

CREATE YOUR OWN STORY SPACE!

Create your own version of Story Space for children and young people, with a bit of help from the guidelines below.

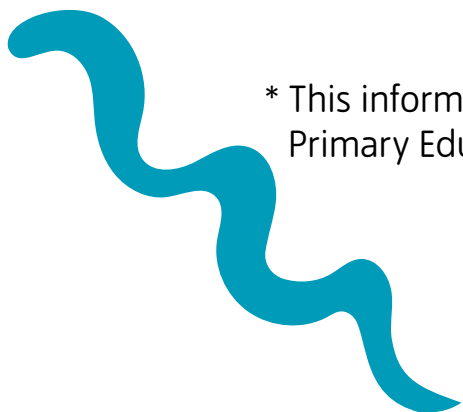
### WHAT IS STORY SPACE?

Story Space at Tate Britain is a place for all to read, imagine, play and create. The book collection celebrates main characters of colour in children's books, created by Black, Indigenous authors/ illustrators and authors/illustrators of colour from all over the world. It also celebrates and centres books by authors with protected characteristics such as disability, sexual orientation and religion or belief.

Tate's Early Years and Families' team launched Story Space in 2017, when only 4% of children's books published in the UK featured a character who was from a minority ethnic background. This rose to 20% in 2021, and the percentage of books published with a main character from minority ethnic backgrounds has risen year on year (9% in 2021). However, over a third of English primary school pupils still find it difficult to see themselves reflected in the books they read.\*

Visitors of all ages to the space are encouraged to read to themselves, to others, with each other, or out loud. Dress-up and drawing materials are available for visitors so that they can re-enact and/or create new stories about themselves.

\* This information is compiled by the Centre for Literacy and Primary Education through their 'Reflecting Realities' reporting.





## 1. CHOOSE A RANGE OF BOOKS

- If you have a budget to buy books, team up with a local book shop. We have a few recommendations here:

New Beacon Books (North London)  
newbeaconbooks.com

Roundtable Books (South London)  
roundtablebooks.co.uk

Afrori Books (Brighton)  
Afroribooks.co.uk

- If you have a small budget, you may find many of our recommendations 2nd hand on-line (through Abebooks.co.uk, for example).
- If you don't have a budget for books, you could borrow them from your local public library. You may have to request that some of the recommended books are purchased, if not already available.

## 2. LOCATE A PLACE AND ADD SOME COMFORT

This can be a permanent location at your setting, or a mobile piece of furniture (a set of shelves, or a box that can hold some books) that enables you to pop-up and play in different places.

Supply a range of seating if possible, and create a comfortable and inviting space using soft furnishings (rugs, cushions, beanbags and throws).

## 3. MAKE IT ACTIVE

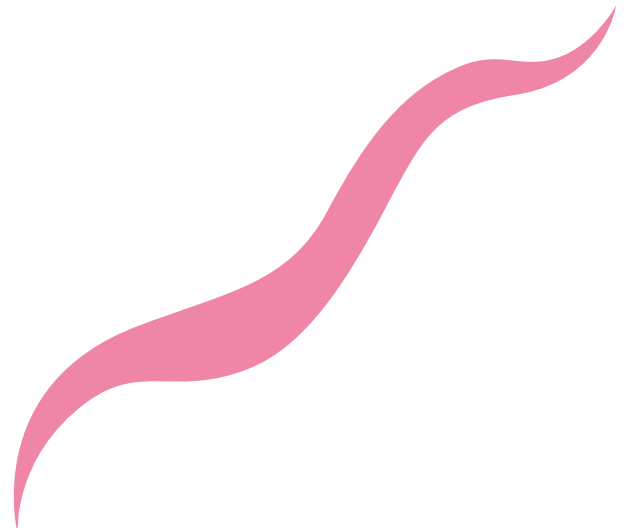
Choose a few books at a time and source textiles and props that relate to the stories and narratives within them, displaying them in inviting ways. You might want to see what textiles/ props you have to hand before finalising the choice of books!

Encourage children to tell their own story through dress-up and drawing activities, inspired by the characters and places they have met through the books.

You can download our Storyboard resource here or make your own.

## 5. READ ALOUD/ DRAW ALONG EVENTS

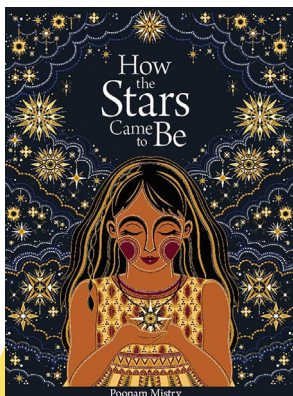
Why not organise events linked to your space? Authors and illustrators are often keen to share their work with others, or you may discover storytellers or illustrators within your team.



