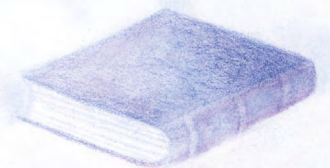
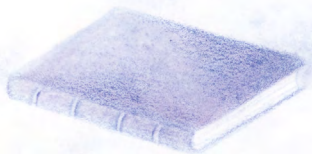
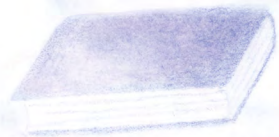


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NORTHERN DREAMING

A gift of stories
for the young



**Northern Dreaming
Story Writing Resource**



About This Resource

This resource has been produced by Leeds 2023 to accompany the release of Northern Dreaming, a new book commissioned as a gift to the city of Leeds, by Leeds2023 and the British Library.

The resource contains story writing prompts and a bank of tasks for teachers working with EYFS and KS1, designed to be used after children have watched the Northern Dreaming Storytime performance.

Each task is standalone and can be adapted by teachers for their specific cohort.

Curriculum Links

The tasks have been developed with the EYFS Framework and KS1 curriculum in mind, specifically to help meet criteria in the following areas:

EYFS

- Communication and Language
(Listening, Attention and Understanding, and Speaking)
- Literacy (Comprehension, Word Reading and Writing)

KS1

- Developing pleasure in reading
- Composition of sentences
- Using spoken language to develop understanding

About Northern Dreaming

Northern Dreaming is a collection of poetry and stories by 18 emerging and published writers. Each author shares their unique perspective and imagination, inspiring the next generation of dreamers.

The gift is a celebration of the magical thrill of storytelling. It's a place for readers to find comfort, inspiration and joy.

With stories for babies, children and young adults, the book is designed to carry readers all the way through their childhood, and be treasured long after the last page has been turned.



Sky Dance

Sky Dance tells the story of a dream.
In dreams, anything can happen!

Act out the story of Sky Dance

Read Sky Dance aloud and ask children to physically respond to the action words – such as wave, dance, snuggle and gaze. Practice the actions all together first, so the poem becomes a choreographed routine.

Create your own dream world

Using the template on the next page, ask children to fill it with their own ideas for things they might come across in a dream world – magical castles, dinosaurs, giants, shooting stars, trees full of sweets – anything! Then ask children to talk about their pictures as a way of beginning to construct a story.





Stars and night-time matching activity

Cut out the pictures below and the matching words. Ask children to match the describing word to the picture. This could then be used as a prompt for writing sentences about the night sky.



TWINKLING	SOFT	ROUND
SHINY	GREY	WHITE
GOLDEN	FLUFFY	BRIGHT



Leila's Blanket

In the poem Leila's Blanket, the blanket is a den, a river, a cape – it can be anything Leila wants it to be. These tasks will encourage children to use their imaginations in a similar way, and they could develop their own short story or poem about an object of their choice too.

What can your blanket be?

Using a blanket, scarf or piece of fabric, play a game where the object is passed around the circle, and every one has to shout out what the object is – which is anything except for a blanket! For example, the blanket could be a doll to cuddle, a puddle to jump in, a slippery snake! Encourage children to accompany this with a simple mime as well. This game will encourage children to use their imagination when describing objects and is the start of using metaphors.

My blanket is a..... Word Cloud activity

On the template on the next page, ask children to draw or write all the things their blanket can be.



I love to... Poem

Leila's Blanket is all about playing and having fun. This task encourages children to write down simple words to complete the sentence "I love to...." The end result is a lovely simple poem about being a child and having a great imagination!

I love to....

Dance

Sing

Jump

Run

Cuddle my toys

Laugh

Build towers

Bake

Splash in puddles

Your turn!

In this space, write all the things you love doing in your play time! When you have finished, you will have a poem!

I love to....



Rosa and George



What can you see?

Using the pictures as a visual prompt, ask children to describe verbally what they can see in the picture.

