

# Liverpool Biennial



## Where the Jellyfish Dance and the Sandstone Whispers

A story by Catherine Haines and Alex  
Bishop, illustrated by Kohenoor Kamal



## Kohenoor Kamal

Kohenoor Kamal is a Bengali-British Illustrator and Designer based in the North West of the UK. Her multidisciplinary practice blends illustration and design to create abstract, textural outcomes that reflect her vibrant cultural heritage and lived experience.



## Catherine Haines

Catherine is an artist and a storyteller. She weaves vibrant stories to reimagine the world around her. She is part of Blue Room, an inclusive arts project based at the Bluecoat and Norton Priory. She especially loves the colour pink.



## Alex Bishop

Alex is part of the Learning team at Liverpool Biennial. They are also an artist that makes sculptures. Their favourite thing to make sculptures out of is clay!



About the Artists:

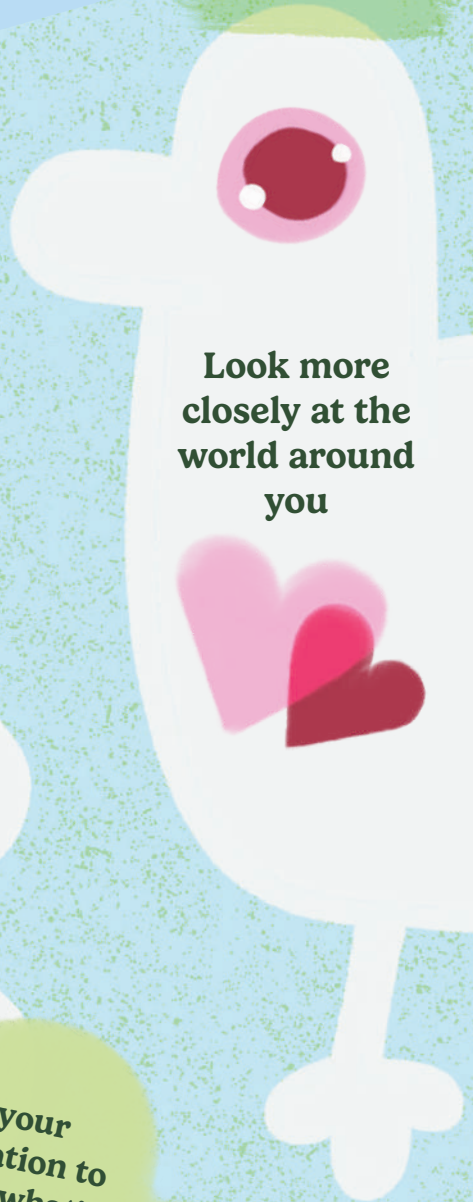
**What will you find in this book?**

**The story of Sammy  
the seagull and some  
activities to help you:**

**Listen to hidden  
voices from the past**

**Use your  
imagination to  
explore what's  
under your feet and  
in your heart**

**Look more  
closely at the  
world around  
you**





Today is the day! Sammy the seagull is finally ready to dance out of their nest.

Sammy has been looking forward to this day for a long time, curiously watching the city below.

