

småles matters

BUG NEWS

Spring 2021

LITE



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Hej småles!

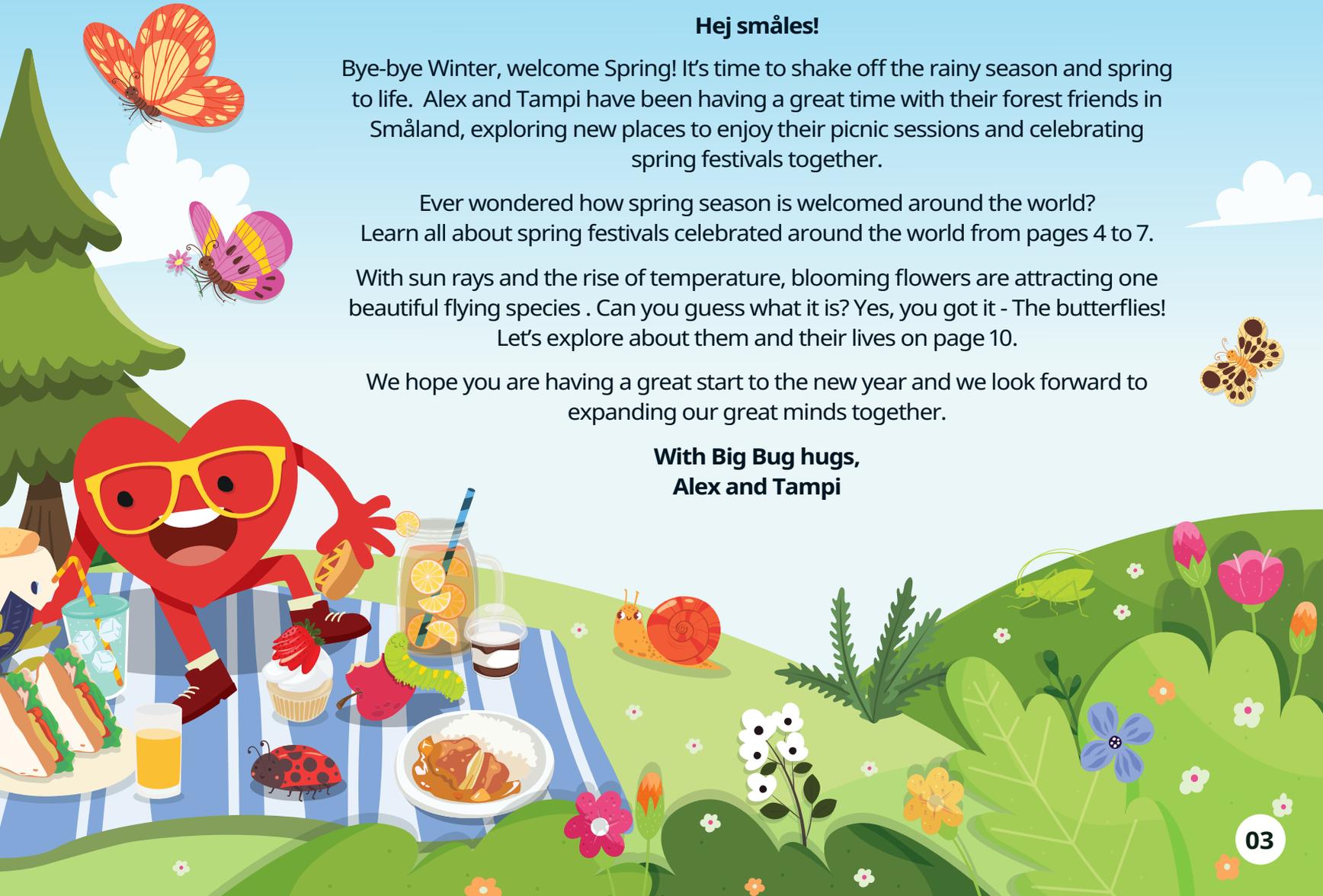
Bye-bye Winter, welcome Spring! It's time to shake off the rainy season and spring to life. Alex and Tampi have been having a great time with their forest friends in Småland, exploring new places to enjoy their picnic sessions and celebrating spring festivals together.

