

Click [here](#) to listen to the story

# Belle and Billy Stay at Home



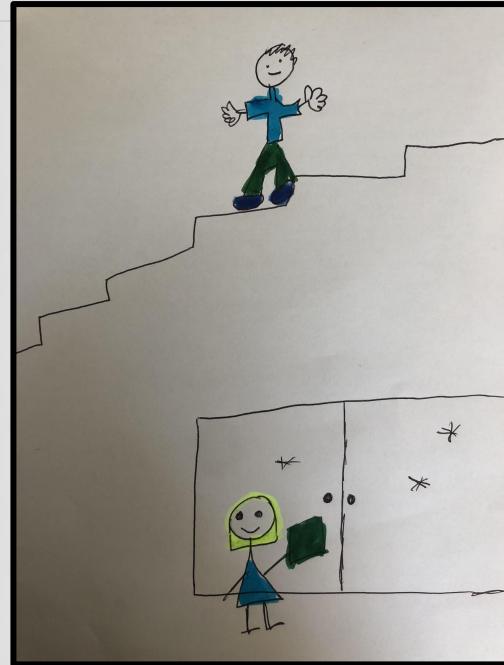
Illustrations by Children of Northumberland

## Chapter 5

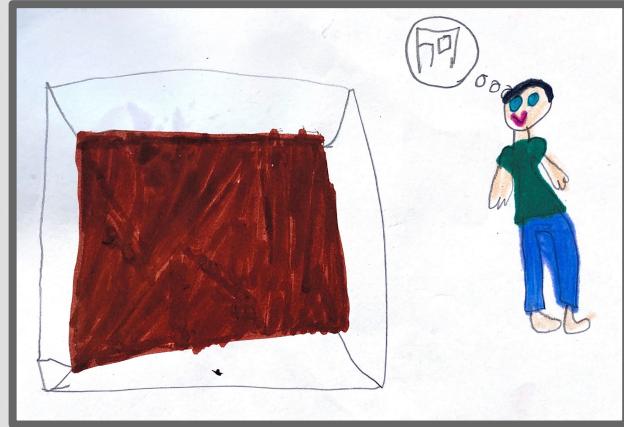
### Staying at Home to Stay Safe

Billy's mum was clearing out the cupboard under the stairs "best make good use of our time indoors Billy" she said.

Most of the things she was taking out of the cupboard had been put there as they were no longer wanted. She asked for Billy's help in pulling out a very large cardboard box - "heave Billy, it's very heavy!"

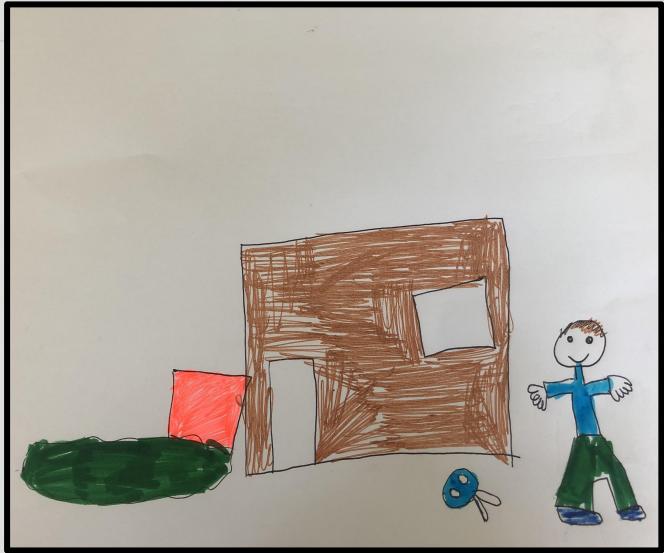


“This is full of rubbish and all needs to go in the bin I think”. Inside the box was an old teddy bear, jigsaws with missing pieces and even Dad’s old smelly trainers! Mummy was just about to smash up the big brown box when Billy shouted “No Mummy, that's a great box. Jo says, if we have a cardboard box you can pretend it is anything you want - a rocket ship, an ambulance or even a camp...I am going to make this my den Mum. Please Mummy, can I?”



