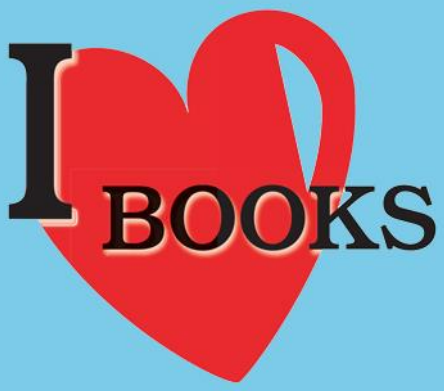


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Opening extract from

Moone Boy: The Marvellous Activity Manual

Written by

Chris O'Dowd & Nick Vincent Murphy

Illustrated by

Walter Giampaglia

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MOONE BOY

THE MARVELLOUS ACTIVITY MANUAL

THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

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Also available

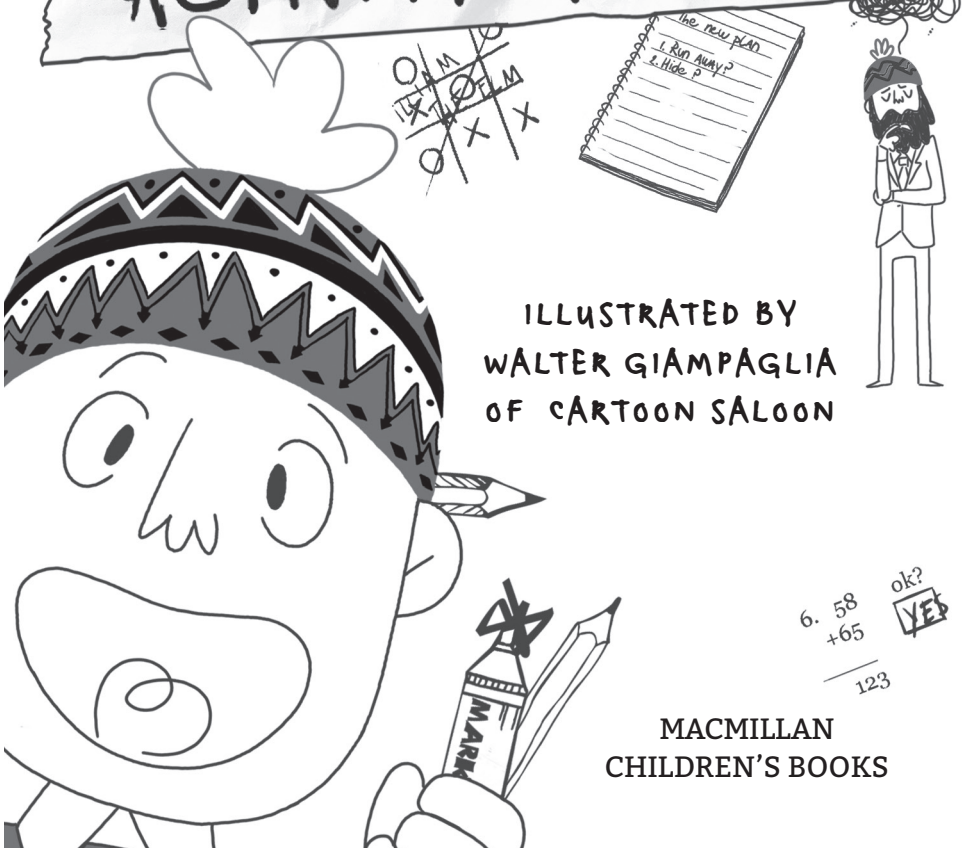
Moone Boy: The Blunder Years

Moone Boy: The Fish Detective

Chris O'Dowd
& Nick V. Murphy

MOONE BOY

THE MARVELLOUS ACTIVITY MANUAL



ILLUSTRATED BY
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I'd like to dedicate this book to my brother John, a wild and funny soul with superb Uncle-ing skills. He only managed to escape inclusion in the Moone Boy family due to him being incredibly old.

Chris

For all the Beavers, Rainbows, Cubs, Brownies, Scouts, Girl Guides, and especially my own Scouting big brothers who inspired some of these stories – Killian who got ejected from the boat, and Luke who rejected the jacks.

Nick



INTRODUCTION

Greetings, fellow Earthling!

Or, for those reading the Martian edition –

☝❒♏♦♓■♑⬧ 💣♋❒♦♓♋🖉 👎■ ♏♋♦ ❍♏

Welcome to *The Marvellous Activity Manual*.

My name is Sean 'Caution' Murphy, seventh son of Norman 'Nervous' Murphy and Carmel 'Careful' Murphy. Yes, both of their surnames were Murphy, as they were also very distant cousins.

You may know me better as the handsome, dynamic and deeply humble imaginary friend of Martin Moone of Boyle, Ireland. I shall be your chapter chaperone through the pages of this barmy book, this jovial journal, this little ledger of 'LOLs'.

Firstly, congratulations on your purchase of this copy of *Moone Boy: The Marvellous Activity Manual*. As you may have noticed, this is no ordinary book. This is an *activity* book. Most books just sit there and tell you one long story, like a jabbering old man who smells like soggy shoes. But not this book, no sir! This is a book that runs around the room like its pants are on fire, while juggling pineapples and playing the kazoo.

