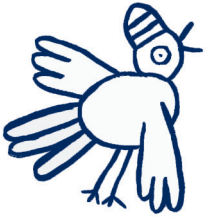


HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN MINI-BOOK ?



MATERIALS

- PRINTOUT OF THE STORY
- RIBBON
- HOLE PUNCH



INSTRUCTIONS



1. After printing the story, fold the pages in half.



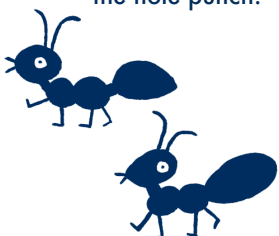
2. Fold the pages in half again and arrange them in the correct order.



3. Make three holes in the centre of the book with the hole punch.



4. Thread the ribbon through the holes and tie a pretty bow.



HAPPY READING !



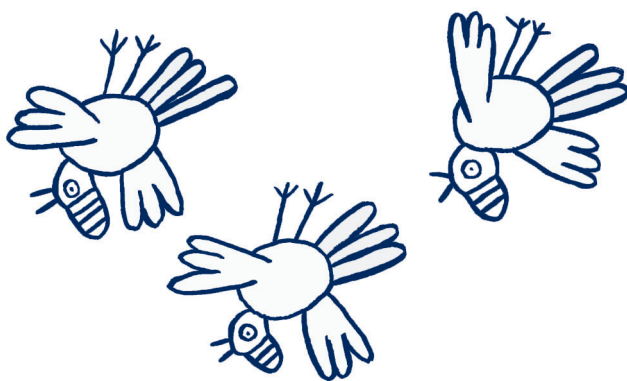
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Original text by Elisabeth Guez
 Illustrations by Lisa Laubreaux
 Translation by Carolyn Holm



THE SOFTEST CAP

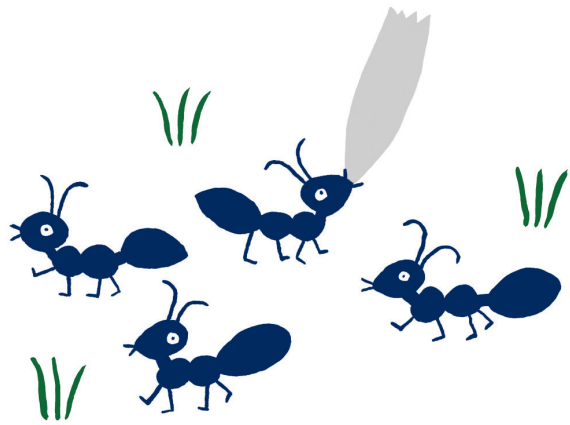
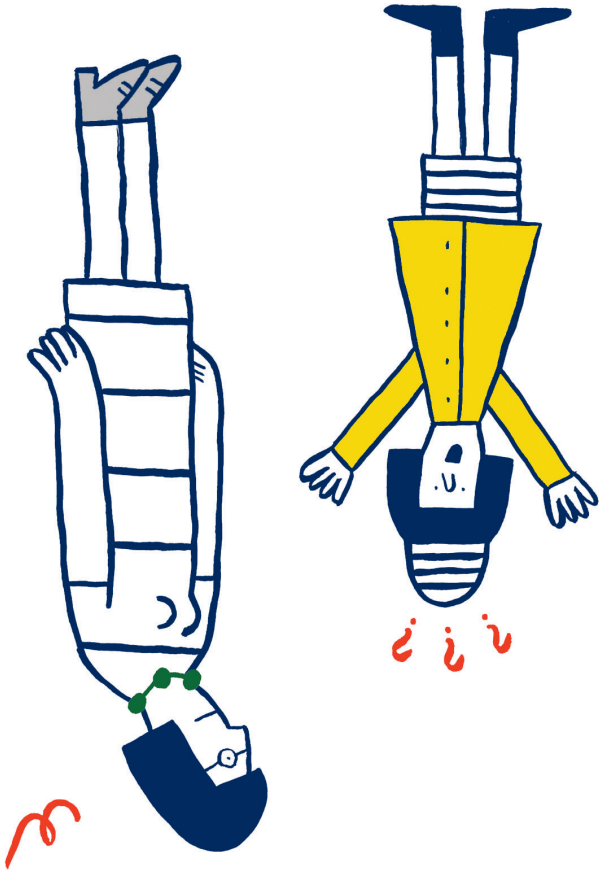
Manon was nine years old and wondered about everything. What would she be when she grew up? An architect, a pilot or a florist? How did sugar dissolve in warm water? How did ants communicate with each other?



