

# HELLO!

Welcome to this collection  
of things I've been making  
the pictures for.  
Do have a browse  
through!

*From Mini*



# The GREATEST SHOW

# ON EARTH

The 4.6 BILLION YEAR story of LIFE on our planet



"In the running for the greatest children's picture book about EARTH" - The Times

**DANGER!**

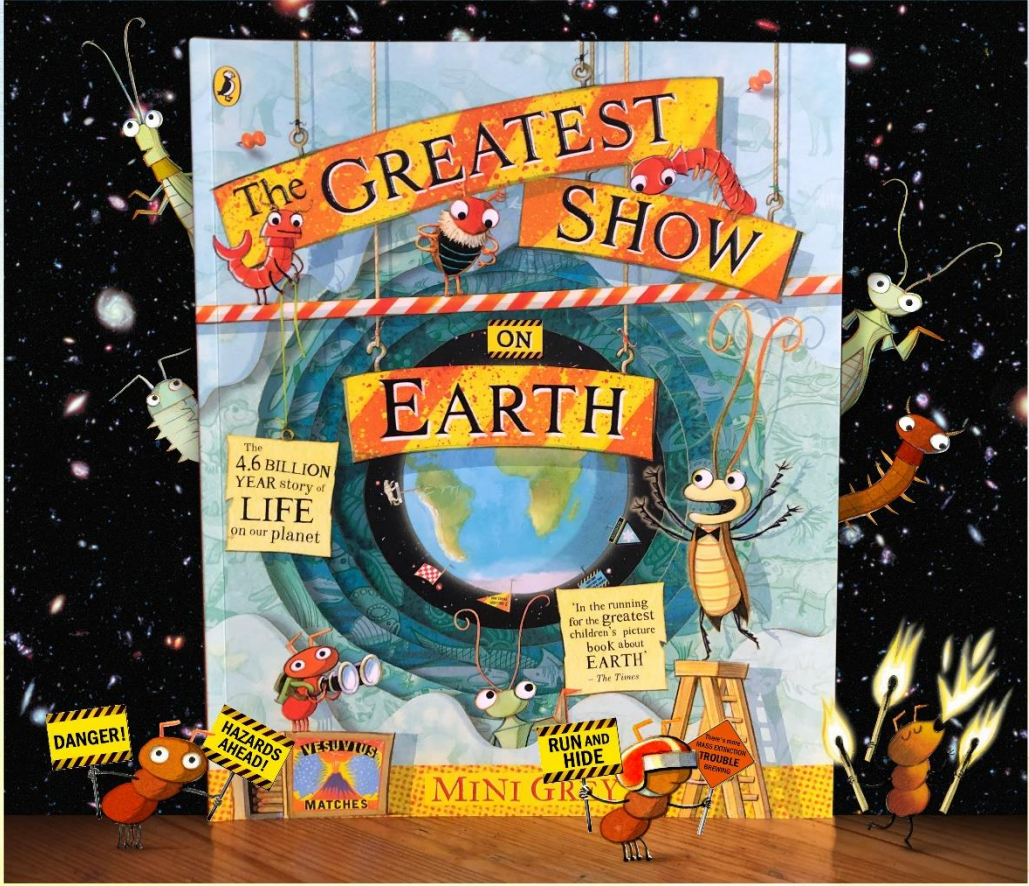
**HAZARDS AHEAD!**



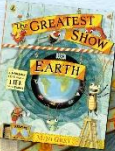
**RUN AND HIDE**

**TRouble**

## MINI GRAY

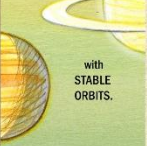


MINI.GREY



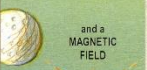
### HOW TO KEEP YOUR NEW WORLD SAFE

You'll need well-behaved NEIGHBOUR PLANETS

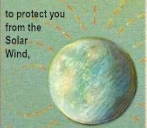


with STABLE ORBITS.

