

Little Puggles's Dance





Teaching Notes

SYNOPSIS

Puggle dreams of dancing on stage, but every time he tries, his body has a wibbly-wobbly-waddy mind of its own. With the Spring Gala fast approaching, will he have the courage to keep going and find his own rhythm?

From the multi-award-winning creators of *Little Puggle's Song* and *Little Puggle's Christmas* comes a dazzling and uplifting tale about never giving up, belonging and the magic of dance.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vikki's multi-award-winning books whisk young readers away to other worlds through curiosity, playfulness and wonder. In 2023, *Where The Lyrebird Lives* won the CBCA Book of the Year, and *Amira's Suitcase* and *Little Puggle's Song* have earned Honour and Notable awards. *On The Way To School* was shortlisted for the 2023 Speech Pathology Australia Book of the Year. An intrepid traveller and nature lover, Vikki has explored the world's big adventures and tiny treasures as a writer and photographer, working with diverse communities in Africa, Asia and Australia for over 20 years. Her stories connect budding minds to the experiences of people and creatures around the globe, inviting them to discover the magic in both the extraordinary and the ordinary. When she's not writing, Vikki loves cartwheeling through the wilderness, searching for platypus or splashing in rivers near her home in Eltham, Australia.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Hélène Magisson is a critically acclaimed French-Australian illustrator of many books for children. Before Hélène turned to book illustration, she was a painting restorer in Paris, where she was also trained in the art of medieval illumination. Hélène's children's books are widely known and loved across the world. Her timeless style lends itself beautifully to classics, such as *The Velveteen Rabbit* (New Frontier, 2021), and also universal contemporary stories, such as *Before You Were Born* written by Katrina Germein (Harper Collins, 2020). Hélène is frequently recognised by the Children's Book Council of Australia – she was awarded the CBCA 2020 Notable Picture Book of the Year Award for *Little Puggle's Song*, written by Vikki Conley.

EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

Little Puggle's Dance is the third book in the charming Little Puggle series, and this time, *Little Puggle* tries his best at dancing. A wonderful starting point for discussions about never giving up, courage, belonging and the magic of dance. There are stunning illustrations throughout by award-winning Hélène Magisson.



Written by
Vikki Conley

Illustrated by
Hélène Magisson

Published by
New Frontier Publishing

Please share your work with us on
Instagram @newfrontierpublishinguk



DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before, during and after reading the book

1. Introduce *Little Puggle's Dance* to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about.
2. Have the children read *Little Puggle's Song* or *Little Puggle's Christmas* – the two other books in the series? If so, what did they like about the other two books?
3. Puggle loves springtime. What's your favourite season and why?
4. What does Puggle really want to do? How does Puggle feel about all his friends?
5. What do Puggle's friends suggest he does?
6. What does Puggle do? What do his friends say about this?
7. After reading the book, ask them what they thought of the story? Which was their favourite part and why? If they were Puggle's friends, what would they have said?
8. Have they experienced something similar to Puggle in their lives?
9. What did they learn from the story? How did it make them feel – before and after Puggle achieved his dream?



DANCE & MOVEMENT

Puggle Says

A movement-based listening game

- Students follow actions only when the teacher says, 'Puggle says'
- Example actions: spin, hop, clap or twirl.

Circle of Dreams

A movement-based listening game

- Students stand in a circle.
- One student mimes a hobby they love.
- Another student guesses and swaps into the centre.

Animal Moves

Move like the animals from the story!

- Move or dance around the space like a brolga, sugar glider or frilled neck lizard!
- Call out a number and an animal (e.g. '6, possum!'), and students form groups with those amounts to create a freeze-frame of that animal.

Diverse Dance

Explore the many forms of dance

- What styles of dance did you spot in the story (e.g. jazz, ballet, silk ribbon/circus)?
- Can you research one type of dance?
- In small groups create a short dance inspired by one of the animals or settings in the story.



