



Year 5

Term 6 Week 2 – 8th June – 12th June

This week's topic: North America



Dear Parents & Carers,

We hope you are back in the swing of things, and that the children enjoyed learning more about the Victorians last week. Thank you once again to those of you who shared your children's work with us via the school's email. We absolutely love seeing what the children have been up to, so please do keep on sending it in.

As always, we would like to emphasise the importance of establishing a routine that works for you and your child. One excellent routine we heard of went like this:

(1) Quiet reading time

(2) PE with Joe Wicks

(3) Maths (White Rose)

Break time

(4) English / Topic of the week (writing task)

Lunch time

(5) Art, DT, ICT – something creative, ideally linked to theme of the week.

This week the theme is North America.

For each day, we have set a combination of Maths and Writing/Topic tasks, and following this there are a host of ideas for history, geography, art, music and other lessons to keep your children busy! As we stress each week, we realise you might find some of these ideas great, and others not so helpful. You might find other resources online, which is great.

Please continue to send us pictures of the work your children are proud of and want us to see – you can email us via the school office (mark your email 'FAO Miss Joyce / Mr O'Donovan'). Thanks again for all the wonderful letters and emails we have already received.

Our best wishes to you all – and we look forward to speaking to the children again very soon!

Miss Joyce and Mr O'Donovan

In your pack each week we try to include:

- Open ended project ideas and research topics
- Writing activities to explore independently or together
- Daily Maths lesson
- Ideas for science experiments
- Games, Art and craft ideas
- Links to other learning resources
- A use for toilet roll tubes...



UPDATE ON WHITE ROSE MATHS

White Rose Maths is now back up and running – simply follow the links in this pack for your videos and worksheets. You don't necessarily need to print the worksheets – children can write out the answers to questions in their workbooks.

Test your knowledge

You could also try one of these End of Block tests, available through the White Rose website:

<https://whiterosemaths.com/resources/assessment/primary-assessment/end-of-block-assessments/>

You could start with the end of block test on fractions, which have kept us busy for a few weeks this year! You will find this on the above link in the summer term section.

AND REMEMBER TO KEEP UP YOUR FANTASTIC WORK ON SUMDOG!!

Reading: There are many sites offering free audio books while schools are closed:

<https://stories.audible.com/start-listen> (includes Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone)


<https://www.harpercollinschildrensbooks.co.uk/listen-for-free/>

<https://www.storynory.com/>

<https://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/>

Grammar:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zhrrd2p> <https://www.teachwire.net/news/7-of-the-best-online-grammar-games-for-ks2>

Day	Tasks	✓
Monday	<p>Maths: Summer Term Week 6, Lesson 1 - Multiply unit fractions by an integer Video: https://vimeo.com/420244176</p> <p>Worksheet: https://resources.whiterosemaths.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Lesson-1-Multiply-unit-and-non-unit-fractions-by-integers.pdf</p> <p>Answers: https://resources.whiterosemaths.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Lesson-1-Answers-Multiply-unit-and-non-unit-fractions-by-integers.pdf</p> <p>Topic: America Today – the death of George Floyd</p> <div data-bbox="248 759 671 1137">  </div> <div data-bbox="699 759 1256 1131" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>America has seen a lot of clashes between demonstrators and Police in recent days, following the death of George Floyd, after he was detained by Police Officers.</p> <p>There are a lot facts about this terrible incident on the BBC Newsround page:</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52813673</p> </div> <p>Writing challenge: imagine you have been asked to write your opinion about George Floyd’s death for Dalmain News. You should explain what has happened, how it makes you feel and what you would like to see happen next. Your audience for this writing is children in Dalmain school, so make sure you keep your writing clear and accurate, but please do express your feelings about what has happened.</p> <p>You may also (or instead) create a poster or a placard, expressing your view of what happened to George Floyd. Perhaps you could ask your parent or carer to take a photo of this and send it in to the school? We’d love to see it!</p>	
Tuesday	<p>Maths: Summer Term Week 6, Lesson 2 - Multiply mixed numbers by integers Video: https://vimeo.com/420244296</p> <p>Worksheet: https://resources.whiterosemaths.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Lesson-2-Multiply-mixed-numbers-by-integers-2019.pdf</p> <p>Answers: https://resources.whiterosemaths.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Lesson-2-Answers-Multiply-mixed-numbers-by-integers-2019.pdf</p> <p>Topic: North America</p> <p>Have you ever heard the story of the man who walked across the Twin Towers in New York? His name was Philippe Petit, and he made his daredevil tightrope walk back in</p>	

	<p>1974.</p> <p>Over the next few days, we are going to be learning lots about his astonishing feat. <i>(Remember, children, tightrope walking at over 500 metres can be just a little dangerous so don't try it at home 😊😊😊)</i></p> <p>First things first, you can read the book by clicking here: https://www.riverdell.org/cms/lib05/NJ01001380/Centricity/Domain/201/Between%20Two%20Towers.pdf</p> <p>We have also included all pages from this story in this week's pack. Additionally, you can read along with the author here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5SCA556HSw8</p> <p>You can also see real photos of Philippe Petit walking across the Twin Towers here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uwbil5puqng</p> <p><u>Today's writing challenge is to write down ten things you learned about Philippe Petit by reading this book.</u></p>	
<p>Wednes day</p>	<p>Remember that it is Wellbeing Wednesday – check the school's website for this week's updates! Look under News & Dates / Coronavirus Updates and you will find loads of resources and activities.</p> <p>Maths: Summer Term Week 6, Lesson 3- Fraction of an amount Video: https://vimeo.com/420244399</p> <p>Worksheet: https://resources.whiterosemaths.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Lesson-3-Fractions-of-an-amount-2019.pdf</p> <p>Answers: https://resources.whiterosemaths.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Lesson-3-Answers-Fractions-of-an-amount-2019-1.pdf</p> <p>Topic: Dear Philippe, A Word of Advice..... First thing this morning, you received this note from Philippe Petit...</p> <p><i>'Today is the day! For some time now I have been watching the towers being built and stared longingly at their majestic beauty, marvelling at how they soar into the sky. This is a day of opportunity! A day when I can claim the sky as my own! Secretly (and dressed as a construction worker) I shall enter the south tower tonight, with my cable and arrows to secure the end to the north tower. And then, I will walk from tower to tower by tightrope! This is the biggest risk of my life, but if I don't do it, I will surely regret it...</i></p>	

Today's writing challenge is to send a letter of advice to Philippe Petit.

