



Silas and the Marvellous Misfits

ACTIVITY PACK



"I absolutely love Silas and the gang!"

MARCUS RASHFORD, MBE



Marcus Rashford, MBE photo © Suki Dhanda

SILAS AND THE MARVELLOUS MISFITS: A Fantastic Dream Defenders Adventure

by Tom Percival

A MARCUS RASHFORD BOOK CLUB CHOICE



A Marcus Rashford Book Club resource created by the National Literacy Trust.



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Hi everyone, **MARCUS** here.

We've included some great challenges and activities in this pack inspired by *Silas and the Marvellous Misfits* by Tom Percival, the exciting new book in the Marcus Rashford Book Club, and I'm really looking forward to hearing how you get on.

Have fun and enjoy! **MR** x



Read Chapter 1 of
SILAS AND THE MARVELLOUS MISFITS.
 Then complete the challenges.



**CHAPTER
1**

Erika swam upwards through a cloud that smelled strongly of marshmallows.

She glanced over at Beastling, swimming along beside her.

He smiled and mumbled, 'Heebie Jeebie,' through the thickening cloud.



As he spoke, a speech bubble popped out of his mouth, showing a picture of a thumbs up and a smiley face. Erika grinned and looked down at her timer. Twenty-five seconds. That was all they had before the cloud turned into a marshmallow and plunged to the ground in a deadly (but completely delicious) mess. This was not something that Erika wanted to happen – at least, not with them still inside the cloud!

BZZZZZT!

Erika's communications device buzzed and a gravelly voice spoke. 'Hey, Erika.

Listen, while you're back at Head Quarters getting that truth cannon, can you bring me a couple of doughnuts please?'

'What?' gasped Erika, struggling not to breathe in too much marshmallow. 'Look, Wade, I'm kind of busy right now!' 'Oh yeah, of course,' replied Wade. 'Sorry. And good luck!' There was a pause. 'But don't forget the doughnuts.' Then he ended the call.

Erika shook her head and swam faster.

Seventeen seconds later, Erika and Beastling popped out the top of the cloud, just as it became too thick to swim through. They sprinted to the edge and leaped off as the marshmallow cloud began to tumble towards the ground far

below. Beastling followed close behind her. He *had* to. Erika and Beastling were bonded together, which meant that they could only ever be a few metres apart from each other. It had been that way since Erika's first adventure in the Dreamscape. Well, technically, it was ever since Beastling had first *bitten* her that they'd been bonded together – but that was a long time ago, and there was no point getting upset about it now.

Cold wind tore at Erika's skin as Beastling manoeuvred himself through the air and grabbed her shoulders. She thrust her arms and legs out in a star



shape and glowing sheets of light spread between her hands and feet like wings, creating a flying suit that Erika could steer and control.

'Only the best for the **DREAM DEFENDERS**, right?' yelled Erika, grinning. If she tried to tell her friends at school

about any of this they would think she had gone mad! It wasn't like you could just say, 'By the way, I'm part of the **DREAM DEFENDERS**, a top-secret organization that helps children solve any problems they're having in their dreams.'

Her friends hadn't even believed her when she said her uncle had a Ferrari, so there was NO WAY they'd believe any of *this*!

To be fair to Erika's friends, her uncle *didn't* have a Ferrari. But he did have a red car that looked kind of sporty.

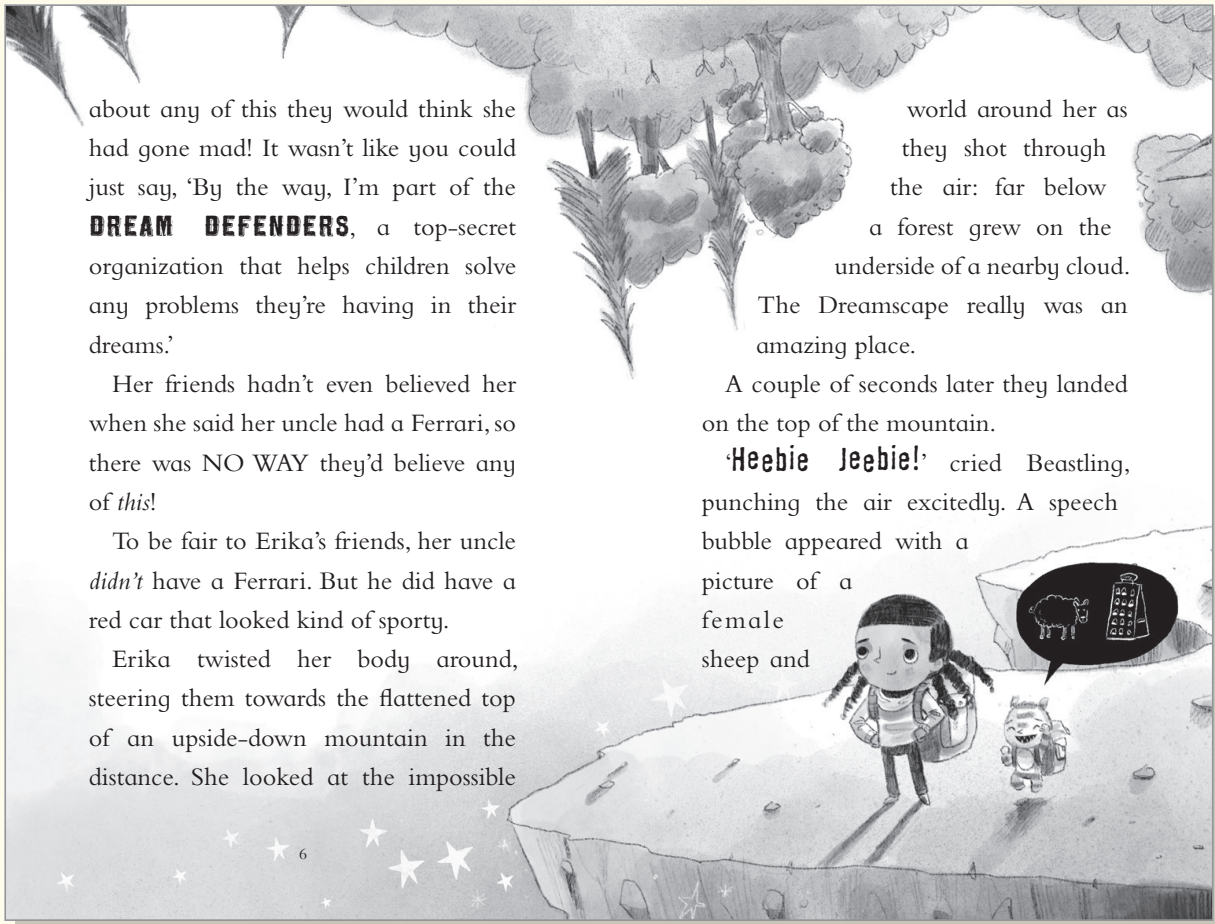
Erika twisted her body around, steering them towards the flattened top of an upside-down mountain in the distance. She looked at the impossible

