

Bob and the River of Time

Written and illustrated by
James Garner



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For my family and friends who
have all been so encouraging

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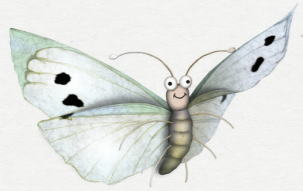
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A special thanks to my mum who, when we were toddlers, made me and my sister a book about the weather in which we took the starring role. Needless to say it was a huge part of my inspiration for this book. Her great knowledge of plant life has also been invaluable.

A Guide to Grumbledown

Bob is an ordinary fellow. He lives in Grumbledown Lodge. One day, he gets into his rowing boat and begins a topsy-turvy adventure. Throughout Bob's journey he encounters lots of wonderful plants and creatures. They are all here for you to see too, though some are harder to spot than others! See how many you can find and learn about each one at the back of the book. If you miss any, you can go back and search again!



It is
springtime
in Grumbledown. All
around there are the
sounds of birds singing chirpy
songs, fish splashing playfully in the
water and frogs croaking RIBBIT,
all in perfect harmony.

Bob climbs into his rowing boat ready
for a nice relaxing journey down the
River mumbles which flows right past his
quaint little cottage. Bob doesn't know it,
but the river holds an unusual secret and
is about to send him on a strange and
topsy-turvy adventure.

A whole spring's day passes in a flash. Before he knows it, Bob's eyes have closed and he has fallen into a deep relaxing sleep. He starts to dream about his day ... He dreams about all the amazing colours of the rainbow.

He dreams about the lambs bouncing around in the fields and he dreams about the bluebells that have just come into flower.

Time passes and Bob begins to wake up ...



Thank you for keeping Bob company. He is ready to journey again whenever you want.

Cast and Crew

(in order of appearance)

In the following pages you will find information about the animals and plants Bob discovers on his journey. They are arranged in the order Bob sees them, starting in spring right through to winter. If you missed any you can always go back and look again; some you will have to look for very carefully! If you are really stuck, there are clues in the back of the book which will tell you where each character is hiding.



Bibi and Chip the Blackbirds

These two love eating worms, insects and berries. They will stay together their whole lives. See if you can spot them keeping Bob company throughout the book.



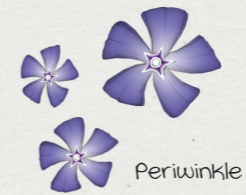
Bluebells

Simon the Centipede

Centipedes can have between 14 and 177 legs but despite the "cent" at the front of the name (from the Latin "centum", meaning 100) they never have exactly 100 legs. They are normally about 3cm long and like to eat smaller insects.



Apple blossom



Periwinkle

Shelly the Chick

Shelly's a right little cracker, making Katie very proud indeed. Most chicks begin to replace their yellow down with normal feathers after a week or so.



Brandon the Frog

This water loving creature loves nothing more than a tasty fly which he will catch with his long sticky tongue.



Yellow flag iris

Katie and the Sussex chickens

Katie loves nothing more than scratching around for big juicy worms. She lays eggs which she will sit on to keep warm, usually for about 21 days. After this a little yellow chick will hatch and CHEEP and CHIRP for one of those nice tasty worms!

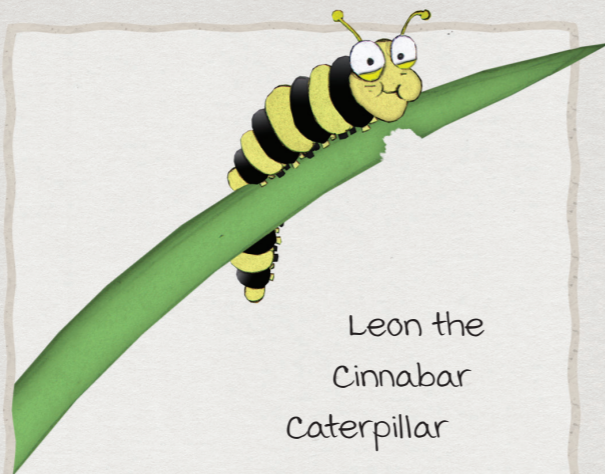


Dandelion



Leon the Cinnabar Caterpillar

This hungry chap enjoys eating ragwort leaves and flowers and can grow up to 3cm long before turning into a cinnabar moth and flying away.

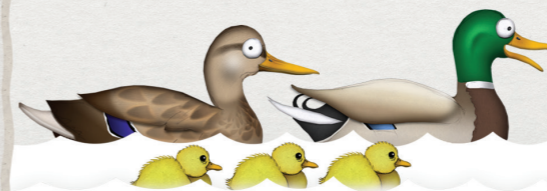


Tulips



Lizzie, Bill and the ducklings: Josh, Clara and Poppy

Mallards (a type of wild duck) like to be in groups. The males have shiny green heads and the females are speckled brown. They eat small insects and fish and water plants and can be noisy when they let out their well-known QUACK QUACK!



Doug and Warren the Rabbits

They are always on the hunt for Bob's carrots, these two. You'll see lots of rabbits like Doug and Warren in the countryside. They live in holes under the ground called burrows or warrens. When they can't get at Bob's veg, they will eat grass and weeds.



Snowdrops



Isobel the Peacock Butterfly

Isobel is a very colourful butterfly. Her markings look like extra eyes – she uses them to scare off other creatures like birds which think she might make a tasty snack! She is about 6cm from wing to wing and, like most butterflies, she drinks nectar from flowers.

