

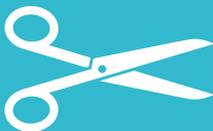
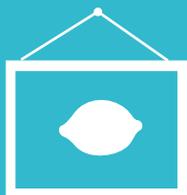
KETTLE'S YARD



Making Conversations



**Supplementary notes
for teachers, parents
and educators**





This resource has been inspired by Making Conversations, a project with writer Claire Collison, The Grove Primary School and Kettle's Yard.

The activities and ideas you will find here have been created with the help of Year 3 pupils, and the project has been supported by The Max Reinhardt Charitable Trust with NAWE and engage.

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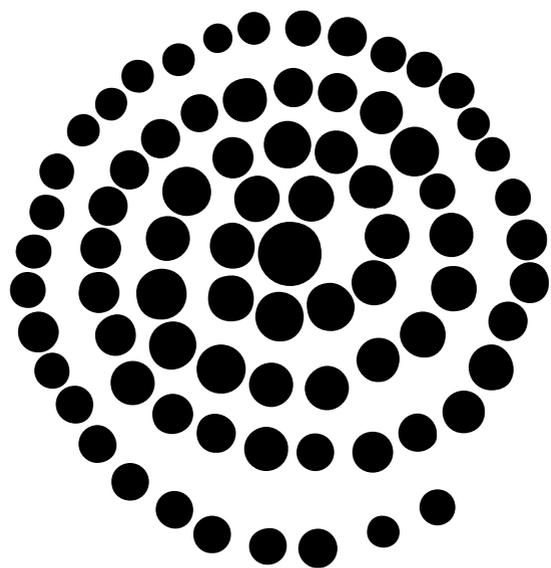
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Design: Anna Betts
www.annabetts.com

**engage in the
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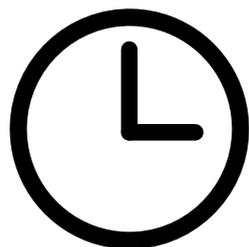


Photograph: Beth Moseley

Teachers and Parents

All the activities described in the Kettle's Yard Making Conversations booklet can be developed at home, or in a follow-on classroom session. This is where you will find supplementary notes and handy resources, along with hints and advice based on tried and tested workshops.

This symbol gives you an idea of how long the activity will take.



Photograph: Beth Moseley

1. Pebbles: Making Connections

The 'pebbles' activity can be developed at home, or in a follow-on classroom session, where it serves as a useful refresher following your visit to Kettle's Yard. It is also a handy warm-up for creative writing. Make sure you keep the tear-off pebble words from the Kettle's Yard activity!

'Pass the Pebble' Story

(For 5 - 20 participants)



30 MINS

- Take all the 'pebble words' – including the first pebble 'starter' words provided, and all the second and third pebble words added by children.
- Place them all in a bag, 'lucky dip' style.
- Sitting in a circle, begin by pulling out one of the 'pebble words'. Start a story using that word.
- Each child takes a turn at pulling a 'pebble word' from the bag and incorporating it into the thread of the same story. The activity continues either until every child has had a turn, or until every pebble has been used.



Pebble Prompters

Invite children to pick 3 pebbles at random, and to create a story that uses all 3 words. (Great for quick brainstorms for short creative writing exercises!)

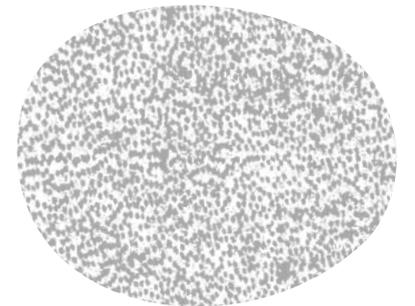
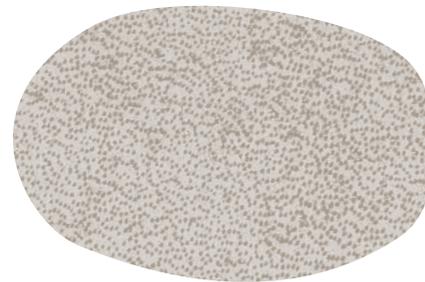
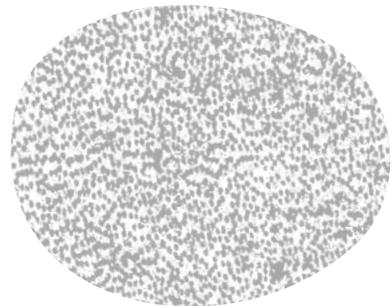
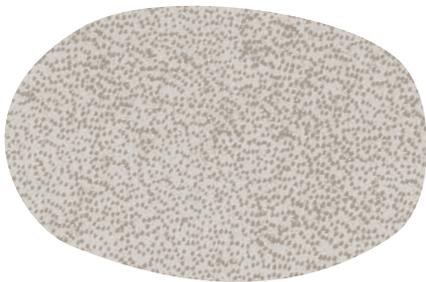