The little seagull had flown away but, in its place, in the cap, three tiny baby birds were snuggled up. The blue and white cap had become a nest!



She was always asking mummy and daddy questions, until their heads started to spin! This particular morning, though, she was mysteriously silent.



- What's happening Manon, no questions today?

Mummy asked gently.

- Well, just one, actually... which is warmer, my blue and white striped cap or the hood on my raincoat?

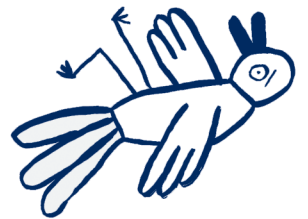
- Your cap, of course, replied Mummy. And you love it so!

- That's exactly what I thought.

When Manon arrived, Eugénie motioned to her to follow her into the garden. Something strange was happening. The girls crept up to the cap and surprised!



GLA GLA



Mummy burst out laughing and Manon was relieved that she wasn't cross. After lunch, she had to go back to Eugénie's and she didn't want to get punished.

- Exactly! And you know me, I always do what I'm told!

- Oh, so, it was my idea, then?

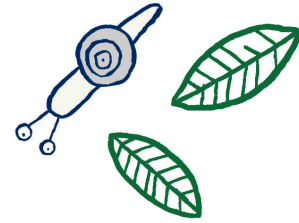
- I'm sorry Mummy, I didn't mean to tell a fib. But it's a secret... last night, in her garden, Eugénie found a little seagull that was almost frozen! So we made it a nest. We couldn't find anything warmer or softer than my cap. You said so yourself, didn't you?

- And you, your ears are frozen!

- And so warm, and soft!

- Yes, it's easy to spot, you can see its stripes from across the street! Said Mummy. And it's so pretty!

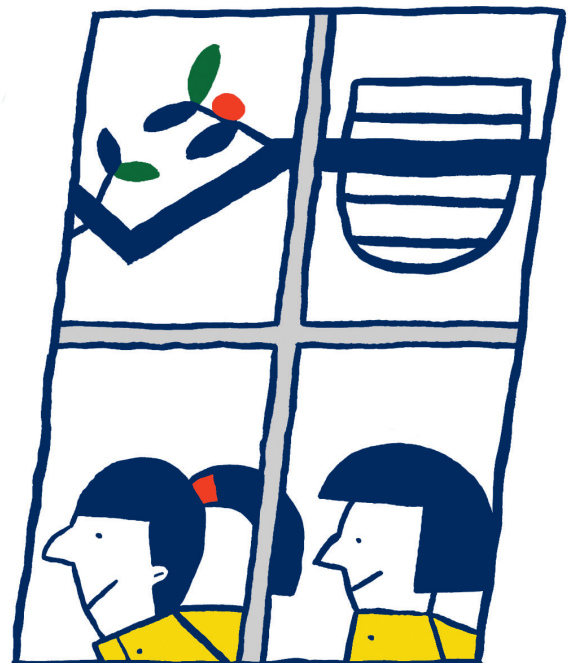
- Oh, you saw it? said Manon, sheepishly.



Since last winter, Manon had never stopped wearing the blue and white cap her grandmother had given her.



