

THE RACE TO BANANA LAND

Crosswords

Primary Six and Fourth Class students from
Knocknagoney Primary School
Nettlefield Primary School
Seaview Primary School
St George's National School and
St Patrick's Primary School



**FIGHTING
WORDS**
Belfast

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THE WRITE TO RIGHT



Crosswords is a cross-community, cross-border project of Fighting Words Belfast in partnership with Fighting Words, Dublin.

Fighting Words Belfast is a project of Young at Art that provides free creative writing workshops for children and young people in Northern Ireland. Fighting Words Belfast opened its doors at the Skainos Centre in East Belfast in 2015 with the aim of encouraging young people to become the authors of their own lives.

WWW.YOUNGATART.CO.UK

Fighting Words is a creative writing centre, established by Roddy Doyle and Seán Love. It opened in 2009 and aims to help students of all ages to develop their writing skills and to explore their love of writing.

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CHAPTER ONE IN THE JUNGLE

There once was a monkey called Punkey. He had pierced ears and he wore white TNs. He had a Mohawk that was made out of bananas which was yellow and sharp. He wore a black leather jacket covered in silver studs.

Punkey wanted to go to Banana Land to see his family. He missed them so much – he hadn't seen them in thirty monkey years. He decided to make a boat out of bananas, wood and coconuts. The jungle was very bright, colourful and green. Punkey thought it looked beautiful. There were juicy watermelons and bright yellow banana trees all around.

Punkey went to get the stuff that he needed but on the way he met his worst enemy, Spikey the gorilla.

"Oh no, not you again!" said Punkey.
"Yes, me again," said Spikey.

All of a sudden, Danielle the wolf walked into the clearing. She was smiling because it was such a lovely day in the jungle.

"Hello," said Danielle. "Your hair's really pretty."
"Thank you, Danielle," replied Punkey. "You look really pretty today too, especially your tail."

Danielle turned to Spikey. "What are you doing here?" she asked.
"I'm not telling you," said Spikey grumpily.

Spikey was sitting in the middle of a bridge. There was a talking sign next to the bridge. "Banana Land, this way," said the sign.

Punkey was excited to see the shortcut. It meant he would get to see his family soon, without even having to build the boat.
"Can you get out of my way, please?" asked Punkey.
"OK," said Spikey. "Since you asked nicely."

The bridge shook as Spikey climbed out of the way.

Punkey walked across the bridge nervously. He looked down into the ravine below. Suddenly Spikey cut the rope that held the bridge together. Punkey slipped, tumbled and started to fall...



CHAPTER TWO THE LONG WAY DOWN

As Punkey was falling, he spotted a tree vine. He reached out to grab it but it was too far away, so he quickly reached into his backpack and pulled out his inflatable mattress. As soon as it came out of the backpack it inflated automatically, but while it was inflating the wind blew from underneath and it flew up into the sky like a parachute.

Punkey reached into his backpack again and grabbed his magic pencil. He knew that anything he drew with the pencil would become real, so he quickly drew a parachute. The parachute was rainbow coloured and had Punkey's face on it. He set the parachute up all right but forgot to attach it to himself. He dropped like a torpedo.

"It must be a really long drop," thought Punkey to himself. He could see mist at the bottom of the ravine.

Meanwhile, Danielle was watching in horror as Punkey got closer and closer to the ground. She saw Punkey's parachute fly past her and felt worried. She didn't know what would happen to Punkey. She reached out and grabbed the parachute and folded it away. Then suddenly she saw Punkey's inflatable mattress land nearby.

Danielle ran to pick it up, but when she got there she saw that it had landed on top of Spikey! As soon as it touched the spikes on Spikey's biker jacket, it burst.

"Who put that there??" Spikey growled. Spikey was in a pure rage. He began to climb down into the ravine. Using her super speed, Danielle ran in circles all the way to the bottom.

When Spikey got to the bottom of the ravine he found Punkey's magic pencil lying on the ground. He didn't know what it was. He snapped it in two to make a weapon. He took a spike off his jacket and sharpened the other half of the pencil into a point.