Ever wondered how spring season is welcomed around the world? Learn all about spring festivals celebrated around the world from pages 4 to 7.

With sun rays and the rise of temperature, blooming flowers are attracting one beautiful flying species. Can you guess what it is? Yes, you got it - The butterflies! Let's explore about them and their lives on page 10.

We hope you are having a great start to the new year and we look forward to expanding our great minds together.

**With Big Bug hugs,
Alex and Tampi**





Spring festivals around the world

Spring festivals are such a joyous occasion which are welcomed around the world. Among the spring festivals which are celebrated are Chinese New Year, Songkran, Holi and others. Let's explore these festivals together.

Chinese New Year, everywhere around the world

Chinese New Year celebrates the beginning of a new year on the traditional Chinese calendar. This festival is commonly referred to as the Spring Festival and celebrated in January or February every year.

Many countries around the world celebrate the Chinese New Year according to the Chinese calendar and is not based on the Gregorian calendar starting on the 1st of January.

This important date on the Chinese calendar has been celebrated for many centuries. During the festivities ancestors are honoured and traditional ceremonies are held where people get together and welcome the Chinese New Year with customs that bring good luck, good fortune, wealth, prosperity and happiness.

The festivities for the Chinese New Year extend until 15 days in most countries. The new year is often celebrated with dragon dances, lion dances, gift exchanging and fireworks. It ends typically with lantern festivals on the 15th day of the first calendar month.



Holi Festival, India and Nepal



Commonly known as the festival of colours, Holi is a Hindu tradition in India and Nepal that celebrates the end of gloomy winter days. This holiday is so sacred that even local markets and businesses are expected to close shops in preservation.

During the first full moon of March, people light bonfires to celebrate the joy of good over evil, and then apply sacred ashes on their foreheads to protect themselves against evil. The following morning, Holi begins. The entire neighbourhood comes together and throws coloured water and powder towards each other in celebration.



Baba Marta Day, Bulgaria



Baba Marta Day, meaning "Grandma March Day," celebrates the return of spring on March 1st. According to folklore, "Grandma March" was an old lady who always frowned towards her two brothers; but when she did smile, the sun came out.

While there are different versions of the tale, nowadays most Bulgarians wear a small martenitsa adornment, made of white and red yarn, to symbolise their wish for good health and the coming of spring. Bulgarians wear the martenitsa until end of the month, when the first signs of spring arrive. Many people then tie their martenitsas to fruit trees for good luck.



Songkran Festival, Thailand



The Songkran Festival, which is in conjunction with the Thai New Year, occurs each year from 13 April till 15 April, for three days. It's the time to clean, reflect, and pay respect to your neighbours, family, and the elderly.

During the festival, people bring food to local monks and bathe Buddha statues in water. While younger generation pour scented water over the hands of their elders for luck and prosperity. Over the years, this tradition has evolved to include a massive water fight with water balloons and super soakers.



Las Fallas, Spain



Las Fallas is a tradition honouring Saint Joseph in the region of Valencia, Spain. This celebration officially begins on March 1st with a mascletà (a loud firework show) which recurs every afternoon until March 19th.

During the final week of the festival, music fills the streets, participants wear traditional outfits, and party in the streets until sunrise. In preparation, each neighbourhood spends months creating giant, papier-mâché statues to be displayed around the city.



Bloemencorso Bollenstreek, Netherlands



Known as one of the largest flower parades in the world, Bloemencorso Bollenstreek in The Netherlands celebrates the arrival of spring with some of the most beautiful flowers and flower arrangements in existence. Creatively designed floats filled with narcissus, hyacinths, tulips and other flowers represent a different theme each year.

Bloemencorso Bollenstreek is held annually on the third Saturday of April with the parade coasting through eight different cities stretching out about 40 kilometers. Around 50 flower floats set off from Noordwijk town with a merry marching band keeping the energy up during the parade.



Hanami, Japan



Also known as the Cherry Blossom Festival, Hanami is a Japanese tradition to welcome spring and appreciate the beauty of sakura (the Japanese term for cherry blossoms). Sakuras are considered the flower of spring. Depending on which region of Japan you are in, events can begin at the beginning of April or in mid-May (like Hokkaido, where sakuras bloom much later).