world around her as they shot through the air: far below a forest grew on the underside of a nearby cloud.

The Dreamscape really was an amazing place.

A couple of seconds later they landed on the top of the mountain.

'Heebie Jeebie!' cried Beastling, punching the air excitedly. A speech bubble appeared with a picture of a female sheep and



a cheese grater in it. Erika smiled and ruffled Beastling's fur.

'Ewe grate too!' she said with a grin. 'Let's get inside and find the others!'

Erika and Beastling crept down a roughly carved set of steps leading deep within the mountain. Damp, stale air drifted lazily down the corridor as Erika peered around.

'Where is everyone?' she muttered. 'This is where we were supposed to meet.'

'Psst . . . Erika!' a voice suddenly whispered from behind her.

Erika yelped and spun around – there was nobody there.

'Sorry!' continued the voice. 'I didn't mean to startle you. I know it can be

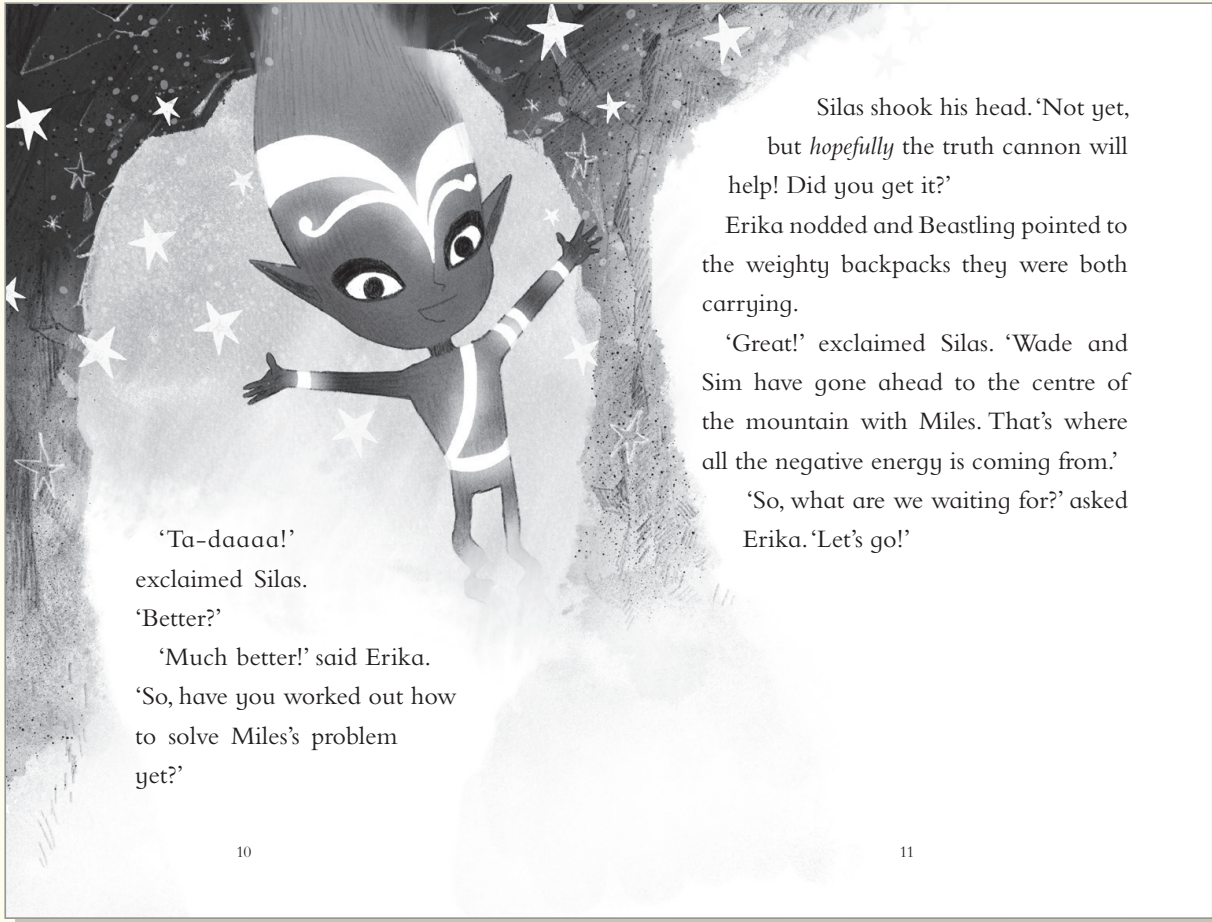
dangerous for a human's heartbeat to become too elevated. Do you want me to hum some soothing music?' The disembodied voice stopped speaking and started humming. Badly.