First, let's think about the pros and cons:

PROs	CONs
Fame	Risk of death
Fortune	Risk of arrest
Feeling of freedom	Might get stopped from entering building

(Keep going!)

You can then use these ideas to craft your letter. It might start off a bit like this...

London, August 7 1974

Dear Philippe

I have received your note. I wish you endless luck with your bold adventure, however I would like to offer some words of advice for you to consider. Whilst I understand your need to undertake such a feat I suggest you be careful...



Try to include the subjunctive form when writing this letter.

The subjunctive is a verb form or mood used to express things that could or should happen. It is used to express wishes, hopes, commands, demands or suggestions. For example:

*If I **were** you I'd accept.
I suggested that he **face** up to the bully.
It is vital that she **attend** the meeting.
I wish I **were** able to fly.
I suggest you **take** a rain coat with you.
I demand that they **be** counted again!*

Thursday

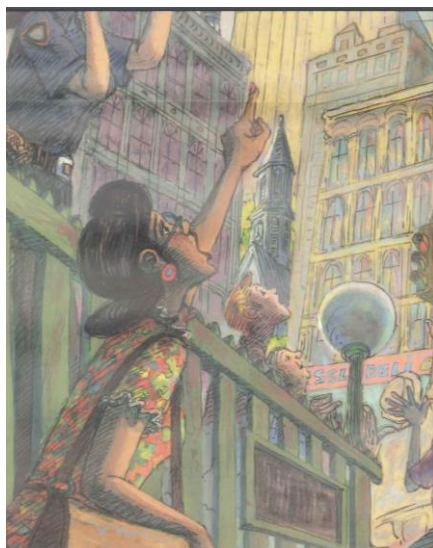
Maths: Summer Term Week 6, Lesson 4- Fractions as operators

Video: <https://vimeo.com/420244575>

Worksheet: <https://resources.whiterosemaths.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Lesson-4-Fractions-as-operators-2019.pdf>

Answers: <https://resources.whiterosemaths.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Lesson-4-Answers-Fractions-as-operators-2019.pdf>

Topic: "And joining us today on Dalmain FM..."



It was just an ordinary morning...

Imagine you are the woman in this picture. You are on your way to work, sitting on the subway (that's what New Yorkers call the tube), waiting for your stop.

When you emerge from your usual station you happen to look up and you see the most extraordinary sight...

A MAN IS WALKING ACROSS THE TWIN TOWERS!!!

presenters, Miss Joyce and Mr O'Donovan, will be interviewing you to find out what you saw.

An outline of the script appears below. Please write out a full script, with our questions and what you imagine you would say if you were the woman who saw Philippe Petit that morning.

Presenter: Joining us now on Dalmain FM is _____ (your name), who has just seen the most amazing sight as she emerged from the subway. Tell us what you saw...

(Your name): add your reply

Presenter: That must have been amazing. Tell me, when you first looked up, what did you think it might have been?

(Your name): add your reply

Presenter: Tell me more about what this incredible man did when he was up there? Did he just walk from one end to the other?

(Your name): add your reply

Presenter: What do you think should happen to him? Surely we can't allow this kind of behaviour. Do you think he should go to jail?

(Your name): add your reply

Presenter: One final question: if you were this man, where would you try to tightrope walk next?

(Your name): add your reply

Presenter: Thanks for joining us on Dalmain FM.

Topic: Philippe Petit's biography – the man, the myth, the legend!

A biography sets out all of the key facts from a person's life in chronological order, which means it starts at someone's birth and ends at their death (or the present day if they are still alive).

Today you will be writing a biography about Philippe Petit. You will need to know the key facts about his life – you will have learned many already through our book – but you could look up more facts about him here:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippe_Petit

Here are some great hints for writing a biography – especially the section on structure.

Features of a Biography

Purpose:
to give an account of someone's life.

Tense:

- written in the past tense
- Closing statements may use present/future tense

Structure:

Opens with an **attention grabbing** introduction that summarises the main events of the person's life and makes the audience want to read on.

Key events are written in **chronological order**.

Early life, family, home and influences help the audience to understand the person.

Use relevant images and captions for interest.

Concludes with what they are doing now, or how they are/will be remembered.

Include:

- information about their personality
- specific facts about achievements, influences and significant people

Include:

- their feelings about different points and events in their life
- quotes from the person themselves, or other key people

Include:

- third person pronouns, such as:
he, she, they, himself, herself, it, their, them

Include:

- adverbials, such as:
accordingly
consequently
therefore
hence

Include:

- ellipses, repetition, and time conjunctions to link sentences and paragraphs, such as:
then, after that, this, firstly, whenever

[visit twinkl.com](https://www.twinkl.com)

If this document is too small to read – you can download it here:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/features-of-an-biography-word-mat-t2-e-5172>

Stuck for inspiration? Read some great biographies here:

<https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/t2-e-2252-biography-text-examples-resource-pack>
(you don't have to answer the questions, but you can if you want!)

Finished? How about writing an auto-biography (i.e. a biography about YOURSELF!)

Additional Activities

<p>P.E.</p>	<p><u>Activities from Wendy at Laban:</u></p> <p>Warm up activity - Antony Gormley https://vimeo.com/423610139</p> <p>Wendy has also included some suggested music which she would like you to play at home: For the warm up: 'Salt' by Poppy Ackroyd https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ED8LkZxQnVU</p> <p>For the main activity: 'Transportation' by Julia Kent https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cJEGhMsPHQQ</p> <p>Yoga with Adriene</p> <p>https://yogawithadriene.com/yoga-for-kids/</p> <p>PE with Joe Wicks (Monday-Friday at 9am)</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAxW1XT0iEJo0TYIRfn6rYQ</p>
<p>History</p>	<div data-bbox="651 1010 1150 1285" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>The Historical Association have collated a selection of the currently free digital resources that have been posted on other websites here:</p> <p>https://www.history.org.uk/primary/categories/934/module/8747/resource-sharing-hub-key-stage-2/9841/links</p> <div data-bbox="288 1585 804 1709" data-label="Image"> </div> <p><i>By now, if you are considering entering the competition, you should be beginning to write your first draft. We would strongly encourage you to read through some of the past winners stories. Please send on your first drafts of your stories to us so we can help you develop your story to its full potential.</i></p> <p>See examples here: https://www.history.org.uk/ha-news/categories/455/news/3771/write-your-own-historical-fiction-2019-the-winners</p> <p><i>Best of luck!</i></p>

This term we will focus on a different religion every week. This week's religion is Buddhism



In Year 3, we learned about the story of Siddhartha and the Swan we also learned about the Eightfold path. What can you remember from that? Can you write a list of key words and definitions linked to Buddhism?