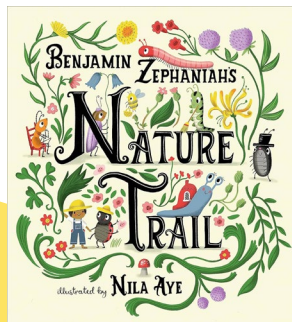
## RECOMMENDED BOOK LIST

Here is a selection of books for ages 0 – 16 to get you started!

Poonam Mistry  
*How the stars came to be*  
(0–5 years)



Benjamin Zephaniah  
*Benjamin Zephaniah's Nature Trail*  
(0–5 years)



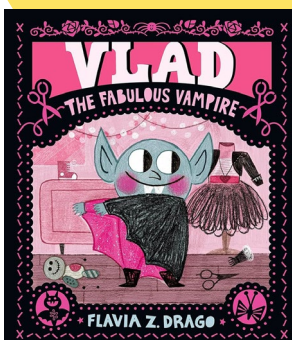
Erika Meza  
*To The Other Side*  
(3–5 years)



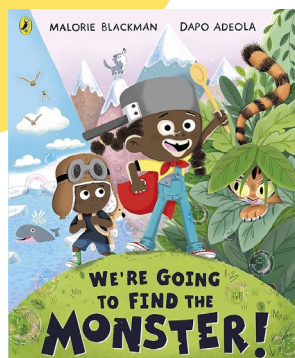
Laura Nsafou  
*Fadya and the song of the river*  
(3–5 years)



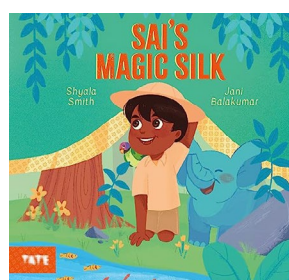
Flavia Z. Drago  
*Vlad the Fabulous Vampire*  
(3–5 years)



Maloire Blackman  
*We're going to find the monster!*  
(3–5 years)



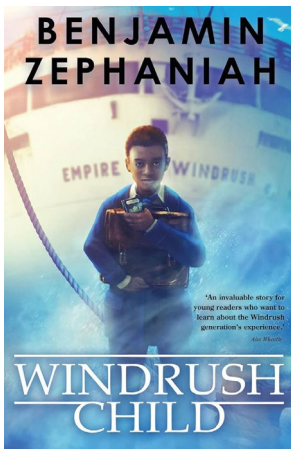
Shyala Smith  
*Sai's Magic Silk*  
(3–5 years)



Joseph Coelho and Fiona Lumbers  
*Luna Loves Art*  
(3–8 years)



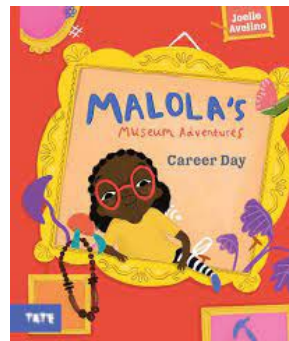
John Agard  
*Windrush Child*  
(4–7 years)



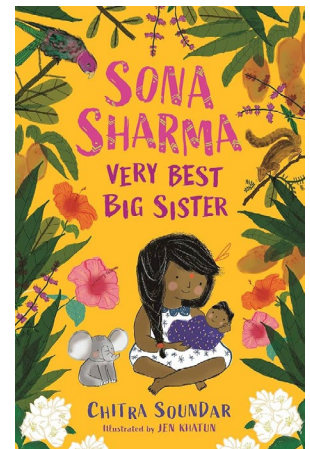
Lucy Farfort  
*In our hands*  
(4–7 years)



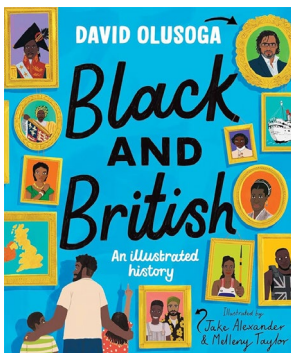
Joelle Avelino  
*Malola's Museum*  
*Adventures*  
(5–7 years)



Chitra Soundar  
*Sona Sharma,*  
*very best big sister*  
(7–9 years)



David Olusoga  
*Black and British*  
*An illustrated history*  
(7–11 years)



Various Authors  
*Happy Here*  
(9–11 years)



Dean Atta  
*Black Flamingo*  
(14–17 years)



**FURTHER RESOURCES:**

Free Books Campaign  
Jacquaranda



# STORYBOARDING

A storyboard is a bit like a comic strip, and shows how the scenes in a film or animation would look through a sequence of pictures.

- + Set the scene.
- + What's the problem?
- + Is there a solution?
- + What changes and how?
- + Does it end?
- + Share your story with someone!