5 MINS

The pebble words can also be written (with pencil or chalk) onto real pebbles (if it isn't practical to collect them, pebbles can be bought from a garden centre). These can then be arranged into endless variations of Kettle's Yard-style spirals, which will create different story ideas, depending on how they are ordered.



5 MINS



2. Ships and Sea Adventures

Kettle's Yard as inspiration for a creative writing project.

For a creative writing project covering key themes –

Journeys by sea, rivers, maritime themes, boats, seaside, message in a bottle, adventures, shipwrecked!

Developing writing craft –

Letter writing, problem solving, creating characters, narrative voice, point of view, plot, setting, using research, realistic detail, the imaginative 'what if?'



2 HOURS



Photograph: Beth Moseley



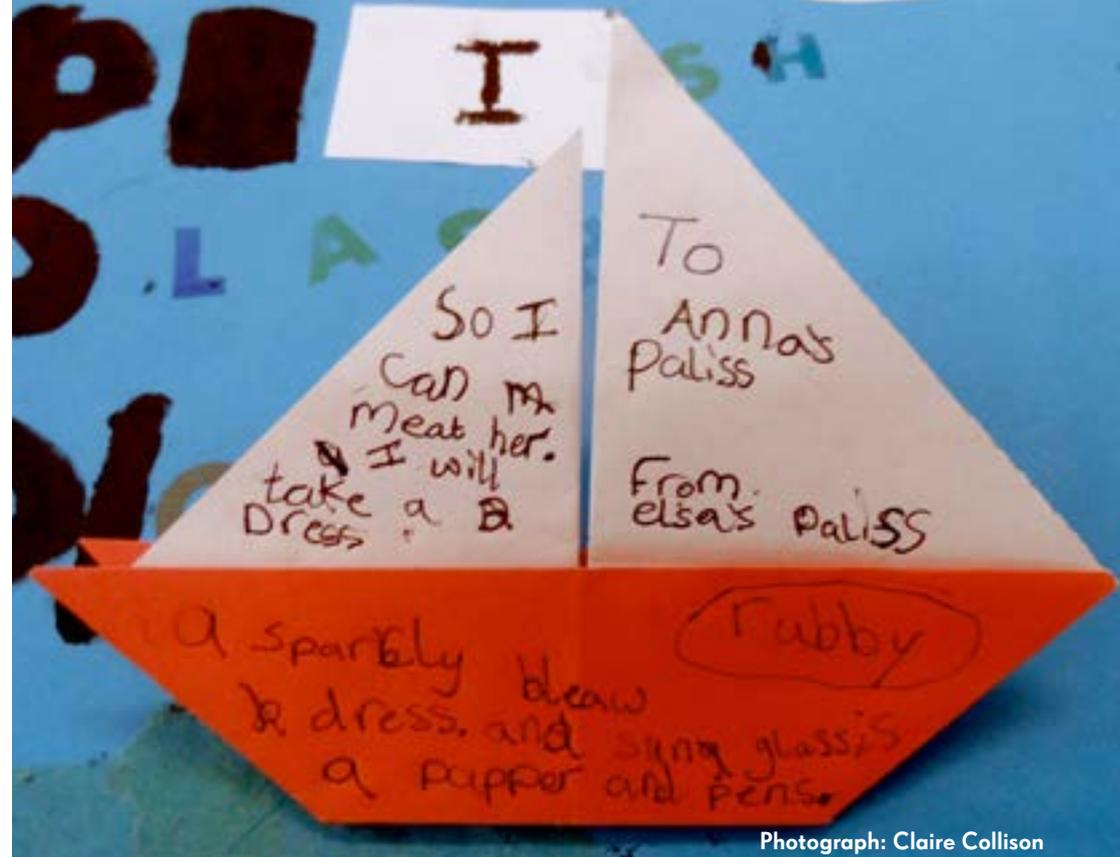
Photograph: Beth Moseley

The Making Conversations booklet takes you through all the steps of a creative writing project that can be completed during a visit - but for a more sustained project, you can research the collection ahead of visiting Kettle's Yard, and develop the project in a range of ways.