Here are a few to words to get you started:

Buddha, Enlightenment, Lotus, Nirvana, meditation

Perhaps you could watch these to remind yourself of some key points around Buddhism. At the bottom, there are some additional links to more resources which you could investigate if you are interested.

Here is a link to BBC Bitesize videos: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh4mrj6>

This one is particularly interesting: A day in the life of a Buddhist monk <https://www.truetube.co.uk/film/day-life-buddhist-monk?tab=film>

Suggested activity: Create a mind-map

As a memory aid, choose between creating a general mind-map outlining key points about Buddhism or focus on one aspect that you find interesting such as Buddha or Enlightenment.



North America

Geography



- There are 23 countries that make up North America.
- It is the third largest continent by area.
- It is the fourth largest by population.

Videos linked to information about North America:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-BIDJ8-9JRE> – very informative!

National Geographic for Kids <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AOUK3Oit86o> - for all you animal fans!

Lonely Planet <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SPCUHB2t0fM> -short and sweet

Kids learning tube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eCP1gGQaD4o> -a catchy song introducing all the countries of North America! How many can you list afterwards?

Using the videos from the links above, you could show your findings about North America by using some of the headings from the factsheet on the next page. You might like to think of your own sub-headings in addition to the ones below, e.g. animals.



As you will have seen in the videos, the **Grand Canyon**, USA, is said to be one of the natural wonders of the world. Using the following video links and other research links below, we would like you produce a leaflet about the Grand Canyon, focussing on geographical features showing how it was formed.

Videos

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZZEJMtLOKU> link to a more science-based understanding of the Grand Canyon

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mVg0L4rH_tg information on the Grand Canyon

Websites about the Grand Canyon:

<https://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/earth/grandcanyon.html>

<https://www.coolkidfacts.com/grand-canyon-facts/>

North America Factsheet

Facts about North America

Largest Country:

Population:

Currency:

Languages:

Number of countries:

Someone famous from North America:

A famous landmark in North America:

Other facts about
North America:



The Seven Continents of the World: North America

Abstract Photography: Paul Strand

Paul Strand was an American photographer and filmmaker who, along with fellow modernist photographers like Alfred Stieglitz and Edward Weston, helped establish photography as an art form in the 20th century. His works would often include ordinary objects manipulated by light and shadow, creating unique geometric forms. Have a look around you, exploring where objects around the home are changed by lighting, or where shadows form. Take photographs of any interesting patterns created. Can you compliment them with sketches of the patterns you see?



in



Pop Art:

<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/explore/what-is/pop-art>

Create your own Pop Art inspired by Andy Warhol:

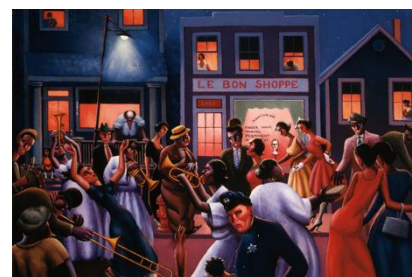
<https://www.tate.org.uk/kids/make/paint-draw/make-pop-art-warhol>

Harlem Renaissance

Artistic movement



The Harlem Renaissance was an intellectual, social, and artistic explosion centred in Harlem, Manhattan, New York City, spanning the 1920s. Bold



colours were used, and music played a key part in imagery. Paint or draw your own scene in the style of the Harlem Renaissance. You could capture images of your family or friends within your work. Remember, every picture tells a story!

We now have a Dalmain Twitter Art page [@dalmain_art](#) for you to share your work with the rest of the school community! We would love to see what you have created to celebrate the gifted artists we have in the school. We will also be sharing ideas and inspirational arts and crafts so don't forget to take a look.

Science

The following suggestions cover all **7 continents** of the world

A **continent** is a massive area of land that is separated from others by water or other natural features. There are seven continents on Earth and together they cover one third of the world, with the oceans covering the other two thirds. Five of the seven continents are joined by land to another continent, while Antarctica and Australia are separated from the others by oceans. Each continent has a wide range of different landscapes, weather and animal life.



Africa



Antarctica



Asia



Australasia and Oceania



Europe

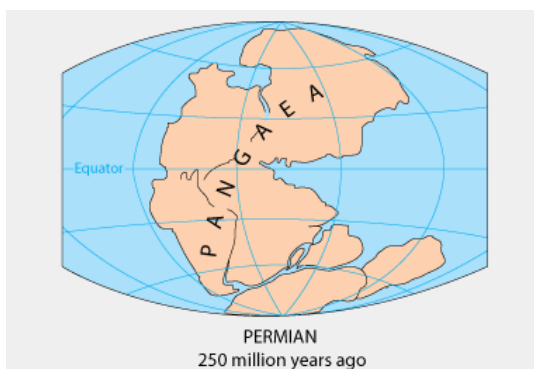


North America



South America

Have some fun exploring this website: <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/earth/>



All about the continents, continental plates and the structure of the earth. From this page a wide variety of discussion stimulating videos on many different science topics can also be accessed.

<https://thekidshouldseethis.com/post/pangaea-pop-up>



The island of Surtsey first appeared in 1963, just off the coast of Iceland. Watch this fascinating documentary about how land is formed.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a0ZnlfDkErM>

Music

North America – New York

The continent of North America has produced many fantastic composers and musicians.

Here are a few of them. How many more can you find?

Frank Sinatra 'New York, New York' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EEiq8ZoyXuQ>

Why not try singing along and kicking your legs in the air in time to this wonderful song?