In celebration, people gather under the blooming cherry blossoms with food, drinks, and music to bond and meet new friends. At night, the trees are illuminated to continue the festivities in a romantic custom called Yozakura.



Sources:

1. <https://www.westernunion.com/blog/spring-festivals-around-the-world/>
2. <https://en.blog.kkday.com/28096/6-awesome-spring-festivals-around-the-world>
3. https://www.visitsingapore.com/en_my/festivals-events-singapore/cultural-festivals/chinese-new-year/
4. <https://www.holland.com/global/tourism/travel-inspiration/traditional/tulip-season-in-holland.htm#:~:text=Tulip%20season%20in%20Holland, followed%20by%20daffodils%20and%20hyacinths.&text=See%20over%20seven%20million%20flower, towards%20the%20end%20of%20April.>
5. <https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/chinese-new-year.html>

Help the brothers count each drawing













Spring art & craft

Make your own easy and fast colourful egg carton butterfly.

*Parental guidance recommended.

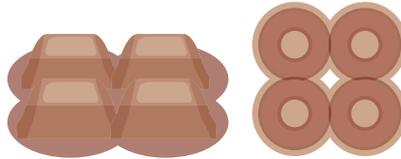
Materials:

1. Your favourite 3-4 colour paints.
2. Recycled egg carton
3. Scissors
4. Straw cleaner
5. Paint brush

Steps:

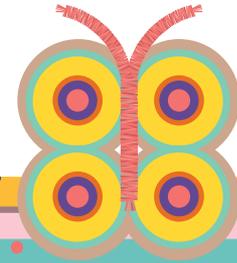
1

Start by cutting a section of an egg carton that has 4 cups. Trim off the sides so they are smoother and cut the edges so it goes inward.



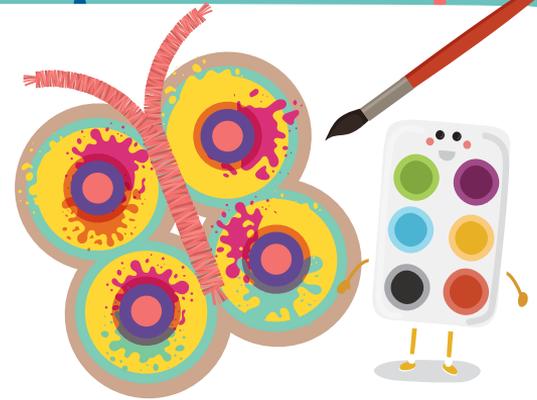
2

Take one straw cleaner and wrap it around the bottom and twist at the top to make butterfly antennas. Choose 3-4 colored paints and do rings around each egg carton cups.



3

Take another paint brush and pull it down through each ring of colours. It makes this awesome tie dye effect! Let it dry and you're done!



What is a butterfly?



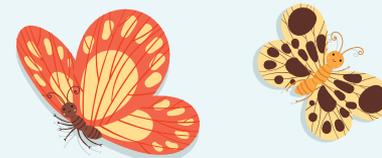
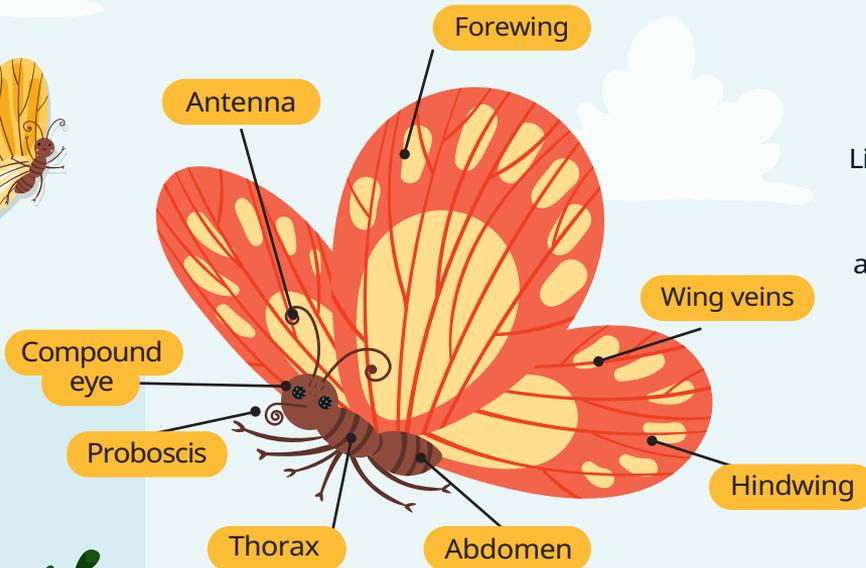
Spring season has always reminded us of flowers, insects pollinating and fresh warm environment. In this issue let's buckle our seats to explore about butterflies and how they are important to our ecosystem.

