



EK BOOKS TEACHER NOTES & RESOURCES

Title: Arabella and the Magic Pencil

Subtitle:

Author: Stephanie Ward

Illustrator: Shaney Hyde

Publisher: EK Books

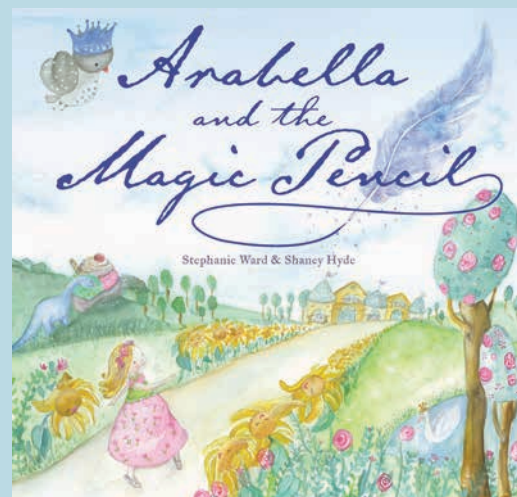
Price: \$24.99

ISBN: 9781925820010

Publication date: 1 Sept 2019

Audience age: 3-8 years

Key Curriculum Areas: Art (ACAVAM107), (ACAVAM108), English (ACELA1787), Health and Physical Education (ACPPS019), (PSC-UR)



SYNOPSIS:

Arabella is a beloved only child who has everything a little girl could want. That is, until her brother, Avery, the master of mayhem, comes along. While she certainly loves him, she finds that it's sometimes very hard to like him. So she spends her days creating marvellous, magnificent things with her magic pencil, and trying to ignore him. But when he spoils her perfectly proper tea party, she erases him from her life. Oops! But things aren't the same without him — can she get him back?

Arabella and the Magic Pencil is a charming story, which will appeal to any child coming to terms with a new sibling and to caregivers who are supporting changing family dynamics, as well as those who love fantasy and engaging, alliterative language.

THEMES:

Creativity, Sibling Rivalry

SELLING POINTS:

- A sweet story for ages 3–8, touching on themes of sibling rivalry, jealousy, creativity, acceptance and love.
- Lyrical storytelling and a creative premise 'draw' children into the story.
- Opportunities to tie in classroom activities in Art, English and Health, exploring themes of creativity, reading comprehension as well as acceptance and understanding.
- Interactive and engaging shared reading experience.



WRITING STYLE:

The lyrical, heart-felt text, illuminates the story of Arabella learning to be a big sister, specifically dealing with feelings of jealousy, frustration and ultimately acceptance and love.

ILLUSTRATION STYLE:

Making use of watercolour and grey lead pencil, Shaney's illustrations are whimsical and delicate.

AUTHOR MOTIVATION:

Stephanie has written in various forms her whole life. But it wasn't until recently that she decided to focus on writing children's books. As a child, she loved reading about exotic places, so it's no surprise that she grew up with a love of travel. Her experiences visiting all seven continents prompted her to write stories about amazing places for children. Eventually, writing became a full-time job and she's excited to launch her first two picture books in 2019.

AUTHOR & ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND:

Stephanie Ward, Author

Stephanie Ward is the author of picture books *Arabella and the Magic Pencil* illustrated by Shaney Hyde, published by EK Books, and *Allen the Alien* illustrated by Aleck Morton, published by Yellow Brick Books. After many years in marketing, she now spends her time writing sweet, silly and sidesplitting stories for children. Too old to blame it on youth, she still hasn't settled down and spends her spare time travelling. At present, she can be found in London, England, with her husband and young son. Find out about her latest bookish activities on www.stephaniemward.com.

Shaney Hyde, Illustrator

Shaney Hyde is an early childhood teacher and delights in sharing quality books with young children as an essential part of their learning. She believes in encouraging a love of reading and books that will stay with them for life.

Her love of beautifully illustrated picture books continues to grow (and so does her collection). The opportunity to illustrate *Arabella and the magic pencil* was a dream come true. She has always been a creator from a very young age and it continues to bring joy to share her love of art and books with young children. She can't wait to share *Arabella and the magic pencil* with her pre-schoolers. Shaney lives in a coastal town on the Mornington Peninsula with her husband, three sons and a fluffy white dog.



TEACHER NOTES: Arabella and the Magic Pencil

INTERVIEW:

AUTHOR

What is the inspiration for this story?

In Year 8, Stephanie was given an assignment by her English teacher, Ms Rebar, to write a creative story. Stephanie noticed a pencil on her desk and imagined the possibilities of a magic pencil that could make anything she drew become real. That assignment was the inspiration behind Arabella and the Magic Pencil.

