

Hello Year 4!

**Can you believe this is it? Your final week of online learning!
We are all so proud of your effort and continued hard work!**

We can not wait to see you in September!

**Please follow the instructions on each page to help you - we look forward to
hearing about how you have got on!**

Miss Hill and Mrs Tally

Make sure you have a sharp pencil and enough paper to write on.

Challenge yourself.

Proof-read to check it makes sense

Remember...

ABC

capital letters

marks the
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cat sat

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The cat sat on the mat. It was ginger and fluffy. The cat was called Fluffy.

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paragraph

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check your work

Monday 13th July

Comprehension

How foo fighters became UFOs

1. The sky is full of interesting things and events. Over time, humans have learned more about the sky and the universe, and have been able to recognise and understand more of the things they see in the sky. Sometimes, though, even today, people see things in the sky they don't recognise; things they can't identify. We call these things 'unidentified flying objects', or UFOs for short.



Monday 13th July

Comprehension

2. Unidentified objects have been seen in the sky since ancient times. But it was during World War II that the real interest in UFOs began. Aeroplane pilots reported seeing things in the sky they couldn't explain. At first, they called these mysterious things 'foo fighters'. Then in 1947, one pilot, Kenneth Arnold, reported seeing nine flat, saucer- or disc-shaped objects flying very fast in a line. Some newspapers printed his report, calling the objects 'flying saucers'. After the story was in the newspapers, hundreds of people around the world started reporting flying saucers. Many people believed what they were seeing were alien spaceships.



Monday 13th July

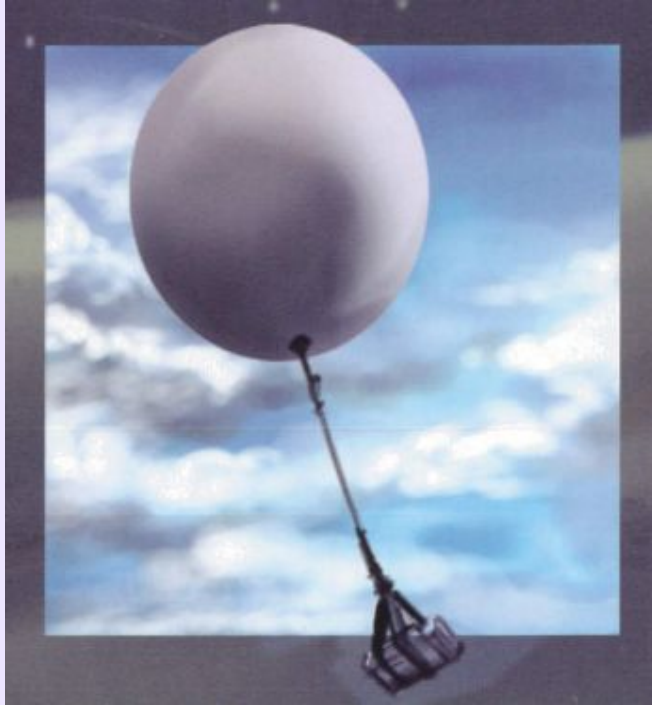
Comprehension

3. A few years later, a man named Edward J Ruppelt did a study of 'flying saucers' and other flying things people couldn't identify. He found the objects reported in the sky weren't always shaped like saucers and thought it would be better to call them 'unidentified flying objects', or UFOs. These words are now used to name anything seen in the sky that can not be identified.



Monday 13th July

Comprehension



4. But what are UFOs? Some believe that people who think they see UFOs are really seeing normal things in the sky, like birds, searchlights, weather balloons or kites. There are also many natural events in the sky that can cause different coloured flashes of light. When they are studied, many UFO sightings turn out to be these things. But some UFOs can not be explained. Some people think they could be alien spaceships, time machines from the future, or maybe even top secret Russian or American aircraft. What do you think?