Butterflies are the adult flying stage of certain insects belonging to an order or group called Lepidoptera. The word "Lepidoptera" means "scaly wings" in Greek. This name perfectly suits the insects in this group because their wings are covered with thousands of tiny scales overlapping in rows.

There are about 17,500 species of butterflies in the world. Butterflies (and moths) are the only group of insects that have scales covering their wings, although some butterflies have reduced scales.

There are about 2,000 species of butterflies in South Asia and about 650 species in South East Asia.

Like all other insects, butterflies have six legs and three main body parts: head, thorax (chest or mid section) and abdomen (tail end). They also have two antennae and an exoskeleton.



Life cycle of a butterfly

A life cycle is made up of the stages that a living organism goes through during its lifetime from beginning to end. The butterfly life cycle has four stages: egg, larva, pupa and adult. This means that the butterfly changes from its early larva stage, when it is a caterpillar, until the final stage, when it becomes a beautiful adult butterfly.

Eggs

1

Butterfly eggs are tiny, vary in colour and may be round or cylindrical. The female butterfly attaches the eggs to leaves or stems of plants that will also serve as a suitable food source for the larvae when they hatch.

Larva

2

In the second stage of the life cycle, the larva or a caterpillar hatches from the egg. As the caterpillar continues to eat, its body grows. The tough outer skin or exoskeleton, however, does not grow or stretch along with the enlarging caterpillar. Instead, the old skeleton then sheds and is replaced by a new, larger exoskeleton in a process called molting. It may go through as many as four to five molts before it becomes a pupa.

Pupa

3

The third stage is known as the pupa. The caterpillar attaches itself to a twig, a wall or some other support and the exoskeleton splits open to reveal the pupa. The pupa hangs down like a small sack until the transformation to butterfly is complete. The pupa does not feed but instead gets its energy from the food eaten at the larva stage.

Adult

4

The final stage of the life cycle is the adult. Once the pupa casing splits, the butterfly emerges. It will eventually mate and lay eggs to begin the cycle all over again. Most adult butterflies will live only a week or two, while a few species may live as long as 18 months.

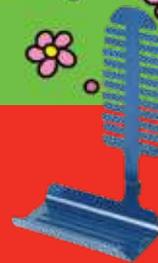


Spot the difference

Can you spot 20 differences? Circle and number each difference you can find!



Send in your answers with your name, Smålish passport number, age, address and contact number to alexandtampi@smales.com.sg by 31 March 2021. 5 lucky winners will each win a **MÖJLIGHET** Pen/picture holder, Blue.



Butterfly activities

Butterflies are complex creatures. Their day-to-day lives can be characterised by many activities. Let's get to know what butterflies do in their daily lives.

FEEDING

Caterpillars are very particular about what they eat, which is why the female butterfly lays her eggs only on certain plants. She naturally knows what plants will serve as suitable food for the hungry caterpillars that hatch from her eggs. They don't move much and spend their entire lives on the same plant or even the same leaf!



BASKING

Butterflies are cold-blooded, meaning they cannot regulate their own body temperature. As a result, their body temperature changes with the temperature of their surroundings. If they get too cold, they are unable to fly and must warm up their muscles in order to resume flight. Butterflies bask with their wings spread out in order to soak up the sun's heat.