Information on all the paintings can be found on the Kettle's Yard website:
www.kettlesyard.co.uk/collection



Photograph: Karen Thomas



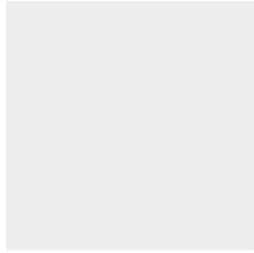
Photograph: Claire Collison

On the next page are downloadable instructions for 'How to make an origami boat'.

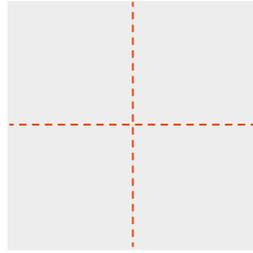
Teachers:

If using these ideas for a classroom project, you may want to make the boats ahead of your Kettle's Yard visit (when you will be looking at the paintings, using the 'Fill your imagination tank' prompts) so that they are all ready for 'Imagine your own sea adventure' back in the classroom.

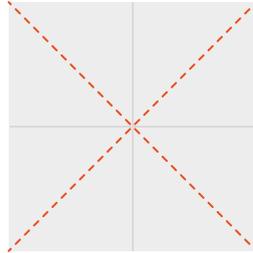
How to make an origami boat



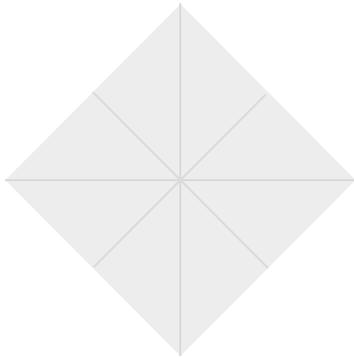
Start with a square of origami paper...



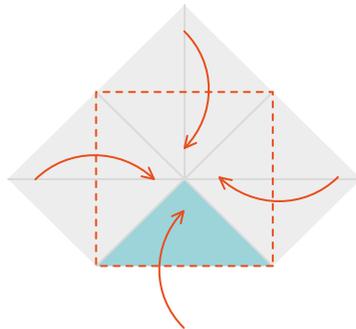
Fold in half horizontally and vertically, opening the paper up after each fold.



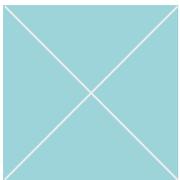
Do the same with the diagonal folds.



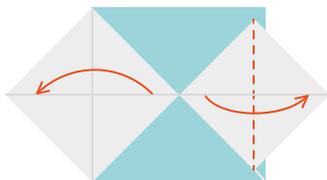
You now have a 'square base'. Turn it around 45° so it is pointing up, like this.



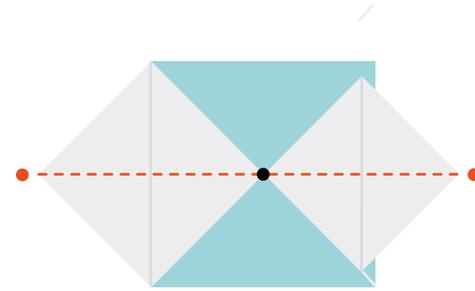
Fold the corners into the centre point.



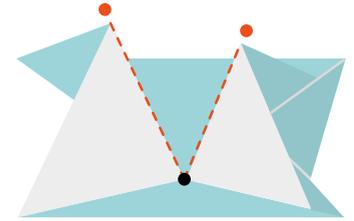
All corners are now folded into the centre.



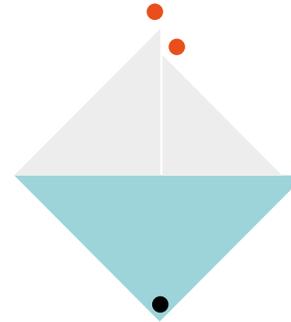
Unfold one corner. This will make one of the boat's sails. With the opposite flap, make a new fold to make a shorter sail, like this.



