

Welcome to Starboy Activity Bonanza!

Hope you found a quiet place in your home to listen to this drama. A place where the parrot wasn't squawking, the radio wasn't on at full blast, your kid brother wasn't chasing you, your Mum wasn't screaming at the cat! Ushering everyone into the attic may have seemed tempting but I know you didn't do that 😊 and I hope you *eventually* found a quiet place and had fun listening to this story.

Let me tell you that listening isn't something to be sneezed at! If you can learn the art of listening, you will blaze a trail wherever you go.

Ready for some fun! Choose some activities you will enjoy from below.....

Have fun illustrating!

I am not the best at drawing pictures of all the stories I create. I hear the voices of the characters, tune in to how they feel but I am never quite sure of how to draw them. That's why I love to see the illustrations that children come up with for my stories. Now that you have listened to this magical tale, why not imagine what these characters might look like, where they live *and* where they might go to in their dreams. Get colouring and experience what it is like to be an illustrator!

Some ideas to start you off....

Re-create a scene from the drama, maybe when Starboy is first found in a basket on that starry night or when the girl and her brother sell their worry dolls in the market in Guatemala.

Why not draw a dreamcatcher.... see if you can draw one from the description Luna gives us in the drama or have a search online for one that you like. Add *your* favourite colours to the mix!

If Starboy were a book, what kind of cover would you draw for it?

Print out the activity sheet given below for your illustration and writing. No printer, no problem! Just create your own sheet and get drawing and writing.

Have fun writing!

Sometimes I write *just to write*, not because I have thought up of some new characters or stories. The time I love to write in this way is before everyone else gets up! Then, with a blank page before me, I just write down the first few words that come into my head and I let the words come out one after the other and see where they take me. It is fun *just to write* and see what happens.

Do you fancy trying that?

Don't forget that your writing can be for song, poetry, for comics (try writing a few speech bubbles!), for books, for radio (just like this drama!), for TV, films or even games!

Some ideas to start you off....

Why not write about the other world, where Starboy goes to in his dreams at night. What is it like there? How did Starboy fall from the sky? Write the *prequel!* (*the bit before the story begins*)

Do you know a story from a different culture, like that of the worry dolls from Guatemala. Why not write it down or create a fictional story based in a culture that isn't your own.

Why not write a letter to Starboy or Luna and give him/her some of your ideas to ease their worries, maybe something that works for you or for a friend?

Ideas won't come!!

Do you sometimes find it hard to write, to come up with ideas? Guess what! Most writers do!

Here's a tip...maybe write one word in the centre of your page, something that you would like to write about. Imagine it as a firework ready to explode! What words would rush out of it? No matter how daft or how different the words are that come out, just write them down. You could even write the words in different colours! Allow yourself to just imagine and have fun!

Some days our imagination can run wild. Other days, it gets stuck behind the sofa! No need to worry. How about writing a few lines on something factual, something you recently saw that moved you, some hobby that you are passionate about and would like to share with others. Maybe during these times when we are required to stay safe at home, you would like to write a letter to a child in a far-off country who can no longer go to school, just like you. It's all writing and it's all good!

Write your own story by getting into 'someone else's shoes'

Radio drama is a great way of getting us 'into other people's shoes'. When we listen to a drama, we have to imagine the characters, what they look like, how they feel, what their surrounding world is like.

We have great fun in my workshops when we try this activity. I usually bring along a few different pairs of shoes – my multi-coloured sparkly wedding shoes, a pair of baby booties with bunny ears that once belonged to my daughter and a pair of cowboy boots that, trust me, used to be fashionable! Yes, I get a few odd looks when I take them out of my bag but I am a writer.... people expect me to do some odd things! 😊 Choose a pair of shoes in your house, anything from a battered pair of wellies to a pair of flowery flip-flops, the more unusual and quirky the better.

Why not get that pair of shoes, make up an imaginary tale of your own by stepping into them. No need for them to fit! Just imagine that you are the character wearing them. Explore the story behind the shoes... have they just arrived home following an adventure? Are they about to run, dance, do a high kick!! You could write about the imaginary character who owns them or the person who made them; you could tell a story about the shoes or do some mime or movement, all connected to the imaginary tale of the shoes.

Step in and have some fun!



By HikingArtist.com



Explore this story and you can explore a WORLD of stories!

