



Hello everybody and welcome to our book of messages!

And here's a message from me, the writer of the book Ian McMillan and the illustrator Glenn Thornley: Enjoy this book and feel free to write in it, draw in it, respond to the work in any way you want. The book is all about different kinds of messages, the ones that surround us every day and ones that we might not come across too often.

There are puzzles to solve, pieces of writing and artwork to complete and lots of spaces for you to fill with your own creations. Here's an idea: make a message and hide it somewhere in the book and see if we can find it...

We'd love it if you want to share any poems, drawings and stories you've created when using this book. Please tag us on social media using the details below or e-mail Amy at amy@thepoint.org.uk

 @wearedarts  
 @wearedarts  
 @we\_aredarts

Or have a look at our website where you can find more activities to get involved with:  
[www.wearedarts.org.uk](http://www.wearedarts.org.uk)

## SPEAKING BACKWARDS

**Siht edoc si yllaer ysae ot kcarc;  
nac ouy kniht fo a redrah eno?**

Why don't you try writing some backwards sentences in the speech bubble below...then try your best to say them out loud!

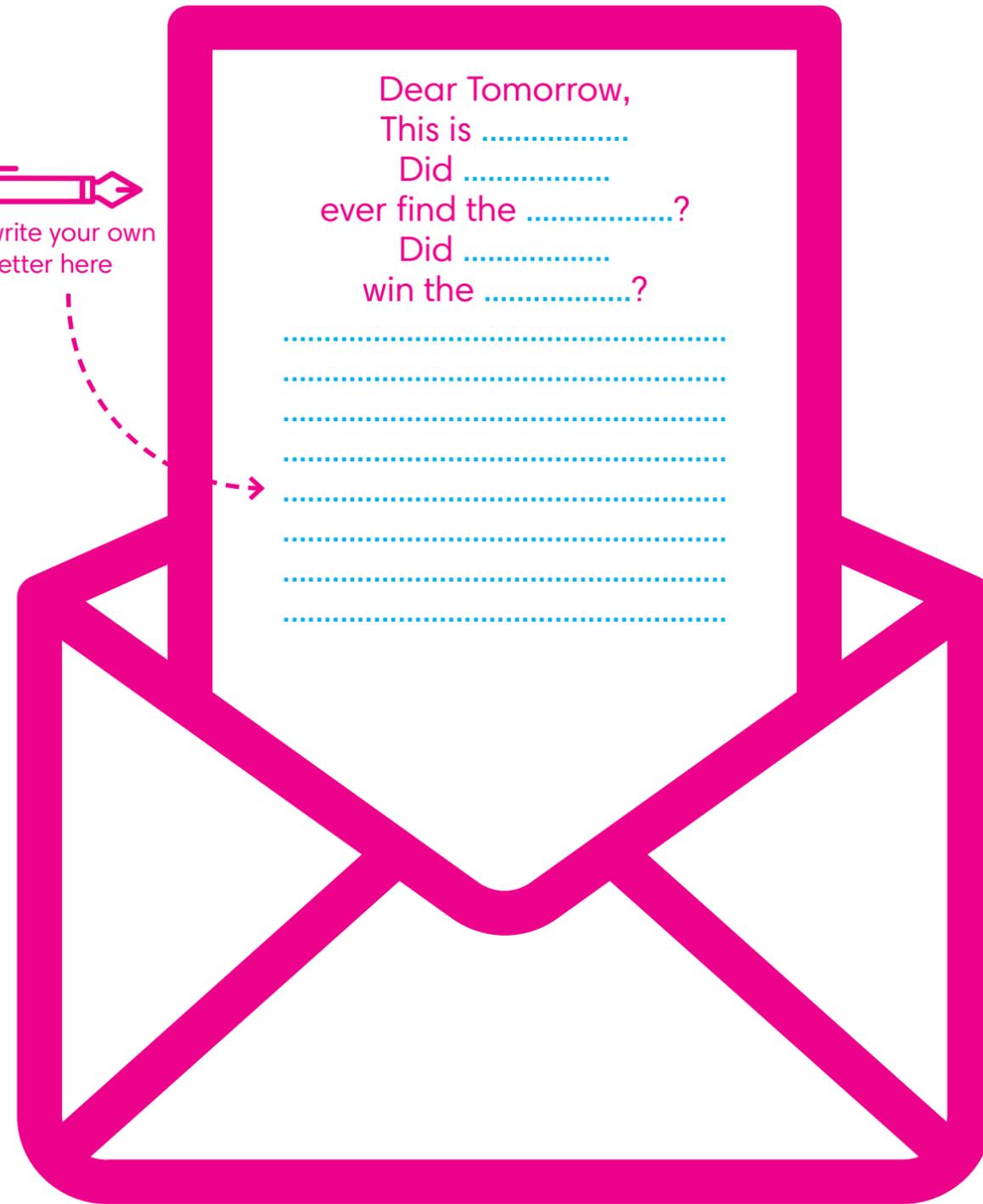


### A LETTER FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE

This is a little poem that's got some gaps in for you to fill in; it doesn't have to rhyme so you've got all kinds of scope here.



