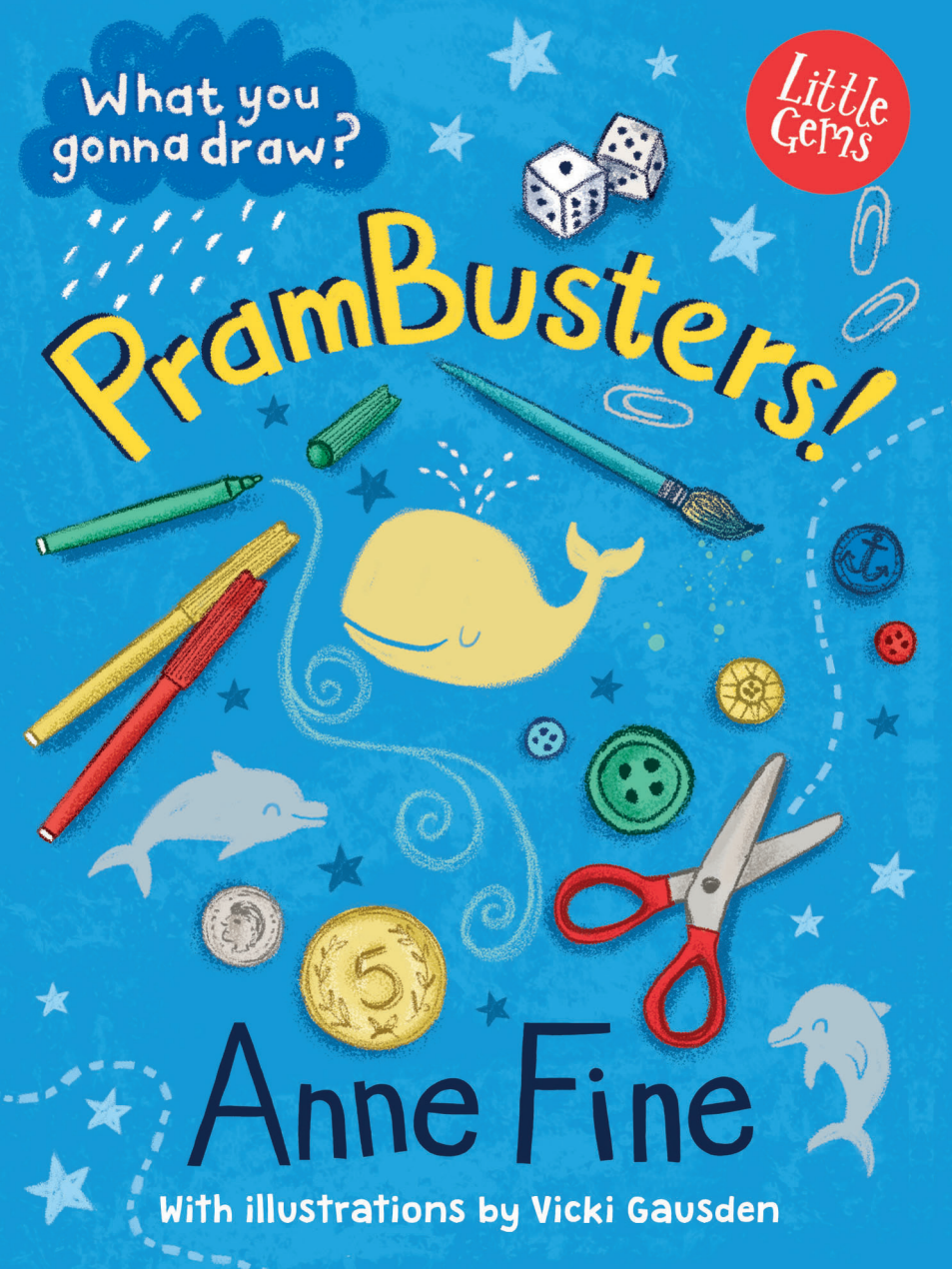
What you gonna draw?

Little Gems

PramBusters!



Anne Fine

With illustrations by Vicki Gausden








PramBusters!

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This book is in a super readable format for young readers beginning their independent reading journey.

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Chapter 1

The Box of Surprises

My name is Malik. In the summer I go to a holiday day camp. It's out of town, on a farm. A minibus comes to pick us all up each morning. Except for Hetty. Hetty lives on the farm next door to the camp, so each day she comes on her pony, Peppo.

Hetty ties Peppo to a fence. He's in the shade and has a bucket of water. We all get off the minibus and go over to pat his nose. We pull fresh grass out from under the hedge to feed him.

Peppo watches us. He flicks his tail at the flies that bother him. Sometimes he makes a funny whickering noise.

"He's bored," Hetty tells us. "But if he were at home, he would be even more bored, standing in the field."

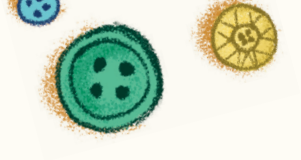
We're never bored at summer camp. We play ball games and run races. We learn how to do outdoor things like make a camp fire, and tie strong knots. We sing songs we know, and learn some new ones. We play tag.





After snack-time, Mrs Hope and Mr Oakway take turns to sit in the big wooden chair that looks like a throne, and read us stories and poems. (Mrs Hope is going to have a baby soon, so she has more turns sitting in the throne chair.)





Sometimes we make things out of the bits and pieces in the Box of Surprises. Mrs Hope and Mr Oakway collect things all year to put in the box. All sorts of empty rolls and boxes. Tissue paper. Odd bits of ribbon. Buttons. Shiny bright paper. Little bags of confetti. Pots of glitter. Anything and everything!

Some people might call it 'playing with junk', but we call it 'junk modelling' and we all love it.

We all sit down outside, in a big circle.

"Here are the paper clips and glue sticks and rubber bands," Mrs Hope says. "Over there are the felt-tip pens and scissors. Choose a few bits that you like out of the Box of Surprises and make something interesting."



No one is ever quite sure how to start. But then one of us gets up and digs in the Box of Surprises. Maybe we pick out a strange shiny coin and an empty plant pot with tiny holes in the bottom. And a handful of bright pink straws and a lonely green shoe lace.

After you've looked at the things in your pile for a while, you get the start of an idea.



Perhaps the straws will fit in the holes in the bottom of the plant pot. Then the plant pot might look a bit like an alien from a faraway planet. The lonely green shoe lace could be the alien's best scarf. And if you glue the coin onto his front, as if he had one big round shiny eye, then ...

Off we go!



We make a bit of a mess, but it's easy to clear up outside. One day, when the wind was blowing hard, we asked Mrs Hope if we could move the Box of Surprises into the barn and make our junk models there.

"I'm sorry," Mrs Hope said. "But the farm animals use the barn in winter. If we leave some of our bits and pieces stuck in the straw by mistake the cows might eat them."

So when it rains and we have to move inside the barn, we only ever get to use the pencils and felt-tip pens. And even then Mrs Hope and Mr Oakway check to make sure we put all the pen tops back on, and haven't left any lying around on the barn floor.

