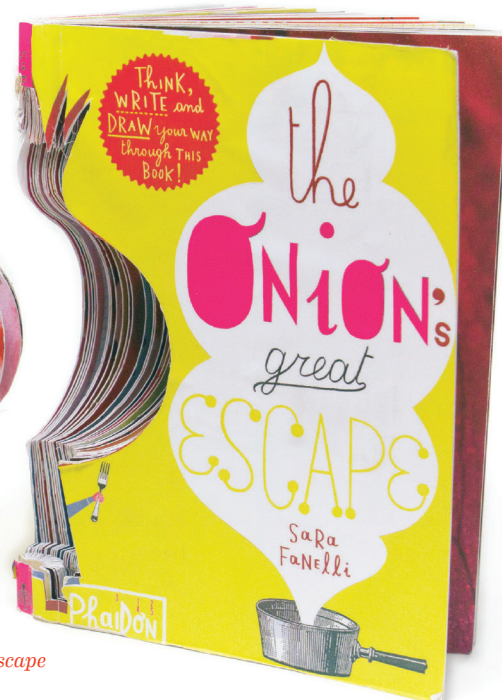
8. Your onion is now ready to receive its questions.

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 www.staringintospace.me for more creative inspiration



The Onion's Great Escape
by Sara Fanelli
(Phaidon).

Onion book making photos
by Josey Scullard.