You'll need a MOON to stabilize your orbit and rotation,



and a MAGNETIC FIELD



to protect you from the Solar Wind,

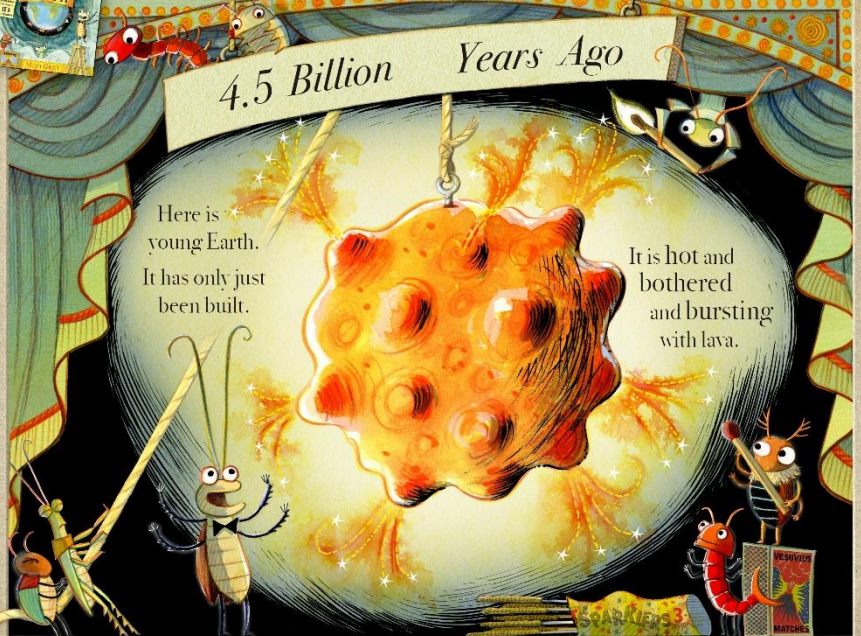
which would otherwise steal all your water away.

## 4.5 Billion Years Ago

Here is young Earth. It has only just been built.



It is hot and bothered and bursting with lava.



### HOW TO KEEP YOUR NEW WORLD SAFE

You also need to be the right distance from the Sun.



If you're too close,



YOU GET VENUS - too hot!



If you're too far away, you get



MARS - too cold.



4600 MILLION YEARS AGO

OUCH!



EARTH IS BEING BOMBARDED BY ASTEROIDS

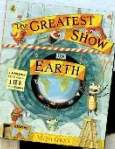
YOW! COLLIDING WITH ASTEROID PUNKEL THOR



THE MOON IS BORN

# The Greatest Show ON EARTH

The World of **MICROBES**



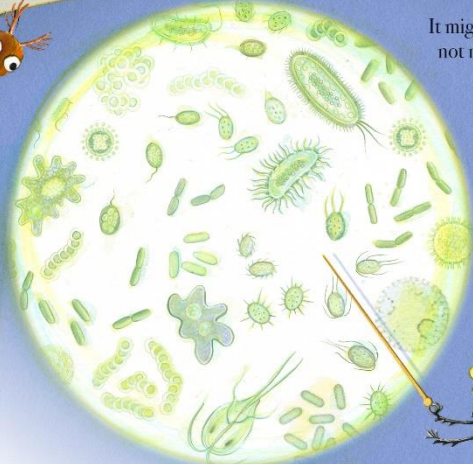
Let's go back to 3.8 billion years ago. Earth is less than a billion years old, but something like life has already got started.

Earth is mostly coated with an ocean of shallow salty seas, and it's in these seas that life happened.

Molecules have arisen that can COPY themselves. Maybe they are near a hot volcanic vent where there are lots of minerals they can use.

The molecules make themselves a jacket to live in - and now they're single-celled microbes.

*Around 3 Billion Years Ago*



It might have looked like not much was going on, but **LIFE** has got started. Welcome to the **WORLD OF MICROBES**

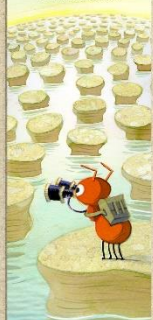
(And *Hi!* to all you microbes in the audience.)

The World of **MICROBES**

Some microbes build into clumps and mats and mounds.

OK - these may look like big old rocks to you, but they're **LIFE FORMS** made of colonies of microbes!

They're stromatolites. *Howdy, Stromies!*



The Stromies build up in layers over years and years. They are blue-green algae. They're using energy from the Sun to grow, and slowly slowly breathing out

**OXYGEN**, changing the air of the planet.



The *Greatest Show* ON **EARTH**





### FLYING

has been a really popular invention on Earth, and yes, **US INSECTS** got there first!

Here's Meganoura swooping about the swampy forests of the Carboniferous, with a whopping 72cm wingspan.



Insects breathe through little holes called **SPIRACLES**.



which is why we usually stay small, because small spiracles mean the oxygen supply is limited.



But if there's **LOADS** of Oxygen around, those spiracles can power a bigger insect body and we can have the most enormous insects ever seen... so far...

## The Age of

## MASSIVE Insects

**350 MILLION YEARS AGO**

Whoop-  
doo!

My favourite!

Now there's so much tasty plant life on land, animals are exploring out of the oceans.

Look - it's the first flying creatures.

Us insects have got really big.

### ALL ABOUT Oxygen

Now it's time to talk about that most reactive of the elements, **OXYGEN**, and how it makes things **BURN**.



Our bodies use oxygen to burn food and make us GO. Oxygen is part of Earth's atmosphere. Nowadays about 20% of the air is oxygen. But in the past that amount has changed. And in Carboniferous times Oxygen levels got really high.

