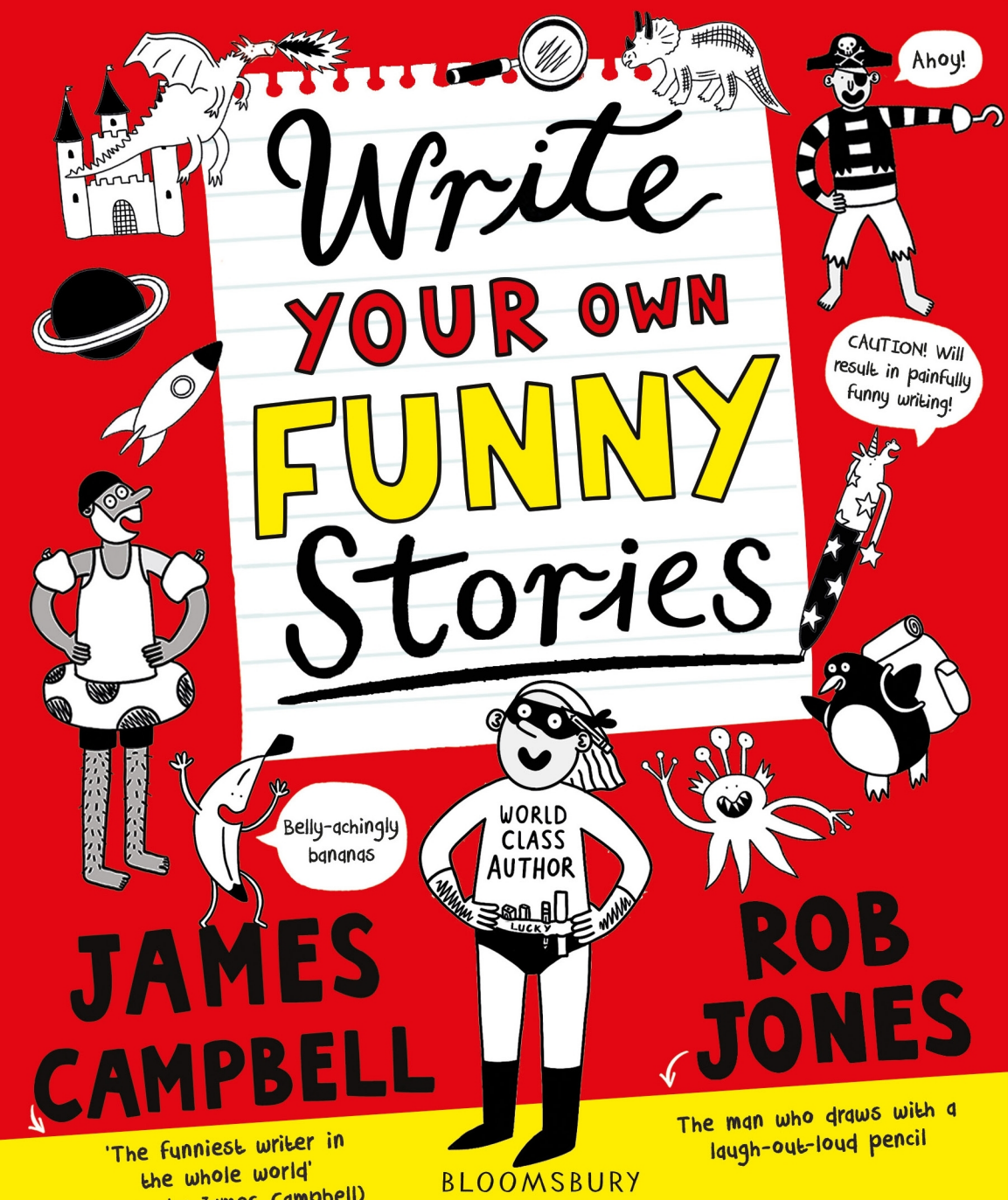
Write YOUR OWN FUNNY Stories



JAMES CAMPBELL

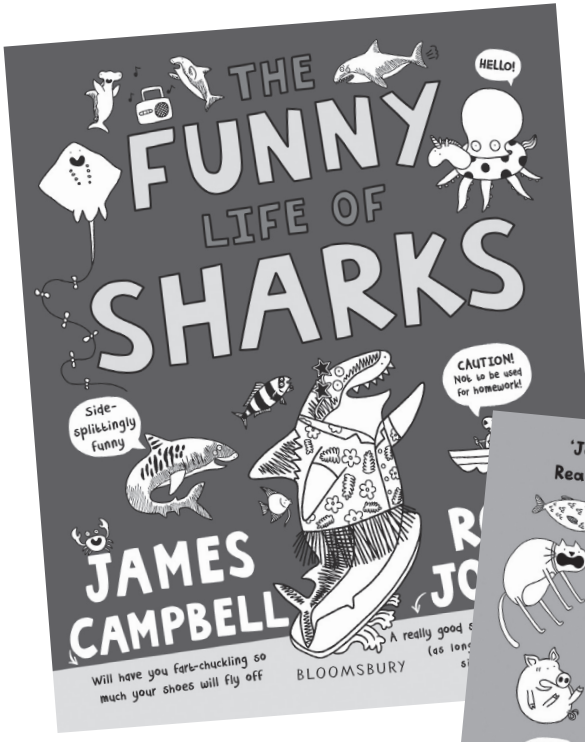
'The funniest writer in the whole world' (quote by James Campbell)

ROB JONES

The man who draws with a laugh-out-loud pencil

BLOOMSBURY

Also by James Campbell and Rob Jones ...

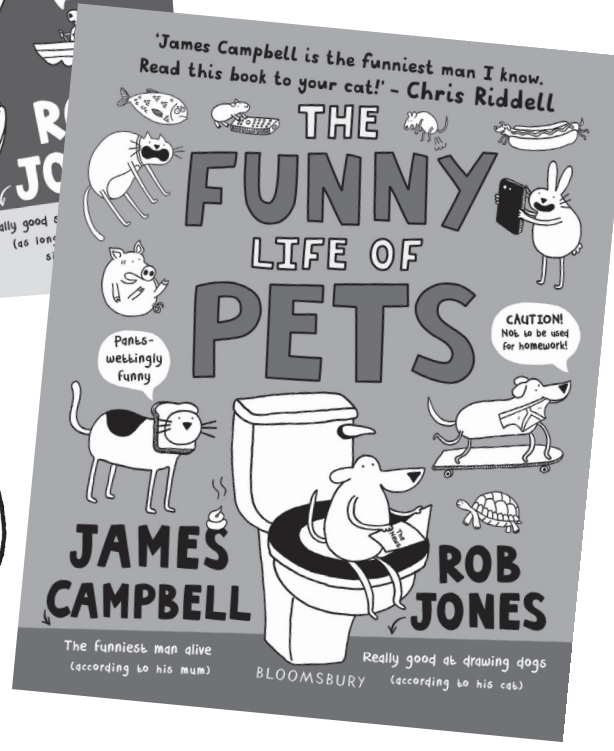


'We laughed so much we woke the baby.'

Saskia, aged 39, Jakob, aged 5

'Deliciously delightful. Superbly epic and funnier than any other book I've read.'

Ethan, aged 9



This book is dedicated to all the children who took writing workshops with me throughout lockdown. We kept each other going with stories and silliness, through a time we'll never forget.

So many thanks to Layla, Josie, Lizzie, Beaumont, Fin, Alexander, Daniel, Oscar, Holly, Hazel, Harrison, Wilf, Amber, Thomas, Erin, Melissa, Mark, Danny, Kezzy, Logan, Berys, Bill, Leo, Joseph, Amelia, Isabel, Lilly, Matthias, Izzy, Nellie, Charlotte, Sam, Samson, Hannah, Dora, Gray, Mags, Laura, Olivia and Henry - James Campbell

In loving memory of my first teacher, Mrs. Rush – Rob Jones

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JAMES CAMPBELL

ROB JONES

BLOOMSBURY
CHILDREN'S BOOKS
LONDON OXFORD NEW YORK NEW DELHI SYDNEY

WELCOME TO THE INSIDE OF THE BOOK.

I just want to let you know that this is absolutely NOT A NORMAL BOOK!

If you're looking for a normal book then put this one down immediately and then train **a labradoodle** to take the book away, bury it under a tree and then decorate the tree with weird furry things that it has found from between the dishwasher and the washing machine.



Take a flick through the pages. You'll notice that there is no right or wrong way to read this book. You can read it in any order. You might also notice that some of the pages have nothing on them at all. Those pages are for you to write in. How often do you get to do that?

You CAN read this book from the beginning and make your way to the end if you like but you could also pick a bit in the middle that you like the look of and start there. The whole book is full of different **tips, tricks and activities** to help you write your own funny story.

If at any point though, you think to yourself ...