He can't wait to explore and meet some new friends



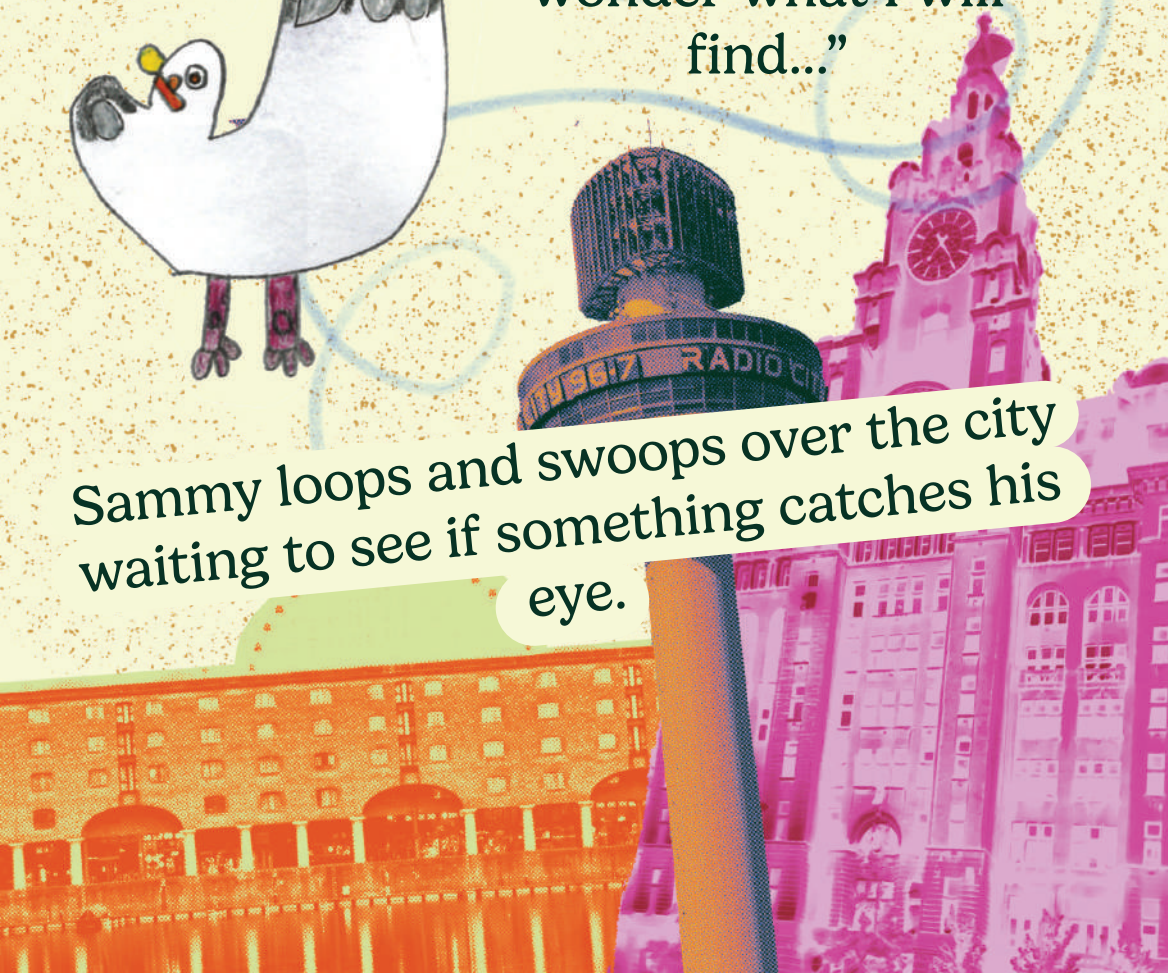


He takes a giant leap and with a  
**WHOOOSH,**  
dances into the sky.




“Time to explore! I  
wonder what I will  
find...”

Sammy loops and swoops over the city  
waiting to see if something catches his  
eye.







“... Hmmm what’s  
that interesting  
building? I do like  
the colour. I think  
I’ll take a closer  
look.”

He swoops down  
and.. **CRASH** tinkle  
tinkle, he lands on  
a crumbly rock.

It feels sandy on his feet. “Am I on  
the beach?” He wondered.





Something zoooooms  
past in a rush to get to  
the cathedral, bits of  
pollen trailing behind.

“Zip! Hello! I’m Zippy, the bumble bee. You’re  
not on the beach, You are sat on a sandstone  
rock, that’s why you have gritty feet.”





## Fun Fact:

Bedrock is the strong, solid rock that sits deep under the ground. It's like the Earth's hard crust—and it holds everything up

“That building over there, can you see its interesting colour? It was made from the stone you're standing on.”