Aaron Copland's 'Hoe down' BBC Ten Pieces:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/xHY4YjcsgN1Tp31Zdc6Ws1/rodeo-hoe-down-by-aaron-copland>

Aaron Copland was brought up above his father's grocery shop in Brooklyn, New York.

We have listened to this piece in class. What can you remember about the piece?

Listen to it again. How does it make you feel? What words or phrases come into your head when you hear this music?

What is a 'Hoe down'?

The main theme is taken from a traditional folk song called 'Bonaparte's retreat'. What is a folk song?

How many of the instruments in the orchestra can you name?

Two very important minimalist composers are from North America

Steve Reich: 'Music for 18 musicians' –

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/classical-music-steve-reich-music-for-18-musicians/zk44y9q>

We have listened to this piece of music in class before. What can you remember about minimalist music?

Try composing a piece of minimalist music using body percussion or anything that you can find that makes a sound. Draw some pictures to go with your piece.

Philip Glass: 'Akhenaten' – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2H5mRIJFUNQ>: [minimalist](#)

This piece is an opera. What is an opera?

Listen to this clip. Do you notice that it has short motifs and repeating patterns as in the Steve Reich piece that you listened to?

What words or phrases come into your mind whilst listening to this piece? Can you draw a picture or create some artwork that has been inspired by this piece?

Ella Fitzgerald – Scat singing <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0Kf-eTkn7Y>

Ella Fitzgerald was a singer known as the 'Queen of Jazz'.

What type of music is Jazz?

Ella Fitzgerald was also able to sing in a style called 'scat'. 'Scat' is a type of improvisation. When you improvise you make up your own music as you are performing.

What other information can you find out about Ella Fitzgerald?

Other music by North American composers. How many more can you find?

'Mambo' by Leonard Bernstein: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ten-pieces/classical-music--primary-ks2-leonard-bernstein-mambo-west-side-story/zr4gpg8>

'Rhapsody in Blue' by George Gershwin: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ss2GFGMu198>

John Williams Flying music from 'E.T.' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2-qrMz-JAz0>

John Williams has composed the music for many films including 'Star Wars', 'Jaws' and some of the 'Harry Potter' films.

Here is the music from the flying sequence in the film 'E.T.' Close your eyes and listen to it. Do you feel as though you are flying high up in the sky?

French

Asking where places are

Here and on the next two pages you can find out how to ask your way around.

In French there are two words for "you" – **tu** and **vous***. You say **tu** to friends, but it is more polite to say **vous** when you talk to adults you don't know well.

New words

pardon	excuse me
je vous en prie	not at all
ici	here
là-bas	over there
la poste	post office
sur la place du marché	in the market place
l'hôtel	hotel
puis	then
tournez	turn
il y a . . . ?	is there . . . ?
près d'ici	nearby
la rue	road, street
juste	just
c'est loin?	is it far?
à cinq minutes	five minutes
à pied	on foot
le supermarché	supermarket
en face de	opposite
à côté de	next to
la banque	bank
la pharmacie	chemist's

Directions

à gauche tout droit à droite

Is there a . . . nearby?

Pardon, il y a un café près d'ici ?

Oui, juste à gauche dans la rue Racine.

Is it far?

C'est loin ?

Non, à cinq minutes à pied.

Pardon, il y a un supermarché près d'ici ?

Oui, là-bas en face de la banque.

Et il y a une pharmacie près d'ici ?

Juste à côté du supermarché.

Other useful places to ask for

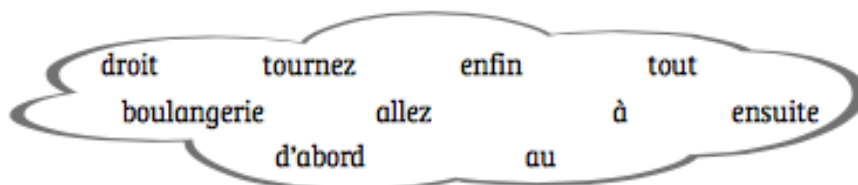
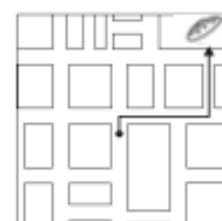
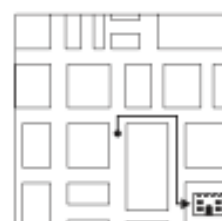
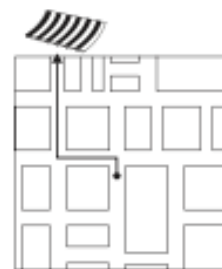
la gare	une station service	les toilettes	une boîte aux lettres
the station	a petrol station	toilets	a letter box
une cabine téléphonique	un camping	l'hôpital	l'aéroport
a telephone box	a campsite	the hospital	airport

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OWyzOK0tGYw> - simple directions

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aWolu58NgG4> lesson

Imperative verbs	Time adverbials
Allez- go	D'abord-first
Tournez- turn	Ensuite-then
Prenez- take	Enfin- finally

- 1  Bonjour, monsieur. Le marché, s'il vous plaît?
 Le marché... D'abord, à gauche, ensuite tournez à droite, enfin allez tout droit.
 Merci monsieur, au revoir.
- 2  Bonjour, madame. La piscine, s'il vous plaît?
 La piscine... D'abord, tout ensuite tournez à gauche, tournez à droite.
 Merci madame. Au revoir.
- 3  Bonjour, madame. Le château, s'il vous plaît?
 D'abord tournez à droite, tournez droite, enfin allez tout droit.
 Merci madame, revoir.
- 4  Bonjour, madame. La , s'il vous plaît?
 tournez à droite, ensuite allez droit, enfin tournez à gauche.



Make a miniature book!



authors including Jacqueline Wilson have created their own miniature books for library. If you want to join in, or just find more about the project, head to <https://www.bl.uk/childrens->

Inspired by the Brontë children, who made mini books for their toy soldiers to read, the British Library is calling on young writers to come up with their own tiny creations to form part of an online National Library of Miniature Books for the toy world.