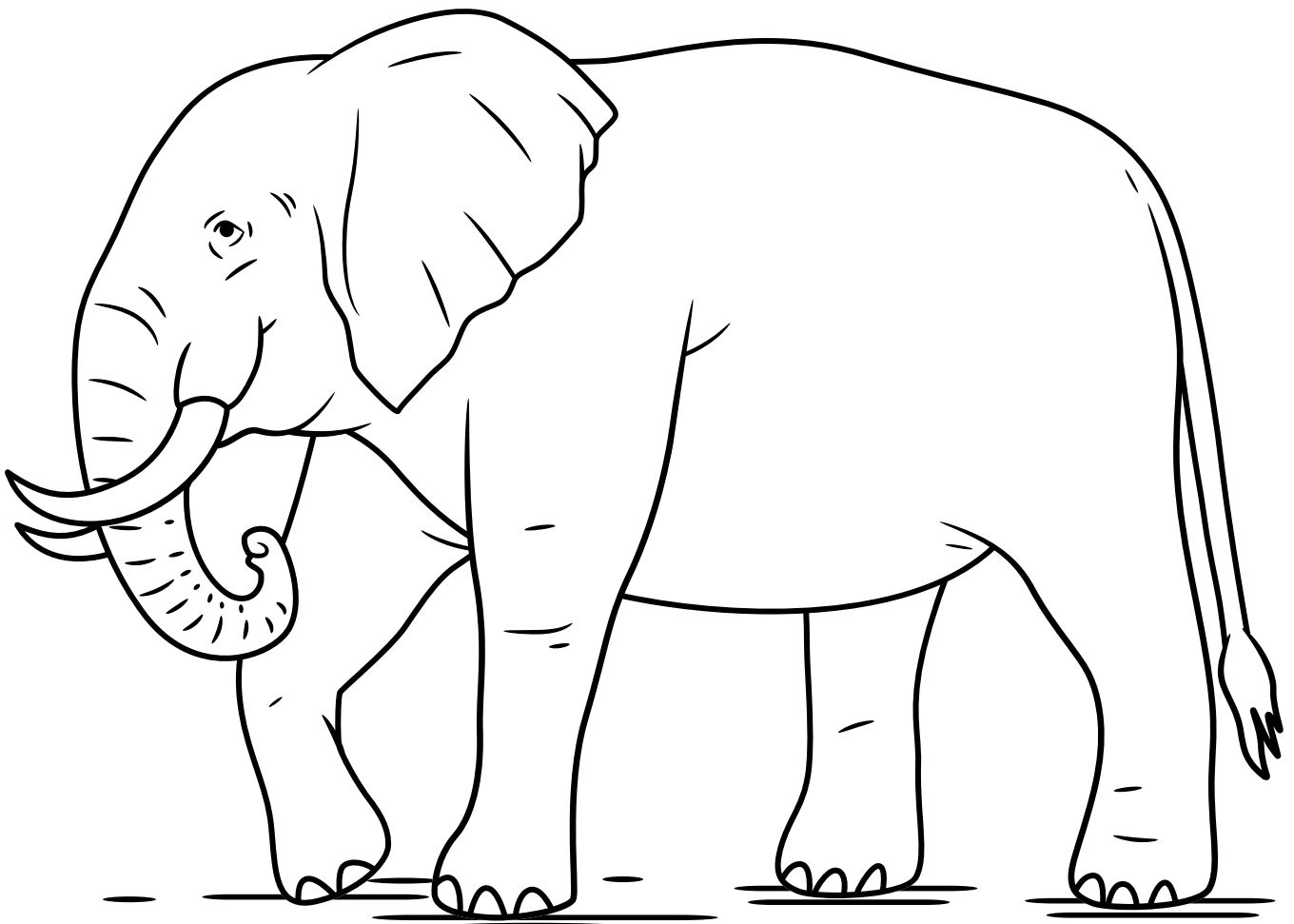




Describing Rosa

Use the words from the story to describe Rosa, the elephant Christmas decoration, and then ask children to draw and colour the template below to match your description:

"She had sparkling silver sequin eyes, a rainbow tail and wore a blanket with red buttons and golden bells."





Matching Up Descriptions

Either as a class, or individually, ask children to match the describing words below with what they are describing.

These are all quotes taken from the story.

