



Christmas Stickers

It's that time of year again and you can add that Bag Books feel to your own Christmas Cards with our range of Christmas Stickers. The stickers can also be used to seal envelopes or to wrap up presents.

We have two ranges available: 20 small gold stickers for £2 per sheet or 12 larger contemporary stickers for £3 per sheet. The important thing is that each sticker represents a donation to Bag Books.

Order at www.bagbooks.org/stickers.html or call us for an order form.

Fantastic Support

We've received some fantastic support from funders this year. Here are some examples:

HarperCollins UK has donated over £11,000. Their employees submitted charities for consideration and then voted on a final shortlist, with Bag Books coming out on top. The funding was made available by HarperCollins' parent company News Corp.

Clifford Chance and **Morgan Stanley** organised the London Charity Cup, a six-a-side football tournament. Bag Books was one of four charities chosen to benefit from the day and we received over £3,000.

Newman's Own Foundation was established in 2005 by the late actor and philanthropist, Paul Newman. The Foundation donates all profits and royalties earned from the sale of Newman's Own products to charity. It has awarded us just over £9,000 for storytelling in Children's Hospices.

The Crerar Hotels Trust has donated over £5,000 to allow us to host multi-sensory storytelling sessions at six special schools in Scotland. Chairman of the Crerar Hotels Trust, Paddy Crerar, said *"improving quality of life is the main priority for the Crerar Hotels Trust. The tireless work of Bag Books makes a huge difference to countless families in supporting their child's learning and development. It's great to see these children engaging with these stories and the huge smiles we've seen on their faces show's our donation is very worthwhile."*

Yorkshire Building Society. Bag Books was one of 30 charities shortlisted to benefit from a donation from the Yorkshire Building Society Legacy Fund. There was a public vote in October and the 15 charities with the most votes will each receive £10,000. At the time of going to press we were still waiting to hear the result. Thanks to everyone who voted for us.

Storyline is published two or three times a year and is available in email and print versions. If you would like to change the format you receive in future please contact us.

Similarly, please let us know if you'd rather not receive future editions.



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Storyline

December 2014

Multi-sensory stories for people with learning disabilities



A Very Happy Birthday

The first ever National Multi-Sensory Storytelling Day was held on 23rd September which was 21 years to the day since Bag Books became a registered charity.

Our team of storytellers ran sessions in 21 venues throughout the UK ranging from Broomlea School in Glasgow to Hope House Children's Hospice in Shropshire and the Barnabas Adult Day Centre in Poole. In addition, schools, libraries, children's hospices and adult day centres around the country arranged their own sessions to join in.

In the evening, over 80 guests attended a reception in the Grand Room of HSBC Private Bank in St James's Street, London. Lord Janvrin, Deputy Chairman of HSBC Private Bank, welcomed everyone.

I would like to acknowledge the large debt we all owe to Chris and Richard Fuller who



"There's a sea urchin under the seaweed! It's moving!" from A Day At The Seaside. One of the many storytelling sessions that took place on the first ever National Multi-Sensory Storytelling Day.

developed the concept of multi-sensory books and established Bag Books back in 1993. I would also like to thank all the former and current trustees, staff and volunteers who had helped the charity to grow over the past 21 years. In addition, none of this would have been possible without the funders who have supported our charitable work over the years.

A volunteer, Lewis Davies, kindly donated his skills and produced a short, light-hearted film entitled "21 things we love about Bag Books" which was shown at the reception. The film is now available on YouTube via tinyurl.com/bb21film

We have decided to make National Multi-Sensory Storytelling Day an annual event. If you would like to get involved next year then the date for your diary is **Wednesday 23rd September 2015.**

Dean Casswell, Chief Executive



Our woodworking volunteer, Tony Robertson, surprised us on the night with a "bag" carved from a solid piece of wood which contained 12 miniature Bag Book titles. He's seen here (left) presenting the gift to Dean.

The Benefits of using Bag Books

Last year, we commissioned the Centre for Education and Research of the University of Northampton to answer the following questions:

- How are Bag Books being used in schools with learners with profound and multiple learning difficulties/other special educational needs?
- What is the perceived impact of Bag Books from the perspectives of those using them/aware of them?
- What do users like and dislike about the products, and what suggestions do they have for improvement?

27 staff members at Special Schools were interviewed and 18 multi-sensory storytelling sessions were observed as part of the study.

The report by Dr David Preece and Mrs Yu Zhao MA was published in the summer. It states, *"It is clear from our research that Bag Books are considered to be an important tool for making English and literacy – as well as a wide range of other curriculum topics – accessible and for bringing significant pleasure to a large number of students."*

The full report "An Evaluation of Bag Books Multi-Sensory Stories" can be downloaded from tinyurl.com/bbevaluation

Museum commissions

As part of our very popular Museums storytelling project last year, we developed two museum related stories, "Museum Mystery" and "The Best Time To Live" which are available to order via our website.

Earlier this year we were commissioned by the Royal Naval Museum in Portsmouth to develop three new multi-sensory resources to accompany display cases in their new HMS-Hear My Story exhibition. The idea is that these resources will be used with visiting schools and on outreach sessions, but will also be available to visitors to the museum on request. These resources are not going on general sale as they are very specific to the Museum and would also be difficult to produce in larger quantities.

We have recently also heard from The National Railway Museum in York who want us to develop a bespoke multi-sensory story for their visitors. We will be working on this over the coming months.

In addition, the National History Museum have approached us regarding the possibility of working with them on a three year project to engage with visitors who have disabilities.

Parent Discounts

First introduced last year, we offer a discount for parents and carers of £10 on "Lost in London" and £5 on "The Captain's Hat". From January we'll also be offering a £10 discount on "A Day At The Seaside" which tells the story of Ivan and Ruth who are at the seaside looking at the shells and seaweed. They catch a fish in a net and decide to have an ice cream to celebrate but then a huge seagull swoops down.



Parents and carers purchasing multi-sensory books for use by a named individual may also be entitled to claim a VAT exemption – a declaration form can be downloaded from our website at tinyurl.com/bbvatform

Our New Free Do-It-Yourself Range

We have now launched five new titles in a new DIY range of multi-sensory stories.

- **A Snowy Day.** Callum and Leanna wake up to find it has snowed, and set about playing in the snow. Having made a snowman and snow angels, they realise the snow has made their trousers wet, so they go back in for a hot chocolate.



- **Don't Say Egg!** Jerry is taking James shopping at the supermarket, but can't work out why he keeps saying "egg"... Until the eggs fall out of the trolley and smash on the floor!
- **Moving Day.** Leanna and her family are moving house. She packs up her things, and all seems well when they get to the house, until Dad admits he's lost the keys.



- **The Alien Planet.** Karl and his Dad land their spaceship on a strange alien planet. Despite being warned not to touch anything, Karl touches an unusual plant, and gets a bit of a shock.
- **Party In The Sky.** Frog wants to go to the big party in the sky, so he hitches a lift in Uluru's guitar. He has a great time at the party, but feels unwell on the journey home, and ends up falling to the ground.



Aimed at parents/carers for home use on a one-to-one basis, the five storyboards can be downloaded for free from our website following a simple registration process. The downloaded pdf contains the storyboard, instructions, suggested items to use and a link to watch an example film of the story being told.

The storyteller will need to gather the items themselves but they are things that many people will already have or which can be found easily and cheaply. Each storyboard also mentions alternatives that could be used for certain elements.

Our DIY range of titles can be downloaded from www.bagbooks.org/bookshop/diy