And **WHY?**

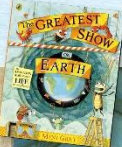
**WHO** was increasing the oxygen?

I'll tell you who: those **FIRST PLANTS**.



# The Greatest Show ON EARTH

MINI.GREY



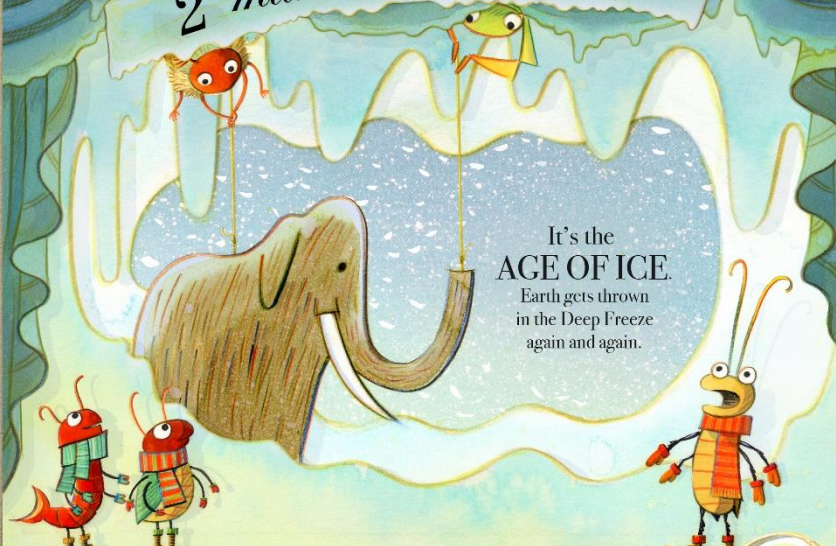
Here we are on the ice age plains 2 million years ago.

It's cold and dry, and around here no trees, just lots of grass.



To survive you need to be keen on eating grass. (Or keen on eating the ones who like eating grass.) Being big and furry is good, too.

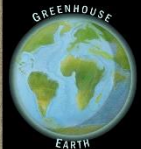
2 million years ago



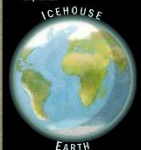
It's the AGE OF ICE.  
Earth gets thrown in the Deep Freeze again and again.

**GREENHOUSE to ICEHOUSE**

For most of its life, the Earth has been a GREENHOUSE planet, with NO ICE at the North or South poles. The sea level is so high that lots of the edges of the continents are underwater, creating warm shallow seas.



But when the Earth flips into an ICEHOUSE planet, white ice keeps the poles cold. The sea level is lower, so all that underwater continent becomes lots of dry land.



The planet has pulsed between an icy world and an unfrozen one for millions of years, and we're still in the end of an ice age right now.



The Greatest Show ON EARTH

Let's have a closer look at that last million years.



Let's look into  
THE VERY VERY  
**FAR  
FUTURE**

IN 1 BILLION YEARS

The Sun grows  
**BIGGER** and  
**BRIGHTER**.  
Earth gets **HOT...**

...so hot that the  
oceans evaporate.

IN 4 BILLION YEARS

Earth is like Venus, with a surface  
so blindingly hot that not even the  
toughest microbes can survive.

IN 8 BILLION YEARS

The Sun has  
grown into a  
**RED GIANT** and  
swallows the Earth into itself.

WE ARE ALL STARDUST.

# What Next?

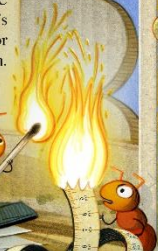
Well, we've reached the end of the Encyclopaedia now, and that just about wraps it up for the **Greatest Show on Earth.**

Actually the Earth is **ONLY HALF-WAY** through its life, and there are still **500 MILLION** more years of animal life to come.

And quite a lot can happen in 500 million years.

It just did, after all.

So let's have a gaze into the future and see what's in store for Planet Earth.



MEANWHILE,  
BACK IN  
**THE  
NEARER  
FUTURE**

THERE ARE STILL  
**500 MILLION YEARS** FOR  
ANIMAL LIFE OF ALL KINDS.

Who knows WHAT  
could happen:

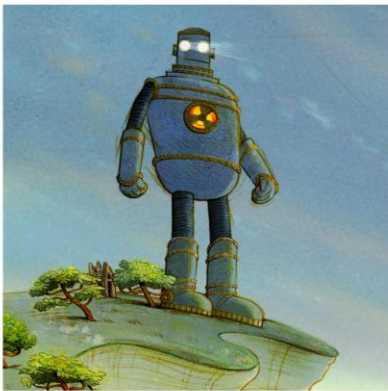


OR EVEN, YOU NEVER KNOW...