Nic the Cat and Scooter the Dog

Bob's favourite furry companions, both offering unconditional love. Scooter is likely to get under Bob's feet while Nic is happy off adventuring on her own but always comes back to sit on Bob's lap.



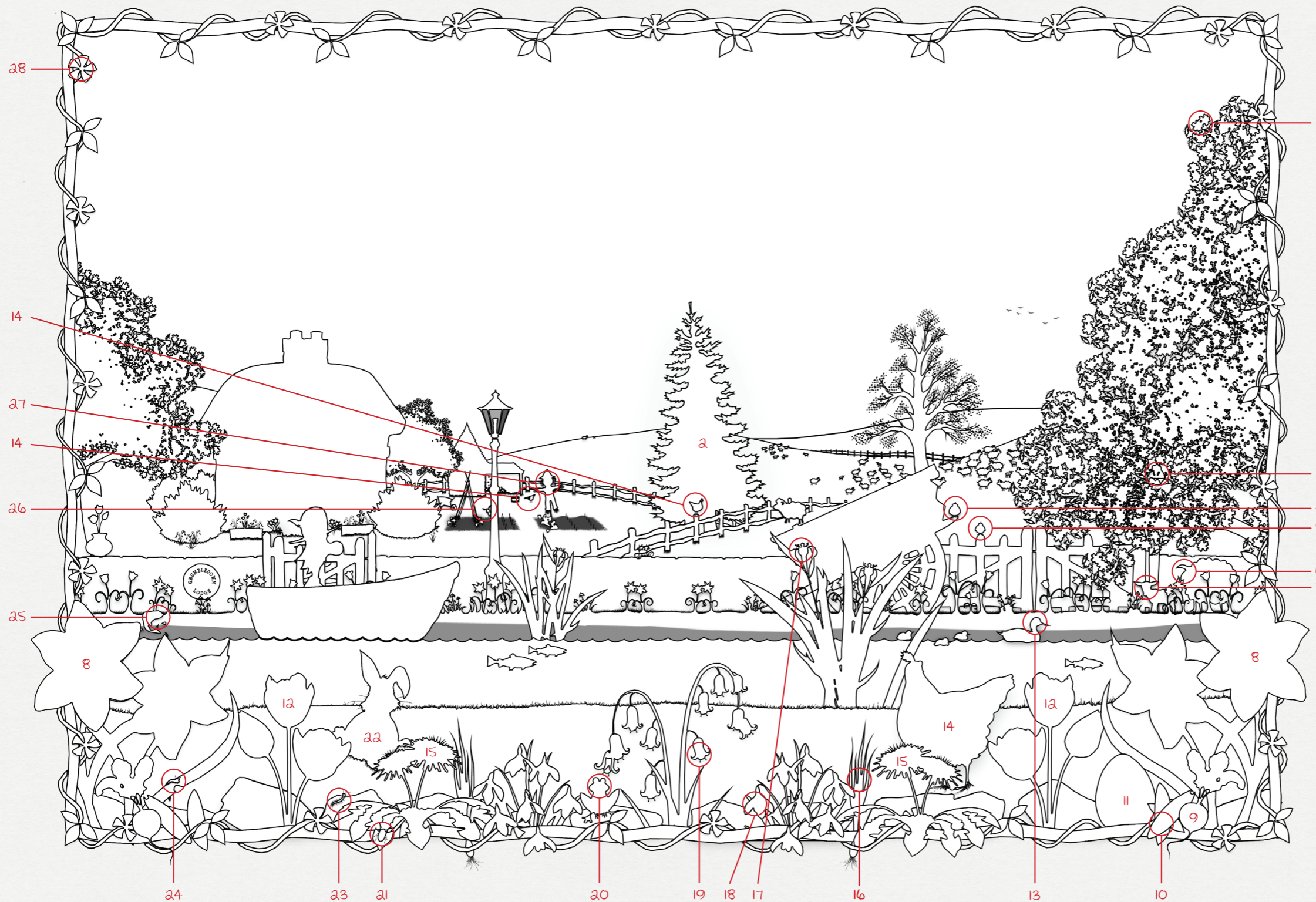
Where Are They Hiding?

Did you find them all? Here are clues to where all those plants and critters are hiding, in case you're really stuck!

Bob!



Clues for pages 2-3



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"This wonderful story, beautifully illustrated with an endearing cast of characters, manages to cleverly combine storytelling with activity and learning in a deft and delightful way."

Kate Humble

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For children age 3+ years.

"Brilliantly celebrates the wonders of nature, the countryside and life's simple pleasures."

Rowan Early, advertising writer, dad and chief Kids' book reader-outer

"An adrenaline-fuelled white-knuckle ride."

Parsley the Snail

"Contains so much detail you will still be spotting new things after the twentieth read through."

Kris Jeary, designer

"There isn't a single car in the whole book, so it's a thumbs up from me!"

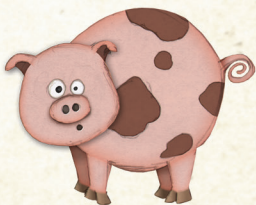
Gemma the Hedgehog

"So much more fun than looking for Wally!"

Ian Porter, father of a bookworm daughter

"I was really enjoying it up until I got eaten."

Alex the Worm



James Garner is a freelance graphic designer, illustrator and decorator. He lives in Suffolk where he pursues his passion of creativity. He can often be found drawing or painting, whether it be houses or beautiful children's books.



 www.crownhouse.co.uk

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