

# MAGIC CAT PUBLISHING

## Plan for the week:

Monday: If You Go Down to the Woods

Tuesday: Feast Your Eyes on Food

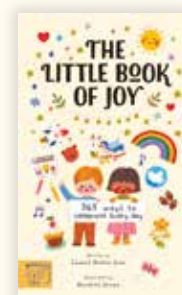
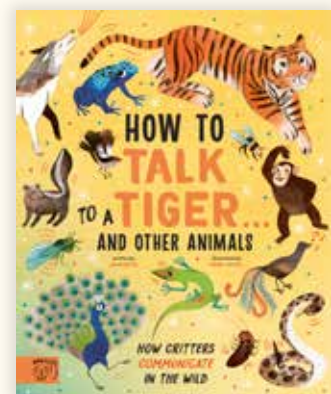
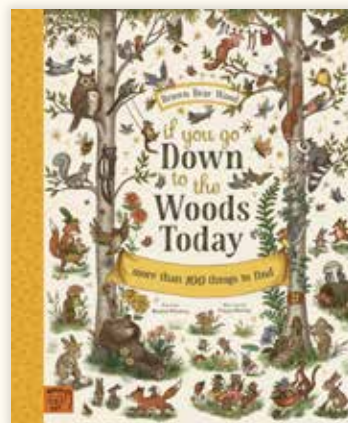
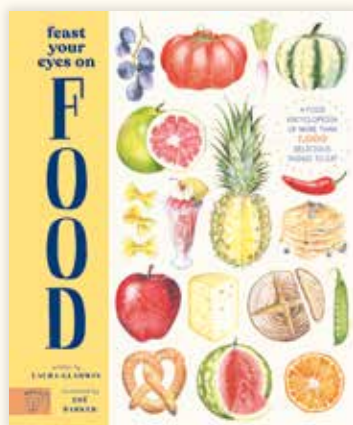
Wednesday: The Little Book of Joy

Thursday: Once Upon Our Planet

Friday: Make Your Own Jigsaws

Saturday: How to Talk to a Tiger

Sunday: Magical Creatures  
and Mythical Beasts



# If You Go Down to the Woods Today



Poems by  
Rachel Piercey

Illustrated by  
Freya Hartas



## ALLITERATIVE POEMS with Rachel Piercey

“One of my favourite poetic techniques is alliteration, where two or more nearby words start with the same sound. I love how alliteration sounds and how it picks out particular words for extra emphasis. It also echoes the structure of Old English poetry, where the lines were woven together using alliteration.

When I go into schools, I often perform poems with lots of alliteration, and ask pupils to count how many words beginning with a particular letter I have included in my poem. It's very rare for someone to guess the exact number!

I decided to write an alliterative poem to go with *If You Go Down to the Woods Today*, and because of the woodland setting, I chose the letter ‘w’ for my challenge. Read the poem on the next page out loud and see if the person listening can count the number of words beginning with ‘w’. You can include the two in the title!”

“Now it's your turn to write an alliterative poem! Choose something from the woodland world – a tree, a squirrel, a flower – and write a poem about it, using lots of words beginning with the same sound. (This is often the same letter, but sometimes letters sound different in different words, e.g. ‘sun’ and ‘shine’, ‘centipede’ and ‘crawl’). You might find it helpful to look through a dictionary and create a list of useful and appealing words, and then find places for them in your poem.”

Freya Hartas is the illustrator of *If You Go Down to the Woods* she needs your help to finish the autumnal woodland scene on page ...

Can you help her colour it in?





## The Wild Woods

I went to the wild woods in Spring  
when the world was waking.

I watched blossom waving in the wind,  
I heard the whoosh and whirr of wings.

I went to the wild woods in Summer  
when the world was warm.

The wise trees wore whispering leaves  
and they swallowed up the sun.

I went to the wild woods in Autumn,  
when the world was wet.

I waded waist-high in withered leaves,  
watched out for wasps and woven webs.

I went to the wild woods in Winter,  
when the world was white.

The wind whipped through bare branches;  
I wobbled on puddles turned to ice.

I wander the wild woods all year,  
I wander in rain, wind or sun.