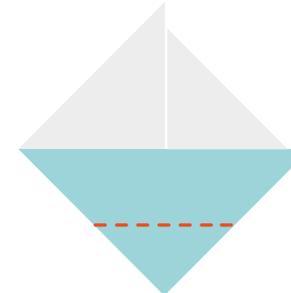
Make a fold along the length...



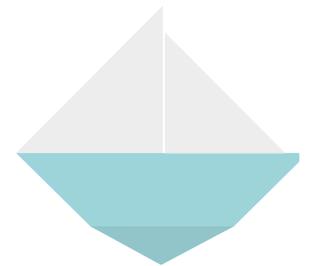
and bring the two points of your sails together by depressing the centre point



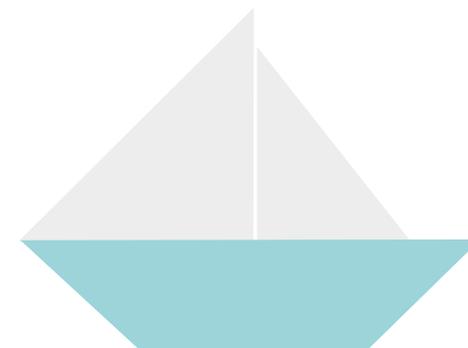
Pressed flat the boat should look like this.



Make a fold across the bottom of the boat.



It now has a flat foot to sit on.



Ta da! Your boat is now complete!

Write a Message in a Bottle

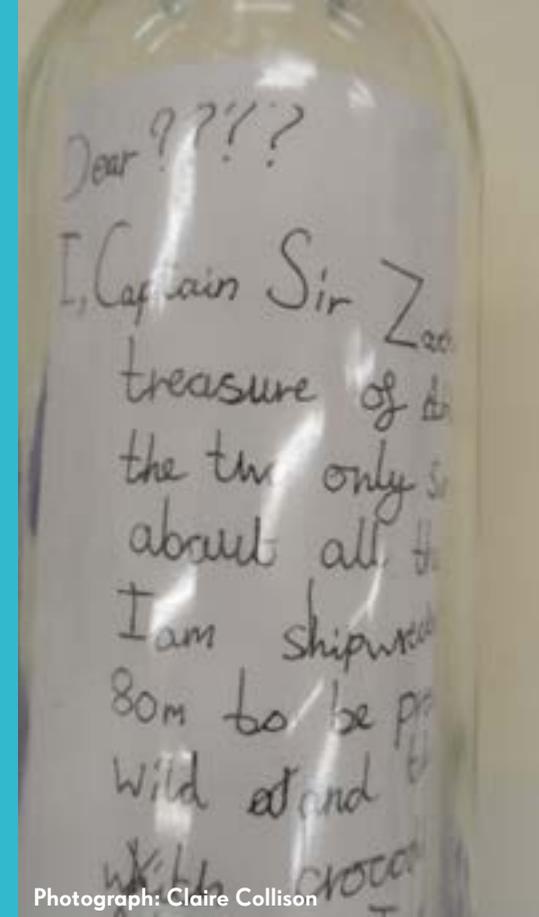


1 HOUR

Note to Teachers – for this part of the project, you can use bottle-shaped writing paper*

Alternatively, if you are able to collect sufficient clear bottles, the messages can be placed inside them and displayed (this adds a real sense of drama to the project – though you may want to make a copy of the writing before consigning it to the bottles, as it will be tricky to read once inside!)

Hint: make sure you do not roll the letters too tightly before putting them into the bottles.



Photograph: Claire Collison



Photograph: Claire Collison



Photograph: Claire Collison



Photograph: Helen Harwood

The Grove Primary School's display of origami boats and messages in bottles, and their celebration event.