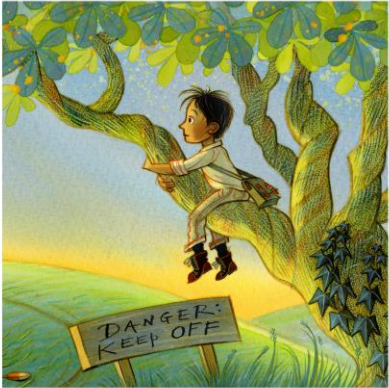
...Future Humans who  
can live in balance  
with everybody else.





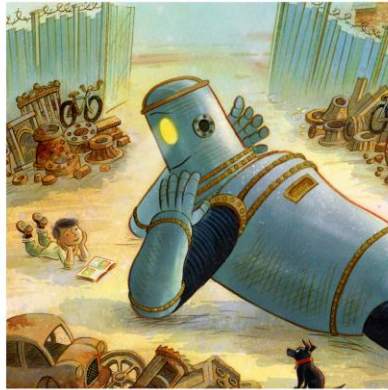
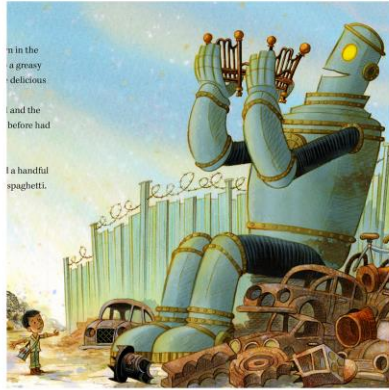
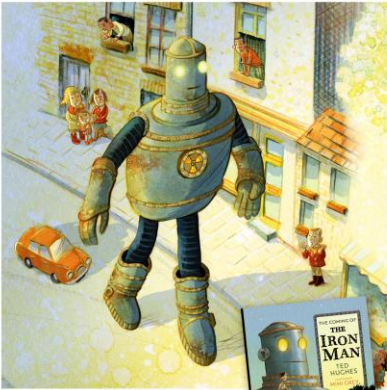
MINI.GREY



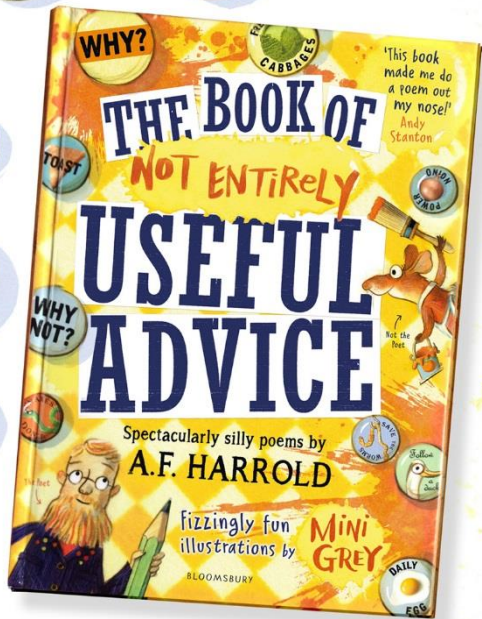


MINI.GREY





MINI.GREY



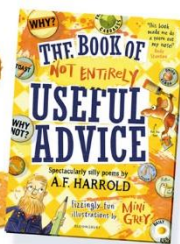
BUM



MINI.GREY



MINI.GREY



## The Perils of Breakfast

Watch out for bears in your cornflakes.

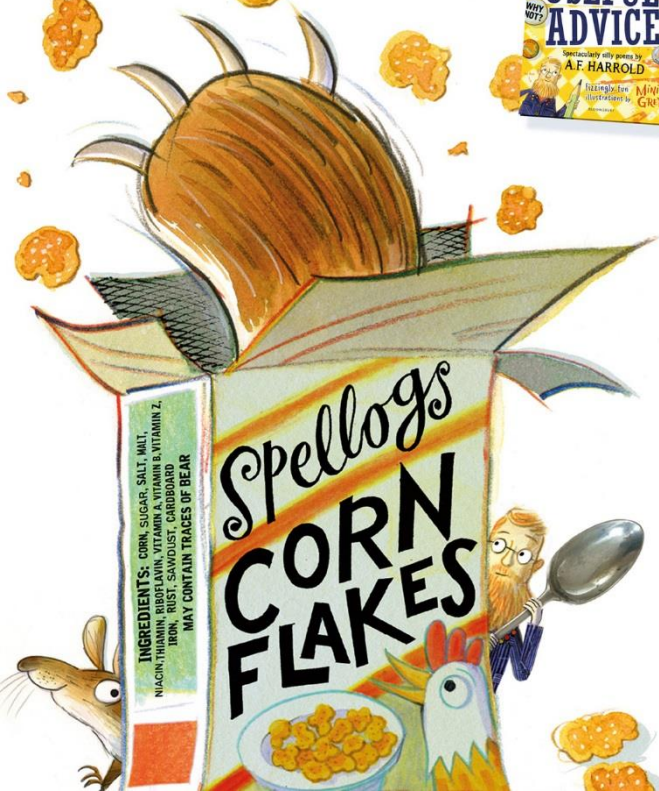
Bears are dangerous.  
Bears have big claws.  
Bears are always hungry.  
At breakfast time, doubly so.