  
Or write your own  
letter here

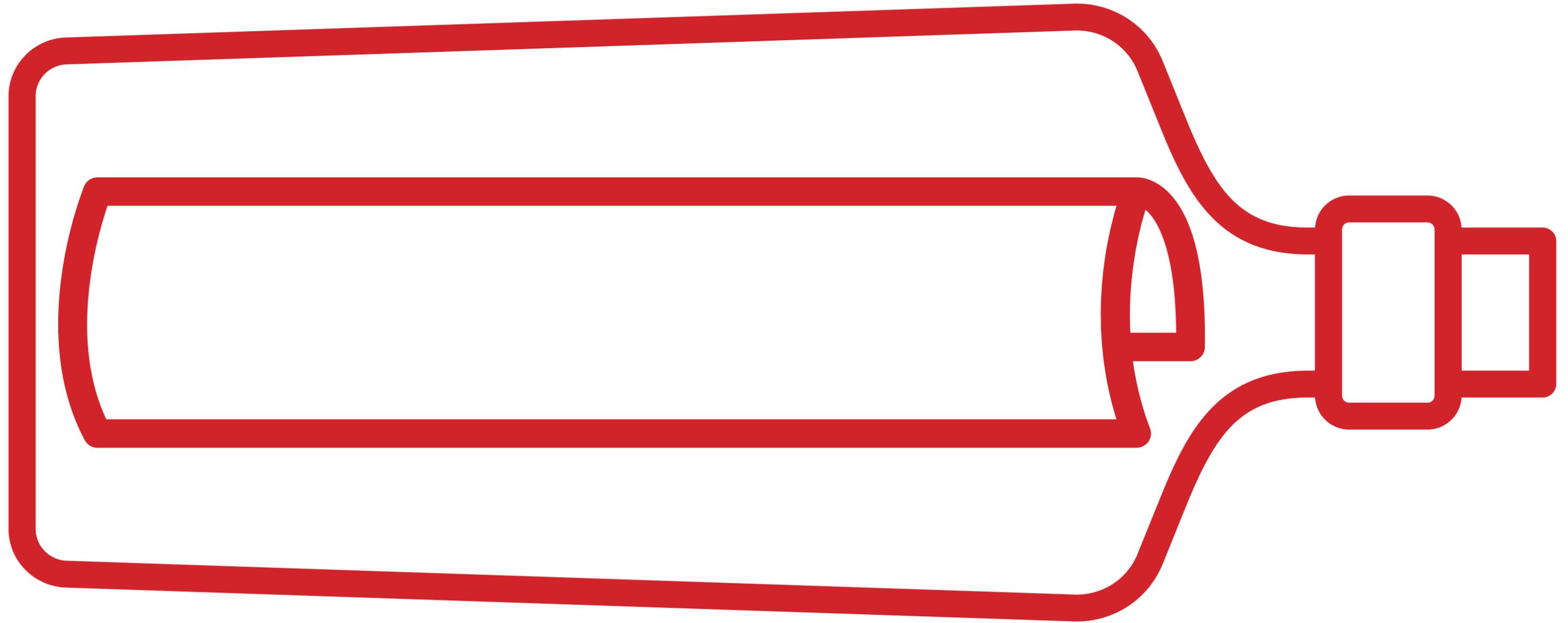




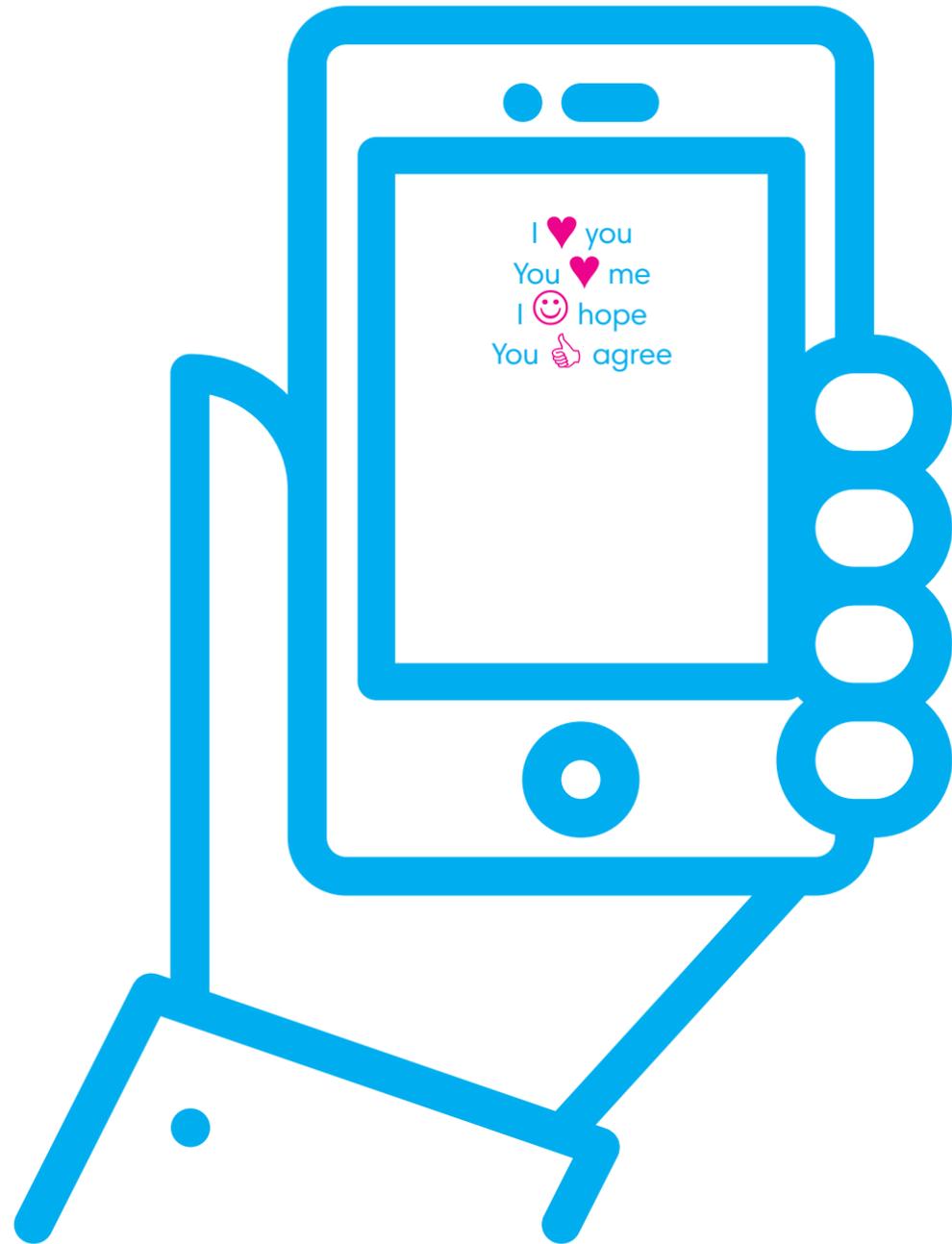
## MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

I got a message in a bottle. It said: **MILK**  
I got a message in a bottle. It said: **POP**  
I got a message in a bottle. It said: **EMPTY**  
I got a message in a bottle. It said: **SMASHED**

Try writing your own message on the paper below.  
Who would you write to? What would you say?



## EMOJI POEM



  
Write your own  
emoji poem here

A blue line-art illustration of a smartphone on a stand, identical to the one on the left but with a blank screen. A dashed blue arrow points from the text above to the screen. The text includes a pencil icon and the instruction "Write your own emoji poem here".

## TELEPHONE

Imagine somebody's shouting through to somebody in the next room but they can't quite hear each other; the resulting mishearings are sometimes known as 'Telephone' and the most famous example is a phrase from the Second World War that began **'Send reinforcements, we're going to advance'** and became **'Send Three and Fourpence, we're going to a dance'**.

I've made one up and then there are a few examples to start you off:

**I found your car keys on the drive**



**I found your car keys in the hive**



**I frowned: your car keys in the hive?**

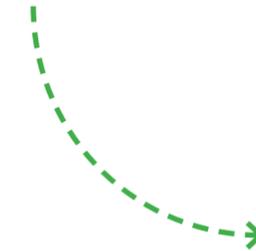


**I frowned: You're khaki in the hive?**

I reckon the dafter the better!



Write your own  
'Telephone'  
messages here



Here's a couple to get you going:

