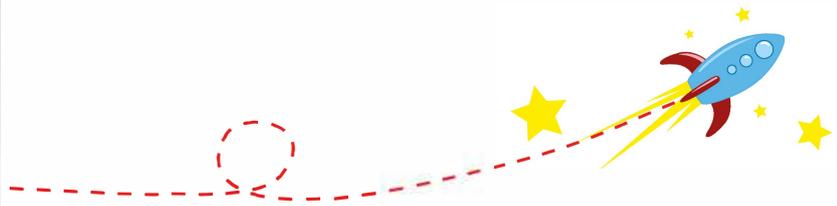


Teaching Notes: *The Caveman Next Door*

Written and Illustrated by Tom Tinn-Disbury

Published by New Frontier Publishing



SYNOPSIS

Trying to fit into the modern world when you are a caveman isn't easy. Ogg always seems to get things wrong, with hilarious results. Poor Ogg, he just wants to fit in. Luckily he has his best friend Penny to help him.

SIMILAR TITLES

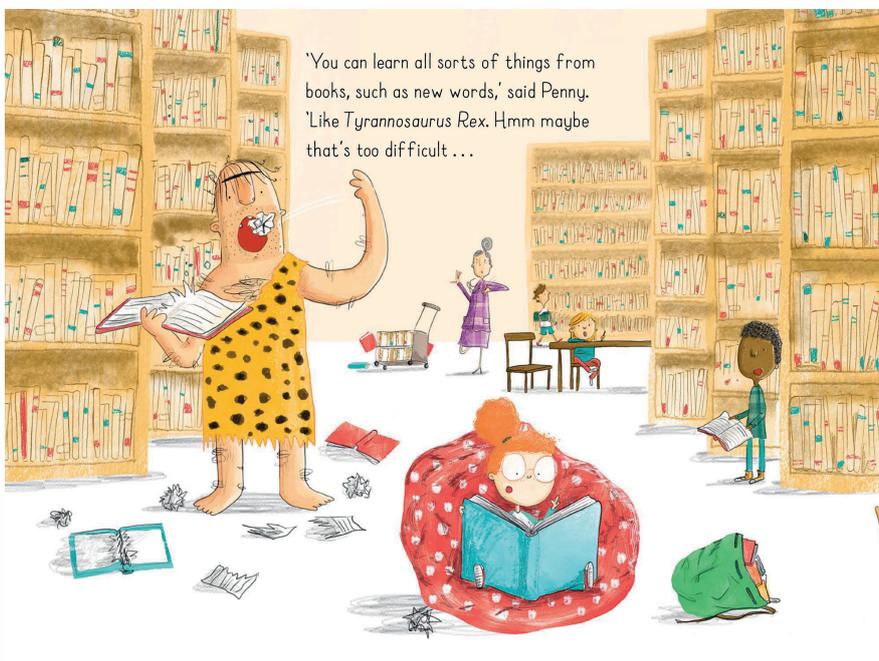
If you liked *Stone Age Boy* by Satoshi Kitamura, then you'll love *The Caveman Next Door*.

AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Tom is an illustrator based in Rugby, UK. He has illustrated books for Simon & Schuster, Sleeping Bear Press and Hachette. He has also provided illustrations for various magazine publications and advertising agencies. *The Caveman Next Door* is his debut picture book as both an author and illustrator.

EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

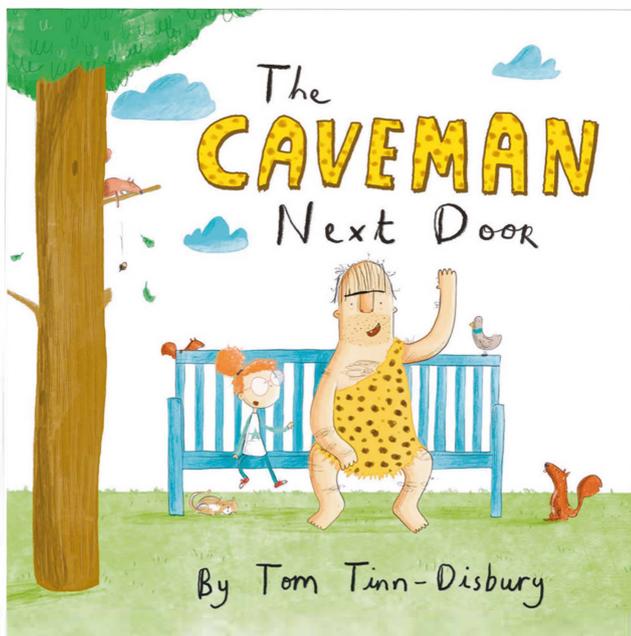
The Caveman Next Door explores the challenges of being different and how friendship is a vital part of overcoming these challenges. In addition to promoting empathy with a light-hearted, humorous touch, the book is also a great way to introduce children to the educational ideology of the Forest School.



... what about Mackerel or Wizard? No, Ogg! We don't eat books, we read them!

The librarian was very annoyed. She chased Penny and Ogg out of the library.





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DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before and during reading

1. Show the children the book cover and ask them if they can read the title and what they think the story might be about.
2. What would they do if a caveman moved in next door to them? Do they think that would be fun?
3. Penny's favourite place is the library. Do the children like visiting libraries? What do they like about them? Where is their favourite place?
4. Why do they think Ogg sometimes gets things wrong and gets himself and Penny into trouble?
5. Ogg is great at painting. Do the children like painting or drawing? Or do they have another hobby, like sports or music?

After reading

1. What did the children think of the story? Did they like it? What was their favourite part and why?
2. Who was their favourite character?
3. Ogg's experiences showed us that it can be difficult fitting in somewhere new, especially if you don't know all the rules of the new place. What about if a new student joins the class? If the new student seemed confused, would the children try to help them like Penny does with Ogg?
4. Ogg isn't the only one who sees the value of teaching children about the great outdoors! The Forest School is an organisation that aims to enable all children, young people and adults to benefit from increased opportunities for high quality and varied educational experiences in the natural world. What do the children think of the Forest School? Would they like to take some lessons there and learn more about the natural world?

You can learn more about Forest School and their amazing activities on their website:

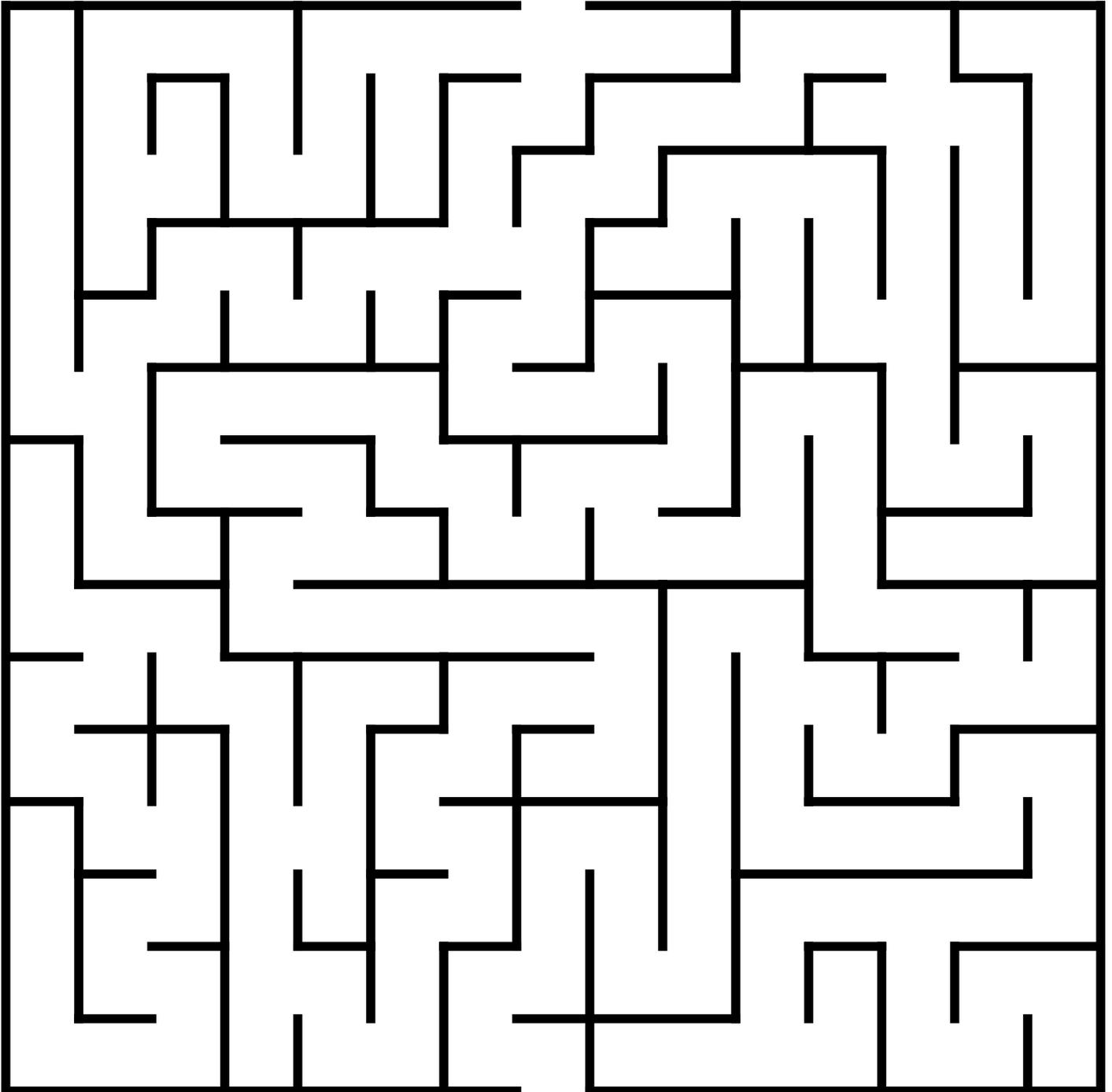
<https://www.forestschoollassociation.org>