Grey, wrinkly

Christmas Lights

Dazzling bonfire
in space

Rosa The Elephant

Twinkled

The Orange Moon

Family Tree

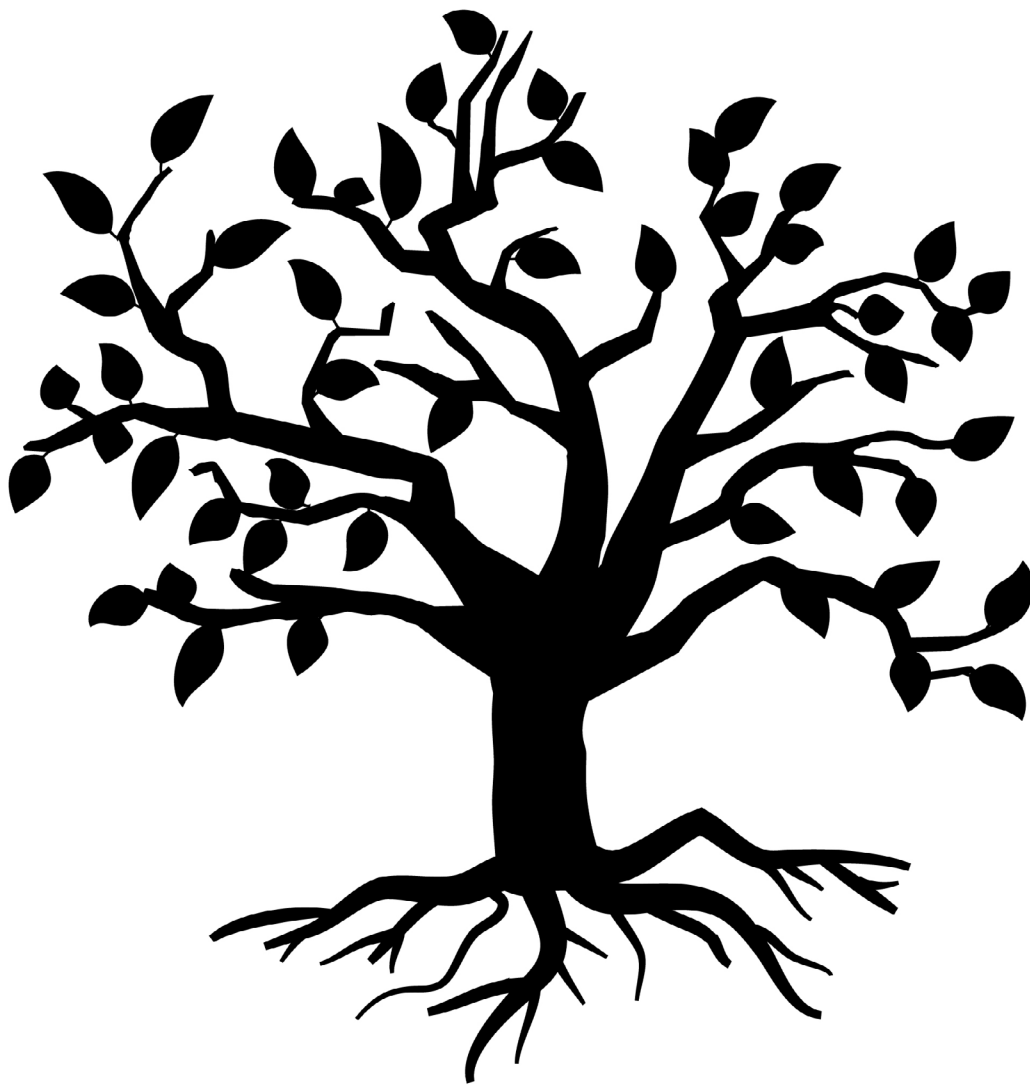
Content warning: Migration, war, seeking asylum. If you have children who have been displaced and are away from their families, these tasks may not be suitable.

This story follows the journey of a child having to flee a country and seek a new home, but also how our family and our roots stay with us and make us who we are. These tasks focus on the idea of family and family trees. Families come in all shapes and sizes, including friends, children, grown-ups who are important to us and clubs and groups we belong to, so encourage children to write or talk about anyone important to them.

My Family Tree

Using the template on the next page, children could either draw, write or stick in pictures of their family to create their own collage family tree. Encourage children to talk about their family trees to help them compose sentences around this. The box on the page can then be used to write a sentence or two about their family.





Write a sentence about your family here:

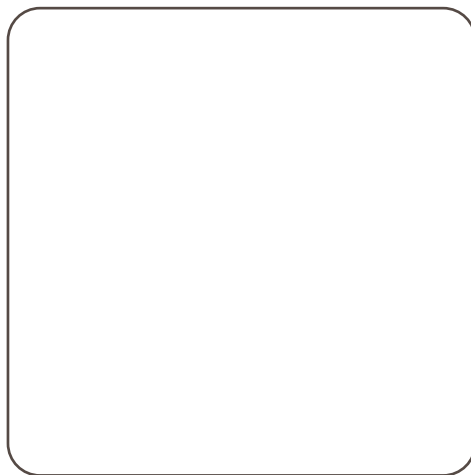
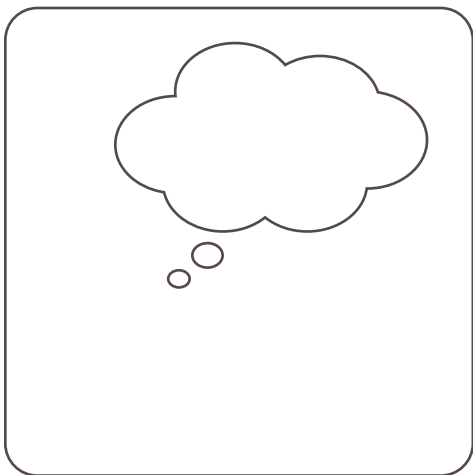
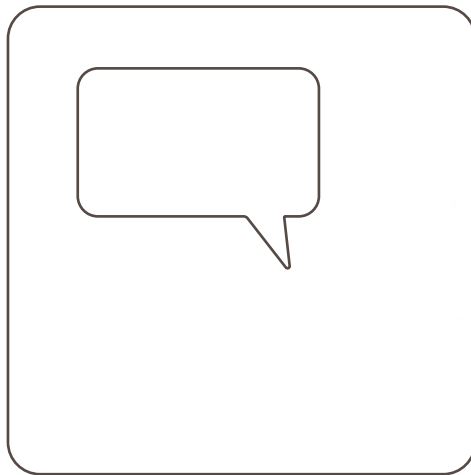
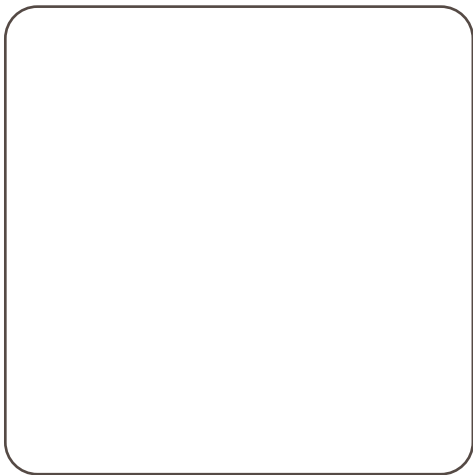
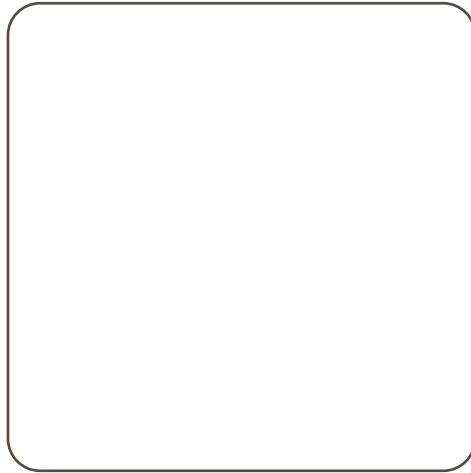
In my family, there is....

My family is...

I love my family because...