“Sandstone is very very very old. It forms part of the bedrock beneath the city. It can hold things. If you look closely, you might spot some fossils said Zippy”



What can you spot in the layers of the sandstone?



Activity.

Can you draw some things you might find in there?



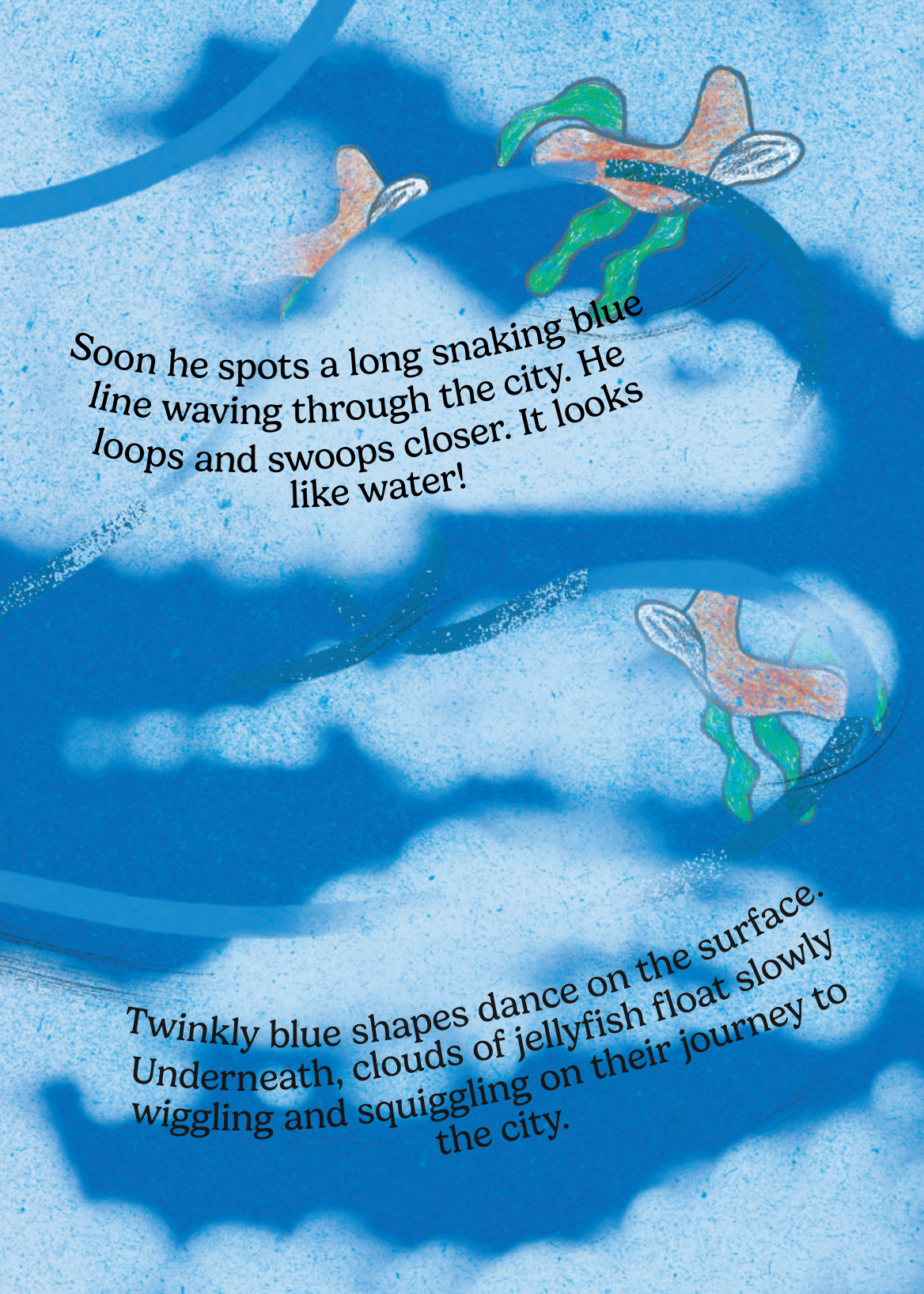


"Thanks, Zippy. It was nice to meet you!"  
Sammy dances bye bye, he jumps and  
flaps his wings, swooping and  
looping back into the sky.