1. If you can *identify* something, then you know:

- (a) *what it is.*
- (b) *how it works.*
- (c) *nothing about it.*

2. More UFOs were probably reported during World War II because:

- (a) *there were lots of planes in the skies.*
- (b) *people were scared.*
- (c) *aliens were coming to Earth to watch the war.*

3. Which paragraph explains what UFOs could be?

- (a) *Paragraph 1*
- (b) *Paragraph 2*
- (c) *Paragraph 4*

4. A UFO is the name given to something in the sky that:

- (a) *can't be identified.*
- (b) *is an alien ship.*
- (c) *looks like a saucer.*

5. More people started reporting UFOs:

- (a) *before the war.*
- (b) *after Arnold's report.*
- (c) *at night.*

6. Who thought it would be better to call flying saucers 'UFOs'?

- (a) Newspaper reporters
- (b) Kenneth Arnold
- (c) Edward J Ruppelt

7. It is an opinion, not a fact that UFOs are:

- (a) often reported.
- (b) alien spacecraft.
- (c) seen in the sky.

8. You can conclude that all UFOs:

- (a) can be explained.
- (b) can not be explained.
- (c) are real.

9. In the future, UFOs will probably:

- (a) still puzzle people.
- (b) never be reported.
- (c) never be seen.

10. In Paragraph 3, the word **He** means:

- (a) Ruppelt.
- (b) Arnold.
- (c) a man.

Answers

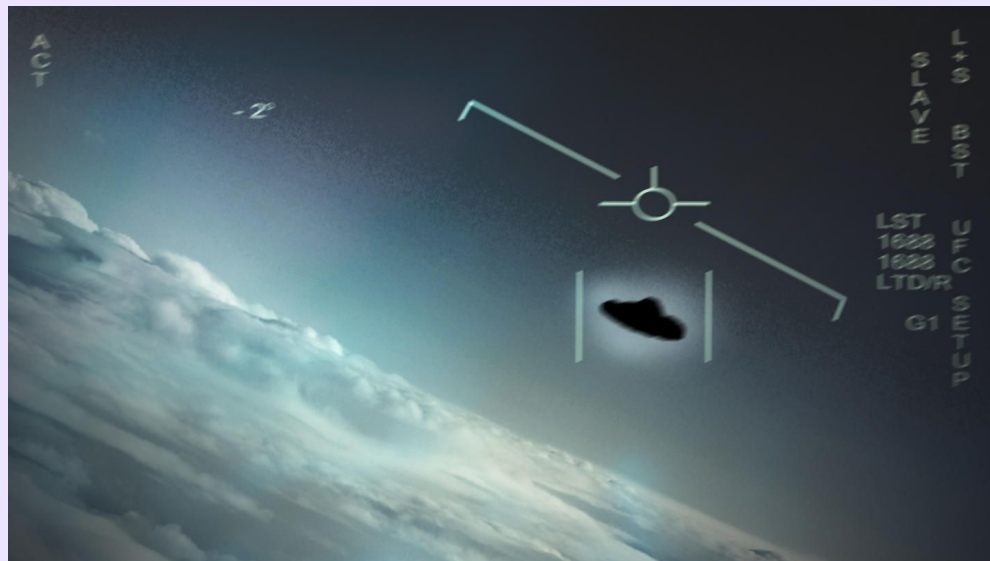
1. (a) what it is
2. (a) there were lots of planes in the skies
3. (c) Paragraph 4
4. (a) can't be identified
5. (b) after Arnold's report
6. (c) Edward J Ruppelt
7. (b) alien spacecraft
8. (b) can not be explained
9. (a) still puzzle people
10. (a) Ruppelt



Monday 13th July

Something extra

- ★ Draw your idea of what an alien spaceship might look like.
- ★ Write what you would do if you saw a UFO.



English

Session 2

Make sure you have a sharp pencil and enough paper to write on.

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Tuesday 14th July

We are continuing with The Minpins this week, venturing further into the Forest of Sin and exploring our own writing skills.

Listen to [Chapter Two and Three](#)



Little Billy has got himself into a spot of bother hasn't he!