Spikey decided to make a trap for Punkey. He put the pencil in the ground so that the led was pointing upwards. Then he climbed to the highest branches of the tallest banana tree where he couldn't be seen.

While Spikey was climbing, he dropped the other half of the pencil. He didn't see, but the rubber touched a banana on its way down and the banana disappeared...



CHAPTER THREE RUBBED OUT

Meanwhile, Punkey was hiding inside a boulder with his hammer. He felt angry. He had thought that Spikey, for the first time in a long time, was being nice to him.

When Danielle reached the bottom of the ravine she felt tired, so she stopped at the lake for a drink. After she'd finished drinking, she sat down next to a boulder. She heard a noise and turned around.

"Punkey! Is that you?" said Danielle.

"Yeah, it's me," said Punkey.

"I can't believe you're still alive!" said Danielle. She took off her trainers because her feet were getting sore.

"How are those trainers so fast?" asked Punkey.

"Once, I washed them with swiftness potion by mistake and it made them really fast. I've been doing it ever since," replied Danielle. "I think the potion has run out now."

Suddenly Spikey fell out of the tree he'd been hiding in and landed on the ground with a thud. He landed on the rubber on the end of the pencil and instantly vanished.

Punkey and Danielle turned around in surprise. They walked over to the spot where Spikey had disappeared. They saw half of Punkey's magic pencil lying there. Punkey realised that it was his.

"That's MY pencil!" he exclaimed.

"What happened to the other side?" asked Danielle.

"I don't know," said Punkey. "Somebody must have snapped it in half."

Punkey looked up into the tree above him. He saw a sloth in a suit sleeping on a branch.

"HELLO?" shouted Punkey. "Do you know what happened to my pencil?"

"Hellooo...my...name...is...Sammy...Slomo..." said the sloth, climbing down the tree as slowly as a snail on a turtle's back. He picked up the pencil and went to scratch his back with it.

"Nooooo!" said Punkey and Danielle together. "You're gonna get rubbed out!"



CHAPTER FOUR THE RIDDLE CAVE

"Why?" said Slomo dropping the pencil in surprise. It rubbed out his suit. "Oh, no! I'll have to buy a new suit from Peacock's," he said.

Peacock's was a shop run by a family of peacocks in the jungle. It sold suits made out of different leaves. There was a special collection on offer of suits made out of maple leaves and maple syrup.

Danielle and Punkey spotted half of the magic pencil poking up from the ground. They wondered how they could put the two halves back together.

"I've heard recently that Peacock's sells limited edition maple syrup glue at the weekends," said Slomo.

"Why don't we just use sap from the trees?" said Punkey, walking over to a tree. He drew an axe, a spoon, a pipe and a bucket and collected the sap. He used the spoon to put the sap on the end of the pencil and stuck it back together.

Meanwhile in the 2nd Dimension, Spikey was training his army. He was being fed grapes and fanned with palm leaves. They built the portal and Spikey and his army went inside. When they came out the other side, they were back in the jungle at the top of the ravine.

Spikey and his army heard Punkey, Danielle and Slomo talking at the bottom of the ravine. Their words echoed upwards.

“We need to get to Banana Land,” said Danielle.
“Is...there...anything...in...your...backpack...that...might...help...us?” asked Slomo.

At the top of the ravine, Spikey heard what they had said. “All right, army, you heard them. Let’s get to Banana Land before they do.” he said. “Onwards!!”

They marched off in unison.

Punkey heard his name being called. He quickly ran over to see where the voice was coming from.

“Your first task is to find me,” the voice echoed.

Punkey used his pencil to draw a grappling gun and a large trampoline. He bounced all the way up to a ledge. He used his grappling hook to climb up to the mouth of the cave above.

“The first riddle is: what has a bed but never sleeps? What has a mouth but never speaks?” said the cave.

Punkey didn’t know the answer. He scratched his head and called for Danielle and Slomo to help him.

Slomo rubbed his hands together, concentrating very hard.

“I’ve...got...it!...The...answer...is...a...river!” he said, jumping in such slow motion that he broke the laws of physics.