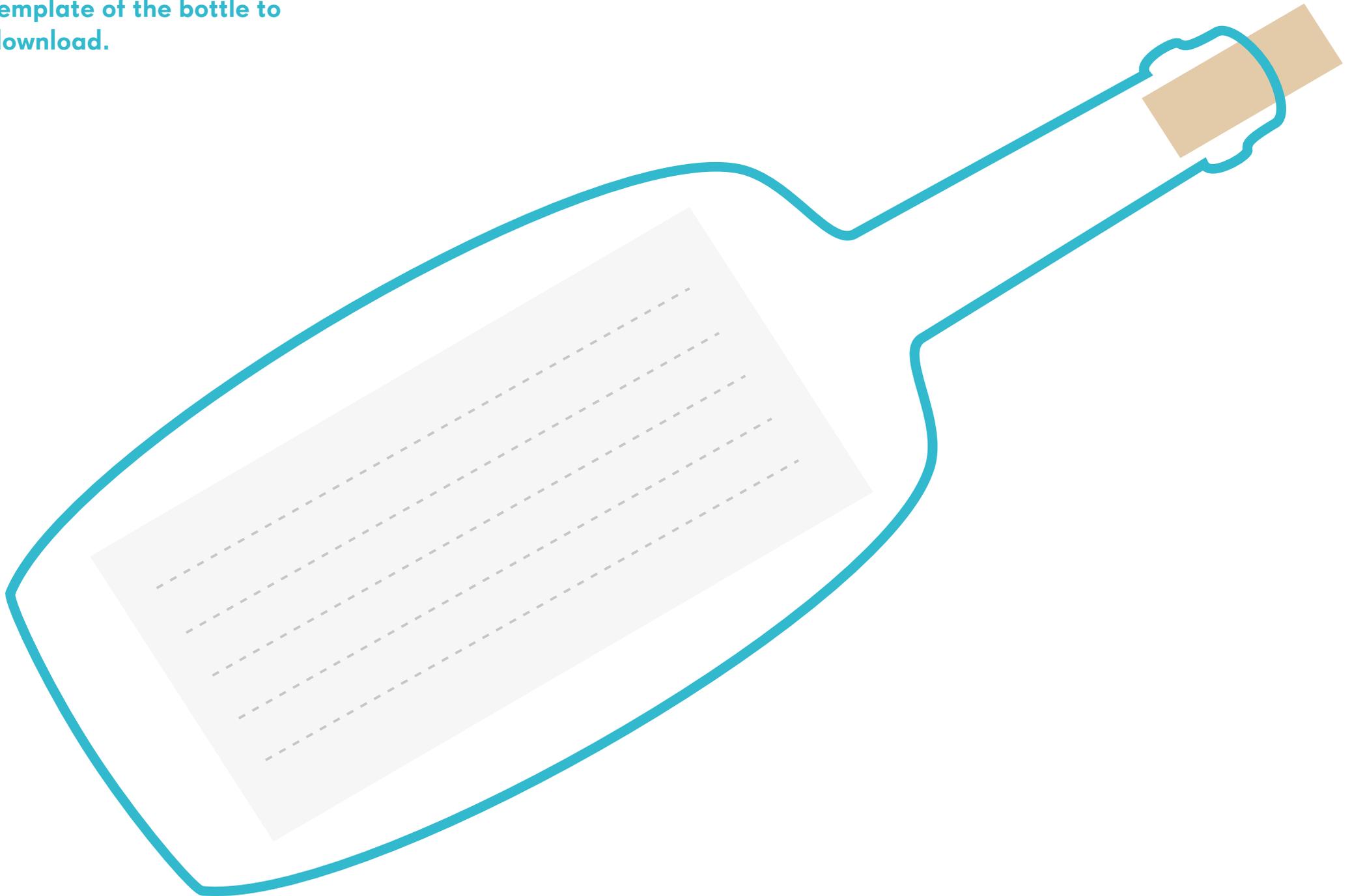


Photograph: Clare Karslake



Photograph: Claire Collison

***Here's a scaleable
template of the bottle to
download.**



3. Dear Jim and Helen: Kettle's Yard SwapShop

You can share your letters to the Kettle's Yard Instagram page:
www.instagram.com/kettleyard
Just include #KettlesYardSwapShop in your post.

Here are some of the letters written by children from The Grove Primary School along with some of the objects they wanted to borrow and lend on the following pages.



I would like to lend you

because

Here is a picture of what I would like to lend you

From

Dear Jim and Helen,

Please may I borrow

from your house at Kettle's Yard.