Roald Dahl has used some fabulously descriptive language, which, as the audience, makes it really emotive and provides a clear image for us whilst listening to the story.

Tuesday 14th July

On the following page is a piece of text with a range of different writing skills included.

You need to identify:

- Similes - a comparison which uses like or as
 - e.g. Her eyes sparkled like diamonds
- Alliteration - when words in a phrase start with the same letter or sound
 - e.g. Billy's **b**ravery **b**eat the **b**east
- Emotive language - when word choices create an emotion in the reader
 - I heard a creak on the stair, my heart was pounding.

Tuesday 14th July

Identify the similes, alliteration and emotive language

Last night, when the glistening moon rose in the sky, I crept out of the bedroom window as quietly as a cat. I slowly slid down to the ground floor and landed with a loud thump. The darkness suddenly surrounded me like a blanket and before I knew it, I was running towards the meeting place. I could hear my heart pounding in my ears and I began to feel terrified. Trembling terribly, I continued to run like the wind past tired trees and sleeping streets. The cool air in my face made me feel so alive! It was exhilarating!

Tuesday 14th July

Today's activity is all about descriptive vocabulary.
Specifically choosing similes, alliteration and emotive words or phrases.

Listen to Chapter Two again...

We would like you to re-write the description of Billy running through the forest with the Spittler chasing after him.

- Write a plan first, with a few ideas and phrases.
- Remember
 - Similes
 - Alliteration
 - Emotive language



Tuesday 14th July

Emotive Language

- Billy's heart beat
- Being scared
- Being chased
- Spittler

VOCABULARY FROM BOOK

- whoozing
- whiffing
- swooshing
- snorting
- galloping

Billy running from the Spittler

Alliteration

- Smoke
- Trees
- Beast
- Feet
- Wind
- Forest

Similes

Billy Spittler

Run fly

- Running like...
- As fast as...
- Smoke billowing like...
- Bounding like...
- As big as...

→ BETTER VOCAB

IDEAS TO GET STARTED



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Wednesday 15th July

Hi team! Make sure those pencils are sharp today! We are looking for an awesome setting description as we discover what happens to Billy as he thinks he is 'safe' sat up at the top of a giant tree!

Have a think about some of these questions first:

What do you think has happened to Billy?

Did the Spittler discover him?

Is Billy stuck up the tree?

How long has Billy been stuck up there?

Is there anything in the tree...anything as terrifying as the Spittler?



Wednesday 15th July

Read [Chapter Four](#) and find out what happens to Little Billy.



Wednesday 15th July

After listening to the description of the Minpins, what they wear and the short description of their home, we would like you to describe a room Billy can see through a Minpins' window.

Imagine you are Billy, peeping through a window, the size of a postage stamp!