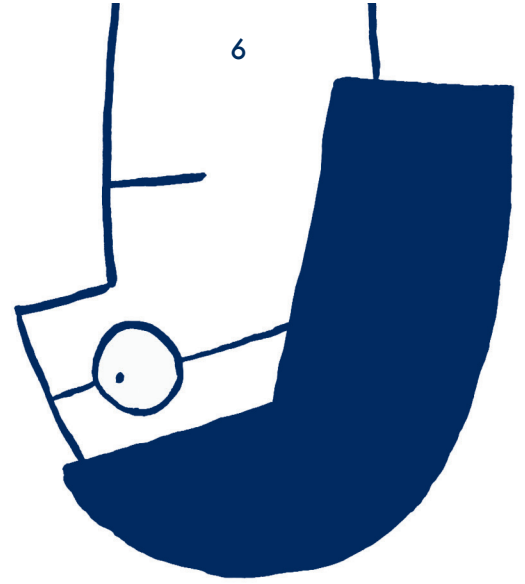
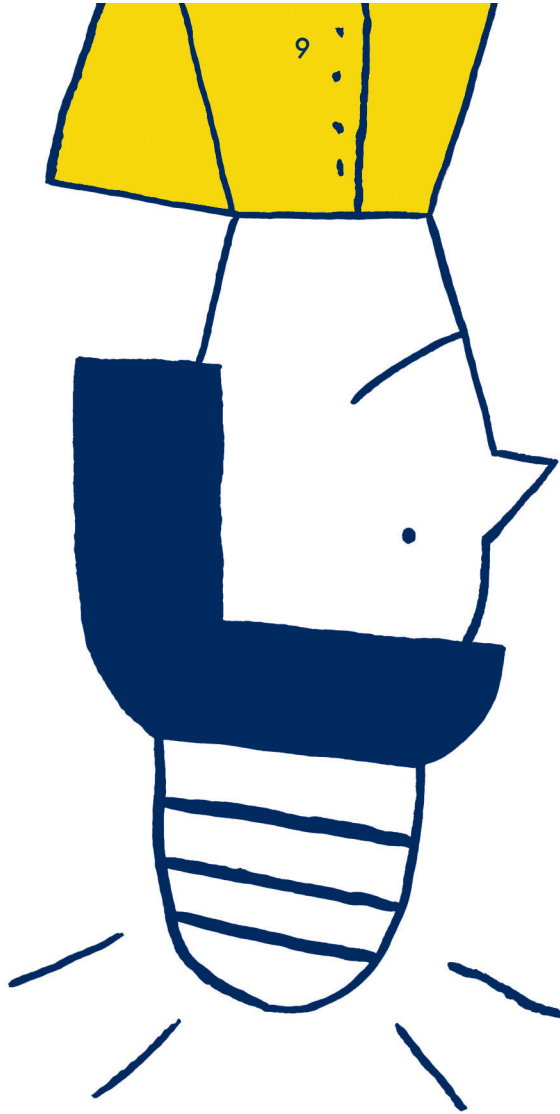
It was so comfortable that she could have slept in it! It didn't scratch her ears and kept her so warm, it was like being in a cocoon. Mummy was right, it was the right decision.



- What's this tall tale, now?

- It's true Mummy, I lost my blue and white cap! I'm sorry.

- Well my dear, I have good news, I know where it is! We'll go get it after lunch. It's hanging from a tree branch in Eugénie's garden.



At noon, Mummy came to pick up her daughter.
 - The girls are in the garden, they've been there all morning!
 Eugénie's father.
 Mummy looked out the window, spotted the girls rounding the corner of the house, and suddenly, what did she spy, hanging from a tree branch in the garden? Manon's cap!
 On the way home, she asked Manon:
 - Where is your cap, did you forget it?
 - No, I lost it!



Manon put on her striped cap and left to go play at her best friend Eugénie's. Eugénie lived in a big house right near Manon's, facing the ocean. Usually the girls collected shells, wrote messages in the sand and sang at the top of their lungs. But this morning, they had a secret plan.