I wander, wide-eyed with wonder,  
and the wild woods make me welcome.







written by  
**LAURA GLADWIN**

# feast your eyes on

# F O O D

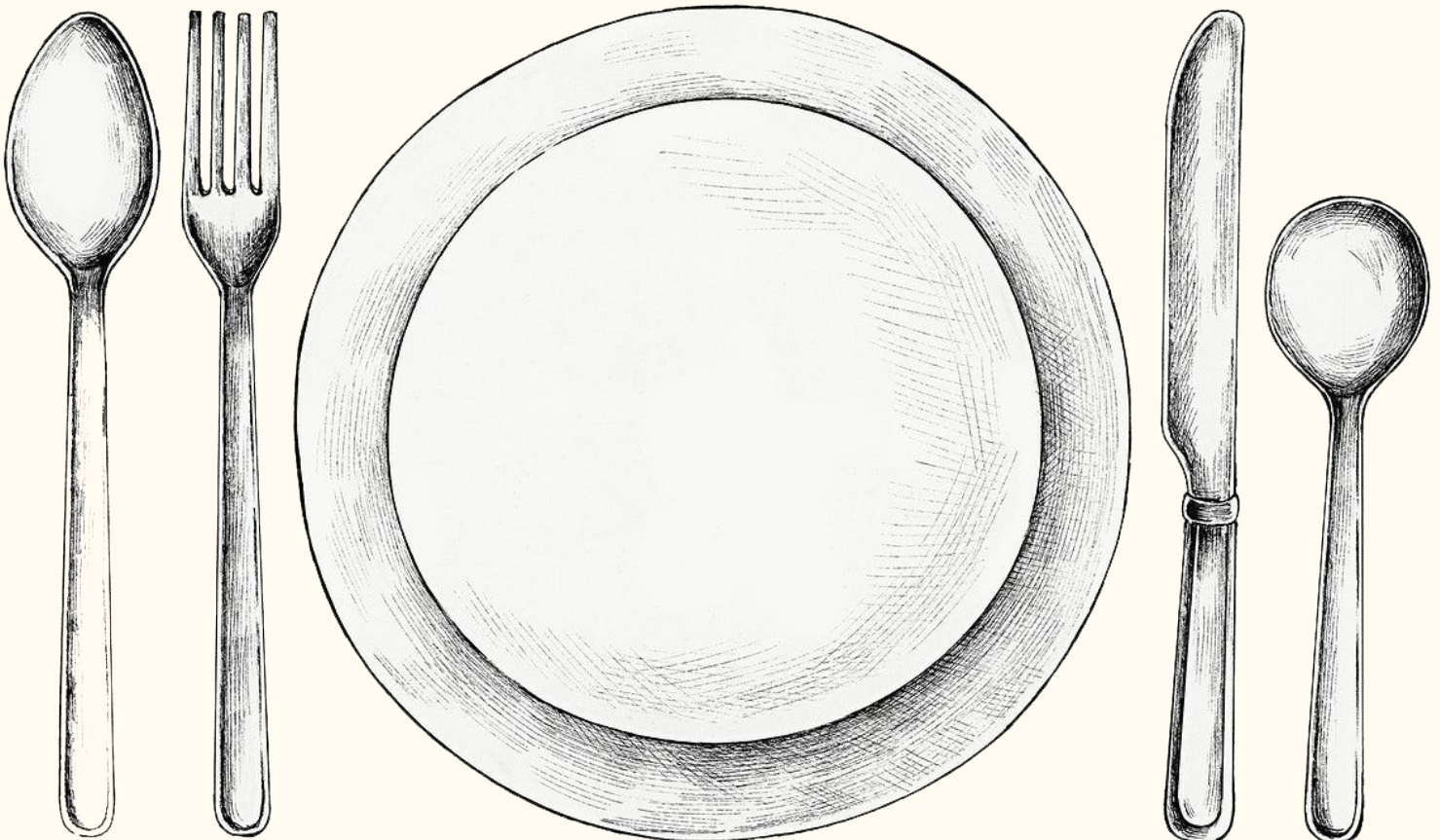


illustrates by  
**ZOE BARKER**

Do you have a favourite food?

Is there one meal that is guaranteed to make you lick your lips? Or maybe you want to invent something new and exciting to eat? Use the plate below to draw your meal, or if you'd rather, write the recipe on the sheet provided.

ps. It can be as imaginative as you wish!