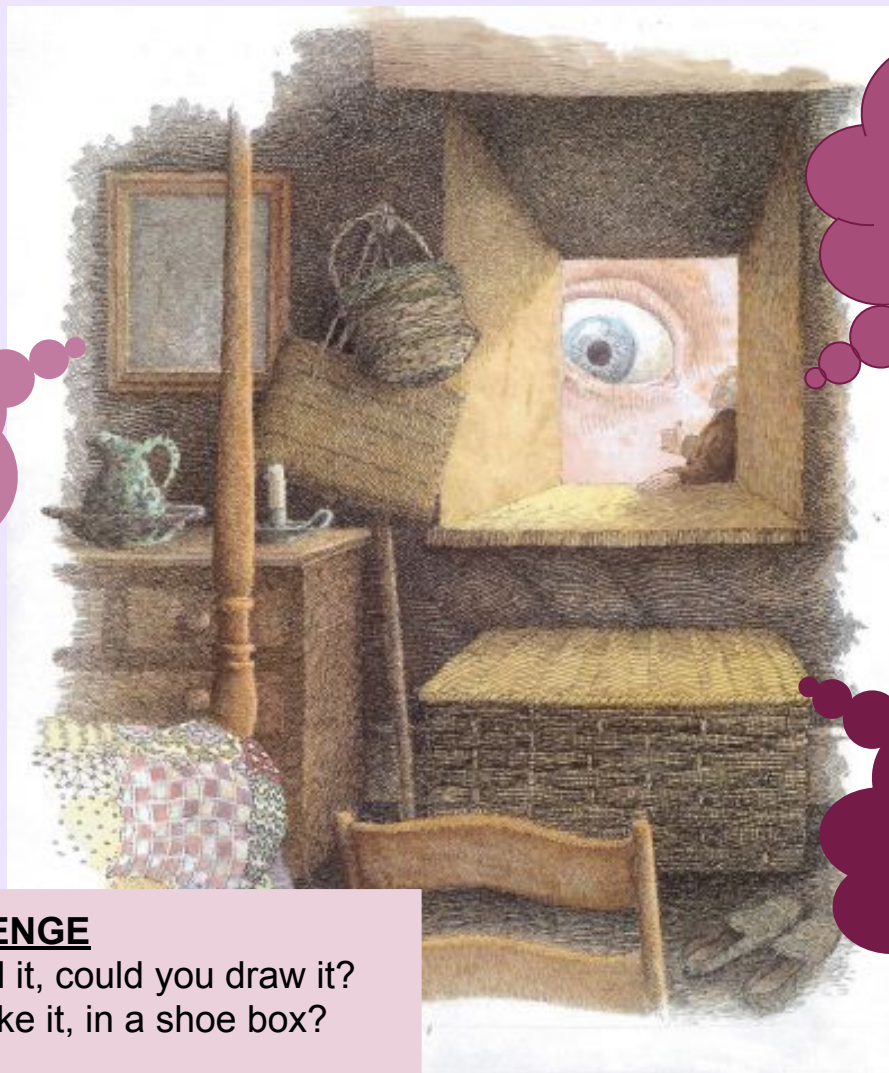
What can you see inside?

Use a room in your house for inspiration and to think about what they might have in a room.

Is it a bedroom, lounge, kitchen? Can you describe the sort of objects, furniture, utensils that might be in there?

Are they made from something quite unusual due to the size of the Minpins?

Might you see a little shop?
Would it sell their suction boots?
How would it look?



Could one of the rooms be a classroom?
What would be in there if the Minpins appear to be quite 'old-fashioned'?

Is there are Dr's Surgery?
Maybe a hospital type room for ill Minpins?

CHALLENGE

After you have described it, could you draw it?
Could you possibly make it, in a shoe box?

Make sure you have a sharp pencil and enough paper to write on.

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Thursday 16th July

Listen to and enjoy [Chapters 5 and 6](#)



Thursday 16th July

Listen to [Chapter 7](#)

Little Billy has made a very big decision!

He has asked Don Mini to call up a Swan to try and defeat The Gruncher!

Your task today is to write a hidden chapter of the book.

A chapter which tells us of how Billy leads the Gruncher to the lake.

As this is your chapter....it's up to you how this can happen!

Will Billy be successful?

Will you end the chapter on a cliffhanger?