**Bring me that banana from the kitchen**

**Charlie says he's got a brand new hat**

**My dog ran into the river and caught a fish**



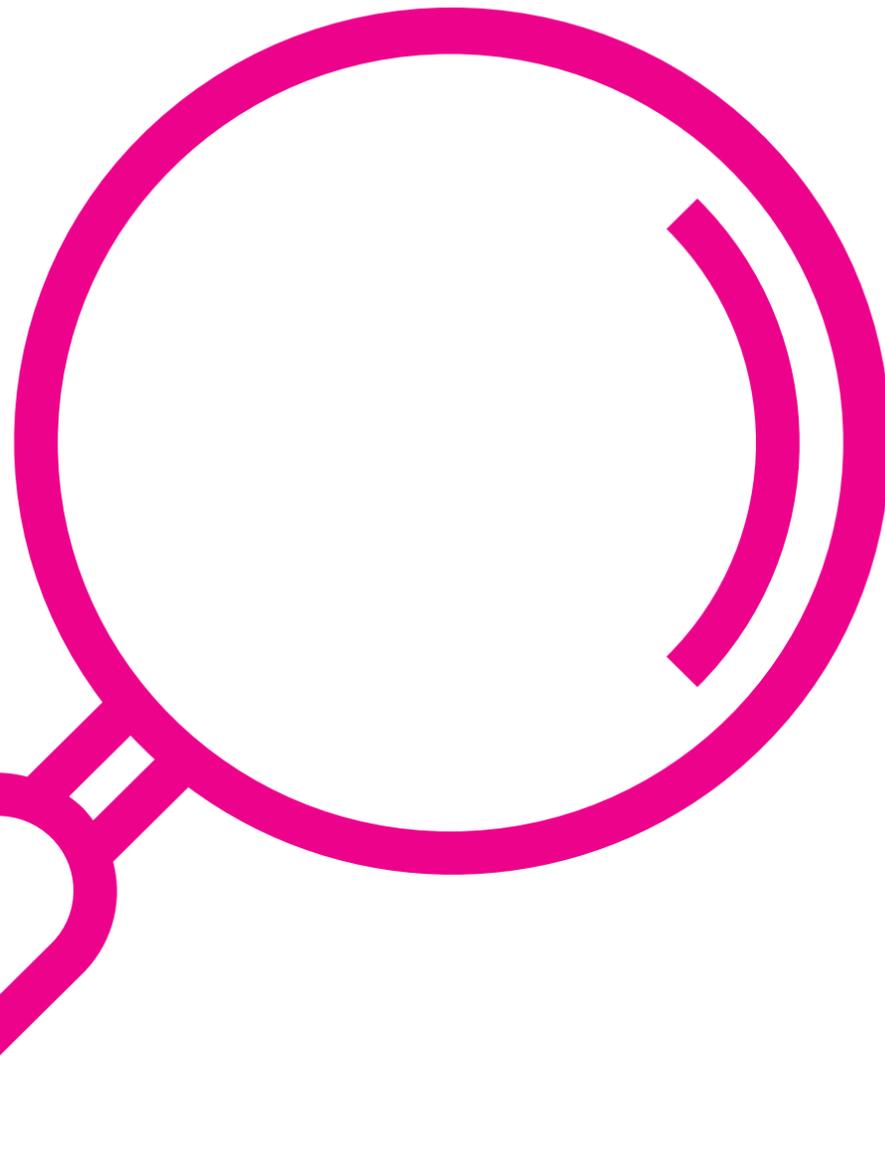
## CODE

Here's a rhyming message about Creative Directions in code. Once you've worked out how it works you could write a message in the code. Here's a clue: it rhymes!

**DSFBUWF EJSFDJPOT JT UIF QMBDF  
UIBU TJOHT B TNJMF BDSPTT ZPVS GBDF**



Write your own  
code here



## HEADS, SHOULDERS KNEES AND FACES

Here's a poem about non-verbal communication for you to complete. Here's a clue: the second line rhymes with the fourth line!



Thumbs up  
Thumbs down  
Lifted eyebrow  
Deep .....

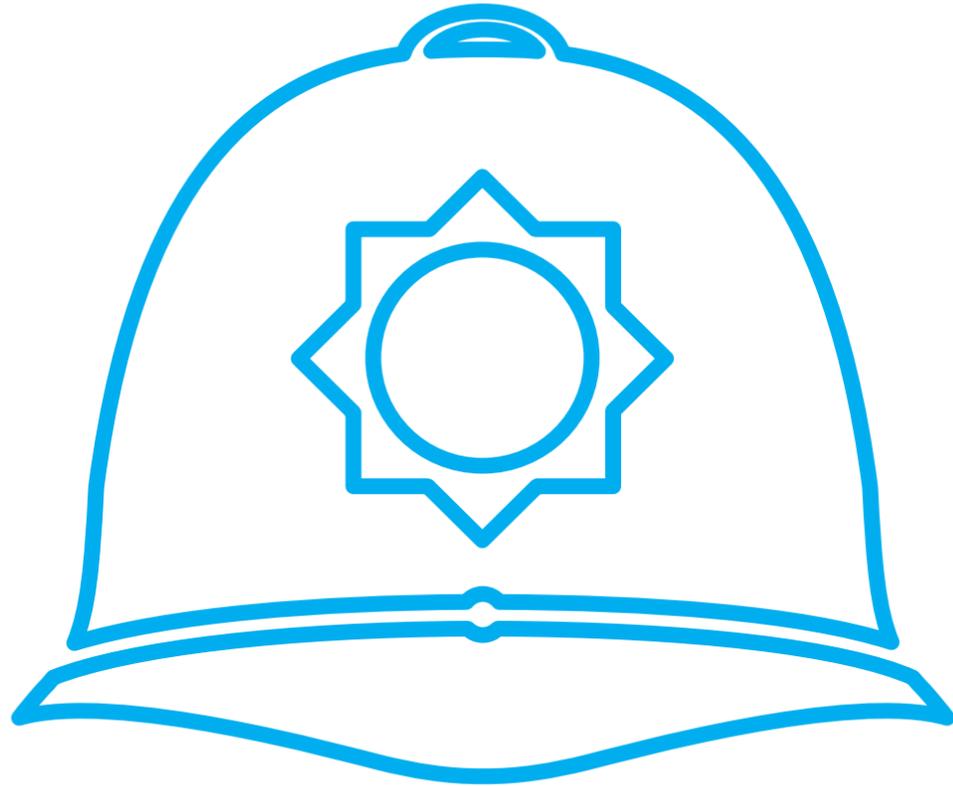
Big grin  
Quick blink  
Raised hand  
Slow .....

Wide smile  
Salute  
Brisk nod  
Whistle .....