THESE VIDEOS COULD INSPIRE YOUR DANCE

Indigenous dance

<https://youtu.be/6u75nKBRcxM>
<https://youtu.be/3JOTsbDohyw>

Ballet and Jazz

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JltkRLVlf-c>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M-YyvCvALwQ>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IA9-MDFCyXc>

Modern, hip hop, breakdancing and other



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qj9i8EHloUO>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mrDA-0OF5T8>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zlooj2KgYas>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bw3UQn5XZqE>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iiiuFwh_MDM

Discovering circus skills

https://youtu.be/2KhavvYuk7M?si=vl0g5iT9il77tg_g



MEDITATIONS & CONFIDENCE

Positive visualisation and meditation can help overcome fear, build confidence and well-being.

What do you think Puggle was doing up in the tree?
How did 'being in the moment' and stilling his mind help Puggle?
What do you think he was visualising?
How did this help him feel more confident?

Explore positive visualisation through meditation to help build confidence.

These videos might be a good prompt:

<https://youtu.be/YZhKeaP9cbo>
<https://youtu.be/3Qd8iazT-vc>
<https://youtu.be/pdjaxS4ME2A>

EMOTIONS, EMPATHY & ENCOURAGEMENT

Hot Seat - Ask Puggle

Stepping into Puggle's shoes

- Three students take turns being Puggle at the front.
- Class asks questions about how he feels before the gala.