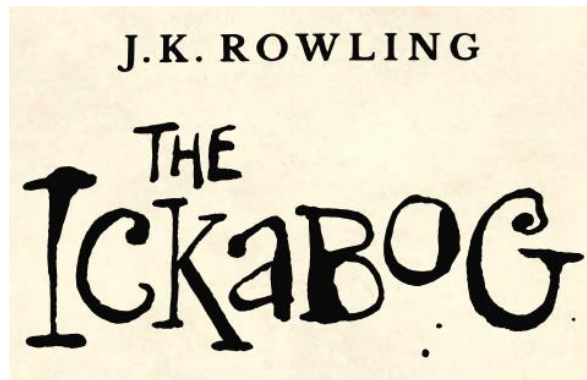


Famous already the out

Extra Learning!

[books/activities/make-a-miniature-book](#)

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZJwoJvgNxs&feature=emb_logo



First written over ten years ago as a bedtime story for her younger children, she decided to share the personal family favourite now online and for free, in instalments, to help entertain children, parents and carers confined at home during the coronavirus lockdown.

She is also inviting children around the world to illustrate her story as the serialisation unfolds online. Parents and guardians can enter their children's artwork into an official Ickabog Illustration Competition being run by J.K. Rowling's publishers.

Read the book & find out more about the competition here:

<https://www.theickabog.com/home/>

Time to combine our love of nature with the toilet roll challenge!





Make a loo roll bird feeder

This is messy fun kids will love to get stuck into. And it will help them learn about the birds in your neighbourhood.

You can make this simple feeder with items you may already have at home:

1. Smother a cardboard tube in peanut butter (no added salt and sugar versions are suitable for birds).
2. Roll it in bird seed and thread some string through the hole.
3. Tie it up in your garden where birds will feel safe eating.

How many birds will you spot? Can you name any of them?

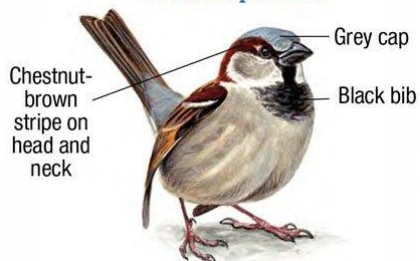
For those of you without a garden space to hang it, you could take it to a local park and watch to see what happens, or even return there the next day (to take it down of course - no littering!).

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/blog/2020/03/kids-nature-activities-self-isolation/>

See the poster on the next page to help you identify the birds.