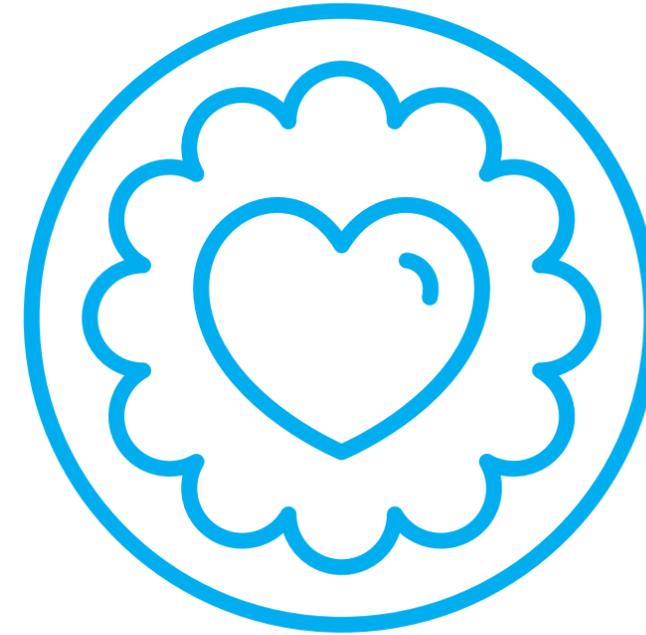
## DONCASTER RHYMING SLANG

Rhyming slang is fantastically inventive language, like Apples and Pears for stairs, and Currant Bun for sun, and it's even more inventive if you just say the first word: 'The Currant was shining even when I went up the Apples'. So here's a few Doncaster Rhyming Slang phrases, using just the first word: see if you can guess what they are, then have a go at making up your own:

I live near the Church in Inspector George **GENTLY** → BENTLEY



I like going to Jam **TARTS** → DARTS



Colour me in...or  
draw your own



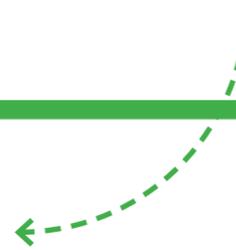
Or make up your  
own rhyming  
slang here

## SHOPPING LISTS

Here's a couple of shopping lists for unusual people. Have a go at making your own...



Write down your own unusual shopping lists here



### CLOWN'S SHOPPING LIST

Nose polish  
Big sole for big shoe  
Bottled water for squirty flower  
Exploding petrol for car.