Emotions in the Story

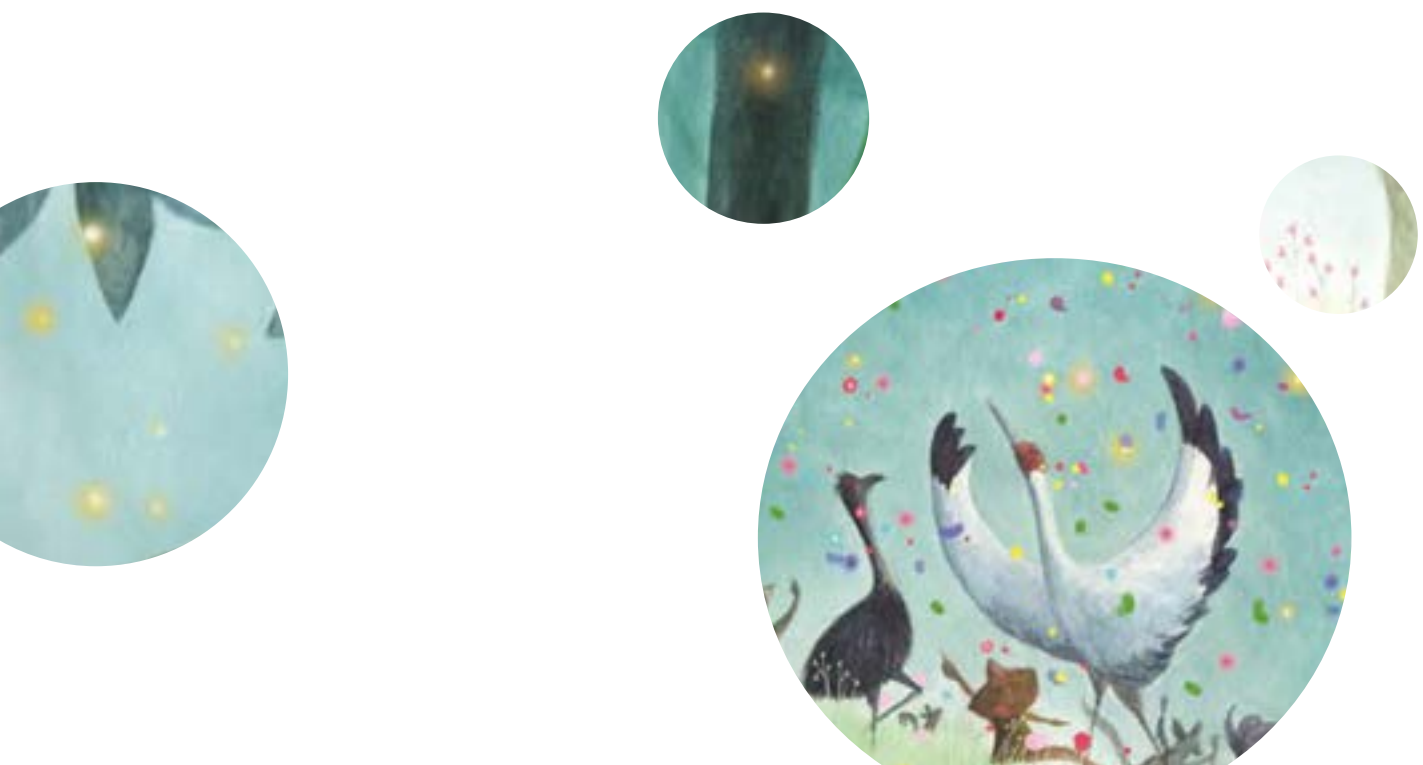
Reading emotions in Puggle's Journey

- Find moments in the book where Puggle is happy, sad or embarrassed.
- Draw Puggle showing one of these emotions

Echidna Encouragement

Building confidence through support

- One student plays Puggle, getting ready to go onto the stage.
- Others (in pairs) offer encouraging words to help him feel ready to dance.
- Consider spotting the mean things that Puggle's friends said in the book. What could they have said instead to be encouraging and kind?
- Discuss why the author made those characters a little mean (e.g. to build tension, increase empathy with the reader, spark discussion with readers).



ANIMAL INSPIRATION

Aussie Animal Fun Facts

Quick research and sharing

- In pairs, students pick an Aussie animal and find five fun facts (e.g. echidnas swim – yes they can! Or there's a white echidna – really?!)
- Present their findings in a short talk.

Adaptation Challenge

How do animals adapt?

- Research how Aussie animals have adapted to survive (e.g. wombat's backward pouch – go find out why!).

Narrative, Word & Writing Fun

Dream Stories

Writing about dreams and challenges