'Silas?' interrupted Erika. 'Is that you? Why are you invisible? And *please* stop humming.'

The humming stopped. 'Oh. Am I still invisible?'

'Yes!' replied Erika.

'Ah! Right. Give me a second . . . ' The air shimmered and suddenly the drifting, insubstantial figure of a boy appeared. Swirls of light covered his face and body, and even when he was fully visible he still faded away to nothing just below the knees.



‘Ta-daaa!’
exclaimed Silas.

‘Better?’

‘Much better!’ said Erika.

‘So, have you worked out how
to solve Miles’s problem
yet?’

Silas shook his head. ‘Not yet,
but *hopefully* the truth cannon will
help! Did you get it?’

Erika nodded and Beastling pointed to
the weighty backpacks they were both
carrying.

‘Great!’ exclaimed Silas. ‘Wade and
Sim have gone ahead to the centre of
the mountain with Miles. That’s where
all the negative energy is coming from.’

‘So, what are you waiting for?’ asked
Erika. ‘Let’s go!’

WELL DONE!

**You’ve finished the first chapter!
Now complete the challenges.**



WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

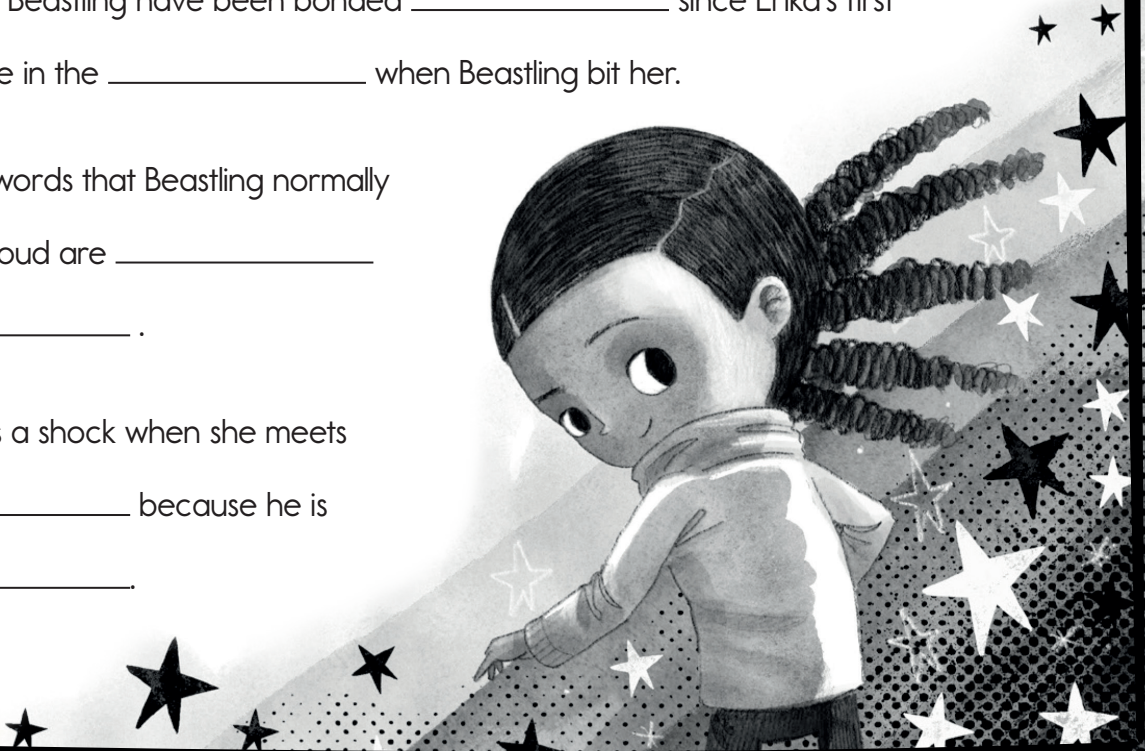
Do you remember what happened in Chapter 1?
Let's find out!

FILL IN THE GAPS

Fill in the gaps using these words.

Silas	problems	dreams
together	Dreamscape	Heebie
organization	invisible	Jeebie

- a. The Dream Defenders are a top-secret _____ that help children solve any _____ they're having in their _____.
- b. Erika and Beastling have been bonded _____ since Erika's first adventure in the _____ when Beastling bit her.
- c. The two words that Beastling normally says out loud are _____.
- d. Erika gets a shock when she meets _____ because he is _____.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Do you remember what happened in Chapter 1?
Let's find out!