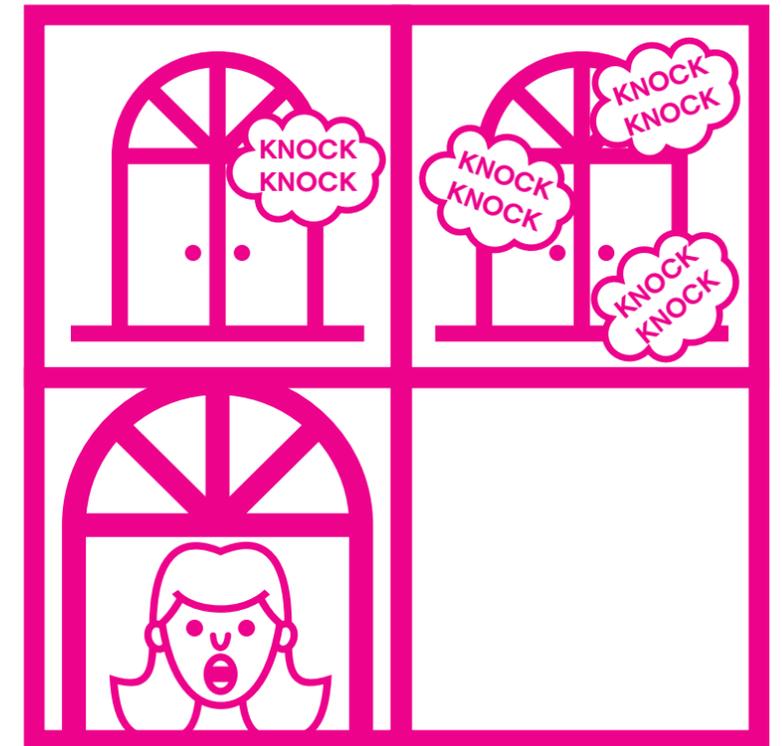
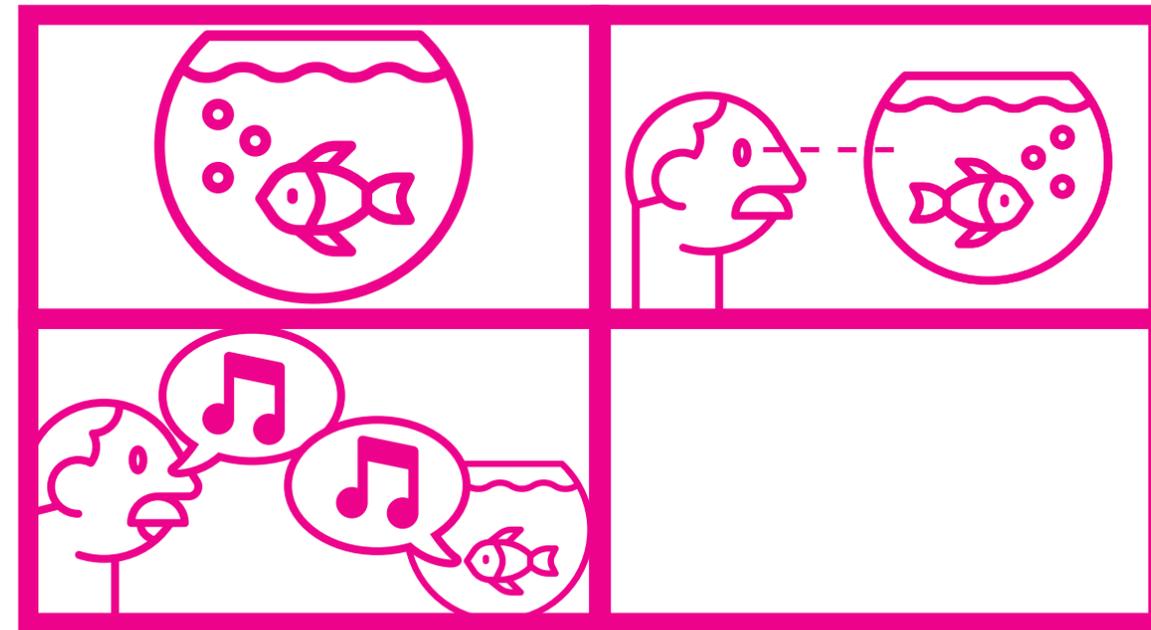
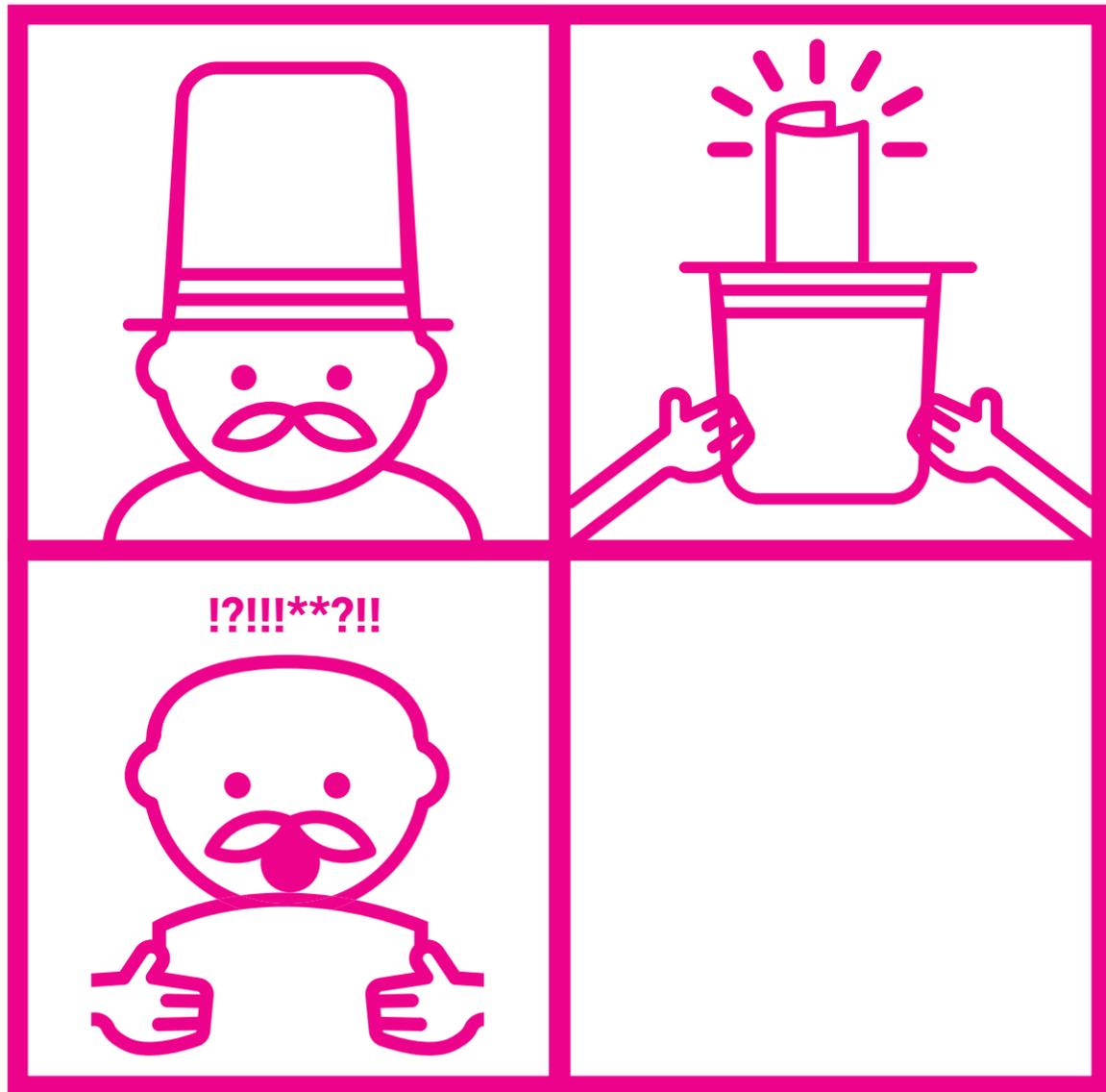
### ASTRONAUT SHOPPING LIST