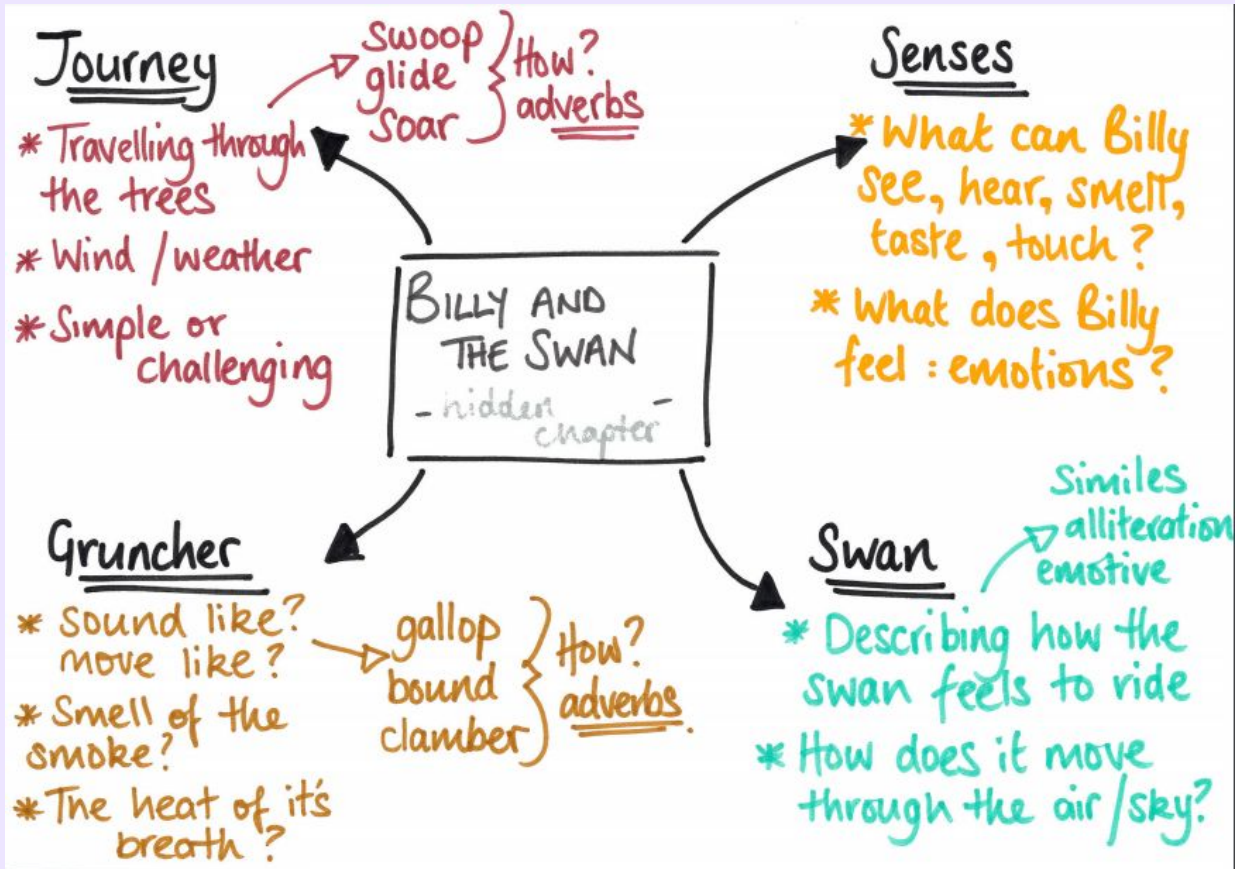
On the next page are a few ideas to get you started!



TOP TIP

Make a plan!

Thursday 16th July



Spellings

swoop
glide
soar
whistle
elegant
graceful
agile
billowing
smoke
danger
terrify
petrify

English

Session 5

Make sure you have a sharp pencil and enough paper to write on.

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Read and enjoy the rest of the story of The Minpins

Little Billy hung on tight. Oh, it was thrilling to be flying on the back of this great swan! It was wonderful to be up in the air and to feel the air swishing past his face. He hung on very tightly to Swan's feathers.

And suddenly, there it was just below them, the huge billow of orange-red smoke and steam coming from the nostrils of the awesome Gruncher. The smoke enveloped the beast completely, and yet through the smoke, as they got very close, Little Billy could just make out the enormous black shadow of some hairy monster. The snorting grew louder, and as the brute got more and more excited by the nearness of the delicious Little Billy smell, the smoke began coming out faster and faster, *whoomph-whoomph, whomph-whoomph, whomph-whoomph*. Little Billy could feel the monster getting closer, *whoomph-whoomph, whomph-whoomph, whomph-whoomph*.

Swan was flying back and forth right in front of the snorting cloud of smoke, tempting and tantalizing the beast and driving him mad with greed. The beast, or rather the cloud of smoke, kept lunging at Little Billy, but Swan was too quick for him and jinked away every time. The snorting grew louder and more ferocious every second, and the *whoomph-whoomphs* of thick hot steam came pouring out, thicker than ever.