TRUE OR FALSE?

Is the sentence true or false?

- a. Erika's school friends know that she's part of the Dream Defenders. **True/False**
- b. Wade's favourite food is marshmallows. **True/False**
- c. In the Dreamscape, forests grow from the underside of clouds. **True/False**
- d. Erika's uncle doesn't own a Ferrari. **True/False**
- e. At the end of Chapter 1, Erika leaves Beastling at the top of the mountain. **True/False**



WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Do you remember what happened in Chapter 1?
Let's find out!

ORDER IT

What happened in Chapter 1?

Someone has got into our story and messed up the order!

Can you re-tell the story in the correct order?

1	2	3	4	5	6
---	---	---	---	---	---

Number each sentence from 1-6 to put them in the order that they happened in the story.

- a. Silas checks that they have the truth cannon.
- b. Erika and Beastling swim through a cloud that is turning into a marshmallow.
- c. Erika, Beastling and Silas decide to head into the centre of the mountain to help Miles.
- d. They burst out of the cloud and land on an upside-down mountain.
- e. Wade calls Erika to ask her to bring him some donuts.
- f. They walk deep into the mountain to meet Silas. At first they can't see him because he's invisible.

How did you do? Did you get the same answers as your friends?

Go to [p. 20](#) to see the correct answers.



CREATE YOUR OWN QUIZ

Well done for doing the quiz! Now you can create your own fun quiz inspired by Chapter 1 for your friends to answer.

First, read Chapter 1 again and write down three things that happened in the story.

Example: Erika swims through a cloud that smells of marshmallows.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Now let's turn each of those things into a question.

There are loads of different types of questions to choose from, such as:

- **Multiple choice**
- **True or false**
- **Fill in the gaps**

CHALLENGE 1:



1. MULTIPLE CHOICE:

These are questions that give four possible answers, only one of which is correct.

Example: What does the cloud Erika is swimming through smell of?

A. Cabbage **B. Marshmallows** C. Donuts D. Gravy

Now write your own *multiple choice* question. Turn one of the things that happened in the story into a question. Your question might begin with the word 'What'.

Write four possible answers. Remember – only one can be correct!

Question. _____

Answer A: _____ **Answer B:** _____

Answer C: _____ **Answer D:** _____

2. TRUE OR FALSE:

These are questions that ask someone to work out whether a sentence is true or is a lie.

To write a true or false question, either...

- Write a sentence about something that really happens in the book

Example: Erika is a member of a secret organization called the Dream Defenders.

True or **False?**

- Or write a lie about the book that you think someone might believe

Example: Erika is a member of a secret organization called the Sleep Protectors.

True or **False?**

Now write your own true or false question using something that happened in the story.

3. FILL IN THE GAPS:

These are questions where you have to work out what the missing word is to complete a sentence.

To write a fill in the gap question, write something true about the book but miss out an important word. Make sure you show where the missing word goes by leaving a large space.

Example: The _____ Defenders are a top-secret organization.

Now write your own fill in the gap question using something that happened in the story.

Challenge your friends to do your quiz!
Did they find it too difficult, too easy, or just right?

CHALLENGE 1:



USE THIS PAGE TO WRITE LOTS MORE QUIZ QUESTIONS.

You could even write a quiz about something else that you enjoy.

How about you write a quiz about football, gaming or your favourite music?

CRACK THE CODE

Beastling speaks using pictures. For example:
Ewe Grate = "You are great"



WHAT IS BEASTLING SAYING?

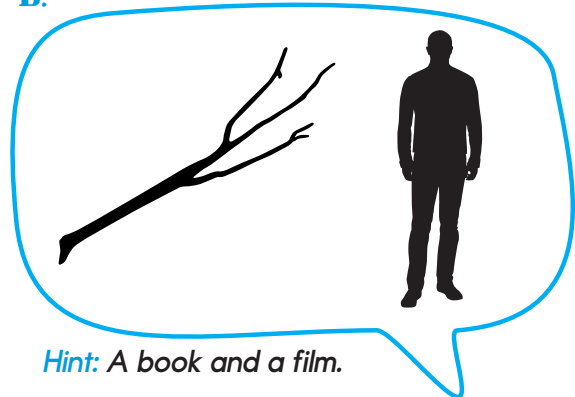
A.



Hint: A football tournament.

Answer:

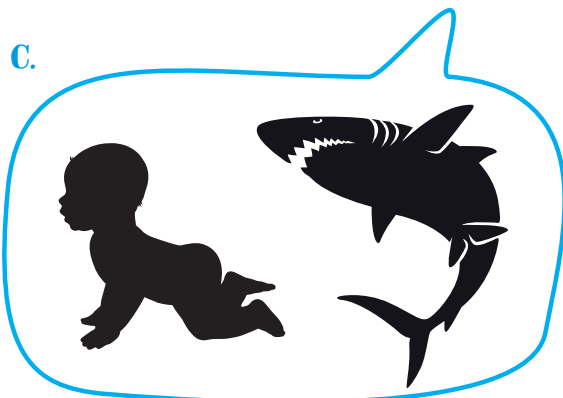
B.



Hint: A book and a film.

