

## Teaching Notes: THE WALL

Written by Jessie James

Illustrated by Catalina Echeverri

Published by New Frontier Publishing



### SYNOPSIS

Tom is a little boy who LOVES to explore. But one day, he hears the grown-ups talking about the monsters that live in the big, wide world and he is too scared to explore anymore. Soon, they build a giant wall to KEEP THE MONSTERS OUT – forever. But life becomes dreary when you are cut off from the wonders of the world and Tom soon realises there is a need for change ...



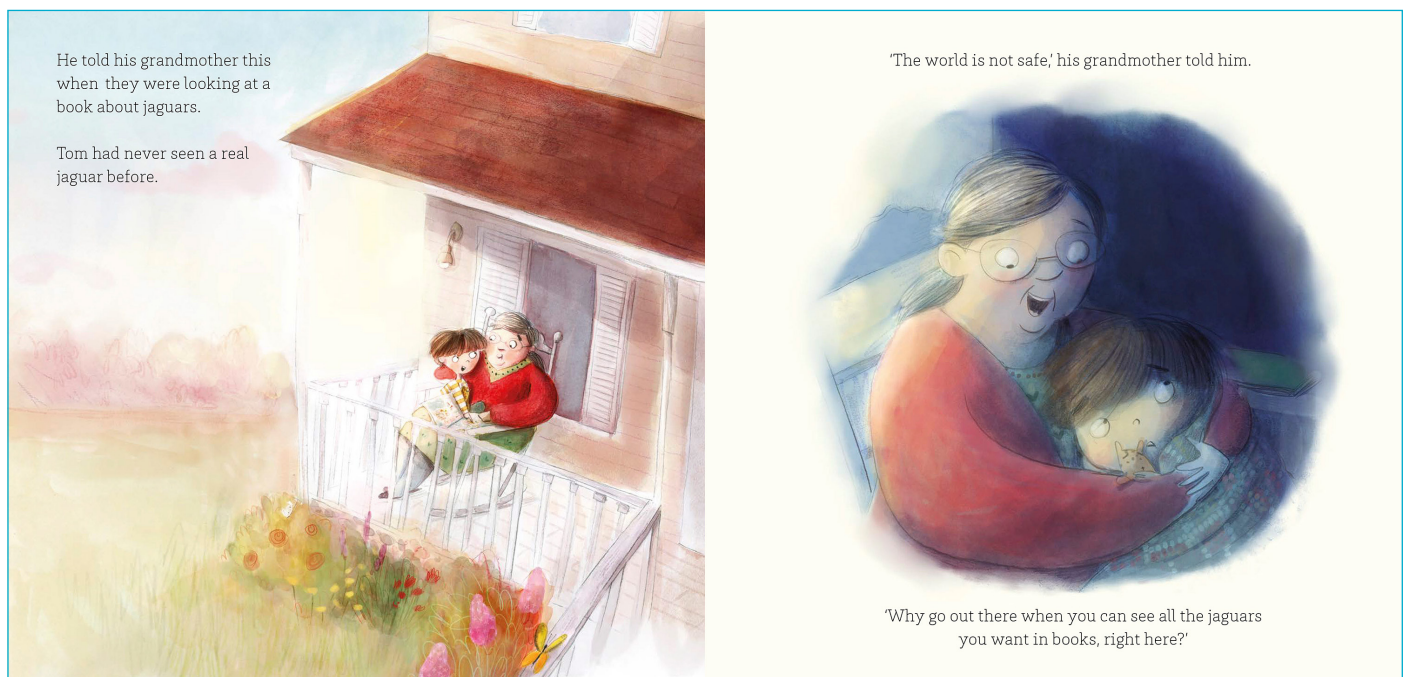
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jessie James likes to walk through the hills and woodlands of the South Downs, UK, and dream up ideas for children's books. Never without a notebook, she is passionate about creating diverse and empowering content for children and maintains that you never know when an idea will strike ... though she does have the unfortunate habit of always losing her pens. Jessie James can be contacted at [letterbox@plumpuddingillustration.com](mailto:letterbox@plumpuddingillustration.com) or [hannah@plumpuddingillustration.com](mailto:hannah@plumpuddingillustration.com)