If you lift a spoonful of cornflakes to your mouth and it's got a bear hiding in it, well, you'll be in trouble then. Won't you? Eaten up just like that. Gobble. Gobble. *Crunch*.

Fortunately bears are larger than cornflakes and so you can usually spot a little bit of fur poking round the side.

If you do spot a little bit of fur poking round the side of the cornflake in the spoon you've lifted up to your mouth to have for your breakfast then just put your spoon down, step away and choose something else instead.

But watch out for crocodiles in your porridge and watch out for tigers under your toast.



# How Many Is Too Many?

Too many cooks spoil the broth.  
Too many spoons spoil the soup.

Too much sand spoils the sandwich.  
And too many tigers spoil the picnic.

How many tigers is too many tigers?

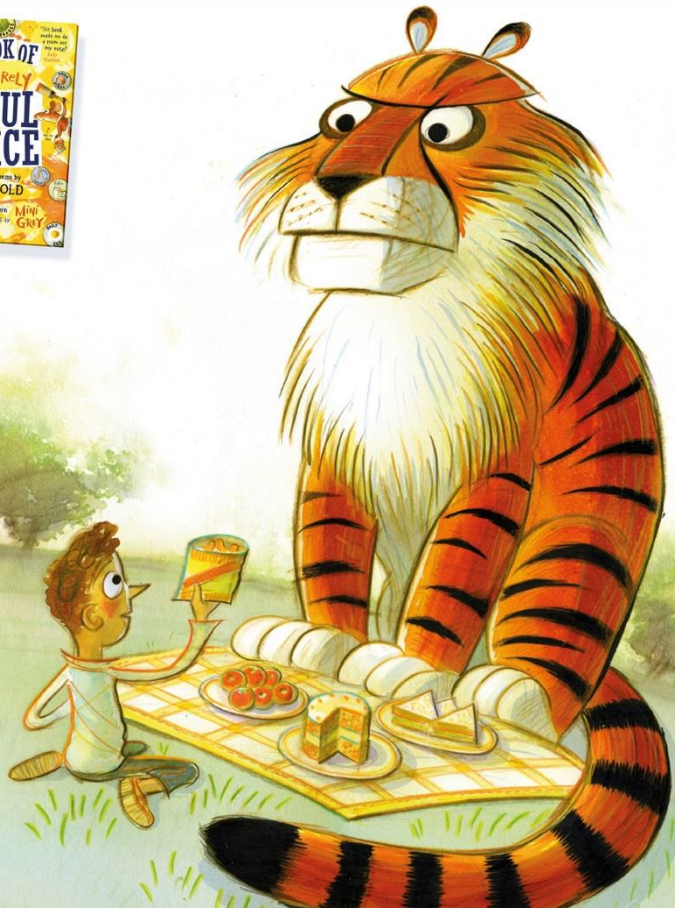
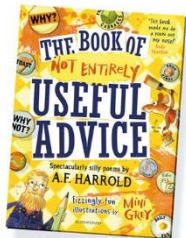
Let's count them ...

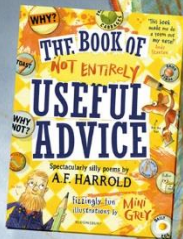
No tigers at the picnic:  
*perfect.*

One tiger at the picnic:  
*too many.*

## Roots

It's a good picnic  
to which you need carry no food,  
simply slip off your shoes,  
let your toes grow down,  
rootling around,  
deep into the soil,  
sipping and sifting,  
and you palm up your hands  
and drink  
the sunshine.





MINI GREY

## How to Avoid a Giant Who Has Escaped from a Nearby Fairytale

It's no good looking out the window –  
the foot of a giant  
gives no warning to those underneath.

There's no use putting up a sign –  
unless it's a very high sign  
that's big and easy to read.

It's no good trying to run –  
the boots of this thing  
are as big as small towns.

There's no use trying to hide –  
the boot comes squashing,  
not searching.

It's no good shouting a warning –  
it's a long way up  
and your voice is so very small.

In fact there's nothing you can do  
to alter the odds.  
Nothing, no, nothing at all.