I think I'm just going to use this page to draw a really cool picture of a marmot and then see how many different words I can think of to use instead of BUM

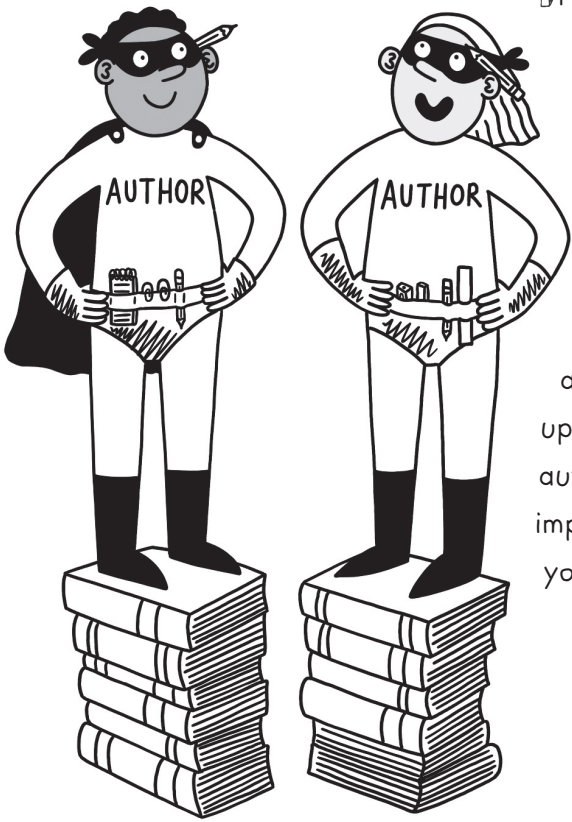
... then that's fine.



Why don't you do that, take a picture of it and then email the picture. My address is:

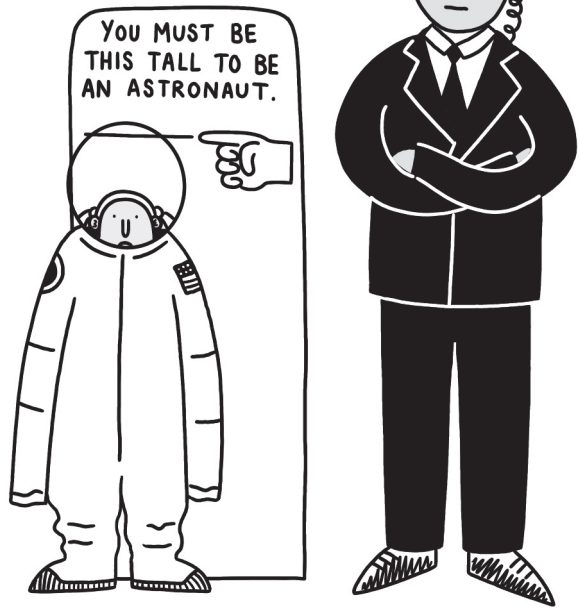
stopsendingmeweirdpicturesofmarmots@whatever.com

If you're reading this book, you probably like writing. You might even want to be an **author** when you grow up. So what are you waiting for? Why wait until you grow up? Why not start now? Get a notebook. Do some writing. **Be a writer.**



If you're thinking to yourself, 'I've written lots of stuff, I write in notebooks all the time!' then that's **brilliant**. In that case you already are an author. Don't tell people you want to be an author when you grow up. Tell them you are an author **now**. In fact, more importantly, tell yourself that you are an author now.

As far as I can see, the biggest difference between someone who is an author and someone who isn't an author is that an author **writes stuff**.