What was the most rewarding part of this project?

The process of revising this text from a creative writing assignment into a 32-page picture book was immensely rewarding. Through the input from critique group members, the story evolved into something more layered and with added depth that addresses the very real issues of jealousy, understanding and love.

What was the most challenging part of this project?

Through the editing process, I had to remove original wording and even entire characters that distracted from the key messages in the story. Letting go of control allowed me to try new things and see where that took the story, which ultimately led to a stronger story that resulted in this finished book.

ILLUSTRATOR

What media do you use to create your illustrations? Briefly describe your process.

Watercolour paint and grey lead pencil. I sketch my ideas first in a A5 sketch book, usually very early in the morning when the household is asleep. The I do a rough to scale in grey lead pencil. Once that's been approved by the publisher/editor, then I sketch it again very lightly on watercolour paper and paints with watercolours which is done in several layers. I create a colour palette of ideas to suit the mood of the story/illustration style.

What was the most rewarding part of this project?

Being asked by Anouska, the publisher at EK Books, to illustrate Stephanie's imaginative story and then creating the characters for it. Giving them life and imagining their world. I got quite attached to Arabella during the process and even made a little cloth doll of her as part of my creative process. She sat on my desk as I created the pages like a companion! Adding little details that visually enhances the story was a fun part too.

What was the most challenging part of this project?

As all my work is done by hand, the most challenging part was redoing pages from scratch when I made mistakes. This was quite time consuming. I guess as I gain more experience in book illustration, I will work out more time efficient ways to work. Also, this being my first job as illustrating a picture book, I had many questions about the layout/design process and Anouska and Mark, the designer, were so wonderfully patient, supportive and encouraging of me. Watching my laundry piles grow as I escaped into storyland world, I vividly imagined they were being erased by Arabella's magic pencil, just like Arabella erased her annoying baby brother. That was quite challenging for me but one I got quite good at overcoming!



TEACHER ACTIVITIES/NOTES:

Before Reading

- Identify the parts of a book – cover, title page, end papers, etc.
- Based on the cover and title, what do you think the book is about?
- Read the blurb, now what do you think the story about?

Read the book, but STOP after Arabella erases her brother.

- Students can write their own ending to the story.

After Reading

Summarise the story.

- What did Arabella do with her magic pencil?
- What changed Arabella's life?
- How did she feel about her baby brother?
- What did Avery do to Arabella's tea party? Why do you think he did these things?
- What did Arabella miss about Avery when he was gone?
- What did Arabella realise?

Look through the book again, paying special attention to the artwork.

- Can you find the flamingos dancing the flamenco? A hippo? A flying bicycle?
- What was your favourite thing that Arabella drew with her magic pencil?

Activities

- Students can draw something they would create with a magic pencil.
- Use your imagination and draw something you would like to make magical. Trade with another student and have them write or tell a story based your magical invention.
- Make a magic pencil. Cover a regular pencil with washi tape. Add feathers, sequins, beads, etc.