- Students pick an animal and write a short story about them achieving a dream.
- Plan with beginning (dream), middle (challenge/obstacles) and end (success).

One-Word Story Circle

Building a story together

- As a group, students create a story about an animal with a dream – one word at a time.
- Pass an object around to control turns.

Dear Diary – Puggle's Thoughts

Writing about emotions

- Students write a diary entry as Puggle in the lead up to his big dance.

Synonyms & Antonyms Game

Exploring words for emotions

- List synonyms for difficult emotions (e.g. unhappy sad, gloomy).
- Find antonyms (e.g. unhappy joyful, cheerful).



ART & CRAFT

Paper Dancing Man

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zX_mNOTBCPY

Nature's Ballerinas

https://realmumreview.com/natures-ballerinas-a-fun-autumnal-craft-for-kids/#google_vignette

Dancing Ribbon Rings

<https://buggyandbuddy.com/make-dancing-ribbon-rings/>



Wildlife Puppets

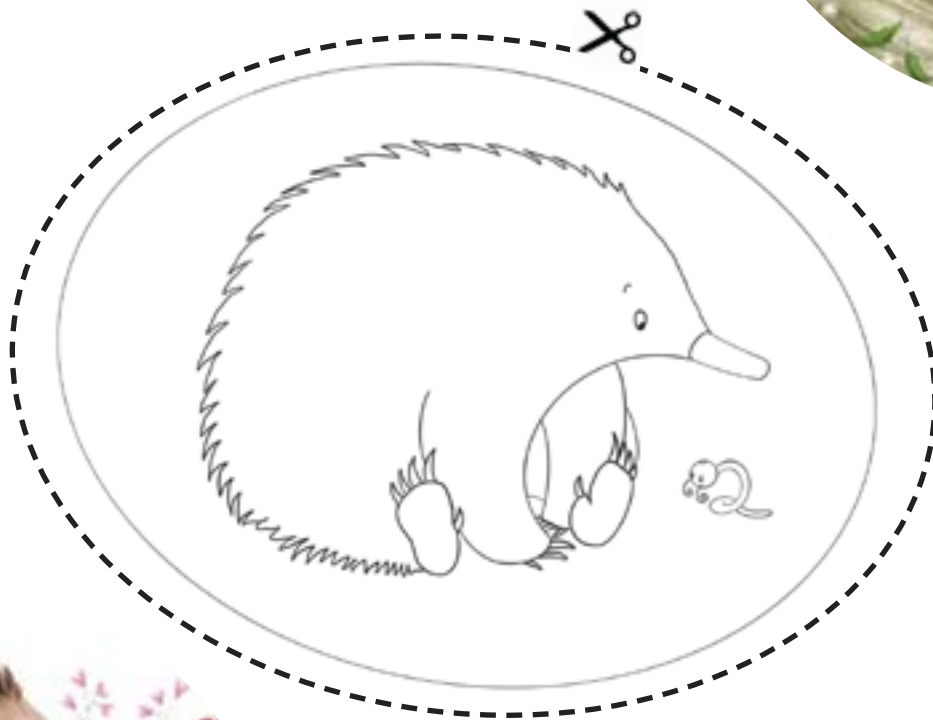
Make a wildlife puppet and decorate it with nature or items from your pantry. Can you tell a story with your character puppet? You could create a stage with a cardboard box and make the puppets dance at your own Spring Gala!