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Born in Bogotá, Colombia, Catalina lives in London with her Northern Irish husband, Will and their 2 little daughters. Before settling in the UK, Catalina spent time in Italy, studying graphic design and eating pizza and ice cream every day that she could. When she'd eaten it all, she moved to Cambridge to study children's book illustration. She has worked in children's publishing ever since, working with publishers in the UK and the US. Catalina is never without her sketchbook. She particularly enjoys working on projects that make a positive impact on people's lives. Catalina can be found on Instagram @cataverridoodle.

Website: [www.cataverri.com](http://www.cataverri.com)



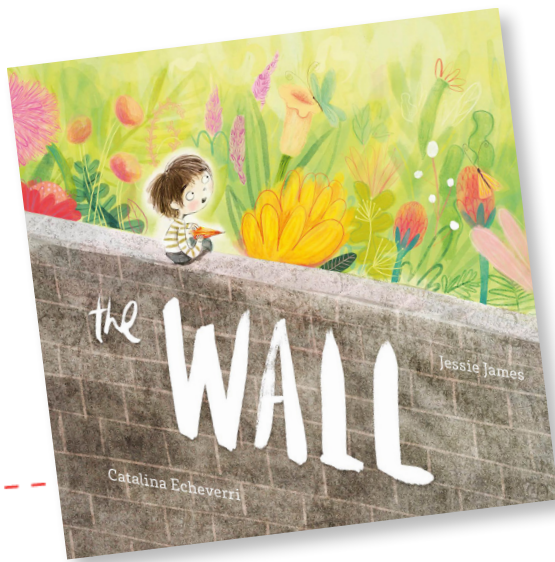
He told his grandmother this when they were looking at a book about jaguars.

Tom had never seen a real jaguar before.

'The world is not safe,' his grandmother told him.

'Why go out there when you can see all the jaguars you want in books, right here?'





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### EDUCATIONAL APPLICABILITY

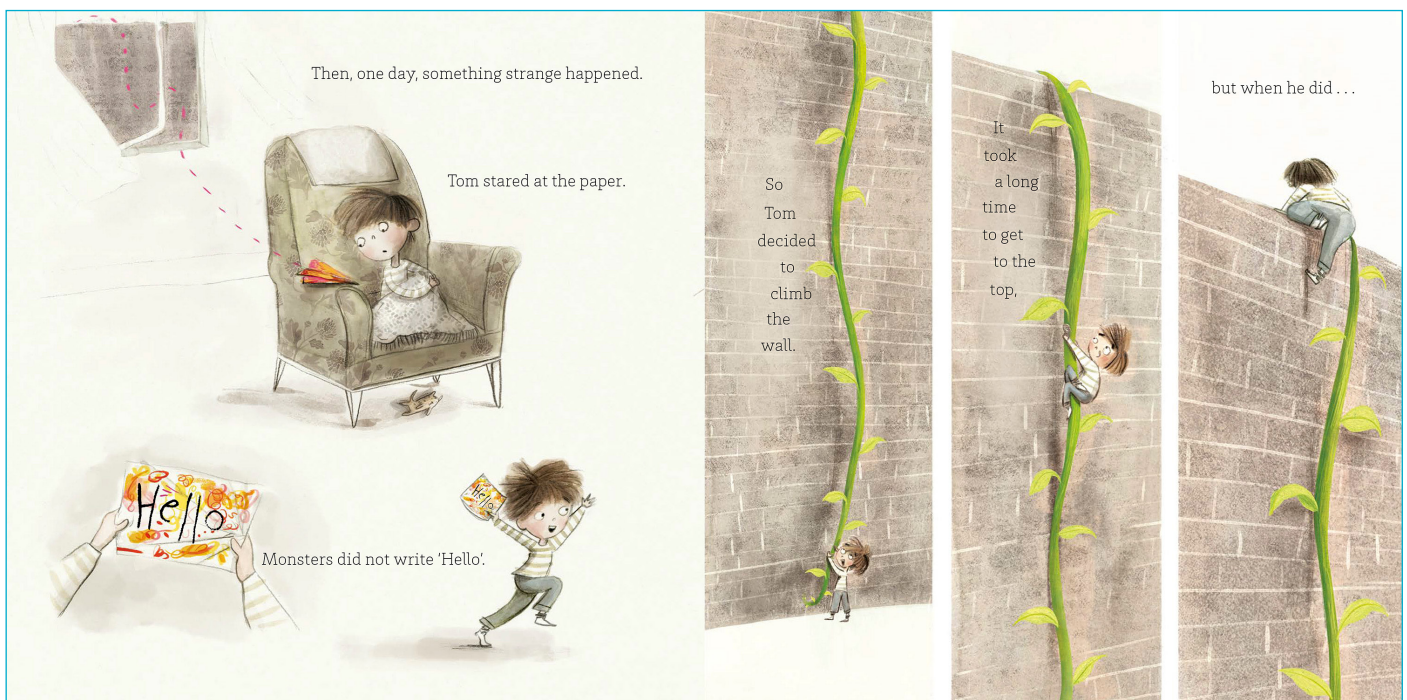
*The Wall* is a thought-provoking story about two children who discover the true meaning of friendship. This book encourages children to think about friendship and what it means. Key themes include community, breaking down barriers, migration and inclusivity.