Off he goes to explore some more!



The background is a deep blue with lighter blue, wavy, cloud-like patterns. Three stylized jellyfish-like shapes are scattered across the scene. Each has a brownish-orange bell with a white center and green, wavy tentacles. One is at the top, one in the middle, and one at the bottom right. A dark, winding line, possibly representing a road or a path, cuts through the blue background.

Soon he spots a long snaking blue  
line waving through the city. He  
loops and swoops closer. It looks  
like water!

Twinkly blue shapes dance on the surface.  
Underneath, clouds of jellyfish float slowly  
wiggling and squiggling on their journey to  
the city.



“What’s that strange thing in the water!” “Is that a moving disco!?” He soars down, whoosh!  
Missed, he crash lands into the water.

Crash

Splash

Tinkle

Tinkle

Fun Fact



The mersey river contains over 50 species of fish including the rare bluemouth rockfish. Aquatic mammals dolphin & harbour porpoises pop by too!



Something **pink** bobs along,

"Are you okay?  
That was quite a  
landing! Watch out for  
the jellyfish, they've got  
quite a sting."



"Wow that was fun! But I  
have water up my beak.  
**AchOO**, that's better. I'm  
Sammy, what's your  
name?"



“Hello!”

“I’m Percy  
the pink seal.”

“I live in  
the water”

“There are lots of people that have passed through here  
over the years, this place has seen many changes.”





“People travel here from all over  
the world. You can meet lots of  
people here and make lots of  
friends”



“We even have the Beatles  
(not the insects)!”

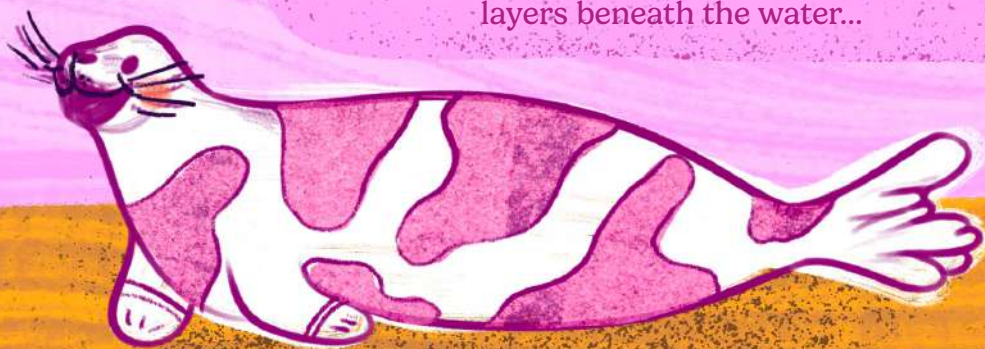




Sammy wondered what stories  
this place could tell if it could speak.



Maybe if he listened closely, he could hear all  
the way down to the deep bedrock sandstone  
layers beneath the water...





## Activity.

"Before I go, could you complete  
this poem for me? see you later!"  
said Percy



I've seen the ships go out to \_\_\_\_\_  
I've felt the sun and the \_\_\_\_\_  
People came from far away,  
Some to work and some to \_\_\_\_\_  
I've heard songs and also \_\_\_\_\_  
Some stories made me smile,  
And some made me feel \_\_\_\_\_  
Now you are here.  
What will you \_\_\_\_\_  
Will you listen to my old stones,  
And remember what I've \_\_\_\_\_

Can you fill in the gaps of  
this Bedrock poem?