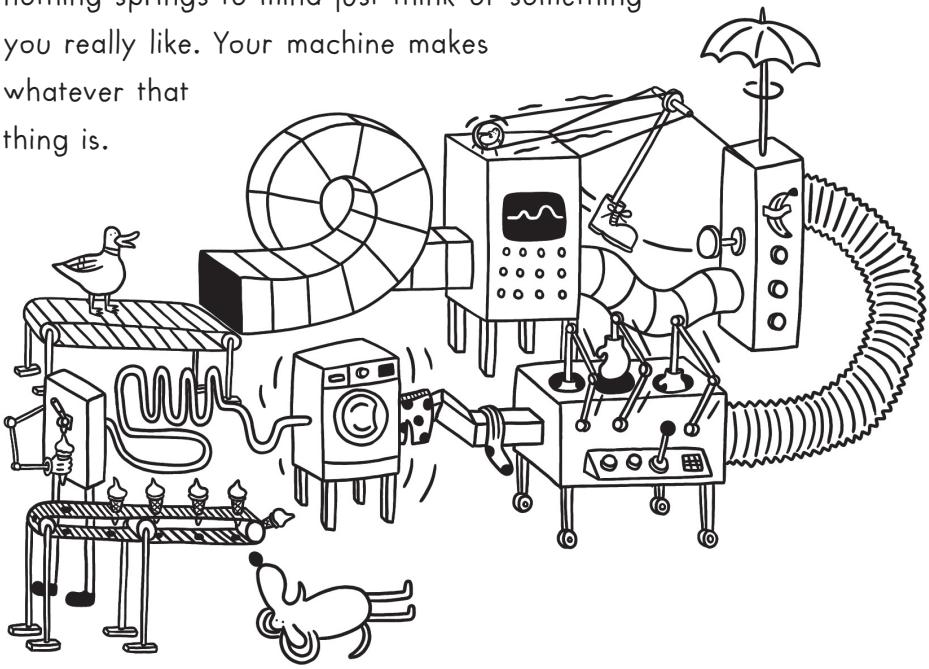
So if you want to be an author all you need to do is get on with it. Why wait until you're older? It's not like you need a driving licence. You don't have to be a certain height. For most jobs you need to be a **grown-up** before you can start. You can't be an astronaut until you are an adult. If you want to be Prime Minister you have to wait until you grow up. If you want to be a hairdresser, no one will let you cut their hair until you are bigger.

However, if you want to do some writing you can start **right now**. All you need is a pen and notebook. (And this book might help too).

WARMING UP THE MACHINE

This is just a little exercise to get you warmed up for writing your own story. A bit like doing some **stretches** before playing football or jogging on the spot for ten minutes before climbing and falling off an elephant.

What I would like you to do first is think of a **magical machine**. It can do anything you want. Go crazy with it. Maybe it makes people invisible or turns ducks into ice cream. If nothing springs to mind just think of something you really like. Your machine makes whatever that thing is.

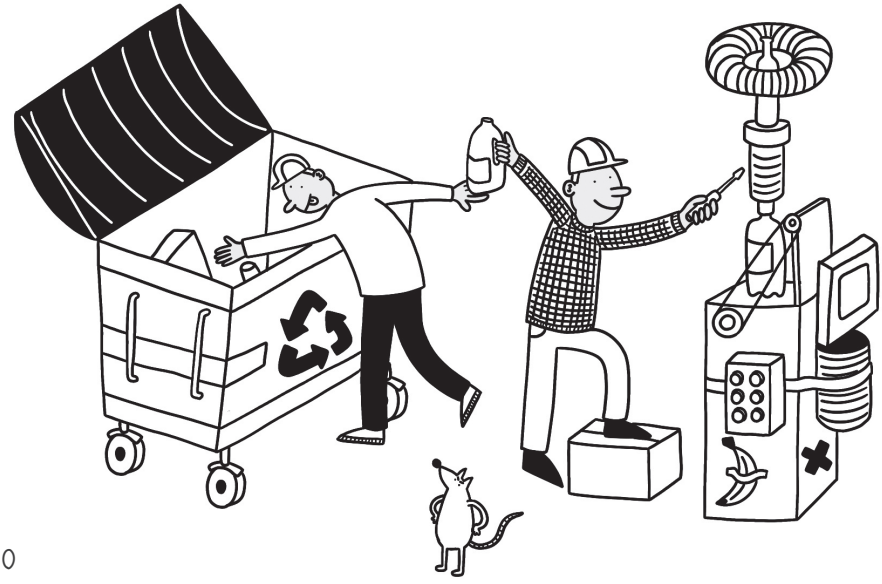


Use the space below to draw a picture of your machine.
What does it look like? Is it big like a truck or tiny like a watch?
Is it metal or plastic? Is it big and dirty like a tractor
or clean and polished like a phone?



Next think about where your machine came from. How did it come into your life? Did your mum teach you how to use it? Did a strange uncle you've never seen before turn up one birthday and give you the machine? Did you find your machine? Did it fall out of the sky? Did you build it out of material you found in the rubbish dump?

Use the space below to describe where you got your machine:



Use the space below to describe what your machine does:

Now think about the day something went wrong with the machine. Tell yourself about the time someone pressed the wrong button or put the wrong thing in the machine. Maybe you didn't listen to the instructions. Or maybe the people you got it from want it back. Use the space below to describe this:

Ending your story here might not be **satisfying** for your reader. It might be a good idea to have some sort of **resolution** at the end, some way of making things better.