Once, Swan looked round to see if Little Billy was all right. Little Billy nodded and smiled, and he could swear Swan nodded and smiled back at him.

At last, Swan must have decided they had done enough teasing. The great thick orange-red cloud was leaping up and down in a frenzy of hunger and desire, and the whole forest was echoing with the snorts and growls of the awesome creature. Swan glided round and headed in a straight line towards the edge of the forest, and of course the vast cloud of smoke came hurtling after it.

Swan was very careful to fly low all the time, keeping just in front of the Gruncher, leading him on and on, threading a path carefully through the great trees in the forest. The scent of human food was very strong in the Gruncher's nostrils, and he must have been thinking that so long as he kept going flat out, he would catch his meal in the end.





Suddenly, right in front of them, on the edge of the forest, was the lake. The Gruncher, hurtling along right behind them, was interested only in the glorious human scent he was following.

Swan flew straight towards the lake. It skimmed low over the water. The Gruncher kept going.

Little Billy, looking back, saw the Gruncher plunging right into the lake, and then the whole lake seemed to erupt in a mass of boiling steaming frothing bubbling water.

For a brief moment, the terrible Red-Hot Smoke-Belching Gruncher made the lake boil and smoke like a volcano, then the fire went out and the awesome beast disappeared under the waves.

When it was all over, Swan and Little Billy flew higher and circled the lake for a last look.

And suddenly the whole sky around them was filled with birds, and every bird had one or more Minpins on its back. Little Billy recognised Don Mini riding on a fine jay and he was waving and cheering as he flew alongside them. It seemed that all the other Minpins from the big tree had turned up as well to witness the great victory over the dreaded Gruncher. Every kind of bird was circling around Little Billy and Swan, and the Minpins on their backs were waving and clapping and shouting with joy. Little Billy waved back and laughed and thought how wonderful it all was.

Then, led by Swan, all the birds and the Minpins returned to the home tree.

Back in the tree there was a tremendous celebration for Little Billy's victory over the dreaded Gruncher. Minpins from all over the forest had flown in on their birds to cheer the young hero, and all the branches and twigs of the great tree were crowded with tiny people. When the cheers and the clapping had died down at last, Don Mini stood up to make a speech.



"Minpins of the forest!" he cried, raising his small voice so that it could be heard all over the tree. "The murderous Gruncher, who has gobbled up so many thousands of us Minpins, has gone for ever! The forest floor is safe at last for us to walk on! So now we can all go down to pick blackberries and winkleberries and puckleberries and muckleberries and twinkleberries and snozzberries to our heart's content. And our children can play among the wild flowers and the roots all day long." Don Mini paused and turned his eyes upon Little Billy who was sitting on a branch not far away.

"But ladies and gentlemen," he went on, "who is it we have to thank for this great blessing that has come upon us? Who is the saviour of the Minpins?" Don Mini paused again. The Minpins in their thousands sat listening intently.

"Our saviour," he cried out, "our hero, our wonder-boy, is, as you already know, our human visitor, Little Billy." (Cheers and shouts of "Hooray for Little Billy!" from the crowd.)

Don Mini now turned and spoke directly to Little Billy. "You, my

boy, have done a wonderful thing for us and in return we wish to do something for you. I have had a word with Swan and he has agreed to become your personal private aeroplane for just as long as you remain small enough to fly on his back." (More cheers and clapping and shouts of "Good old Swan! What a great idea!")

"However," Don Mini continued, still addressing Little Billy, "you cannot go flying around all over the place on Swan's back in full daylight. Some human would be bound to see you. And then the secret would be out and you would be forced to tell your people all about us. That must never happen. If it did, crowds of enormous humans would come clumping all over our beloved forest to look for Minpins and our quiet homeland would be ruined."

"I'll never tell a soul!" Little Billy cried out.