“What a great idea Billy”. Billy started to make his den and using his very own childrens scissors, he carefully made a door to get in and out, and a small window to look out of.

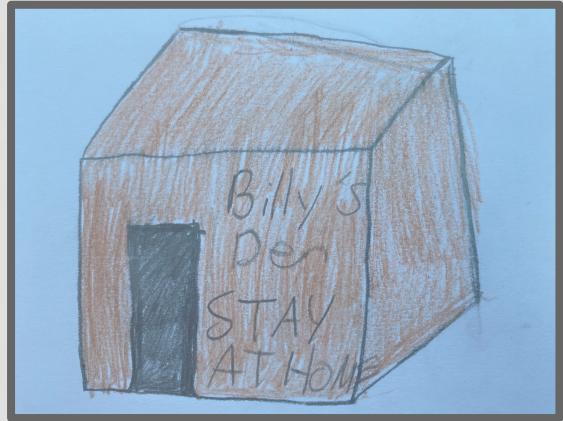
Mummy found Billy a green blanket and a red cushion to make his den cosy and comfy inside. Billy loved drawing pictures, so he used his favourite colours to make a sign for his special den.



Billy tried really hard with his writing and with a little help from Mummy, his sign said:

Billy's den - Stay home

When he finished he took the old teddy that was in the cupboard and sat it on the red cushion. "You can be my friend. I am going to call you Teddy Jack" and then he snuggled up in the new den.

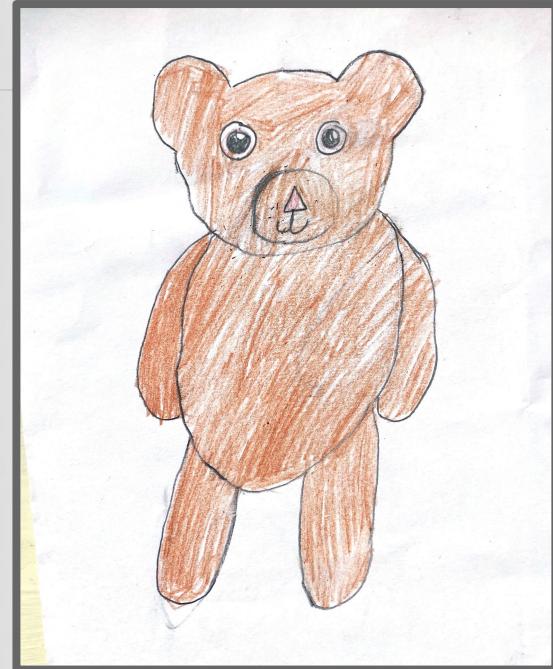


When Belle woke up the next morning, Dad had a surprise for her. "Come and see what's in the living room Belle". Set up near the front window was Belle's pop-up tent! She hadn't seen it since last summer and she was so excited! She quickly ran upstairs to get her favourite toys - a big green dinosaur called Rex; Teddy Tom which she had had since she was a baby; Brown Bear; Panda and lastly Poodle - a knitted dog that her Aunty Claire had made for her last year. She counted them "1, 2, 3, 4, 5. Now stay home and stay safe you lot in there!"



Meanwhile, the grown-ups had seen on the television, that just like the rainbows in windows as a sign of hope, people were now putting teddy bears in windows too, as a special sign for children.

That night Belle put Brown Bear in the front window, and Billy put Teddy Jack in his bedroom window to show all the other children passing by that everything was going to be ok.



## Parents & Carers Page

---

Things to talk about with your child after sharing the story...

- ❖ What did Billy say Jo had said a big empty box could be turned into?
- ❖ What would you turn a big empty box into?
- ❖ What did Billy's sign say?
- ❖ How many favourite toys did Belle put in her den?
- ❖ Can you choose a teddy to put in a window for other children to see?

---

What will happen in chapter 6? Continue sharing the story with your child each week to catch up with Billy and Belle.

Don't forget to access lots of fun ideas and activities by clicking on the [Northumberland Early Years Learning Together at Home Padlet](#)