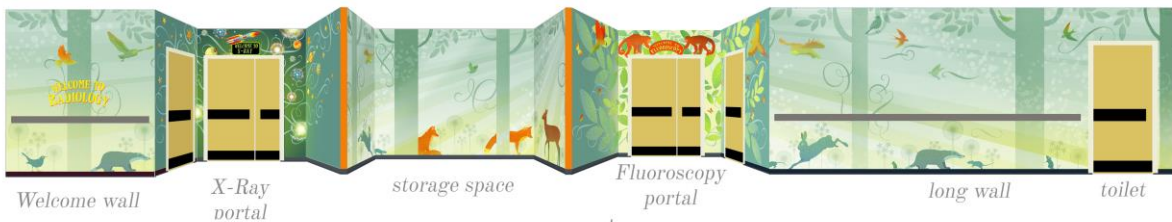


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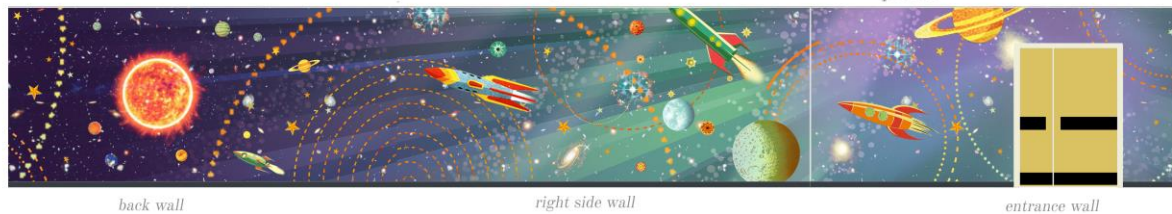
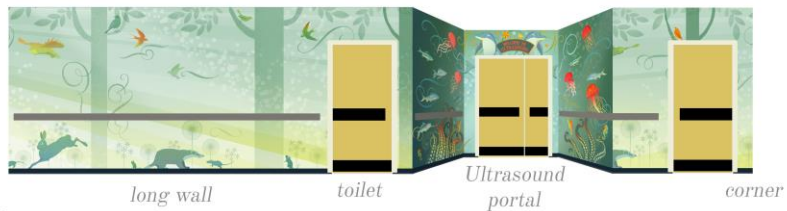
Vinyl decorations commissioned for the JR Hospital, Oxford







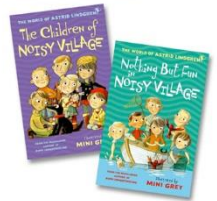
Development sketches  
for the JR Hospital,  
Children's Radiology



THE WORLD OF  
ASTRID LINDGREN



The Children of  
NOISY VILLAGE



PIPPI  
LONGSTOCKING



THE WORLD OF  
ASTRID LINDGREN



THE WORLD OF  
ASTRID LINDGREN



Emil



LOTTA



KARLSSON



THE WORLD OF  
ASTRID LINDGREN



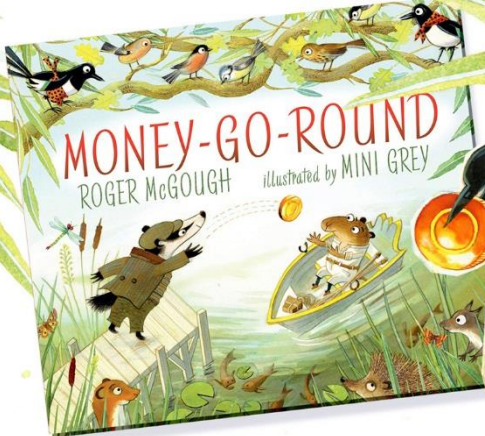
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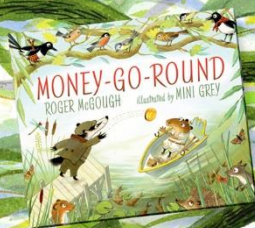
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Character development  
for  ASHMOLEAN  
MUSEUM  
OXFORD