Guide to the top 10 garden birds

House sparrow



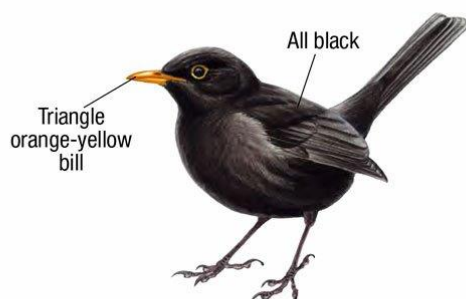
Starling



Blue tit



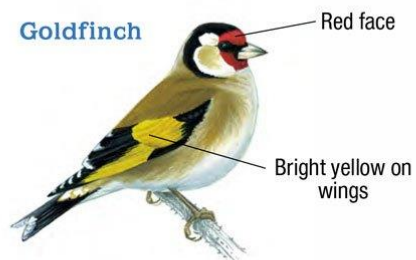
Blackbird



Woodpigeon



Goldfinch



Blue-grey head



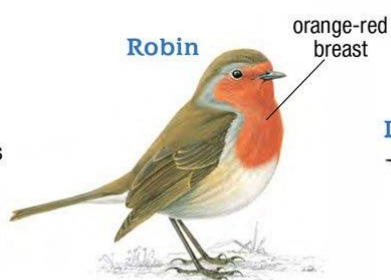
Chaffinch



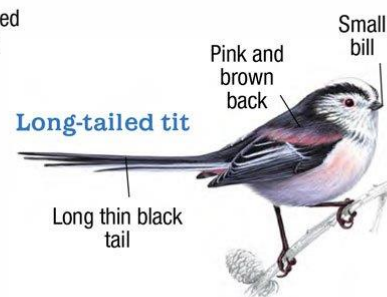
Great tit



Robin

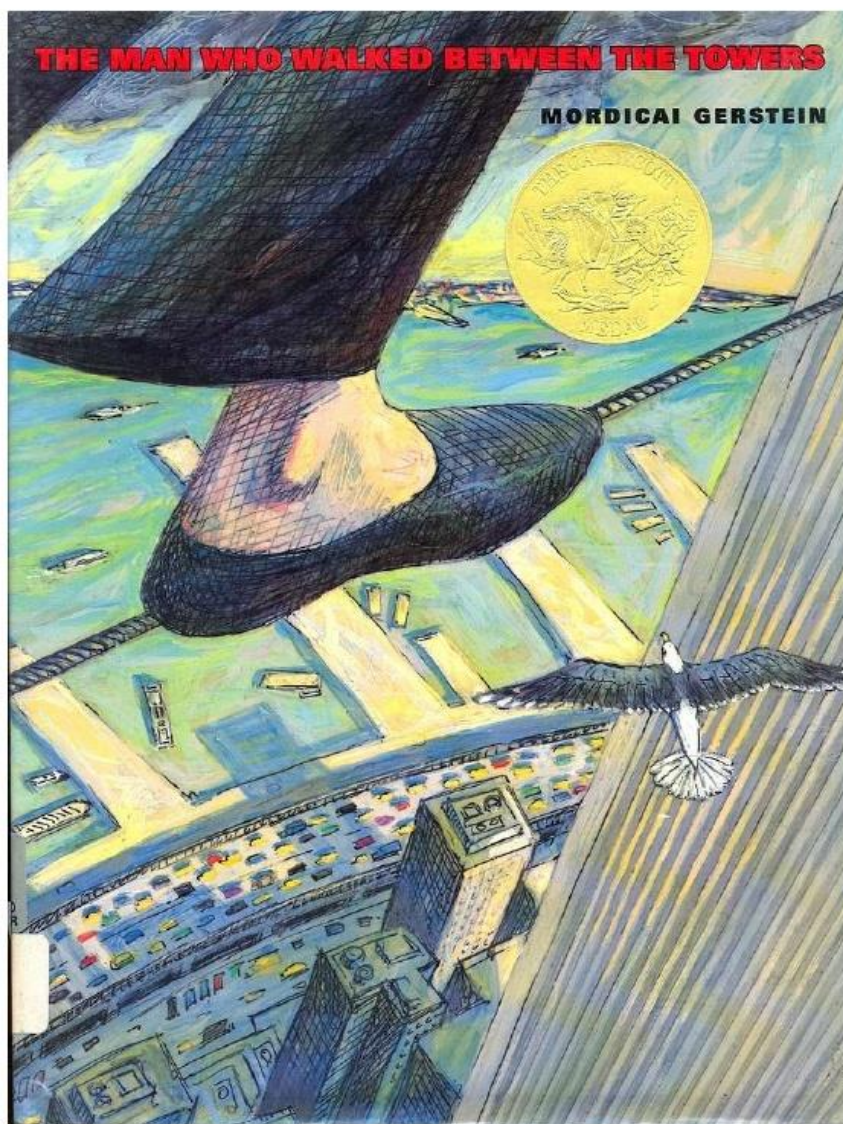


Long-tailed tit



The Man Who Walked Between Two Towers

Author & illustrator: Mordicai Gerstein





buildings

Once there were two towers side by side. They were each a quarter of a mile high; one thousand three hundred and forty feet. The tallest buildings in New York City.



A young man saw them rise into the sky. He was a street performer. He rode a unicycle. He juggled balls and fiery torches.

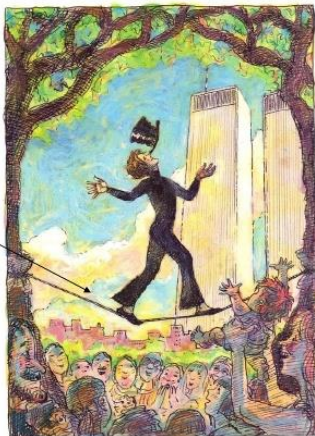


balls



torches

unicycle

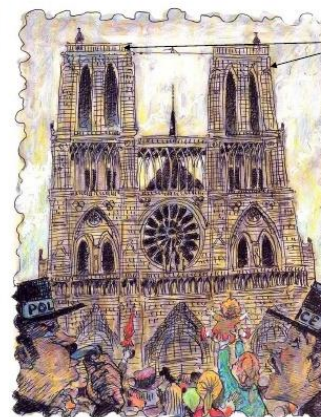


rope

But most of all he loved to walk and dance on a rope he tied between two trees.

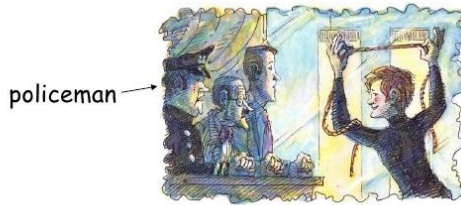


He looked not at the towers but at the space between them and thought, what a wonderful place to stretch a rope; a wire on which to walk. Once the idea came to him he knew he had to do it! If he saw three balls; he had to juggle. If he saw two towers, he had to walk! That's how he was.



steeple

Hadn't he danced on a wire between the steeples of Notre Dame Cathedral above his amazed home city, Paris? Why not here, between these towers?



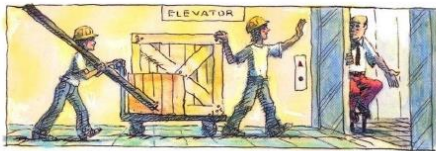
policeman

Of course he knew that, as in Paris, the police and the owners of the towers would never allow it. You must be crazy! they would say. You'd fall for sure!



stop

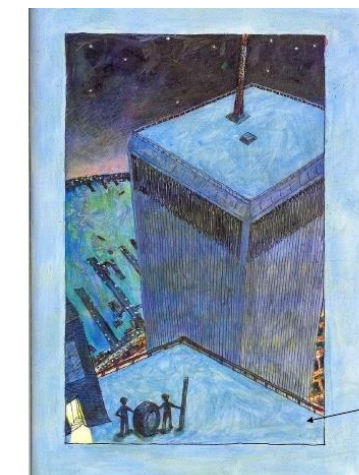
Early on an August evening he and a friend entered the south tower.



They got a four-hundred-and-forty-pound reel of cable and other equipment into the elevator, took it to the unfinished top ten floors, and waited till nightfall when everyone had gone.



cable



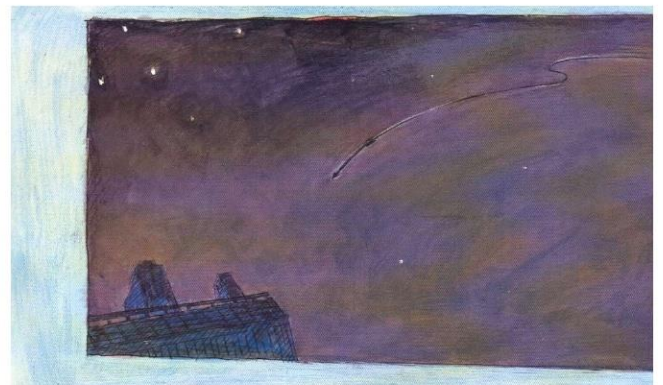
roof

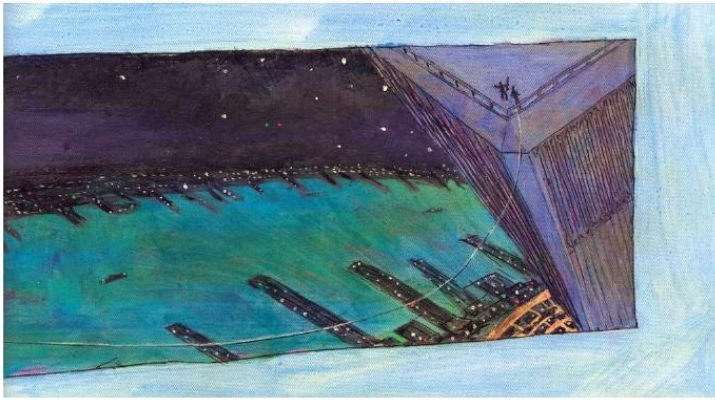
Then they carried everything up one hundred and eighty stairs to the roof.



