

## Multi-sensory Virtual Gifts

From a Grunting Pig to an Elephant's Trunk we now have a range of multi-sensory items that you can purchase as Virtual Gifts in a similar way to "Send a Cow". They make unusual and thoughtful presents.

There are five Virtual Gift cards with envelopes as shown above which are available individually. Prices range from £10 to £30.

There are also seven different Virtual Gift labels with prices ranging from £2 to £4 per label. Each design is available as a sheet of seven labels or you can buy one of each design on a sheet as shown on the left.



The full range can be seen at <http://www.bagbooks.org/gifts.html> and can be ordered online.

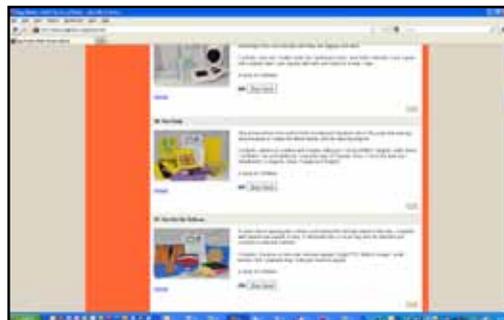
## Text Donation

You can now donate to Bag Books via text message. Text **BOOK33 £10** to 70070 to donate £10 to Bag Books (the system will also work with £1, £2, £3, £4 or £5 as well as £10). There are no costs - we get every penny and you later have the opportunity to add GiftAid to the donation. It's so easy. JustTextGiving by Vodafone.

## Online ordering

Our website now has an integrated shop allowing you to order and pay for our multi-sensory books online. The payment service is processed by PayPal who offer a substantial discount on fees to charities but you can just use a debit or credit card for payment, you don't need to have a PayPal account.

There is still a facility to download an order form and fax or post it to us.



*Storyline is published quarterly 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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## Gifts in Kind

Many thanks to BriMarc Tools & Machinery for a donation of over £200 worth of flexible hose to be transformed into Elephant's Trunks for our new *What Am I?* story.

We are also very grateful to P Wilkinson Containers and W S Jenkins who have once again supplied us with 50 tins of wax for *Gran's Visit*.

# Storyline

July 2011

Multi-sensory stories for people with learning disabilities



## Two New Stories

Two new stories went into production in June, after successfully being trialled at Michael Tippett School in Brixton.



*What Am I?* sees Tallulah trying to work out what animal she is by looking at other animals and noticing their differences – watch out for the elephant's trunk!

## Story- Go-Round Wales



*"The princess tied some rope to the kitten and pulled and pulled and pulled"* from the story *The Little Princess*. Storytelling in Haverfordwest as part of the Story-Go-Round tour of Wales - see page 2 for a report.

## Build-a-Book

We have received funding from The Santander Foundation to start a new project called Build-a-Book.

This project will see us go into Special Schools and work with a group of pupils to help them create their very own Bag Book, which will be personalised for that school. The project aims to give pupils the chance to work on some craft skills that they may not have used before.

Each pupil taking part will be supported to make one or more pages of the story, and there will be opportunities for pupils to choose certain aspects of the pages, such as the colour or texture, enabling those with even the most profound learning or physical disabilities to have their say in the production process. The story will be about a royal visit to the school.



*Zubair's Eid* is the story of Zubair celebrating Eid with his family, but he worries when his Dad loses the car keys which looks like he won't be able to see his cousins.

## A warm welcome in Wales

In May, our Story-Go-Round tour visited Wales. Bernard Tagliavini was our storyteller and trainer for the majority of the tour, although our Director of Services, Stuart Cummings, took over for the last two days. The storytelling sessions were attended by 315 pupils from local Special Schools, and 137 people (mostly library staff) attended training sessions. 84% of the schools rated the overall experience as “very good”, with the other 16% rating it as “good”. All the schools said that the sessions were both enjoyable and beneficial for their pupils. 92% of trainees rated the quality of training as “very good”, with 8% rating it as “good”.

*“We really enjoyed the interactive story session. The children were very engaged with the stories and Bernard pitched it just right.”* – teacher, Riverbank School.

*“The children had a fab time. It was so appropriate for their level. Thanks.”* – teacher, Trinity Fields School.

*“I really enjoyed the storytelling session with the children. To see their reaction to the stories was fantastic. Training was very informative.”* – trainee, Llandudno.

The completion of the Wales tour means that since September last year we have organised storytelling sessions for over 5,000 participants across the whole of the UK from Aberdeen to Penzance and from Enniskillen to Clacton-on-Sea.



*“Kofi put on his favourite sandals and went outside to play.”* from the story *Kofi and the Magic Shaker*. Our Director of Services, Stuart Cummings, storytelling in Haverfordwest.

## Telling Tales project

We have recently carried out a follow-up survey of libraries involved in a Year 1 of our Telling Tales project, to find out more about the lasting impact of our work.

Whilst one library had sadly closed down, 71% of the respondents had already run their own multi-sensory storytelling sessions with the frequency varying from termly to weekly.

All of those that had not yet run any sessions intended to in the near future. The most common reasons given for not having run sessions were staffing issues or uncertainty over staffing due to the recent cuts to library services, whilst others lacked the funding to

purchase more multi-sensory books (each library received one free book for taking part in the project).

We are very encouraged by these results as they show that the storytelling sessions we organise are just the tip of an every growing iceberg.



## My favourite story

**Dawn Winter, Deputy Headteacher,  
Dryden School, Gateshead:**



“Our group of pupils aged 11-14 years with profound and multiple learning difficulties really enjoyed the Bag Book story *Kofi and the Magic Shaker*. The stimulating and interactive resources, for example the sandals and the spider enabled our pupils to respond very positively, with sustained interest and engagement. A really good learning session.”

**Bernard Tagliavini, Storyteller-Trainer,  
Bag Books:**



“Ahhh.....so many good stories to pick.....hard to say a favourite! However, probably the story I tell the most is *The Uninvited Guests*. I change the names at the beginning when ‘Mum’ is addressing them, and use the actual children’s names to make it more personal. And so early on I get to squirt EVERYONE with water...it always takes them by surprise as they scream and squeal with laughter! No one is spared – children, teachers, parents and librarians – ALL get a little wet! And the pillow fight is just the icing on the cake – they respond so brilliantly to it!”

**Allyson Watt, Young Person’s Officer,  
Runcorn Library:**



“I love *Desmond*. Everyone can relate to Desmond – a mum shouting up the stairs, while Desmond squeezes in just a few more precious minutes in bed, who can resist them. The ultimate surprise of cold tea in the face and the inevitable race to get the school bus. Full of humour this book is excellent for such a wide range from young children to adults.”

**Magda Tsirkas, Craft Artist  
Bag Books:**



“My favourite story is *The Fairground*. It is a relatively new title and this I feel is clearly reflected in its style. It’s fun and vibrant and the exciting content will surely arouse the listeners’ interest.

“As a Craft Artist, this is also my most favoured book in terms of its constructional process. I make dodgems with rainbows on, duck hoops that look like halos, and stacks of money, most certainly the kinds of things I like creating!”