Refills for oxygen tanks  
Moon dust shovel  
Fresh tube of fish and chips  
Boot-weights to prevent embarrassing gravity bounce

How about shopping lists for  
Humpty Dumpty?  
A washer-up in a café?  
The shepherds in the Nativity story?  
A marathon runner?  
Somebody who lives up a tree?

## CARTOON STRIPS

Now it's time for a comic strip! I love the way that comic strips work, often in three panels with the joke or the meaning in the last image. Glenn and I have created three comic strips here and we'd like you to have a go at drawing the last panel. There can be words in it or not, of course, and the drawing can be in any style you like. Have a go! We might be making the new Dennis the Menace!

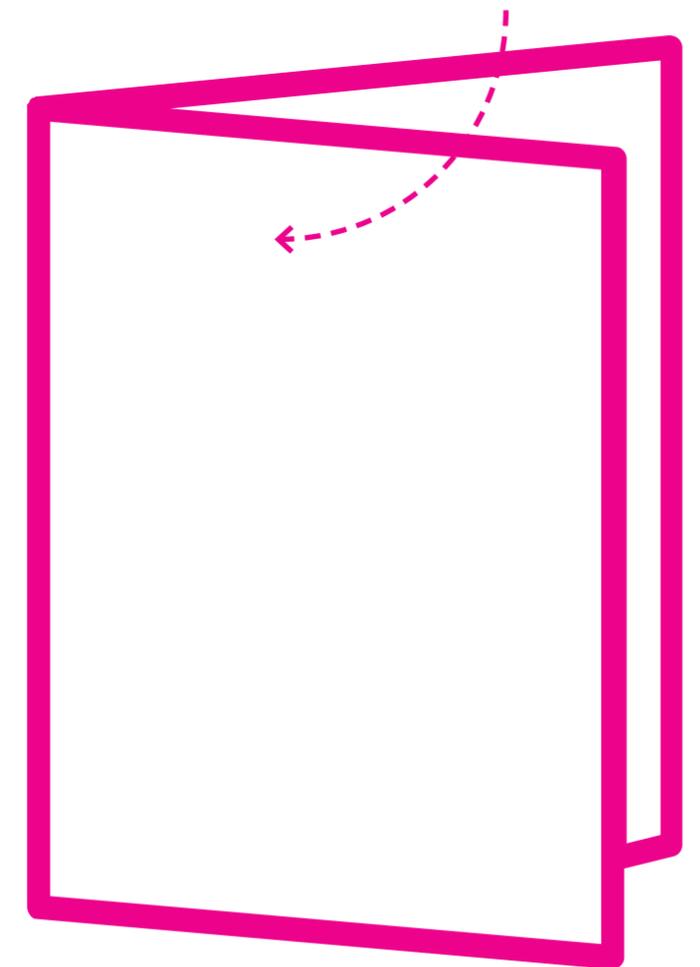