Sammy bobs along, the sun  
warming his feathers, a toasty  
breeze making him sleepy.



He closes his eyes, the water gently splashing and  
plopping around him and against the shore.

Sammy feels safe here.



## Activity.

Where is your safe place in Liverpool?  
You could draw your favourite place  
to visit, or your home. Sammy might  
like to explore it





# Where's next?

Sammy is feeling a bit peckish, it must be lunchtime. He follows his beak, catching the trail of a lovely smell in the wind.



Across the city, he spots a wonderful colourful arch.



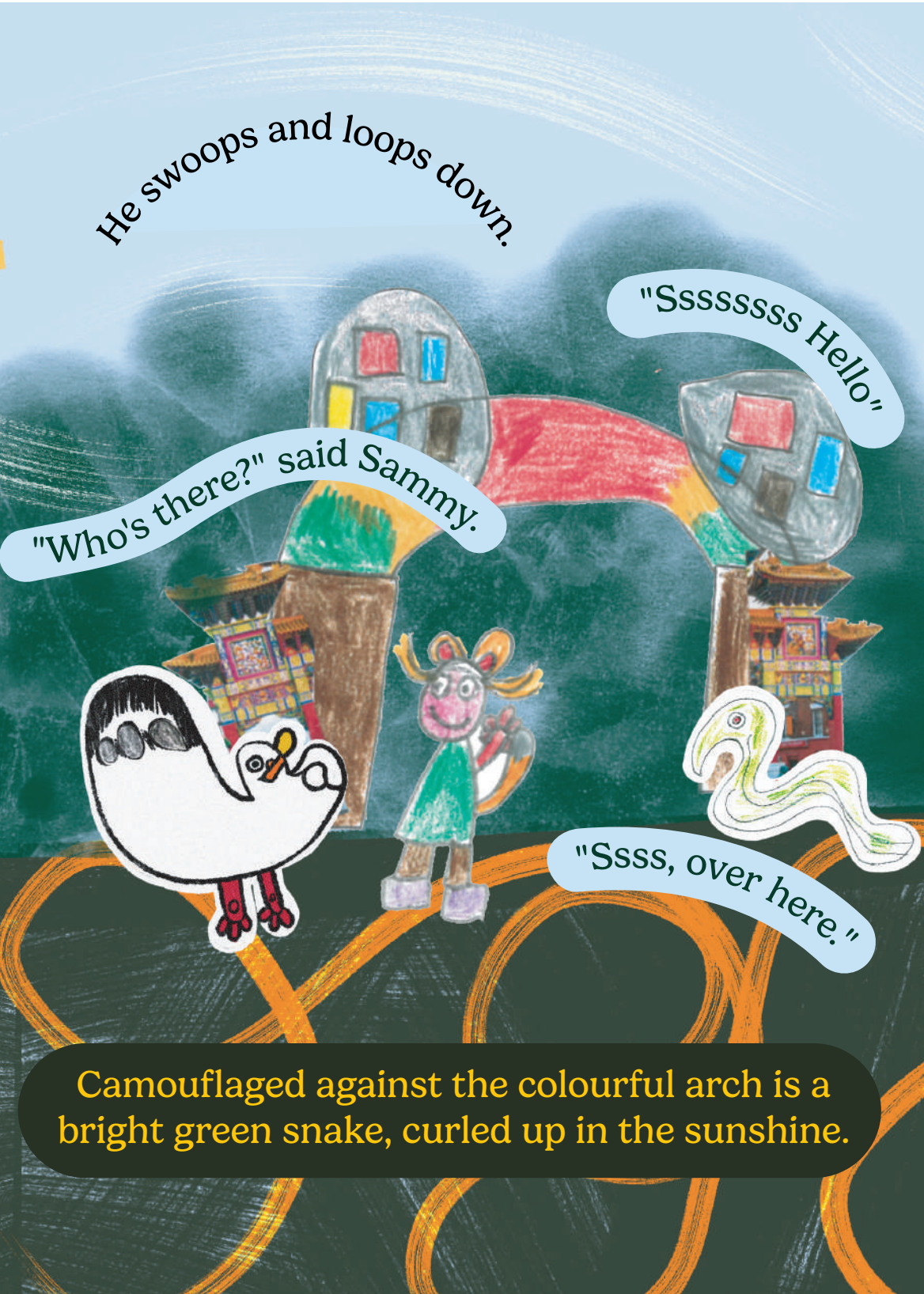
He swoops and loops down.