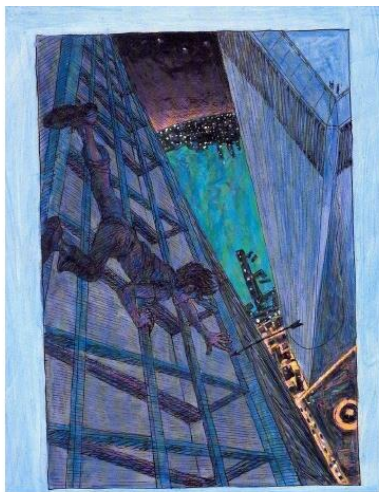
bow

At midnight, on the other tower's roof, two more friends tied a thin, strong line to an arrow and shot it across to Philippe, one hundred and forty feet away.





It missed, and landed on a ledge fifteen feet below the roof.
Bad luck! thought Philippe.



He crawled down to the ledge, over the sparkling city, and got the arrow.

To its line he tied a stronger line, which his friends pulled back to their tower.

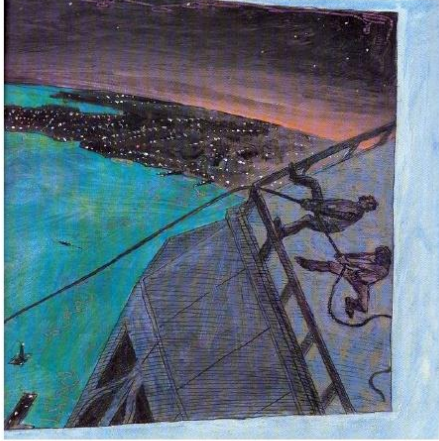


To his end of the stronger line, Philippe tied the cable on which he would walk. It was seven-eighths of an inch thick.



As the rising sun lit up the towers, out he stepped onto the wire.

pulling the friends on the other tower to the very edge.

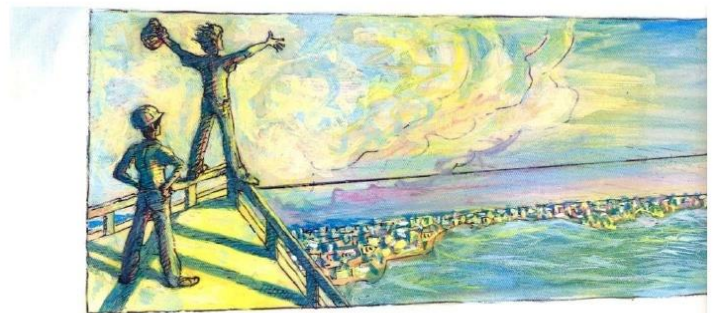
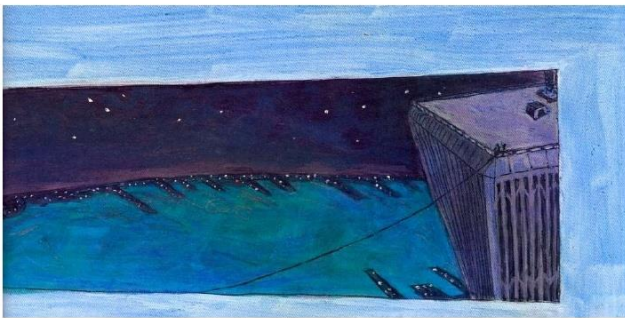


Philippe, just in time, secured his end.

It took three hours to pull the cable back up.

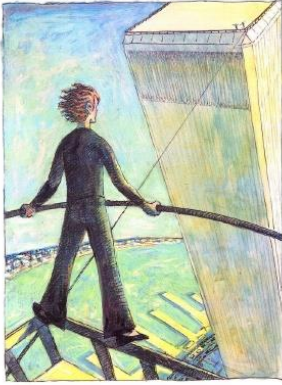


Frantically, as the stars faded, they tightened it between the towers.

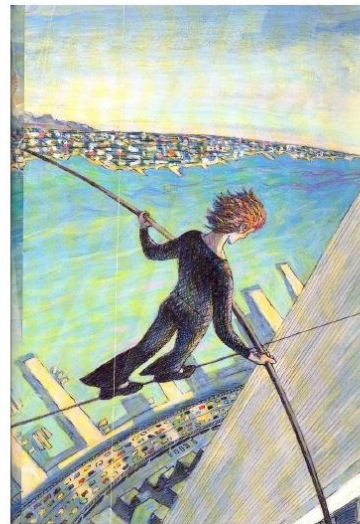
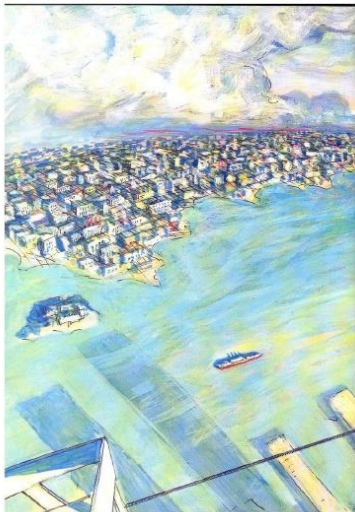


It was past dawn before they were ready.

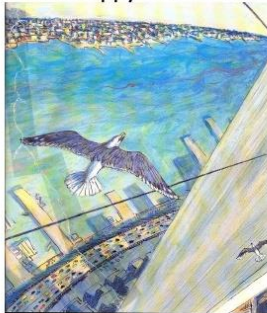
Philippe put on his black shirt and tights.
He picked up his twenty-eight-foot balancing pole.
All his life he had worked to be here; to do this.



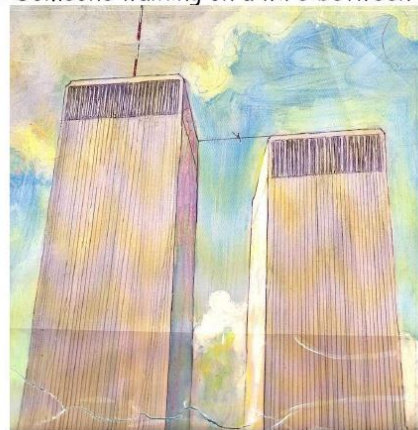
As the rising sun lit up the towers, out he stepped onto the wire.