'But what does it do?' I hear you ask.

What *doesn't* it do, more like?!

Dance. Sadly, we couldn't get it to dance, due to a dispute with the union of Irish Book Jivers. But it does pretty much everything else. We've got short stories, a comic strip, games, puzzles, jokes and crafts for those with nimble fingers. We even provide snacks (if you enjoy the taste of stale paper).

In *Moone Boy: The Blunder Years*, Martin Moone had a tricky time finding a suitable IF. Imaginary friends like me don't grow on trees. We are grown *under* trees. Kinda. But it's a tricky process and we'd like to help.

In this book, I shall guide you down the prickly path of discovering your own imaginary friend. And an imaginary friend can be quite the discovery, like an untouched tropical golden island or a dirty penny down the back of an armchair. Think of your imagination as the last unconquered land, and your mind a great oak boat with soaring sails and rats fleeing from the hull.

As discovering a suitable IF can be a gruelling task, I strongly suggest you take your time. An entire year in fact. It may well be a good idea to quit school, move into your attic and focus entirely on nothing but this book for the next

twelve months (or seven 'yections', which you'll know about if you've read *Moone Boy: The Fish Detective*).

OK, it's time to hit the high seas! If you need a wee, now would be a good moment: there are no loos aboard the good ship 'book'.

So turn on the attic light, untie your reality ropes, and let's cast off from Boredom Bay. It's time to set sail with me, Captain Sean Murphy, and First Mate Martin Moone on this *Marvellous Activity Manual* adventure!

Ahoy!

Caution



YECTIONS



A year is a very long time when you're an idiot. To cope with the curse of the calendar, Martin Moone has developed the habit of dividing the year into smaller sections, or 'yections'. As you complete each yection, you'll be one step closer to creating your perfect IF!

YECTION 1. BOXING FOR LOVE 9
St Stephen's Day to Valentine's Day

YECTION 2. LOVEFOOL 46
Valentine's Day to April Fool's Day

YECTION 3. FOOL'S GOLD 75
Easter to 20 May (my birthday, when I always ask for gold gifts)

YECTION 4. GOLDEN DAYS 108
20 May to end of the school term

YECTION 5. DAYS OF WONDER 134
Summer Holidays!

YECTION 6. WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR? 168
Start of term to Halloween

YECTION 7. WHY WON'T IT END? 180
5 November to Christmas Day

ACTIVITY

KEEP OUT!



OK, we've got a lot to do and you're going to need to focus. We want no interruptions. So try hanging one of these on your bedroom door.



Use the picture opposite as a guide to make your own hanger – you could make it bigger, or even stick it on to cardboard to make it stronger. Colour it in or add the scariest face you can think of to keep intruders at bay.

KEEP OUT

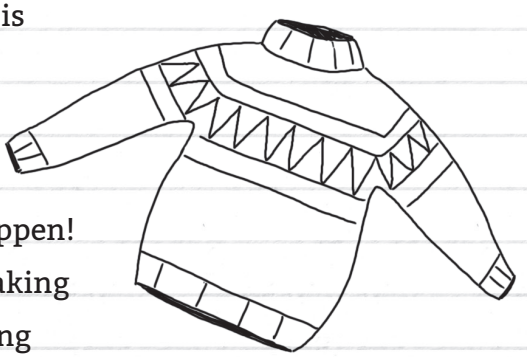
IF-making in progress

YECTION 1

BOXING FOR LOVE



It's the post-Christmas lull. The last of the choccies have disappeared (except for the creams), your new woolly jumper is starting to smell, and so is your grandad, who refuses to go home. But then at last, Yection 1 finally arrives with New Year's Day!



The New Year is a time of great change and possibility – anything can happen! It's a time for making lists, and changing jumpers, and tricking Grandad into going outside and then locking the door behind him.

It's a time to start fresh. A clean slate. A new era. A new you. And what better way to do that than by getting yourself a brand new IF! Right?

Well hold on just one second. Calm the flip down. Unlike puppies, imaginary friends aren't just for Christmas. They're for life! Or until you get bored of them and just stop imagining them. But either way, it's a big decision and needs some thought.

So, before we jump in, it's time to ask yourself some important questions . . .





IMAGINARY FRIEND

By Authority of the Corporate League of Imaginary Friends Federation

To Whom It May Concern

On this day...SATURDAY THE 6TH OF NOVEMBER.....in the place of...JUST OUTSIDE... BOYLE in the county of ...ROSCOMMON...in the country of ...IRELAND.

on the planet of ...THE EARTH.....,

we hereby certify that this person, animal, beast, blob or other weird creature, will henceforth go by the name of ...SEAN "CAUTION" MURPHY and is hereby licensed to practise as an ...IMAGINARY FRIEND...in accordance with the Laws, Codes and Ideals of Imaginary Friendship as set out in *The Big Massive Manual*, somewhere near the middle.

Hurrah!

Signed by: Meng the Magpie

Witnessed by: Bruce the Spruce

Second witness: GRUNCHIE HAYSTACKS

IMAGINARY FRIENDS C.L.I.F.F.

ACTIVITY DO YOU NEED AN IMAGINARY FRIEND?

Follow this flowchart to see if you really need an IF. You can start with any of the questions.