"Even so," Don Mini said, "we cannot risk you making daylight flights. But every night, after the light in your bedroom has been switched off, Swan will come to your window to see if you'd like a ride. Sometimes he will bring you back here to see us. Other times he will take you to visit places more wonderful than you could ever dream of. Would you like Swan to take you home now? I think we can risk just one more quick daylight flight."

"Oh gosh!" Little Billy cried. "I'd clean forgotten about home! Mummy'll be in a panic! I must fly!"

Don Mini gave a signal and in five seconds Swan swooped down and landed on the tree. Little Billy climbed onto his back, and as the great swan spread his wings and flew away, the whole forest, not just the tree they were in but the whole forest from end to end, came alive with the cheering of a million Minpins.

Swan landed on the lawn of Little Billy's house, and Little Billy jumped off his back and ran to the living room window. Very quietly he climbed in. The room was empty.





"Little Billy," came his mother's voice from the kitchen. "What are you up to in there? You've been very quiet for a long time."

"I'm being good, Mummy," Little Billy called back. "I'm being very very good."

His mother came into the room with a pile of ironing in her arms. She looked at Little Billy. "What *have* you been doing?" she cried. "Your clothes are absolutely filthy!" "I've been climbing trees," Little Billy said.

"I can't let you out of my sight for ten minutes," his mother said. "Which tree was it?"

"Just one of those old trees outside," Little Billy said.

"If you're not careful you'll fall down and break an arm," his mother said. "Don't do it again."

"I won't," Little Billy said, smiling a little. "I'll just fly up into the branches on silver wings."

"What rubbish you talk," his mother said and she walked out of the room with her ironing.

From then on, Swan came every night to Little Billy's bedroom window. He came after Billy's mother and father had gone to sleep and the whole house was quiet. But Little Billy was never asleep. He was always wide awake and eagerly waiting. And every night, before Swan arrived, he saw to it that the curtains were drawn back and the window was open wide so that the great white bird could come gliding right into the room and land on the floor beside his bed. Then Little Billy would slip into his dressing gown and climb on to Swan's back and off they would go.

Oh, it was a wondrous secret life that Little Billy lived up there in the sky at night on Swan's back! They flew in a magical world of silence, swooping and gliding over the dark world below where all the earthly people were fast asleep in their beds.



Once, Swan flew higher than ever before and they came to an enormous billowing cloud that was shining in a pale golden light, and in the folds of this cloud Little Billy could make out creatures of some sort moving around.

Who were they?

He wanted so badly to ask Swan this question, but he couldn't speak a word of bird-language. Swan seemed unwilling to fly very close to these creatures from another world, and this made it impossible for Little Billy to see them clearly.

Another time, Swan flew through the night for what seemed like hours and hours until they came at last to a gigantic opening in the earth's surface, a sort of huge gaping hole in the ground, and Swan glided slowly round and round above this massive crater and then right down into it. Deeper and deeper they went into the dark hole. Suddenly there was a brightness like sunlight below them, and Little Billy could see a vast lake of water, gloriously blue, and on the surface of the lake thousands of swans were swimming slowly about. The pure white of the swans against the blue of the water was very beautiful.

Little Billy wondered whether this was a secret meeting place of all the swans of the world, and he wished he had been able to ask Swan this question as well. But sometimes mysteries are more intriguing than explanations, and the swans on the blue lake, like the creatures on the golden cloud, would remain a mystery for ever in Little Billy's memory.

About once a week, Swan would fly Little Billy back to the old tree in the forest to visit the Minpins. On one of these visits, Don Mini said to him, "You are growing up fast, Little Billy. I'm afraid that soon you will be too heavy for Swan."

"I know," Little Billy said. "I can't help it."

"I'm afraid we don't have any bigger birds than Swan," Don Mini said. "But when he can't carry you any longer, I do hope you will still come up here to visit us."

"I will, I will!" Little Billy cried. "I will always keep coming to see you! I will never forget you!"



“And listen,” Don Mini said, smiling. “Perhaps some of us might come down in great secrecy to visit *you*.”

“Could you really do that?” Little Billy asked.