The Tree  
House  
Hotel

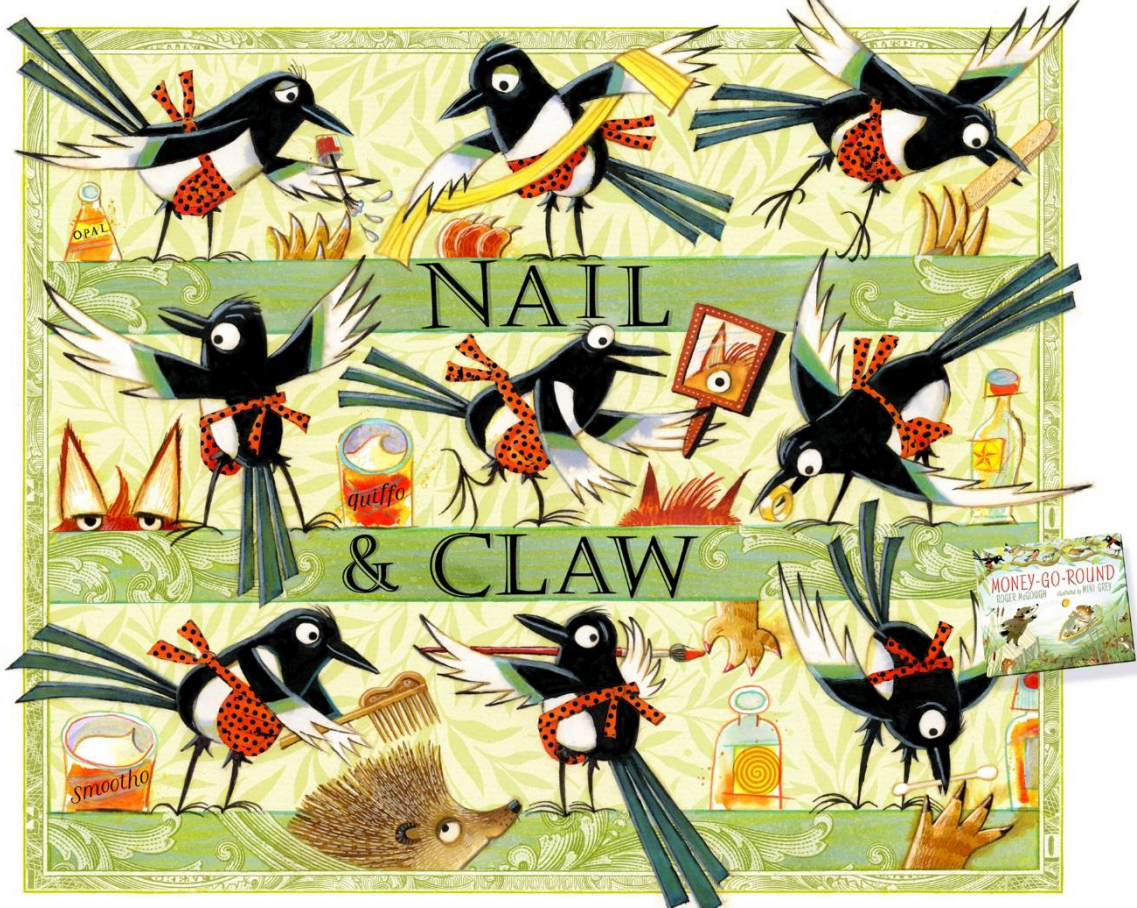


VACANCIES





**MONEY-GO-ROUND**  
ROGER MCGOUGH  
Illustrated by MINI GREY



NAIL

& CLAW

MONEY-GO-ROUND  
RICKY PERRY  
Illustrated by NINA GREY

OPAL

quffa

Smootho

MINI GREY



Smiling jaws!  
Welcome little fishes in With gentle

se - to a mou - a mouse - O mouse!  
 many times does  $\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{4}$   
 Find the cost of the paper at 2s. 6d. Per Piece.  
 Simplify  $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{2}{3} \times 1\frac{3}{4} \times 2\frac{5}{7} \times$   
 Ou est ma chatte?  
 Une douzaine de soufletes.

**HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW?**  
 A BOOK OF FASCINATING  
 PUZZLES AND RIDDLES  
 ON EVERY SUBJECT

area of the internal surface  
 210079. 6s. 3d. by 841

Alice in a Pool of Tears, from *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* published by Inky Parrot Press

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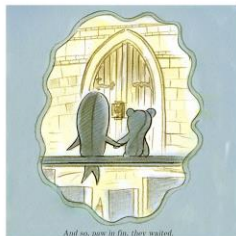
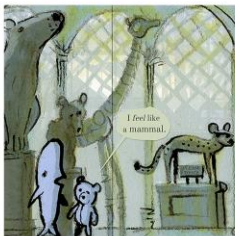
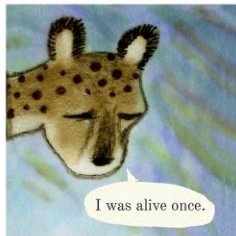
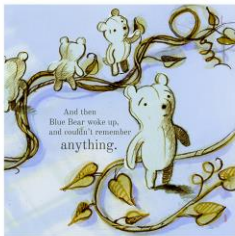
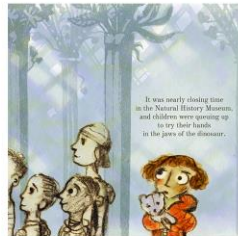
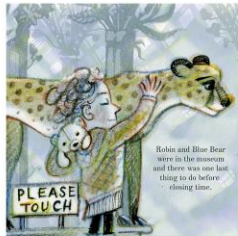
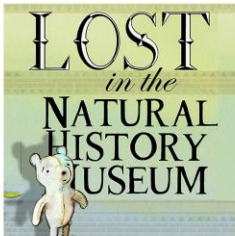
 **BookTrust**  
Inspire a love of reading