Use the space below to describe this:



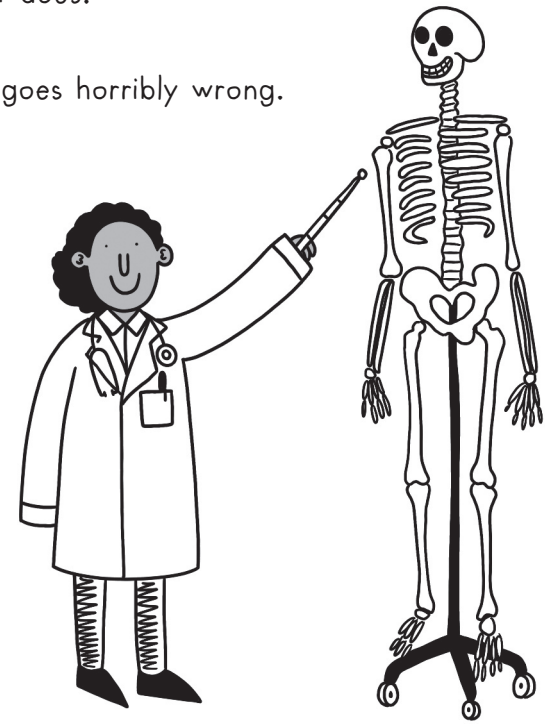
Now, with a bit of **tweaking** you should find that you have just created a whole story. You won't have written everything that happens, of course, but you should have a **beginning, middle and end**, which is like the skeleton of a story – the bones that hold it all together.

The beginning is how you got your machine.

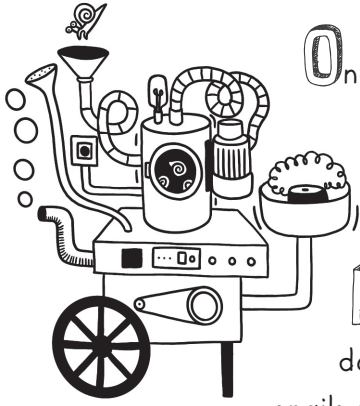
The middle is what it does.

The end is when it all goes horribly wrong.

And **the final section** is the resolution.

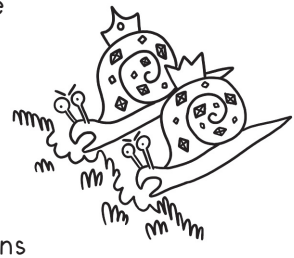


Below is an example of a **skeleton of a story**:

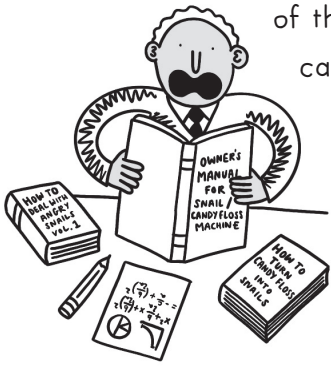


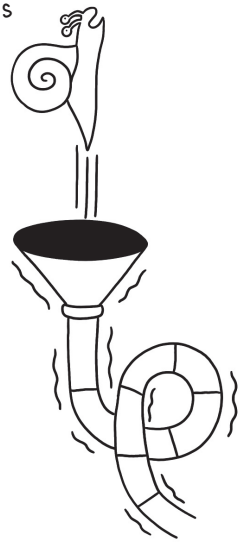
One day I found a machine in the school art cupboard. After a bit of fiddling about I found it was a machine for turning snails into candyfloss.

I had lots of fun using the machine until one day the king and queen of the snails turned up at my house and ate my carpets in **revenge** for what I had done to all of their snail friends.



After a lot of fiddling around and pressing buttons I worked out how to reverse the effects of the machine and turn the candyfloss back into snails. This made the king and queen of the snails feel a lot better about the whole thing and we all lived happily ever after. Without any carpets.





Are you pleased with your story? Hopefully you are but this is not the story you are going to write. That would be too easy. The story you are going to write is going to be the best story you have ever written.

But you're not going to start writing straight away. First you need to **think of some ideas**, plan those ideas and organise your thoughts.

Writing a story without planning it first would be like eating your dinner without opening your mouth, trying to watch a TV programme without switching on the TV, or going to school without getting dressed first.

Pull your socks up, grab a sandwich and a glass of water and **let's get started!**