"Sssssssss Hello"

"Who's there?" said Sammy.

"Ssss, over here."

Camouflaged against the colourful arch is a bright green snake, curled up in the sunshine.





"Hello my name is ssssssssquiggles  
the snake."

Fun fact!

Liverpool's Chinese  
Arch is 13.5 metres tall,  
that's the length of a  
Tyrannosaurus Rex!



"You've landed on the  
largest Chinese arch outside  
of China, how lucky!"

"You look like you're hungry...  
I know a good place."





"Do they do chip flavoured noodlies?"  
said sammy

"These are too yummy for  
words, my beak is very  
happy."

"Where are you off to next?"  
asked Squiggles



"I'm heading to a party at the Bluecoat, do you  
want to come with me?"






"I've been told that it's a good place to go. Some windows are high up and some windows down below. You might even meet the blue b!"

"Let's go!", Off they went, Sammy scoops squiggles up like a sausage gently in his beak and flies away.





Soon they spot a mysterious secret garden.  
A green shape nestled between buildings.

Sounds of music and laughter

vibrate and shake into the sky.

They zoom in from the clouds and land.  
Squiggles said "Thank you that was exciting!"



There's a party  
going on.  
All of Sammy's new  
friends are here.

Zippy the bee  
says, "join our  
dance routine!"  
They danced  
all evening  
having lots of  
fun.





Let the garden tell its story through texture!

## Activity

The garden at the Bluecoat is full of hidden stories, some grow in the leaves, some are carved in stone.

### Instructions:

Take a crayon or pencil and gently rub it over this page while holding it against different surfaces in the garden.

### What textures can you find?

A rough stone wall  
The bark of a tree  
A metal fence or gate  
A leaf on the ground  
A brick or old paving stone  
Something smooth and something bumpy

Try making rubbings from:






Sammy's beak opens wide  
with a big YAWN. He's  
starting to get sleepy.

Time to head home...






As the stars twinkle above, Sammy  
snuggles into his nest, thinking of  
sandstone secrets, jellyfish dances, and  
all the friends he's made.

He has learned a lot about his city of  
Liverpool today. Just like the rocks  
below keep the buildings standing, the  
kind and friendly people help keep the  
city strong and happy.

Sammy floats into his dreams, ready to  
loop and swoop again when the sun says  
hello.



# The End



# What is the Biennial?

Every two years, something exciting happens in Liverpool...

Artists from all over the world come to the city to share their ideas, tell stories, and make amazing art in all kinds of places—like streets, gardens, buildings, and even pavements!



This big art festival is called the Liverpool Biennial and the best part... It's free, and it's for everyone, including you!





## What is BEDROCK?



This year's festival is called **BEDROCK**.  
The name comes from something really  
old and really strong, the rock under  
our feet!

Liverpool is built on sandstone, and you can  
see it in buildings, parks, and even walls  
around the city.

But **BEDROCK** isn't just about rocks.

It's also about people, the things we believe  
in, the places we care about, and the ways  
we help each other. These are the things  
that hold us up, like a strong foundation.







[biennial.com](http://biennial.com)



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



Liverpool  
City Council

**Culture  
Liverpool**

Founding Supporter  
James Moores