MAZE

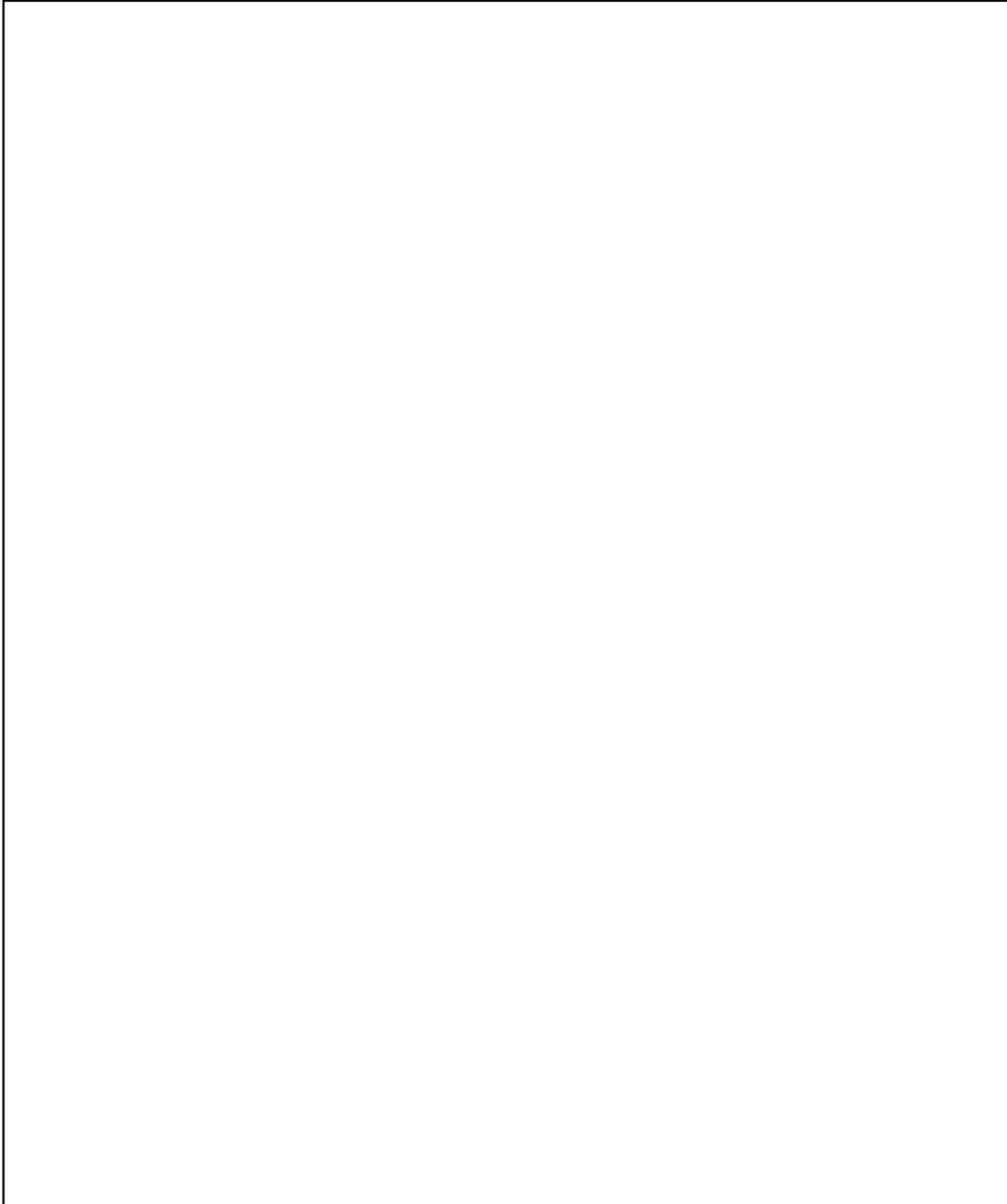
Ogg and Penny got separated on their adventures!

Can you help Penny find Ogg?



DRAWING ACTIVITY

Ogg carefully paints his adventures with Penny. Have you ever had an adventure that you'd like to always remember? Then draw it in the space below!



CRAFT ACTIVITIES



Leaf Prints

What you will need:

- Leaves of various shapes and sizes
- Sheet of paper
- Poster paints
- Paint brushes
- Newspaper to lay down

Instructions

Collect leaves of various shapes and sizes.

Cover your work area with newspaper and prepare your paint. Pour your colours onto your palette and add just enough water to make the paint spreadable but not runny.

Choose your first leaf and flip it so that the underside is facing up. Paint the entire surface of the leaf.

Carefully place the leaf, painted side down, on your piece of paper. Press firmly for several seconds, before removing the leaf to reveal a leaf print.

Repeat the process, experimenting with different colours and different leaves. Once you're finished, leave your prints to dry completely.

The end result should look something like this!



Credit to First Palette
<https://www.firstpalette.com/craft/leaf-prints.html>

Paper Bonfire

Ogg shows the children how to make a fire using things you can find in nature. Now you can create your own (paper!) bonfire.

What you will need:

A couple of sheets of gold card
Glue stick
Yellow, orange and red tissue paper
Brown paper or card
Twigs
Clear Sellotape

Instructions

Draw the outline of a bonfire on the back of the gold card (a spiky shape a little bit like the top of a pineapple).

Cut the bonfire shape out of the card.

Cut flames from the tissue paper and glue them to the card. Try not to glue them flat but bend them and only stick bits down to add texture and make the flames look more real.

From brown paper cut some rectangular "log" shapes and glue these to the bottom of the fire. Finish off by taping on some real twigs to bring the collage to life and add even more texture.

The finished result should look like this:



Credit to Activity Village
<https://www.activityvillage.co.uk/bonfire-collage>