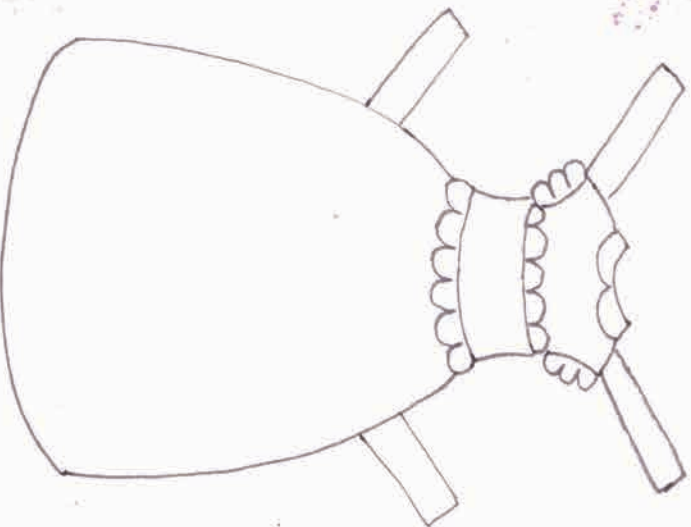
Arabella's flower crown



The magic pencil



Arabella's dress



Colour Arabella's dress



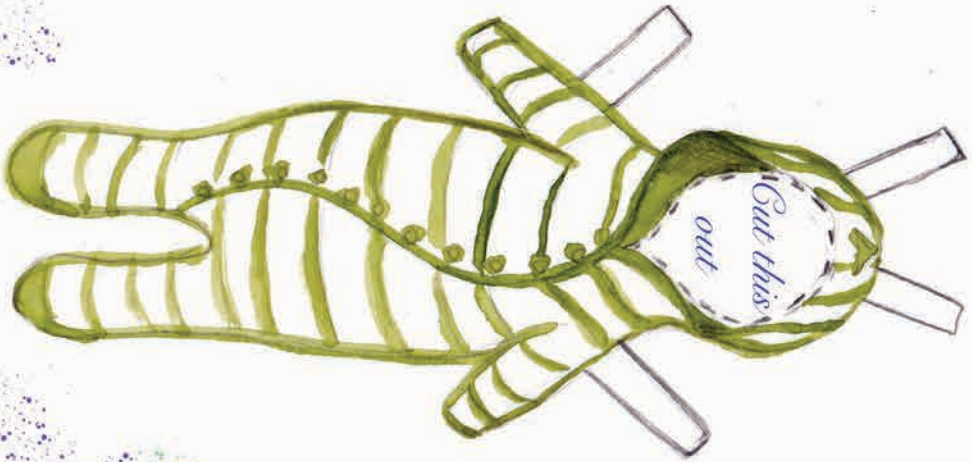
Let's dress Arabella



Arabella and the Magic Pencil
Stephanie Ward & Shaney Hyde



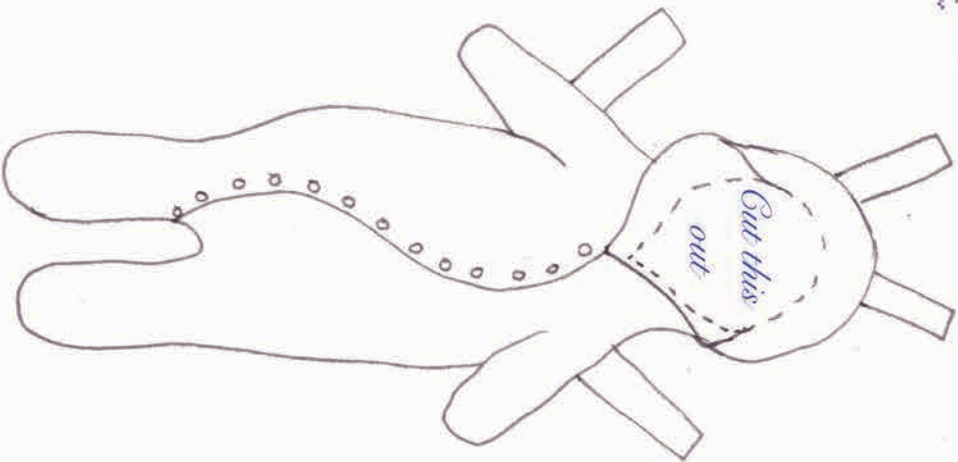
Loey's jumpsuit



Let's dress Loey



Loey's rattle

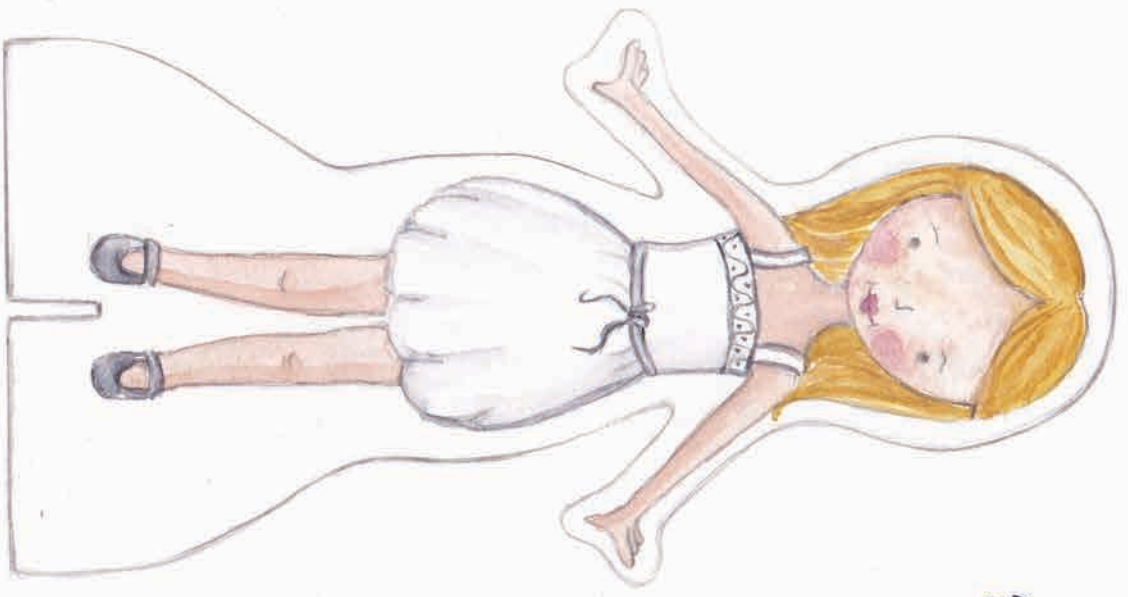


Colour Loey's jumpsuit



Arabella and the Magic Pencil
Stephanie Ward & Shaney Hyde

Arabella and Avery Paper Doll Activity



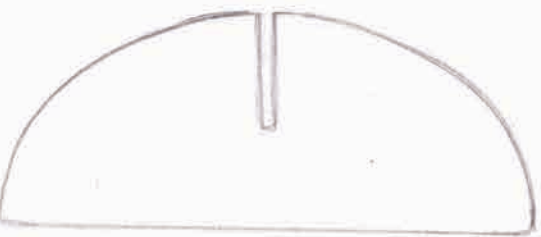
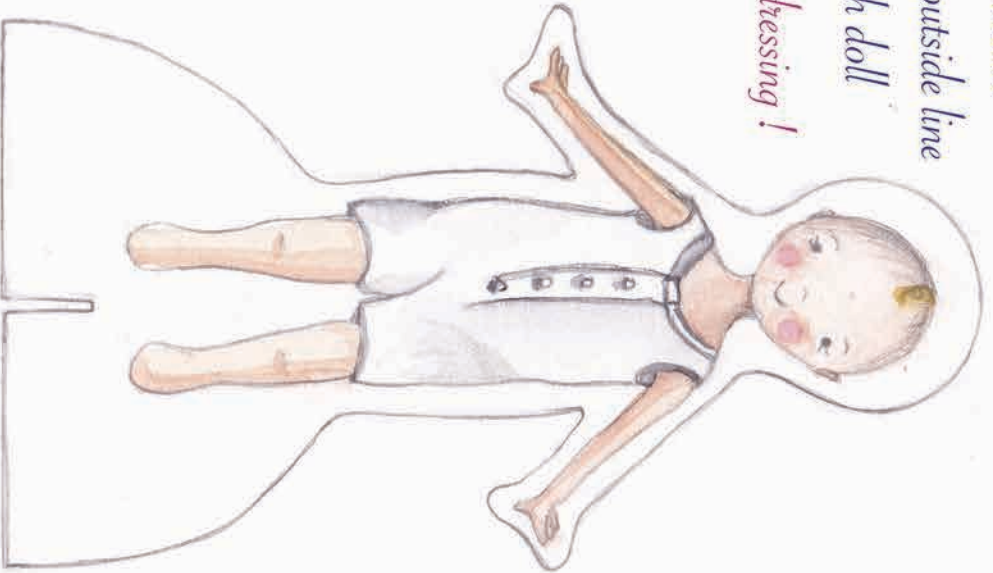
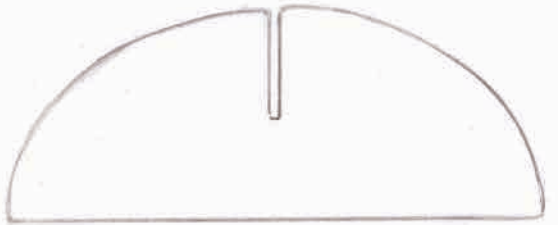
Instructions: print on thick card

Use scissors to cut around the outside line

Assemble a stand for each doll

Now your dolls are ready for dressing!

Have fun!



RELATED TITLES ORDER FORM



The Art Garden

Sowing the Seeds of Creativity

Penny Harrison & Penelope Pratley

THEMES: CREATIVITY, SELF-BELIEF AND FRIENDSHIP

9781925335590 | Hardcover | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour |
USA \$17.99 | CA \$23.99 | UK £10.99 | AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99



Grace and Katie

Susanne Merritt & Liz Anelli

THEMES: SIBLING RIVALRY, CREATIVITY AND INDIVIDUALITY BETWEEN TWINS

9781925335545 | Hardback | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour |
USA \$17.99 | CA \$23.99 | UK £10.99 | AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99



The Incurable Imagination

Paul Russell & Aśka

THEMES: EDUCATION AND IMAGINATION

9781925335972 | Hardback | 245 x 255 mm | 9½ x 10 inches | 32 pages | Colour |
USA \$17.99 | CA \$23.99 | UK £10.99 | AU \$24.99 | NZ \$24.99



Contact your school supplier to order.

School: Customer Number:

Contact Name: Order Ref:

Phone No: Email:

Address:

EK Books are also available from all good bookstores and

www.ekbooks.org