Answer:

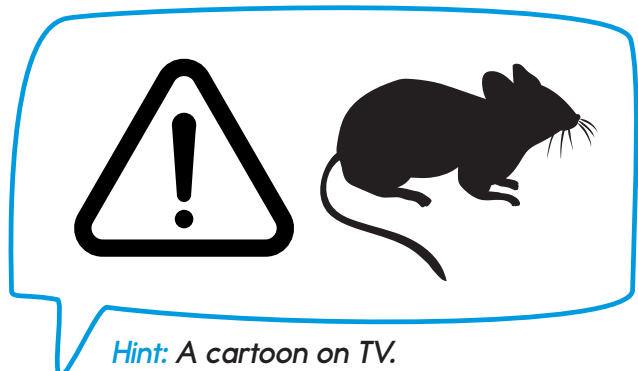
C.



Hint: A very catchy song and dance.

Answer:

D.



Hint: A cartoon on TV.

Answer:

CHALLENGE 2:

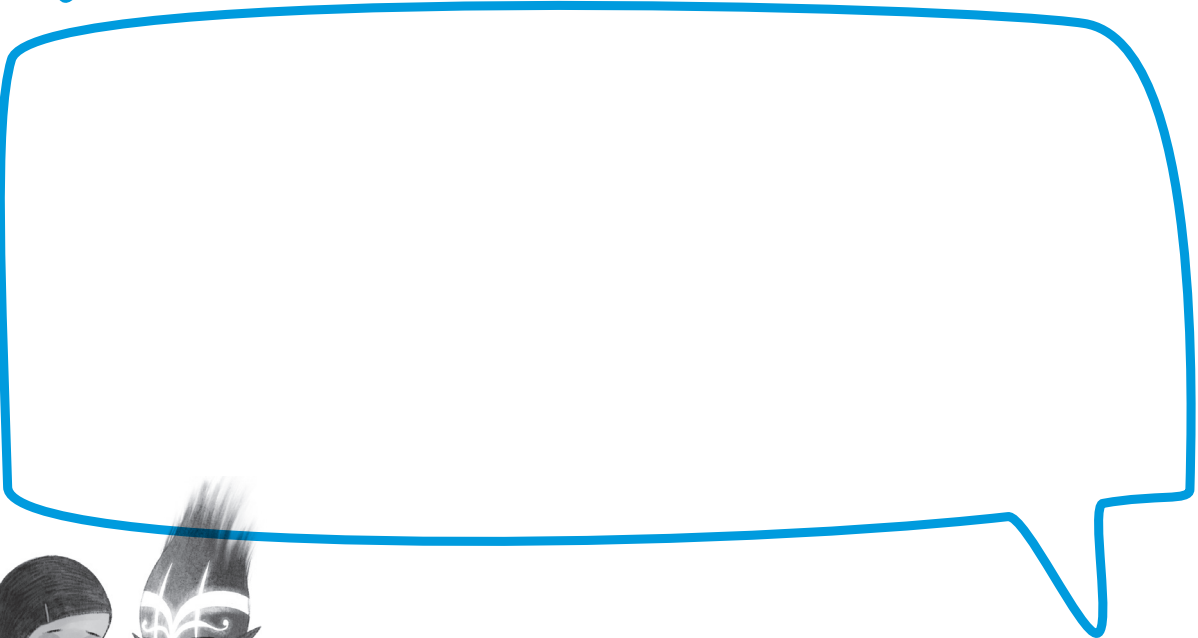
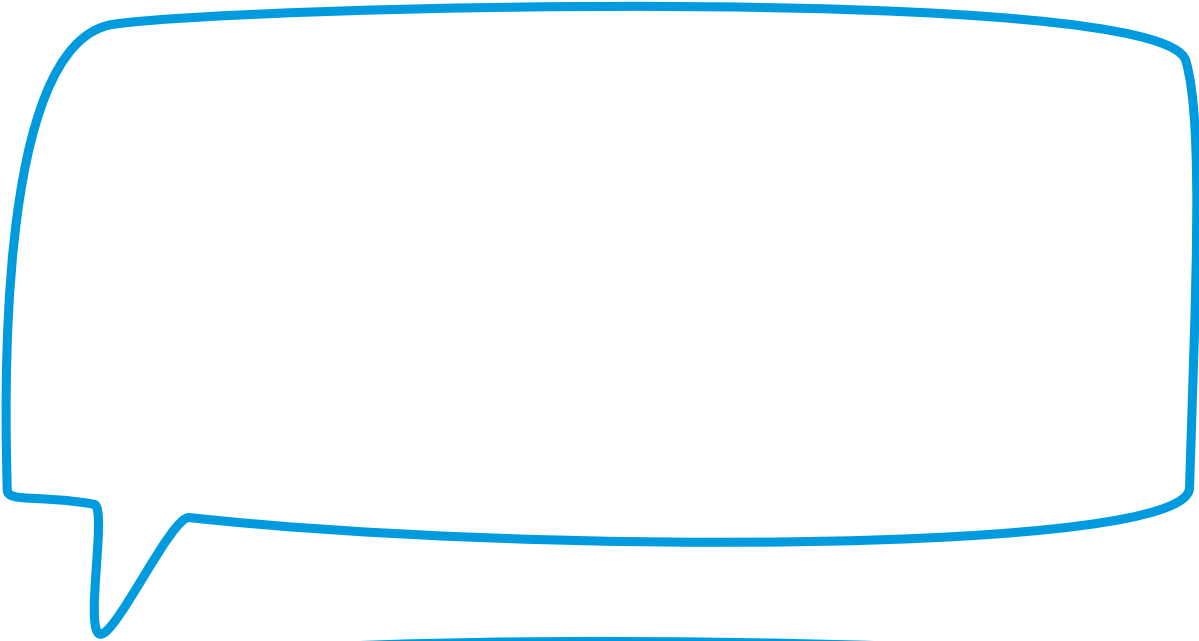


NOW CREATE YOUR OWN!