These are the four magic headings behind any story!

Setting, Main characters, Problem, Resolution (How does it work out in the end?)

Using these four headings you can understand and explore any story across all mediums, be it books, radio or film. Think of these headings for Starboy. Do you have a favourite book or film? Why not explore these same magic headings with *your* favourite story and together, believe me, we can turn a story inside out and back to front and understand it better than ever. What's even better is you can use these headings whenever you want to create your own story!

Why not create your own story now....Where will it take place, who will your characters be, what problem will have to be worked before the story can move on, and how will you find an answer to the problem at the end of it all. I am excited already at what you might come up with as no two stories are the same. We are all using the same magic potion but your story will always be unique!

Print out the activity sheet given below to write about the magic headings for Starboy or draw pictures of them. No printer, no problem! Just create your own sheet for your illustration and writing.



Explore the characters!

Be curious!

Choose a character from Starboy – who is your favourite? Is it Starboy or maybe Luna, the teacher or perhaps the girl from Guatemala who made the worry dolls?

Think of all the things you **know** about this character from listening to the drama as well as all the things that you **imagine** about the character. Draw a simple sketch of the character. Put in some basic headings around the sketch of the character such as Name, Age, Physical appearance, Friends, Likes, Dislikes, Dreams. Why not build your description of the character under these headings and more. What about the character's feelings? Very important to include these! Why not write the feelings of the character inside your sketch.

Soon you will discover that you know more about this character than you realised!

Have fun with sound!



Create a sound diary.

Get a piece of paper and a pen or even a notebook and go for a walk outside. Listen to the sounds you hear along the way. Write down EVERYTHING that you hear from a bird chirping to a car honking, from a dog barking in the distance, (like Luna's dog, Charlie) to the *really* close sound of your own footsteps. Listen carefully, tune in to the sounds all around you. Now you have lots of ideas for sound effects (SFX) if you want to create your own radio drama. These are just the sounds for an outdoor scene.

What's happening indoors?? Time to gather some ideas for sound effects (SFX) inside your house! Write down all of the sounds you hear in your house as you walk from room to room or even in one specific room. The kitchen is always a good place to start with sounds of microwaves going bing, a kettle boiling, cutlery being put away and lots of others too. Try to remember what SFX you heard in Starboy when the family were having dinner. These are lots of sounds for an indoor scene.

A sound diary is a fun and easy thing to do and if you want to create your own radio drama you will have lots of ideas for SFX in your new sound diary. If your story features children playing outside in a school yard, some of your outdoor sounds will immediately bring the scene to life and let all the listeners know that they are playing outside without you even having to tell them!

Create some sound effects (SFX) of your own.