### DISCUSSION TOPICS

Before, during and after reading the book

1. Introduce *The Wall* to the children and ask them what they think the story might be about.
2. What is the purpose of a wall? To keep people in or keep people out? Discuss these ideas.
3. Tom is a curious little boy. He loves exploring and going on adventures. Are you curious about the world around you? What are you interested in?
4. When Tom tells his grandmother that he wants to be an explorer when he grows up, his grandmother tells him, 'The world is not safe.' What do you think she means by that?
5. Why do you think some grown-ups wanted to build a wall to keep 'monsters' out?
6. When Tom decides to find out who sent him a note saying 'Hello', he climbs the wall, sees a beautiful landscape and meets a friendly little girl. The little girl tells Tom about her world, her family and her life. Ask the children to talk about their friends. Are they similar to their friends or different? In what ways?
7. Why did the grown-ups and children tear down the wall? What happened after that?
8. After reading the book, ask them what they thought of the story. Which was their favourite part and why?





# WALL WORDSEARCH

Find all the words below in *The Wall* wordsearch.

## THE WALL

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

ANIMALS  
BIRDS  
COMMUNITY  
COUNTRIES

EXPLORE  
FLOWERS  
GRASSES  
JAGUAR

MONSTERS  
MOUNTAINS  
WALL  
WORLD



# THE WALL

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

ANIMALS  
 BIRDS  
 COMMUNITY  
 COUNTRIES

EXPLORE  
 FLOWERS  
 GRASSES  
 JAGUAR

MONSTERS  
 MOUNTAINS  
 WALL  
 WORLD



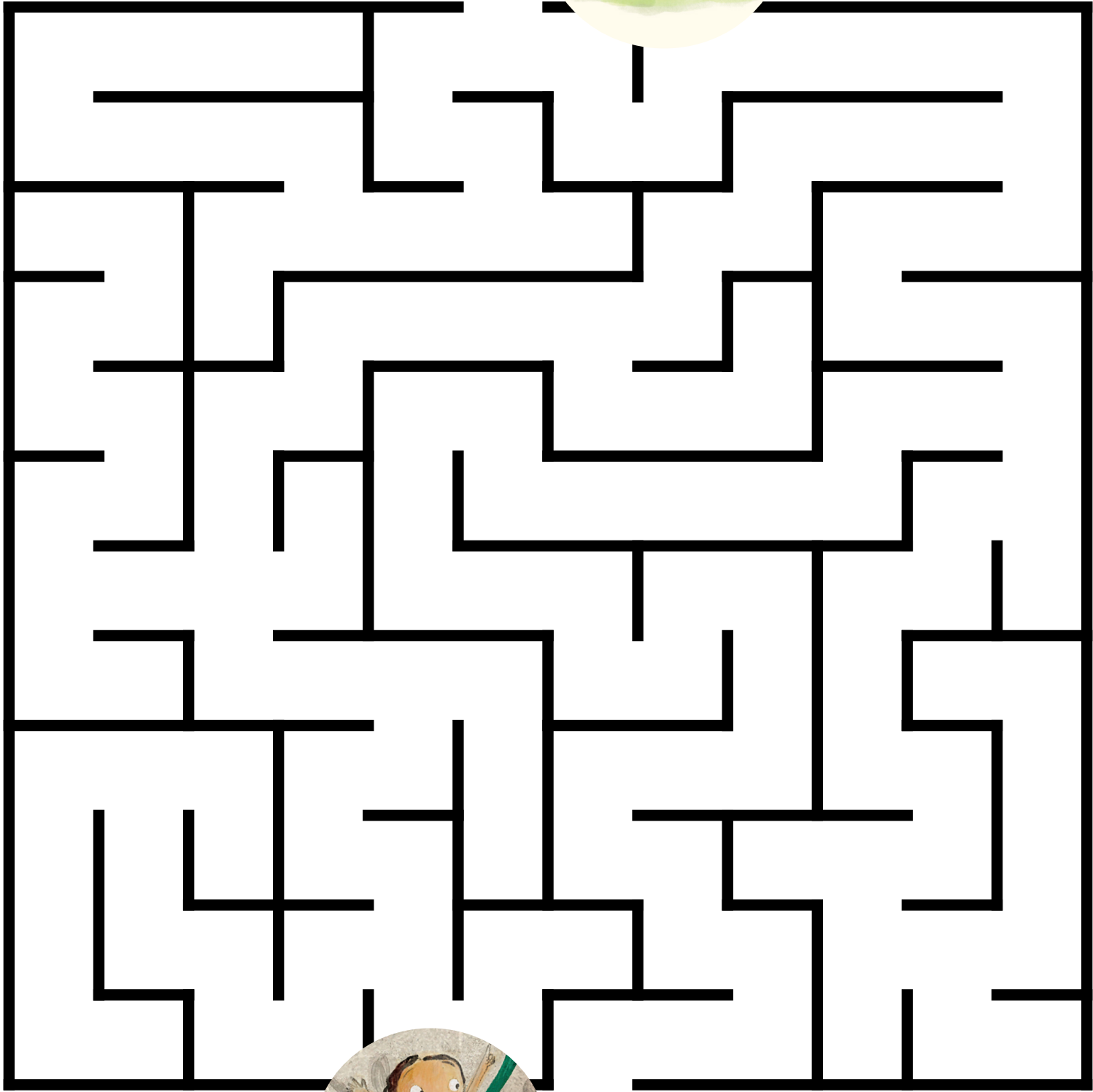
## DRAW A VIEW

Imagine that there is a wall near where you live. If you climbed over it, what would you see?  
Draw your view from the top of the wall – in your brightest colours!



# A-MAZE-ING WORLD

Tom and the little girl are having fun playing hide and seek.  
Can you help Tom find the little girl?





## THE WALL MEMORY GAME

How well do you remember what happened in the story? Below are six pictures from the story but they are jumbled up. Carefully cut them out (ask an adult to help you!) and arrange them in the correct order. Try to retell the story in your own words. Maybe you can tell it to your friend or even a favourite bedtime cuddly toy!