Think about something you like and draw it in the speech bubble.

Can your friends guess what it is?

Fancy a challenge? Pick a song, book or film title and try to draw a picture for each word.



Challenge a friend. Can they crack your code?

WHAT MAKES YOU AMAZING?

Can you create your own skill card? What **do you** think you are really good at? Are you kind? Fast? Good at sharing? Let the world know! If you want some ideas, use the skills bank. Or ask a friend!

Draw a picture of yourself here

Write your skills here

ERIKA

SKILLS

Adventurous	10
Helping others	10
Loves ice cream	10

MARCUS RASHFORD

Scoring goals	10
Enjoys reading	10
Talking about others	10

Skills Bank

Here are some ideas to help you think of your skills.

Personality	Things you are good at	Things you like
Kind	Maths	Drawing
Fun	Swimming	Reading comic books
Funny	Asking questions	Relaxing with friends
Thoughtful	Singing	Playing football
Caring	Remembering facts	Baking cakes
Passionate	Handstands	Running

CHALLENGE 3:



NOW MAKE SKILL CARDS FOR YOUR FRIENDS!

Make sure you include all the things that make them really great.

A skill card template with a blue and white diagonal striped border. It features a white rectangular box at the top, a large white circle in the center, and a white rectangular box at the bottom. The word "SKILLS" is written vertically in blue on the left side of the bottom box.

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CHALLENGE 4:



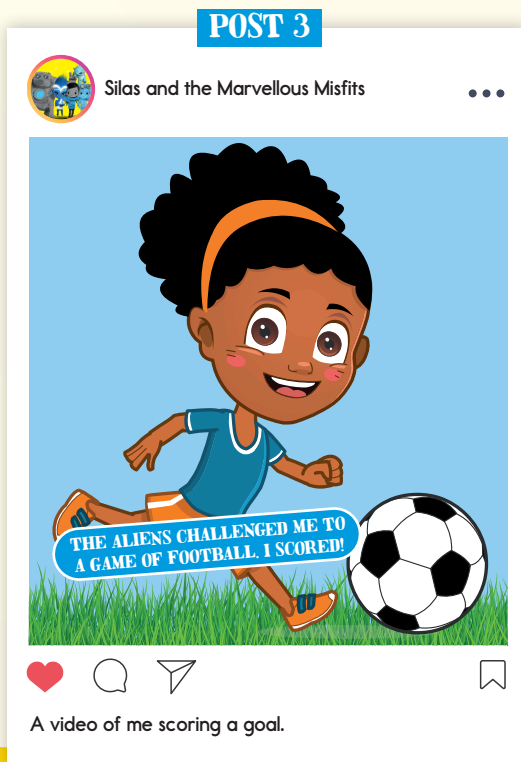
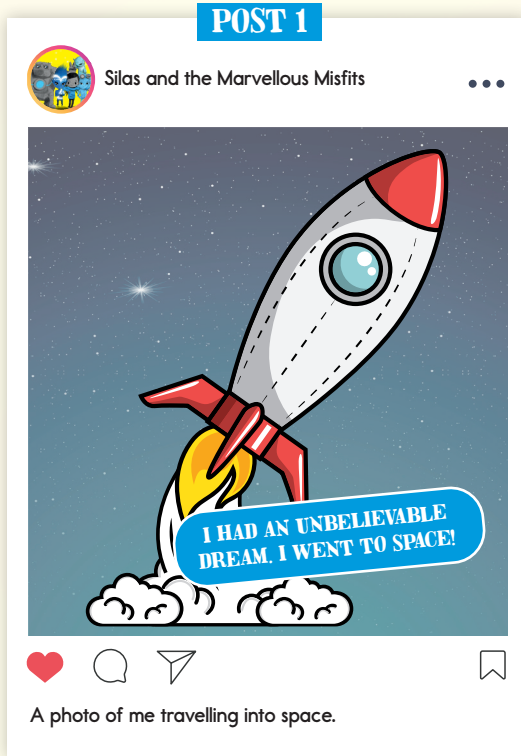
BEST DREAM EVER

Imagine you had an amazing adventure in your dreams. You can't wait to tell everyone about it! One way to do this would be to share your story on social media. This is what Marcus does when he has an important announcement to make, or he wants to share something that has happened to him with his fans. Why don't you try that?

Have a go at planning your social media story, telling everyone about your **Best. Dream. Ever!!!!**

Your story can have images, film and text. Take a look at this example, then plan your own on the next page.