“What’s slower than a sloth but as clear as crystal water?” asked the cave.

Punkey didn’t know the answer to this one either so he shouted down to Danielle. “What’s the answer to this riddle, Danielle?”

“A window!” Danielle shouted back.

The door at the front of the cave opened. Punkey looked inside. He saw steps leading upwards...



CHAPTER FIVE

GORILLA WARFARE

Punkey went slowly up the stairs, feeling the walls so that he wouldn't get hurt. He felt nervous and was relieved to get to the top of the stairs. When he got there, he saw a sign behind glass with a light over it. The sign said, "Banana Land this way ->"

Punkey heard the voice again. "Before you pass, you must answer my final riddle," the cave said.

"Okay," Punkey replied.

"What is standing but still moving?" asked the cave.

Punkey started thinking. He thought for a really long time, almost two hours, but he couldn't think of the answer.

"Your time is running out," said the cave. Punkey started to feel scared and yelled for Danielle.

Meanwhile, Slomo had followed Punkey up the stairs even though Punkey had told him not to. It had taken Slomo two hours to get up the stairs.

"I'm...behind...you..." said Slomo.

"What are you doing here? I asked you to keep watch," said Punkey.

"But...I...know...the...answer..." Slomo replied. "It's...in...my...riddle...book."

"THEN TELL ME!" shouted Punkey.

"The...answer...is...a...grand...father...clock..." said Slomo, just as time ran out. The doors to the passage stayed shut.

"But we answered the question!" said Punkey.

"Slomo answered the question, not you," said the cave.

Punkey was horrified, but then he realised that he had his magic pencil in his backpack. He took it out and drew an emergency exit.

It was a two-minute walk down the passage to Banana Land, but it took Punkey four hours because he had Slomo with him. When they got to Banana Land, it was empty. Spikey had transported



everything to the 2nd Dimension. Punkey and Slomo spotted the portal to the 2nd Dimension – it was about to close! Punkey picked Slowmo up, carried him to the portal and jumped in.

When they got to the 2nd Dimension, they found Spikey had become the ruler because he had an army and a special and sacred banana sword. But that wasn't all; he also had minions – kittens with bat wings – who immediately captured Punkey and Slomo and put them in the dungeon of his castle under triple kitten guard.

Also in the dungeon was Punkey's family. Punkey's parents and his two brothers and two sisters were delighted and excited to see him. Spikey thought everything was perfect and that he'd finally trapped Punkey and all of his family.

Punkey took out his magic pencil to draw a key but discovered that it didn't work in the 2nd Dimension.

"Oh, no!" said Punkey, "My pencil only works in the 3rd Dimension!"

Slomo got dizzy because it was all a bit confusing.

Meanwhile, back in the ravine, Danielle was getting worried. She checked her phone and saw that there was a missed call from Punkey.

She went up the stairs into the riddle cave and found the emergency exit Punkey had drawn. It only took her ten 2nds to get to Banana Land because while she was waiting, she had gone to Peacock's and bought more magic potion for her trainers. She had also bought another magic pencil.

When Danielle got to Banana Land, the portal to the 2nd Dimension had closed so she didn't know where to go next. She used her magic pencil to draw a crystal ball. When she looked into it she saw Punkey, Slomo and Punkey's family in Spikey's dungeon in the 2nd Dimension!

Danielle decided to draw a portal and a dragon to fly into the 2nd Dimension to defeat Spikey, his army and his kitten minions. She rescued everyone and everything and returned to the 3rd Dimension. The dragon stayed behind in the 2nd Dimension to keep guard over Spikey until he could learn to be nice.

"Finally!" said Punkey.

"What do you mean, 'finally'?" said Danielle, "I could've left you there with Spikey!"

"I mean thank you, thank you, thank you!" said Punkey, smiling. He took out his pencil and drew a lock to keep them all locked inside.

"Phew!" said Danielle. "What a long journey. Why don't we all go for a banana smoothie?" suggested Danielle.

"Good idea," said Punkey. "Then how about a holiday to Orange Town?"

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REVIEWS OF THE RACE TO BANANA LAND:

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