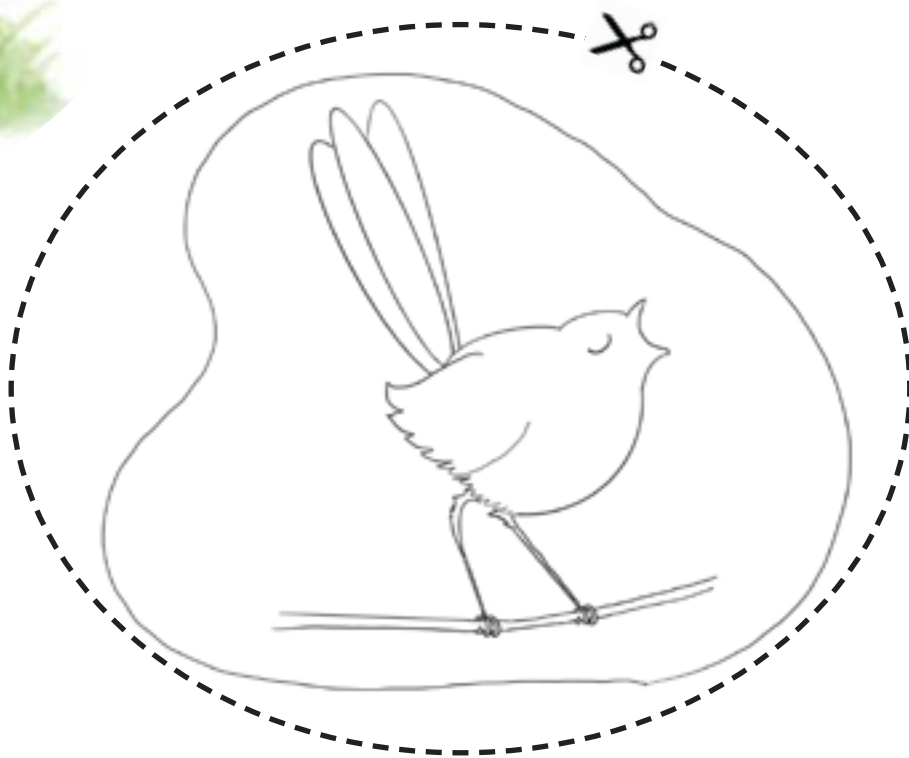
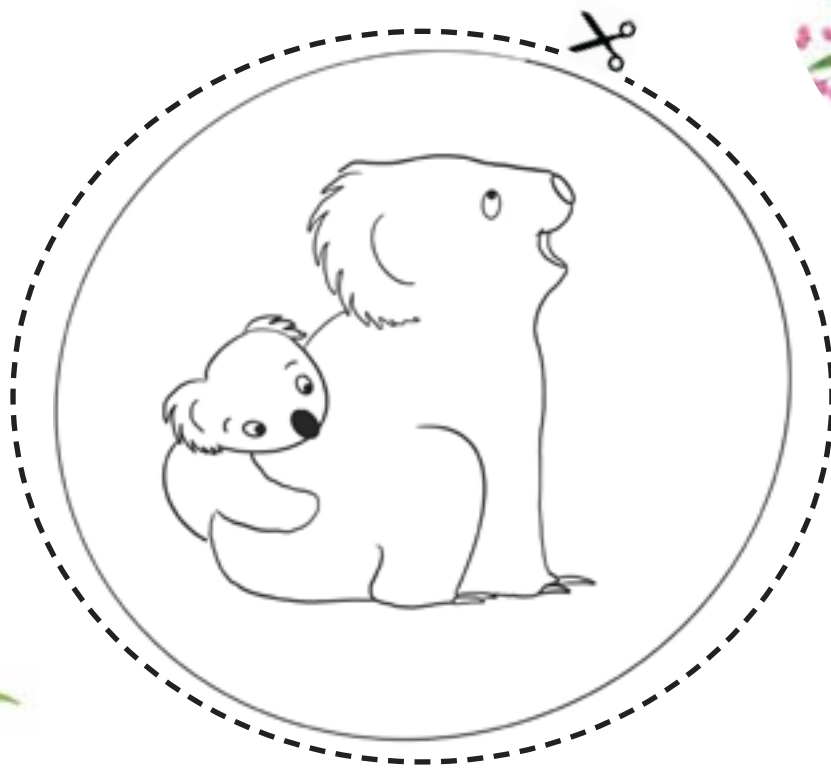
What you will need:

- Puppet template (tip: print on thicker, sturdier paper or glue onto cardboard)
- Bamboo skewer, stick, pencil or paper straw to hold the puppet
- Sticky tape
- Decorations from pantry or garden like lentils, quinoa, rocksalt, chamomile/peppermint tea, flowers
- Or/and paint, colouring pencils/crayons, sequins, glitter, fabric/felt etc

How to make it:

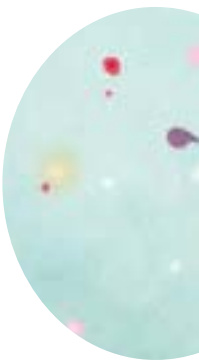
- Print and cut out a puppet from the template
- Add pva glue in small sections, cover with decorations, then shake off. Repeat
- Allow to dry
- Sticky tape a stick/paper straw, skewer or pencil to its back





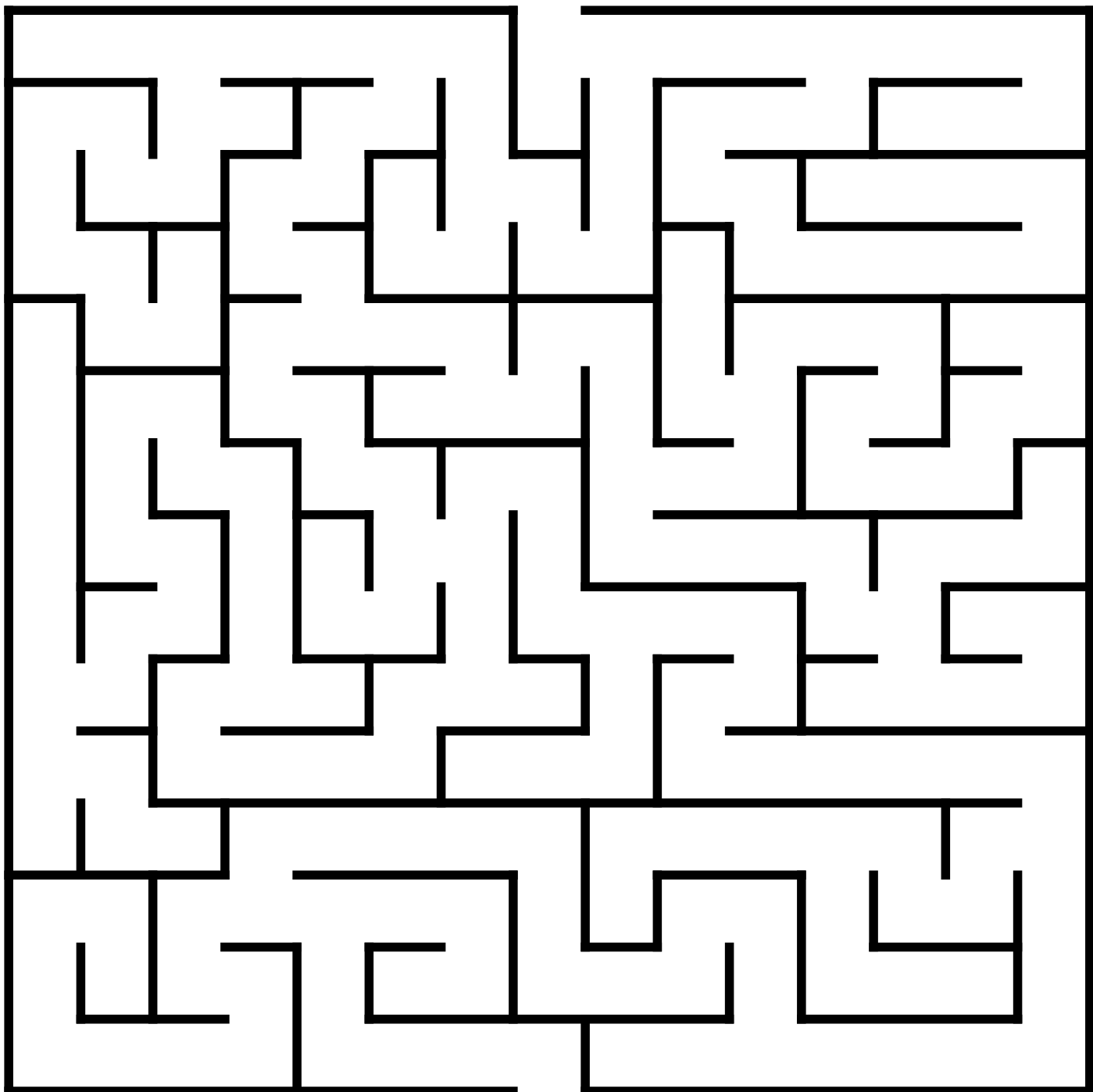
Little Puggle's Dance Colouring In

Colour in this gorgeous scene from *Little Puggle's Dance*

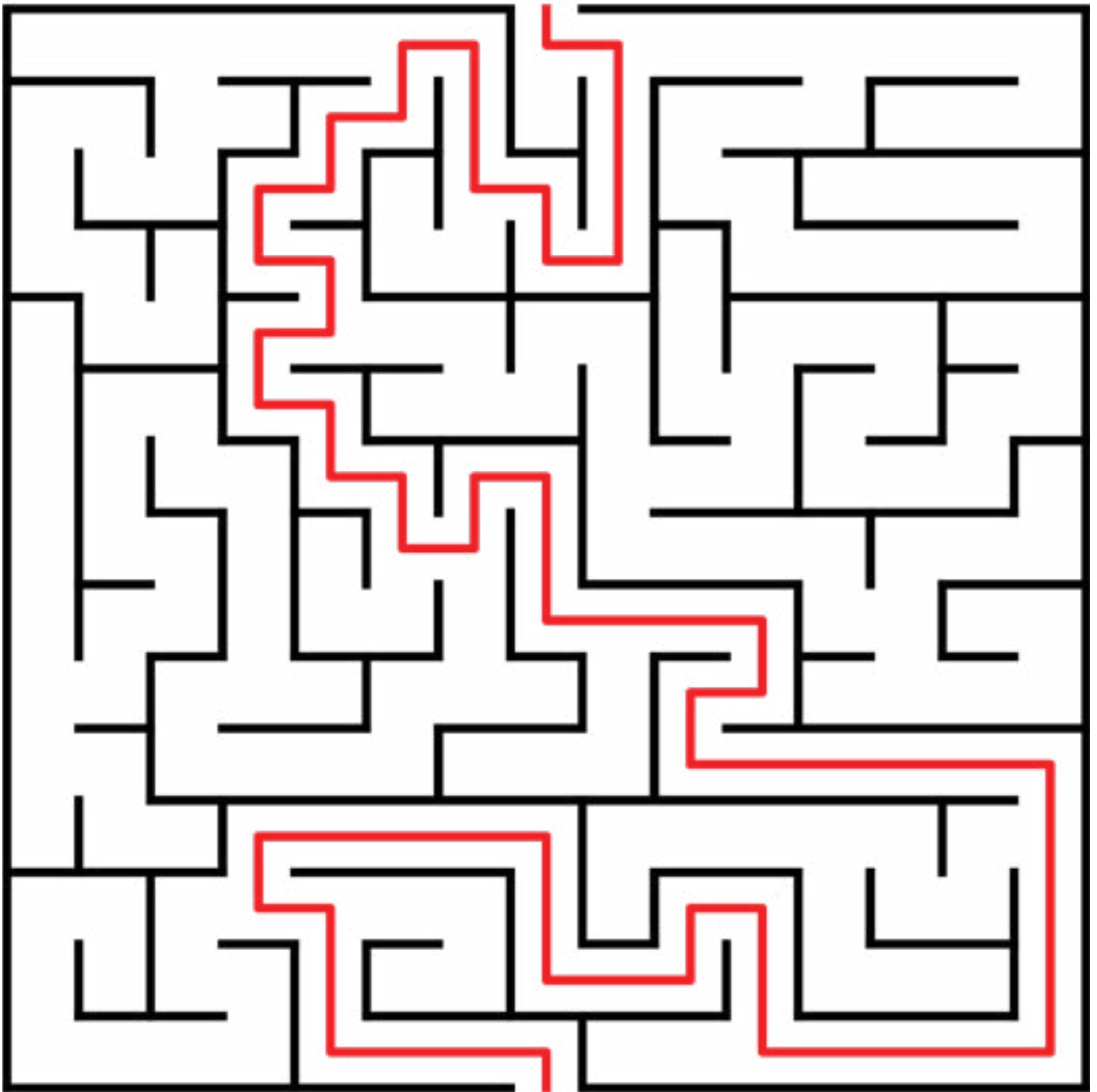


A-MAZE-ING PUGGLE

Can you help Puggle climb up the tree to get a better view?



SOLUTION TO A-MAZE-ING PUGGLE



WORDSEARCH

Find all the words below in the Little Puggle's Dance wordsearch

Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

word search

LITTLE PUGGLE'S DANCE

E S S A H C L D P
L L R I W T A I S