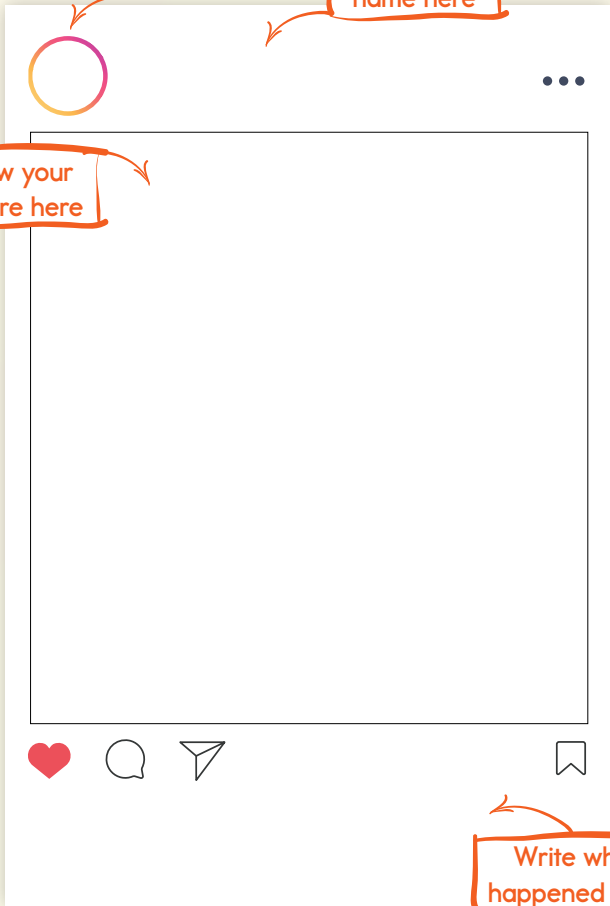
Remember – it's a dream, so anything can happen!



Draw your icon here

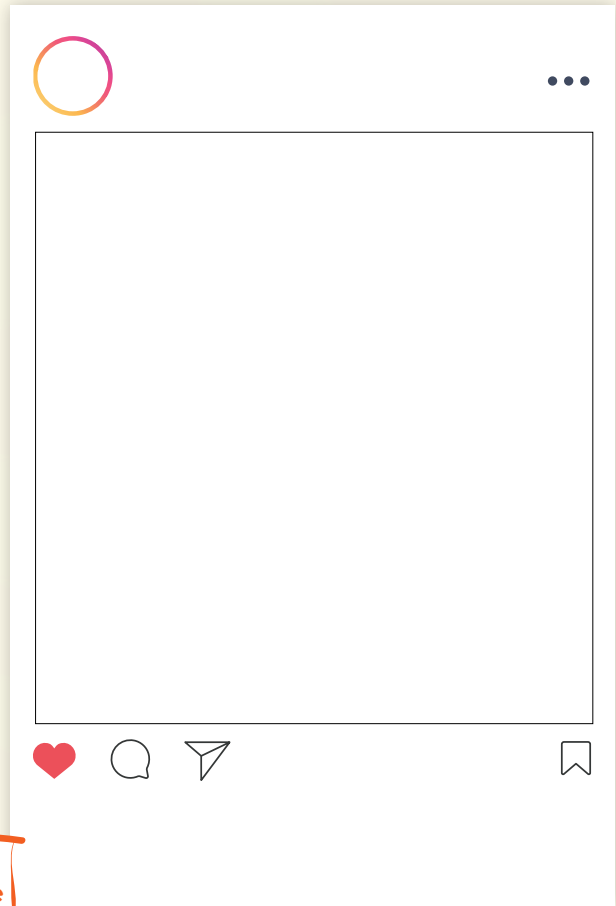
Write your name here

Draw your picture here

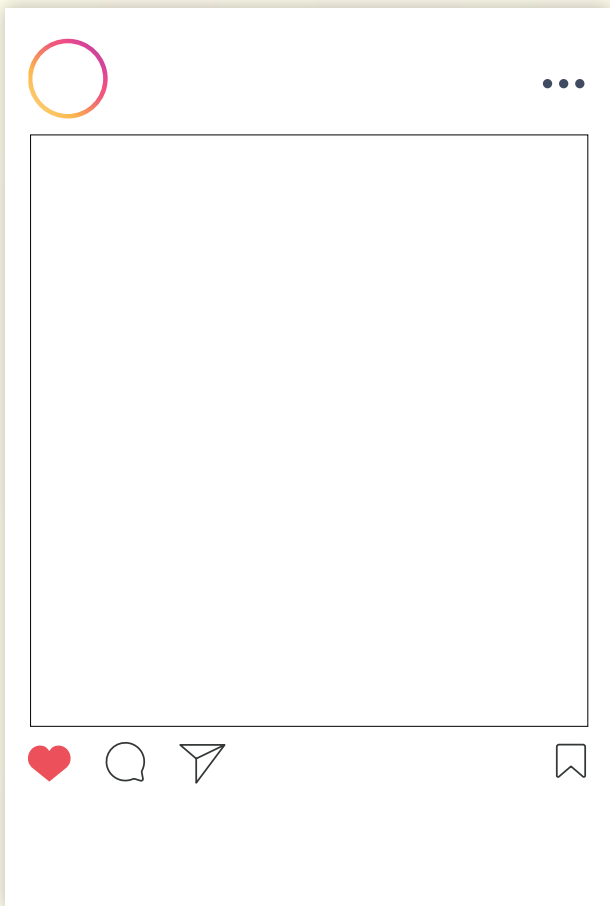


Instagram post template with a profile icon, a large central image area, and a bottom navigation bar with icons for likes, comments, shares, and saves. A callout box points to the profile icon area with the text "Draw your icon here". Another callout box points to the top right area with the text "Write your name here". A third callout box points to the central image area with the text "Draw your picture here".