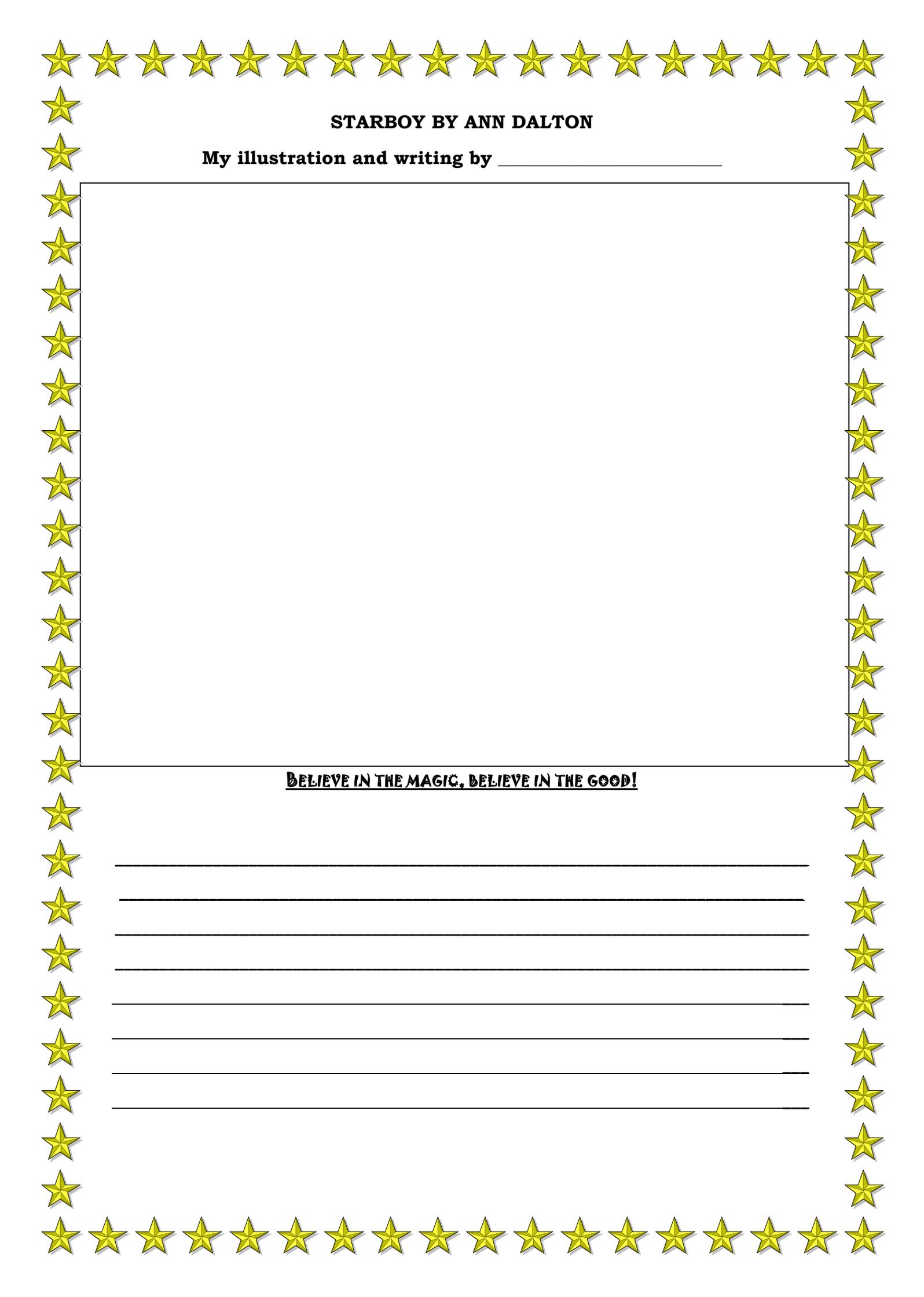
Why not have some fun with just some everyday objects around you and use your imagination to come up with some funny or even spooky sounds.

Some ideas to start you off...

- A) Take two pens or pencils and tap one off the other in a slow, gentle rhythm. What does that sound like to you?? Have fun guessing yourself or challenge someone else in your house to guess the sound.
- B) What if your character wanted to come into the room? How would you create that knock on the door? The footsteps? That's an easy one! How would you create a sound effect for 'a knock on the door' without knocking on the actual door? What if you were simply sitting at the table?
- C) If you get a piece of paper and just scrunch it up, what could you use that scrunching sound for? Lots of answers are acceptable and even better....none are wrong!!

What about sounds of nature that you could mimic yourself? Could you mimic the sound of thunder or of a bee buzzing? Perhaps you play a musical instrument, a keyboard or a drum? I have two small instruments in my house that create great sounds.....a rainstick and a thumb piano. What might you have??

Now, why not listen back to Episode one of Starboy and list all the sound effects or SFX that you can hear throughout the production. Many of these are digital sound effects. The good news is that there are lots of SFX available online for you to experiment with. Many of them are free. Everything from an elephant's trumpet call to a sad violin sound is there. Why not create a story with some of the sound effects that you find. Maybe you would also like to read your story out loud or even better record it with the help of an adult. Your acting career may just have started 😊

A decorative border of yellow stars with black outlines surrounds the entire page. The stars are arranged in a rectangular frame, with a slightly larger gap at the top center to accommodate the title and author information.

STARBOY BY ANN DALTON

My illustration and writing by _____

BELIEVE IN THE MAGIC, BELIEVE IN THE GOOD!

Starboy

What the plot!!



What's going on? You tell me.....

.....No, you tell me!

Setting

Main Characters

Problem/Dilemma

Resolution/How is it sorted?

Starboy

What the plot!!



What's going on? Draw it

.....No, you draw it!

Setting

Main Characters

Problem/Dilemma

Resolution/How is it sorted?