D R G O A N R H O
D I B G C O I T A
A H J E U M P W R
W W E E M P S S B
M H T Y H R E V E
T T E R N S O P A
E P M E L O D Y T



BEAT
BOW
CHASSE
DANCE
JETE

MELODY
PIROUETTE
PUGGLE
RHYTHM
SHIMMY

SOAR
SPIRAL
TWIRL
WADDLE
WHIRL



Answer Sheet
word search

LITTLE PUGGLE'S DANCE

E	S	S	A	H	C	L	D	P
L	L	R	I	W	T	A	I	S
D	R	G	O	A	N	R	H	O
D	I	B	G	C	O	I	T	A
A	H	J	E	U	M	P	W	R
W	W	E	E	M	P	S	S	B
M	H	T	Y	H	R	E	V	E
T	T	E	R	N	S	O	P	A
E	P	M	E	L	O	D	Y	T



BEAT
BOW
CHASSE
DANCE
JETE

MELODY
PIROUETTE
PUGGLE
RHYTHM
SHIMMY

SOAR
SPIRAL
TWIRL
WADDLE
WHIRL



POSTER ACTIVITY

Have a go at designing a poster for a Spring Gala. Where will it happen? On what day? How will you decorate the poster?

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a student to draw a poster. The box occupies most of the page below the instructions.

COLLAGE STORYBUILDING

Puggle's dream was to dance with his friends. Cut out the foliage and animals to create a collage. What other friends from the forest might join Puggle? Or maybe it is you! Add drawings to tell a new story.



Please share your work with us

@newfrontierpublishinguk