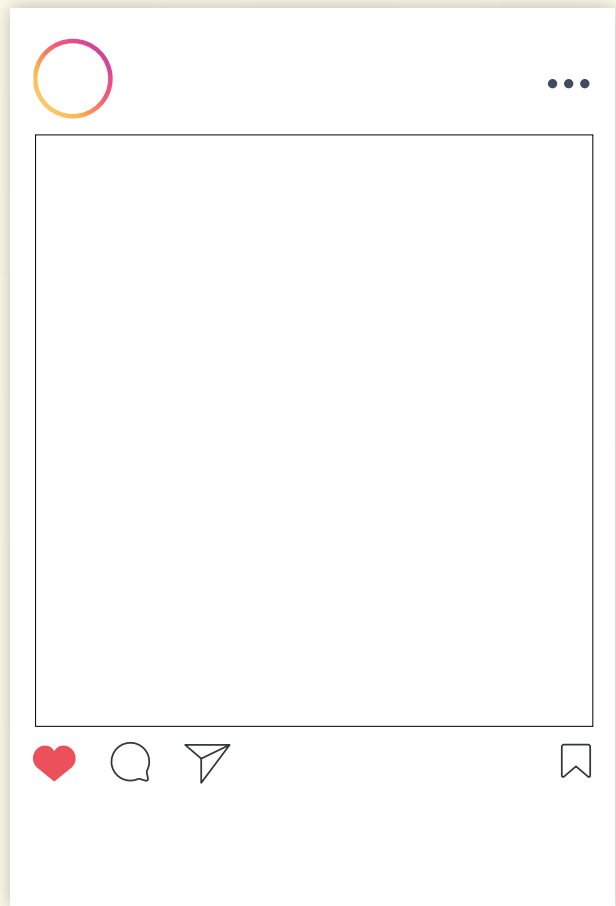
Write what happened here



Instagram post template with a profile icon, a large central image area, and a bottom navigation bar with icons for likes, comments, shares, and saves.



Instagram post template with a profile icon, a large central image area, and a bottom navigation bar with icons for likes, comments, shares, and saves.



Instagram post template with a profile icon, a large central image area, and a bottom navigation bar with icons for likes, comments, shares, and saves.

MAKE YOUR OWN BOOKMARK

Cut out this bookmark and use it while you read *Silas and the Marvellous Misfits*.

As you are reading, write on the bookmark anything you really enjoyed or any words you are unsure about. You can always find out the meaning of a word later!



My favourite parts of the book...

I like what happened on page _____

because _____

I like what happened on page _____

because _____

Words I didn't know:

1. _____

What it means: _____

2. _____

What it means: _____

3. _____

What it means: _____



Crack the code:
 a. World Cup
 b. Stick Man
 c. Baby Shark
 d. Danger Mouse
 6 = c

Order it:
 1 = b
 2 = e
 3 = d
 4 = f
 5 = a

True or false
 a. false
 b. false
 c. true
 d. true
 e. false

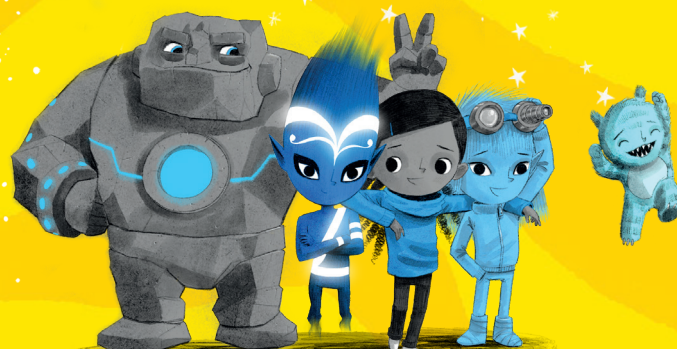
Fill in the gaps:
 a. organization, problems, dreams
 b. together, Dreamscape
 c. Heebie, Jeebie
 d. Silas, invisible

Answers:



WE HOPE YOU ENJOYED THESE ACTIVITIES BASED AROUND

Silas and the Marvellous Misfits



ALSO IN THE MARCUS RASHFORD BOOK CLUB

A DINOSAUR ATE MY SISTER

Illustrated by
Allen
Fatimaharan

POOJA PURI

A Dinosaur Ate My Sister is a wonderfully-illustrated, laugh-out-loud adventure through time.

Esha Verma is a **GENIUS INVENTOR**. And she's just created her most brilliant invention yet: **A TIME MACHINE**.

(Ok, her apprentice Broccoli may have helped. A bit)

But when her **BORING** big sister Nishi accidentally gets **STUCK** in the Age of the Dinosaurs, Esha and Broccoli set off on a **PREHISTORIC RESCUE MISSION** to get her back.

They'll face:

- TERRIFYING T-REXES
- MYSTERIOUS WORMHOLES
- GLITCH INVENTIONS
- ALL OF SPACE AND TIME

"THE PERFECT STORY TO ESCAPE INTO AND FIND ADVENTURE. POOJA IS SUPER TALENTED AND I'M A BIG FAN!"

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