# • RECIPE CARD •

Serves:

Cook time:

Recipe name:

## INGREDIENTS










## DIRECTIONS

# • SUDUKO •

Can you solve this delicious  
suduko puzzle.

Each line - up and down - must  
feature all 4 biscuits.





# THE LITTLE BOOK OF JOY



## APPRECIATE BLACK CATS

Black cats seem mysterious and magical, don't they?

With striking eyes and fur as dark as night, you can find them on lots of Halloween decorations in October.

You can find real ones at animal shelters. Black cats don't get adopted as quickly but they are purr-fect pets, and anyone would be lucky to have them.

Join us today making your own black cats using...  
toilet rolls!

Written by Joanne  
Ruelos Diaz



illustrated by  
Annelias Draws





# INSTRUCTIONS:

## YOU WILL NEED:

- . toilet roll tubes
- . Black paint
- . white paint or a chalk pen
- . coloured card or ribbon
- . black card
- . glue
- . scissors



## METHOD:

1. Paint the tubes black - you can leave a band at the top unpainted as this is where the collar will go and it makes it easier to hold the tube without painting your fingers! Let them dry.
2. In the meantime, make the faces and tails from black card. Use the templates on the next sheet or make your own. Use white paint or a chalk pen to add the features.
3. Cut strips of coloured card or use ribbon for the collars. Glue these around the unpainted top of your tubes. If you have washi tape you can use this around the top instead. Paint some paws on the front of your tubes. Now you are ready to assemble!
4. Measure the inside of your tubes and cut strips of card this wide. These will hold the heads. Bend over the top 3cm of the strip and glue the cat face to this. Push the long end of the strip into your tube and adjust to your liking. You can cut your tubes down to make different sized cats.

# ONCE UPON OUR PLANET



**Make your own theatre and  
perform a play**

**A cardboard box – a shoe box works well**

**Scissors**

**a craft knife (adult or supervised use)**

**Tape**

**Glue**

**Ruler**

**Coloured paper, print outs, magazines or paint**

**Straws, craft sticks, or skewers**

**Your imagination! Because there are stories  
to be told!**



Written by

**VITA MURROW**

Illustrated by

**AITCH**



# Instructions



- 1. Make sure the box is sturdy – use tape if you need to make it stronger.**
- 2. Cut rectangular openings on the 2 short sides and the top of the box. These will allow you to put your figures 'on stage'. Make sure they are not too close to the edge – approx. 3cm all around will keep the box strong.**
- 3. Now you need to decorate your theatre. We have included some suggestions below, using the fantastic artwork by illustrator Aitch from the book, but you can also draw your own.**
- 4. Stick a picture on the back of the box, or paint it to create your backdrop.**
- 5. Add scenery or props – use the ones included below or make your own depending on what your story needs.**
- 6. Finally, add a proscenium arch to the front of your box. We have included some options but you can also make your own. You could even add curtains!**



# Tips from Vita



**“The joy of creating one’s own play set is that it can include all the bits you love, and none of the things you don’t. It can be truly a reflection of your own identity as an artist and performer. A blank canvas for homemade characters, props, fairy lights, you name it! “**

**“My top tip for writing your story or performance piece is to act it out yourself. Play pretend, move your body. See what you can learn about your characters, and what you’ll need to do to show their feelings and desires.”**



# HOW TO TALK TO A TIGER... AND OTHER ANIMALS



**BATS**  
**SPIDERS**  
**SNAKES**  
**BEEILES**  
**WORMS**  
**SLUGS**



What did you think when you read the list of animals above? Did you say ‘ew’ or ‘yuk’ or even shiver? We can’t deny that these creatures have a less-than-favourable reputation - especially around Halloween - but we want to change that!

Can you design a poster to showcase all the amazing and positive features of one of these animals? For example, Jason says “Having spiders around is like having a bug zapper in the corner. One study estimated that all the world’s spiders eat nearly 900 million tons of insects and other small creatures each year.”

You may need to do some research if you don’t know about them already, but we are sure that when you learn about these incredible creatures, you will find a new level of respect for them. Then you can tell everyone else so they can love them too!

***I AM A .....***  
***AND I AM AMAZING***