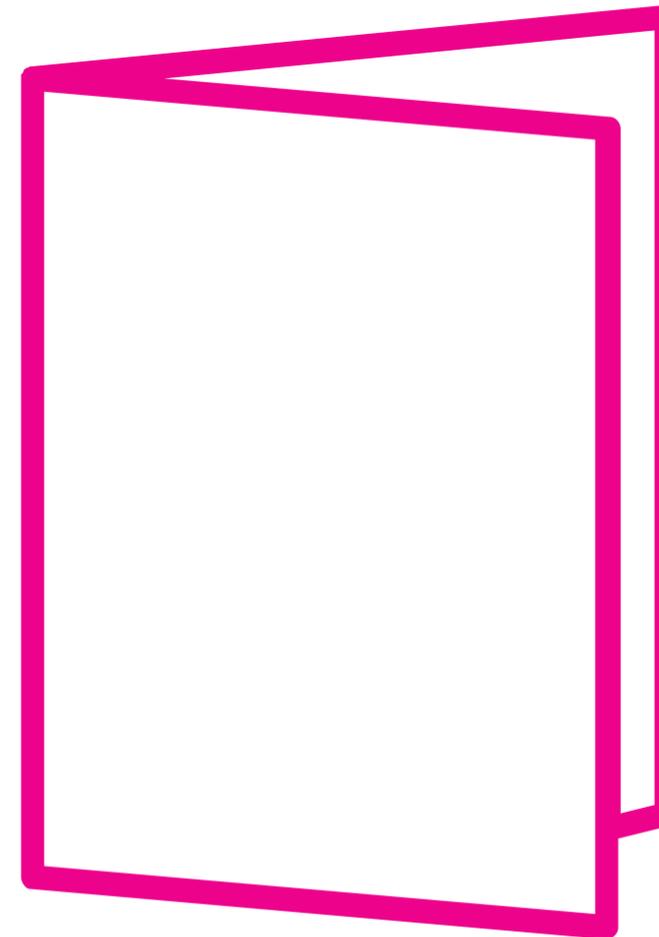
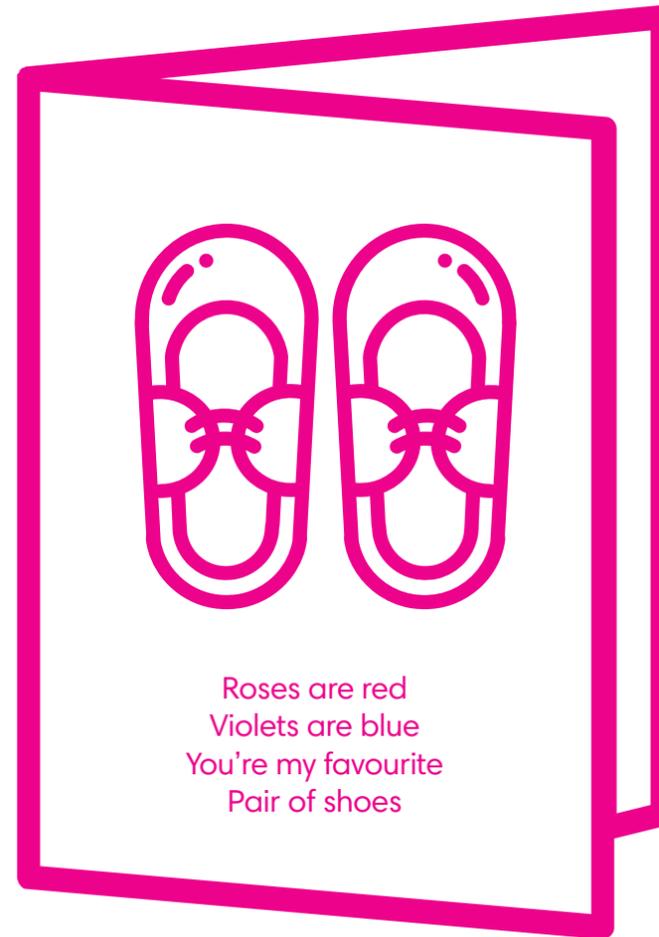
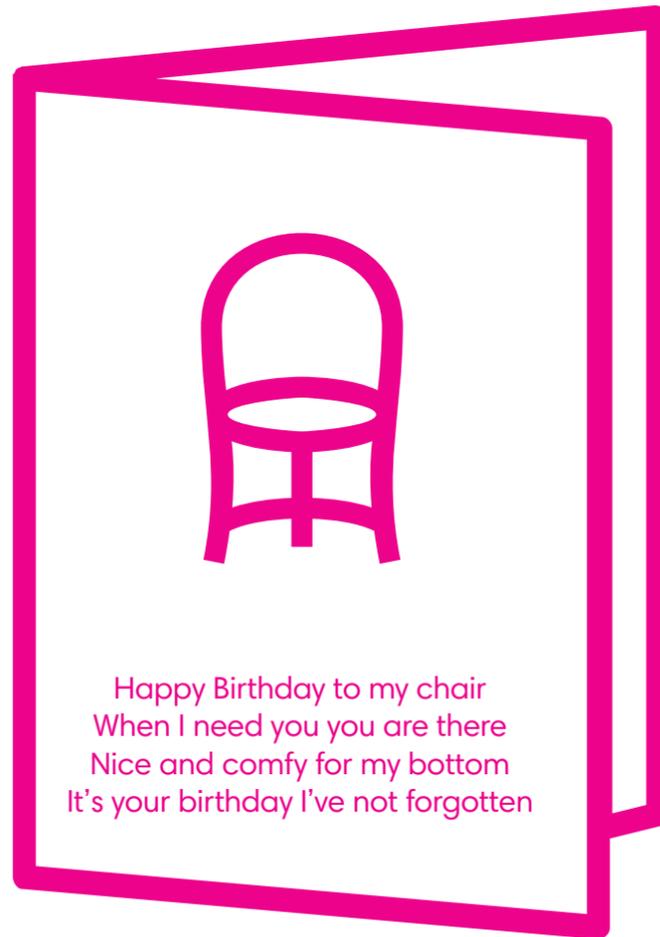


## BIRTHDAY CARDS FOR INANIMATE OBJECTS

There's a gap in the market here, darts reckons;  
we always send birthday cards to people, but  
nobody every sends a birthday card to a thing!  
Here's a few to get you going, and then you could  
have a go at making your own.



Write or draw  
your own birthday  
cards for the  
things you love  
here





**We really hope you  
enjoyed this Creative  
Directions book!  
For more ideas and  
activities please go to  
[wearedarts.org.uk](http://wearedarts.org.uk)**

**Our thanks to The  
National Lottery  
Community Fund  
for supporting us in  
creating this book**