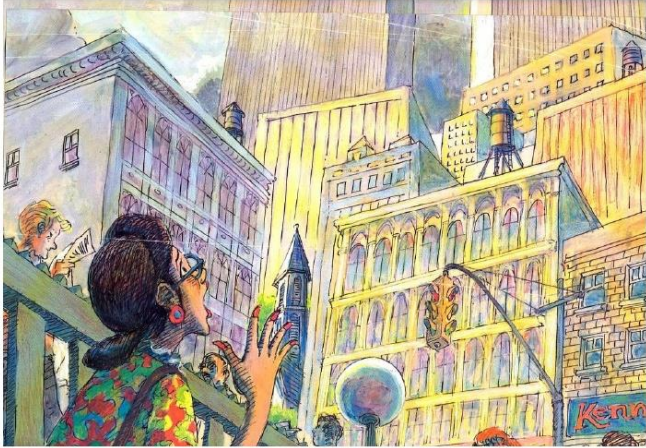


Out to the very middle he walked, as if he were walking on the air itself.
Many winds whirled up from between the towers, and he swayed with them.
He could feel the towers breathing.
He was not afraid.
He felt alone and happy and absolutely free.



A woman coming from the subway might have been the first to see him.
"Look! Someone walking on a wire between the towers!"

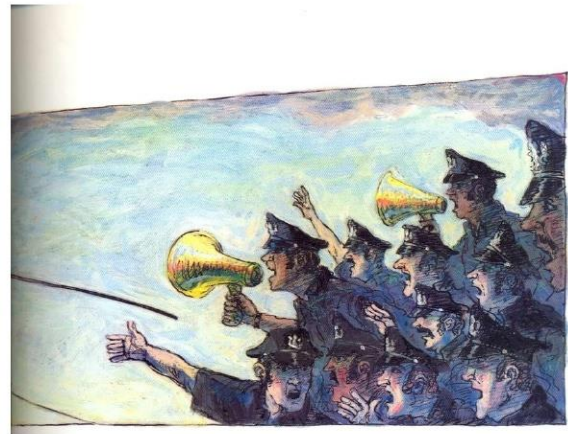




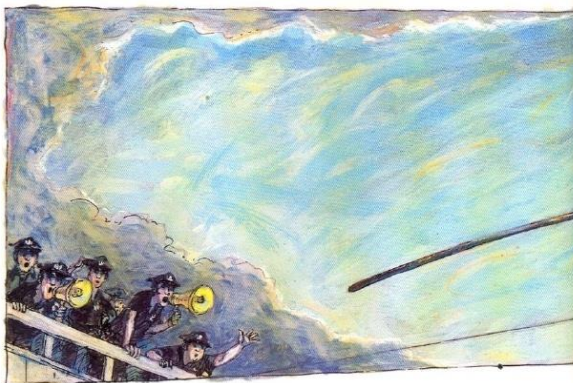
Everyone stopped and looked up.
They gasped and stared.
It was astonishing.
It was terrifying and beautiful.
A quarter of a mile up in the sky someone was dancing.
Police saw it, too.



Officers rushed to the roofs of the towers.
"You're under arrest!" they shouted through bullhorns.
Philippe turned and walked the other way.

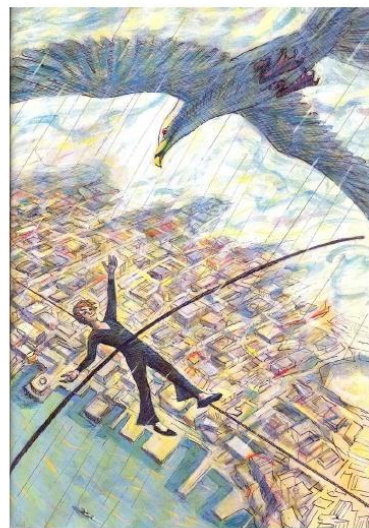


Who would come and get him?

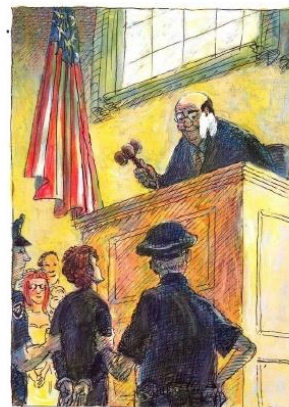


For almost an hour, back and forth, he walked, danced,
ran, and knelt in a salute upon the wire.

He even lay down to rest.
The city and harbor spread beneath him.
The sky surrounded him.
Seagulls flew under and over.
As long as he stayed on the wire he was free.



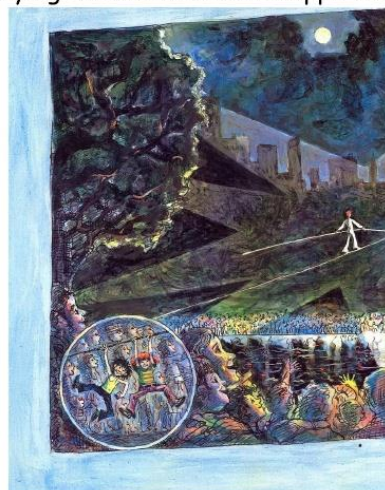
When he felt completely satisfied, he walked back to the roof and held out his wrists for the handcuffs.



They brought him to court. The judge sentenced him to perform in the park for the children of the city.

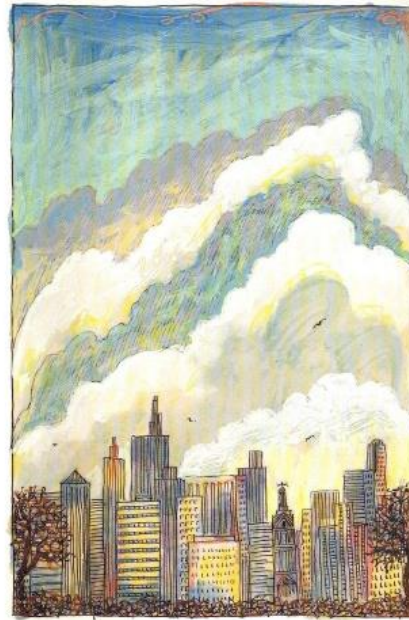


... but caught himself.



This he did. . . though during his performance some boys were playing on his wire and Philippe fell

Now the towers are gone.



But in memory, as if imprinted on the sky, the towers are still there. And part of that memory is the joyful morning, August 7, 1974, when Philippe Petit walked between them in the air.