“I think we might,” Don Mini said. “We could trickle silently down to your house in the dark and creep into your bedroom for a midnight feast.”

“But how would you get all the way up to my bedroom window?” Little Billy asked.

“Have you forgotten our suction-boots?” Don Mini said. “We’d simply walk straight up the wall of your house.”

“How lovely!” Little Billy cried. “Then we can take it in turns visiting each other!”

“Of course we can,” Don Mini said.

And that is exactly what happened.

No child has ever had such an exciting young life as Little Billy, and no child has ever kept such a huge secret so faithfully. He never told a soul about the Minpins.

I myself have been very careful not to tell you where they live, and I am not about to tell you now. But if by some extraordinary chance you should one day wander into a forest and catch a glimpse of a Minpin, then hold your breath and thank your lucky stars because up to now, so far as I know, no one excepting Little Billy has ever seen one.

Watch the birds as they fly above your heads and, who knows, you might well spy a tiny creature riding high on the back of a swallow or a raven. Watch the robin especially because it always flies low, and you might see a nervous young Minpin perched on the feathers having its first flying lesson. And above all, watch with glittering eyes the whole world around you because the greatest secrets are always hidden in the most unlikely places.
Those who don't believe in magic
will never find it.



Friday 17th July

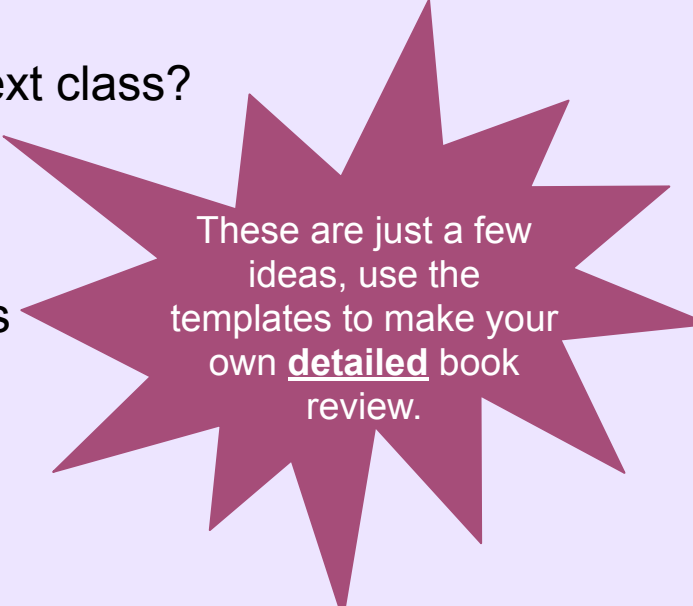
Today's final English task (*sob...sob*) is to write a book review of The Minpins for next year's Year 4 class.

On the Home Learning Page I have put some templates for you to either print off or use for ideas.

How are you going to recommend this book for the next class?

What should you include?

- Author and anything else they have written
- Summary of the story
- Short character description of the main character/s
- Parts you enjoyed and why you liked it.
- Why you think they might enjoy it?
- Favourite part



These are just a few ideas, use the templates to make your own detailed book review.

Friday 17th July

Use this checklist to ensure you have written a detailed book review.

You need to ensure you are providing your opinion and explained why you feel that way



Use the word
because or
in my opinion to
support your writing.

Features of a Book Review Checklist

Have I...



included the title and the name of the author (and illustrator if required)?	
used capital letters appropriately?	
included my name and age in brackets?	
used the present tense?	
used the first person (I, me, my)?	
engaged the reader by asking a question at the beginning?	
written a short summary of the book?	
commented on characters I particularly like or feel empathy with?	
made sure that I have not given away the ending?	
stated where this book sits in a series, and whether I will read the next book?	
used powerful verbs to describe the action?	
used powerful adjectives and adverbs to add further detail?	
given my opinion using phrases such as 'because', 'in my opinion', 'I think that'?	
stated who I would recommend this book to, and why?	
given marks out of ten or a star rating?	
made predictions, especially about the ending?	