MINI.GREY



*Work inspired by the Oxford Museum of Natural History*



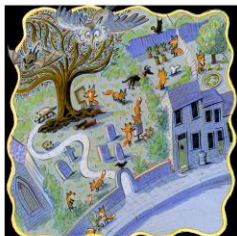
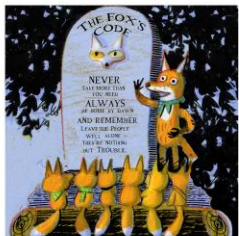
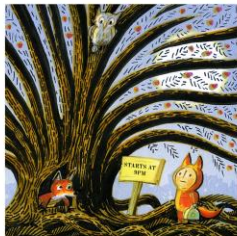
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Sketches for *Lost in the Natural History Museum*



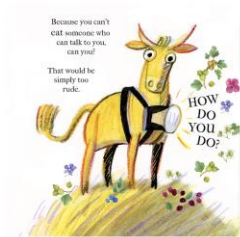
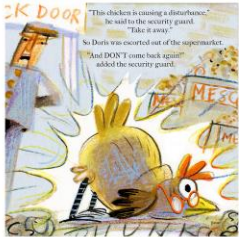
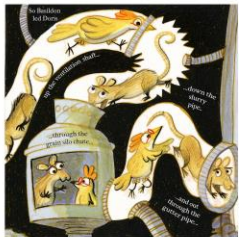
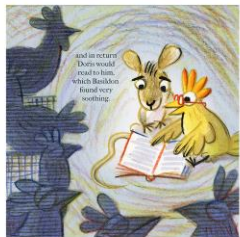
Development work for Children's Radiology at the John Radcliffe Hospital





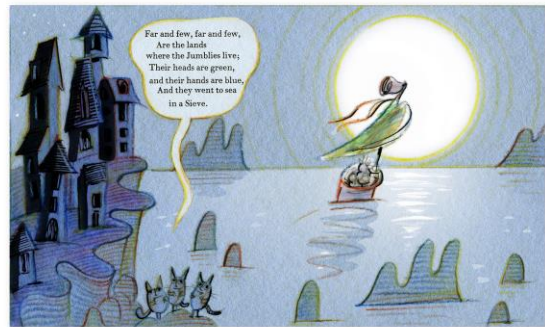
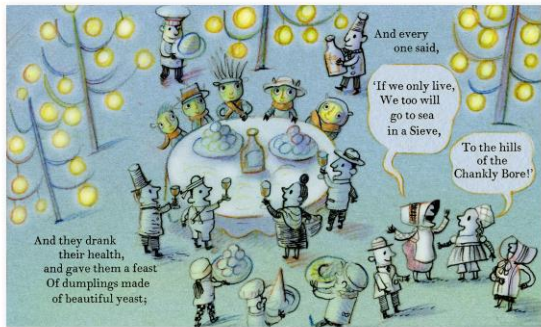
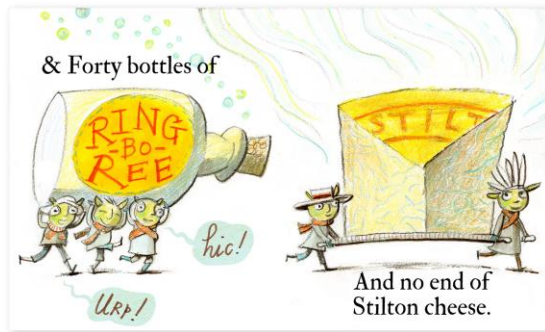
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Sketches for *Fox School*



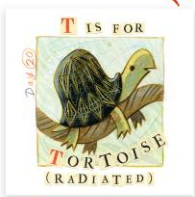
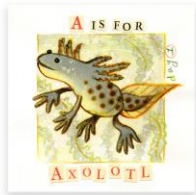
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Sketches for Doris the Chicken who Changed the World



MINI.GREY

Sketches for *The Jumblies* by Edward Lear



MINI.GREY

Inktober 2024: An Alphabestiary of Badly Stuffed Animals



2. DREAM



3. PATH



5. MAP



7. DRIP



8. TOAD



9. BOUNCE



10. FORTUNE



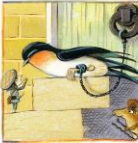
12. SPICY



15. DAGGER



18. SADDLE



21. CHAINS



22. SCRATCHY



23. CELESTIAL



24. SHALLOW



26. DANGEROUS



28. REMOVE



27. BEAST



29. MASSIVE



30. RUSH




31. FIRE

MINI.GREY



Inktober 2023: a small person abroad in a dangerous world



The dog stayed  
by his gravestone  
for years and years.

Mini is represented by

Jessica Hare

at The Agency



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