All About My Family

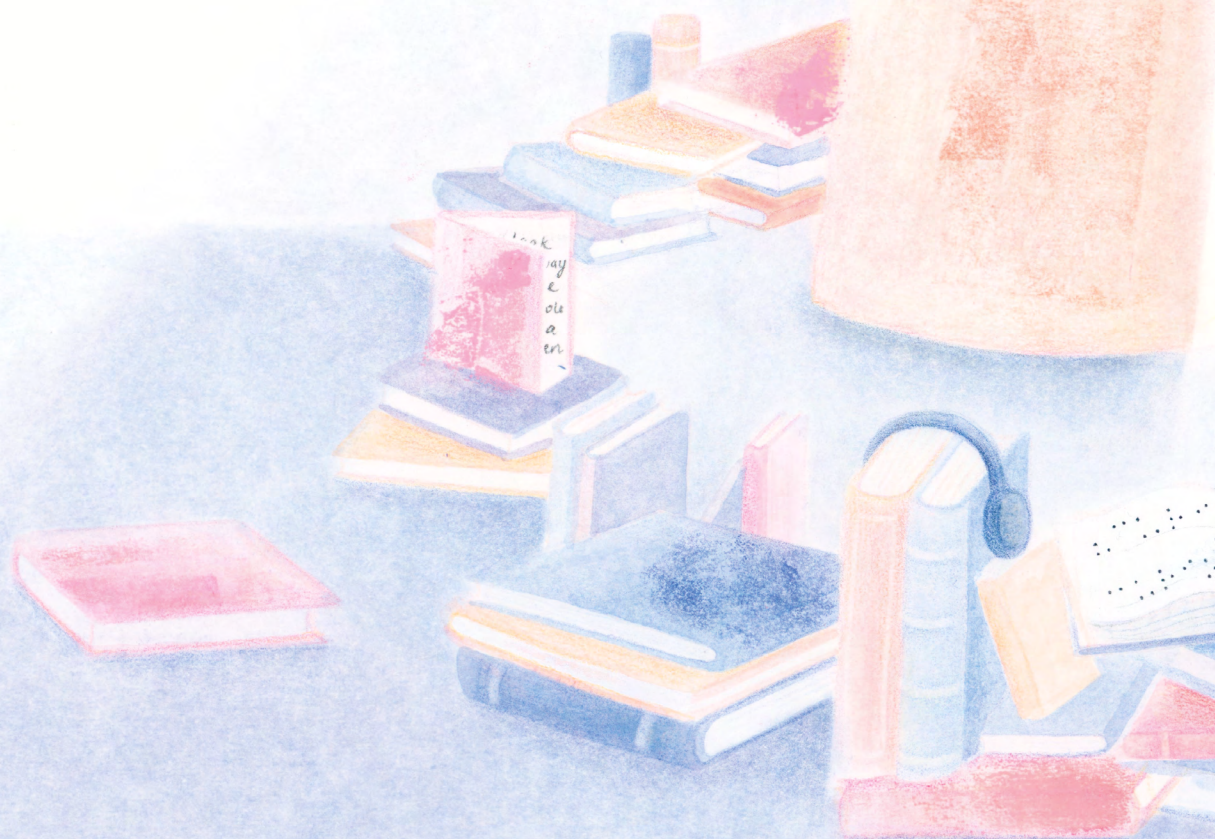
Using the comic strip template below, ask children to write or draw a short story about their family.



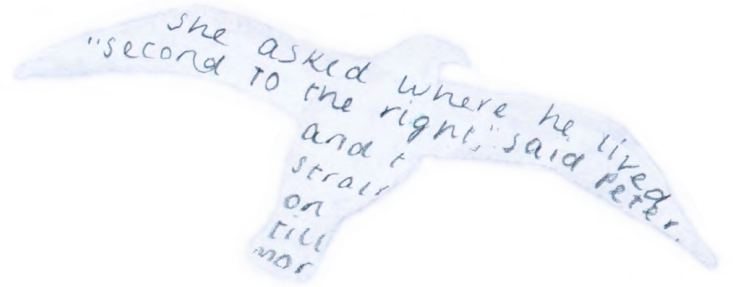
My Dream Bookshop

World Building

You could encourage children to think about what their own dream bookshop would look like and build this world as a class. Would it have bean bags? Kittens to play with? A hot chocolate machine? Encourage children to express their ideas verbally, and then draw a picture of their dream bookshop.



sr
pauli
"would
you
like an
adventure row
he said casual
to job
or wo
you
like it
have
tea
for



Question cards

Using the question cards, prompt children to think even more about their dream bookshop. They could write answers or add to their pictures.

What colour
are the walls?

Is it bright and sunny,
or dark and cosy?

What is the floor
made out of?

Who else is in your
dream bookshop?

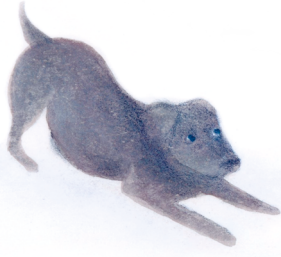
Are there any sounds?

What does the
building look like?

Writing a Short Story

On the template below, now ask children to write a few sentences about their Dream Bookshop.





Glossary Words

MAGICAL	DREAM	BIG
BOOKS	ADVENTURE	READING
PEACEFUL	QUIET	FUN

Other Resources

You can find a treasury of children's books, activities and short films on the British Library's Discovering Children's Books website. Become a poet with Joseph Coelho, learn how to make your own beautiful books, get top tips for making picture books from Axel Scheffler, and lots more. You can find this at: <https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books>

There is also an audiobook version of Northern Dreaming, which you can find on Spotify and on the British Library site.

In the Northern Dreaming book, Lemn Sissay provides a story prompt which could also be used for children exploring creative writing, this can be found on pages 124-125 of the book.

We'd love to see your ideas for your dream bookshop, share them with the British Library @BL_Learning on Twitter.