HIBERNATING

Butterflies also cannot withstand winter conditions. Butterflies may survive cold weather by hibernating in protected locations such as the peeling bark of trees, perennial plants, logs or old fences as their overwintering sites. They may hibernate at any stage (egg, larva, pupa or adult).



CAMOUFLAGE

Butterflies and caterpillars are preyed upon by birds, spiders, lizards and various other animals. One of the ways to protect themselves is through the use of camouflage. For example, many caterpillars are green, making them difficult to be detected because they blend in with the host leaf. The coloration and pattern of a butterfly's wings may enable it to blend into its surrounding. Some may look like dead leaves on a twig when they are at rest with their wings closed.





Fun facts about butterfly



1 Butterfly wings are transparent.



2 Butterflies have four wings, not two as you may think.



3 The wings of butterflies and moths, with their vibrant colours and patterns, are actually made up of tiny scales.



4 Butterflies need heat to be able to move. When you see them resting in the sunshine, they are warming up their wings so they can fly.



5 The largest butterfly in the world is the female Queen Alexandra's birdwing, with a wingspan of over 25cm! (Which is pretty huge!)



6 Butterflies drink from mud puddles. It's also common to see groups of male butterflies fluttering around mud puddles to slurp up the minerals found in them for dinner. This gathering is also known as "puddle clubs"



7 Female butterflies attach their eggs to leaves with a special sticky glue to help keep the eggs stuck in a place.



8 The fastest flying butterflies are the Skippers who can fly at up to **30** miles per hour.



Why are butterflies important

Essential value

- Butterflies are part of life on earth and an important component of its rich biodiversity.
- They have been around for at least 50 million years.
- Butterflies are flagship species for conservation in general, and in particular for invertebrates.

Educational value

- Butterflies and moths have fascinating life-cycles that are used in many countries to teach children about the natural world. The transformation from egg to caterpillar to pupa is one of the wonders of nature.
- Other educational aspects include the intricate wing patterns and iridescence, and as examples of insect activities.



There are many reasons why butterflies are important. Come let's explore more.

Art value

- Butterflies and moths are part of our natural heritage and have been studied for over 300 years.
- There are many references to butterflies in literature, and from poetry to musical lyrics.
- Butterflies are often portrayed as the essence of nature or as representing freedom, beauty or peace.



Economic value

- Thousands of people travel around the world each year looking for butterflies. From butterfly farms and gardens' visits, eco-tours bring valuable income to many countries around the world which contributes to the economic values.



Sources:

<https://www.uky.edu/hort/butterflies/all-about-butterflies>

<https://www.penguin.co.uk/articles/children/2019/jan/amazing-butterfly-facts-for-kids.html>



Threats to butterfly

The key driver of butterfly extinction is the loss of habitat. Human clear lands for agriculture, logging, mining, roads, and urban development. As a result, the food plants for caterpillars and adults are removed. Conditions that support the ecosystem change, making the land unsuitable for butterflies. Climate change, widespread pesticide use, and invasive species are also threatening many species of butterflies.



How can we help butterflies?

1

Don't Use Pesticides in Your Own Garden

As many pesticides contains chemicals and its harmful to the environment. Try using alternatives like barriers and traps or polyculture



3

Read about butterflies and learn more about their lives

Gaining knowledge on something is always an advantage and it helps us to grow to become a better person who appreciates the nature and be more responsible.

18

2

Planting flowering plants at home

By planting flowering plants outdoors, it will attract the butterflies and help with all the needs in all the life stages of a butterfly. That includes places to lay eggs, food plants for the larvae (caterpillars), places to form pupae and nectar sources for adult butterflies.



There are many ways we can contribute to help save the environment and butterflies:

Starting your own plant project

What you need:

- Soil
- Some compost (Get guidance from parents)
- Plant pot
- Morning glory or sunflower seeds/seedlings

Steps:

1. Add soil to a pot and then add your seeds/seedling
2. Water it till the soil is slightly wet
3. Put it at a place with some sunlight (not too little or too much!)
4. Water it daily
5. Watch it grow!



Record how
your plants grow!