I would like to borrow it because



Photograph: Karen Thomas



Photograph: Claire Collison



Photograph: Karen Thomas



Photograph: Karen Thomas



Photograph: Claire Collison



Photograph: Karen Thomas



Photograph: Claire Collison



Photograph: Karen Thomas



Photograph: Karen Thomas



Photograph: Claire Collison



Photograph: Claire Collison

Teachers:

You can invite children to bring the objects they would like to lend Kettle's Yard (or pictures of them) to create a display for an assembly or celebration event – and if you do, then please send pictures to Kettle's Yard! www.instagram.com/kettlesyard



Photograph: Claire Collison



Photograph: Helen Harwood

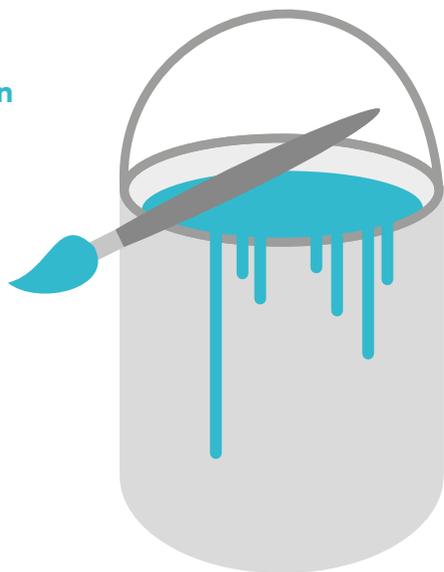
Helen Harwood says, "This was something my Year 3 children really enjoyed and it was a lovely PSHE link activity as children were encouraged to explain why their object was so special."

Bonus Activity: Set Sail on a Cereal Packet

Here's a lovely art project devised by Helen Harwood, teacher at The Grove Primary School, inspired by the Kettle's Yard collection of Alfred Wallis paintings.

Alfred Wallis was a fisherman and later a scrap-metal merchant in St. Ives, Cornwall. After the death of his wife in 1922, he turned to painting as a way of fending off loneliness. He was admired by Ben Nicholson and Christopher Wood, who came across his work when visiting the fishing port in 1928. He died in Madron Poorhouse.

Kettle's Yard has a collection of the letters between Jim Ede and Alfred Wallis.



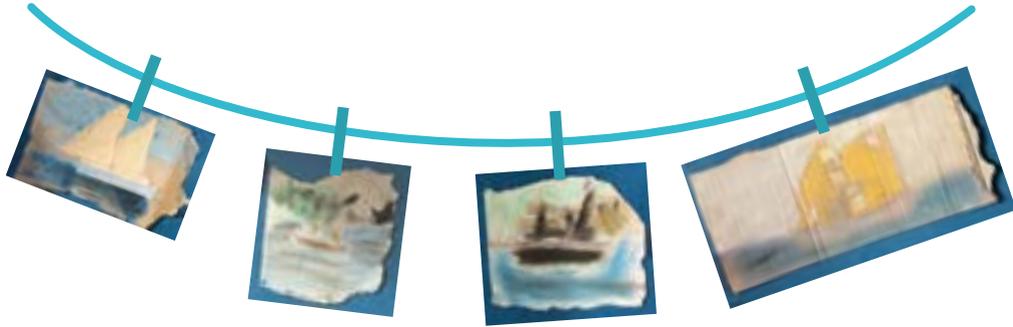
Activity

 2 x 1 HOUR

Alfred Wallis did not use conventional art materials. During a visit to Kettle's Yard, invite children to look closely at his paintings and discuss what they are painted on and with. Why might he have used these materials, and what effect does it give?

Back home, or in the classroom, use old cereal packets to create your own sea and ship paintings. You could use collage, or oil pastels.

Helen Harwood has displayed the paintings like bunting, pegging them onto string.



“ We had 2 sessions – one for pastel pictures and one for collage to allow time for teaching of how to use different materials. We spent 20 mins or so looking at paintings by Alfred Wallis without explaining that he was the artist or that we had already seen paintings by him at Kettles Yard. I asked the children questions such as,

Q - Do you notice anything unusual about the paintings?

A - Size and perspective.

Q - What do you think the artist used to paint on?

A - Scraps of wood and cardboard.

Q - What else do you notice?

A - He used a very narrow palette of colours because he used the left over tins of paint from ships.

Explain about Alfred Wallis and his life. I had copies of five of his paintings on the tables and let the children discuss and look closely using a 'window frame'* for 5 mins. The children then sketched their ideas onto torn pieces of cardboard box and added pastels/collage once they were happy with their design. One of those activities that everyone succeeds at, even those who are less artistic. Also really got the children thinking back to Kettle's Yard visit and how to look more closely.

”

***Here's a window frame template for looking closely.**