Monitor your plants and draw a picture of the different stages of growth weekly.

Week __

Week __

Week __

Week __

INBOX @ SMALES

Last issue's theme:

Alex and Tampi are relaxing at a beautiful garden by the lake, what do you think they see?

Best Drawing



Nicole Kurniawan, 6 years old



Kelly Koh, 6 years old



Muthukumar Karthikeyan, 6 years old

Alex and Tampi are swimming at the beach while enjoying the beautiful sunset. Draw your most creative and unimaginable sunset view. A sunset that nobody has seen before.

Include your name, Smålish passport number, age, address and contact number, and send your drawing to alexandtampi@smales.com.sg by 31 March 2021. 1 lucky winner will win a BYGGLEK LEGO® box with lid (35x26x12 cm) and a BYGGLEK 201-piece LEGO® brick set, mixed colours.



Best letter

A Pepsi can drop onto the ground, Alex and Tampi stood up to examine the can. Suddenly, the whole world started to change. When Alex and Tampi opened their eyes, they saw water surrounding them. It was freezing and they both shook with cold. Then, Alex exclaimed, "Hey, this looks like the icy cold Artic, but where are all the ice?" "And where are the polar bears?" Tampi added. Then, the scene changed and they were in outer space. They looked down onto Earth and Tampi exclaimed, "I always wanted to look at Earth from outer space, but this is not the Earth I wanted to see! The usual blue and green colour of Earth was now grey and brown. "This must be all because of air pollution and the ice melted due to global warming." Alex said, "Everyone should Reuse, Reduce and Recycle to save the Earth!"

Tan Jie Hao Jaden, 12 years old

"Nature's beautiful, isn't it, Tampi?" Alex exclaimed. Tampi nodded in agreement and sipped his tea. The two brothers were having their tea at the dining table which was near a window. While they were admiring the beauty of nature, they noticed that the clouds started to turn gloomy. In a few seconds, it started to pour. Alex frowned in disappointment as he muttered, "So much for a beautiful day." Tampi thought of a way to comfort his brother. Tampi cleared his throat and sang, "Rain, rain, go away, come and play another day..." Alex brightened and joined in, "The whole of Smales want to play, rain, rain, go away..." Birds which sought shelter near their window chirped along. Soon, the heavy rain stopped and out came a gorgeous rainbow! Alex said to Tampi, "Nature is much more beautiful after the rain!" They laughed and continued to admire nature.

Yeo Li Ying, 12 years old

It's a beautiful day with sun ray shining through the window and colourful flowers flourishing at the front yard. Alex and Tampi were having tea and adoring the beautiful nature and flying birds. Slowly the cloud starts to turn gloomy and it started to rain. The birds fluttered to find shelter and the laid-back mood disappeared instantly. "Oh, what a shame!" Alex whined as the dark clouds hid the sun. Upon seeing how despondent Alex was, Tampi grabbed his rain boots and nudged Alex to do the same. "There's no need to be sad. We can't control the weather but we can always choose to enjoy it. Let's go out and play in the rain!" Tampi's eyes sparkled with excitement as he thought about the adventures they can have in the rain. "That's so true, Tampi. We're not going to let the rain dampen our spirits. We're going to have a great time having fun in the rain!" Alex grabbed his rain boots as well and joined Tampi in his adventures in the rain.

Alyssa Lim Xin Yi, 12 years old

Last issue's theme:

It's a beautiful day with sun ray shining through the window and colourful flowers flourishing at the front yard. Alex and Tampi were having their tea time and adoring the beautiful nature and flying birds. Slowly the cloud starts to turn gloomy and....

Alex and Tampi are out in the fields playing with the butterfly. As they were jumping around, Tampi suddenly heard the bushes behind them rustle. Walking hand in hand, they bravely headed towards the rustling bushes, only to find...

In no more than 100 words, include your name, Smãlish passport number, age, address, and contact number and send your letter to alexandtampi@smales.com.sg by **31 March 2021**. 1 lucky winner will win a **BYGGLEK LEGO® box with lid (35x26x12 cm)** and a **BYGGLEK 201-piece LEGO® brick set, mixed colours**.



Learn
how to draw

