



Big stories, fewer barriers.



SYMBOLISED CLASSICS

MAGGIE  
SPARKS

AND THE MONSTER BABY

Teaching and Learning Resources

## About this Resource

This resource can be used by parents, teachers, carers and young readers.

It is designed to provide fun, engaging and creative ideas to explore **Maggie Sparks and the Monster Baby**.

The resources are suitable to use in and out of the classroom, allowing young readers to get even more out of the book!

## Summary

Maggie Sparks is a mischievous little witch who uses her magic to turn every day into an adventure. When her Mum comes home with her baby brother, Maggie is not happy!

Maggie decides she really must make sure everyone knows what a monster her baby brother is, even if she has to use magic to do it! Sometimes she gets her spells wrong but that won't stop her trying, along with the help of her pet chameleon, Bat.

Maggie works hard to show everyone that her baby brother is a monster whilst trying to get her parents' attention.

## DO Judge a Book by its Cover!

Take a look at the book cover. What clues can the cover give us about the book?

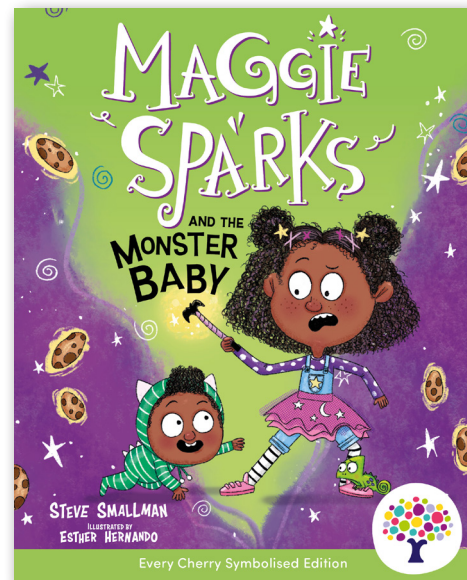
### Activity 1: Front Cover Analysis

Can you find ...

- Who is in the story?
- Who is sitting on Maggie's shoe?

Can you answer the following questions?

- What do you think the book will be about?
- What can you see on the front cover?
- Does it look like Maggie likes her baby brother?



### Activity 2: Back Cover Analysis

Read the blurb.

- Why do you think Maggie doesn't want a baby brother?
- Do you think he really is a monster?
- Do you want to read this story? Why? Why not?



### Pre-read discussion questions

Before you begin reading the book, how would you answer the following questions?

- Have you ever read any other stories about magic?
- Do you think Maggie Sparks sounds like a good big sister?
- If you could use magic, what spell would you cast?

## Activity 1: Wand Walk

It is always fun to go on a walk with your friends and family. No matter the weather, a walk is great for your health and your mind. Grab your wellies or a sun hat and prepare for your adventure.

You are going to gather some nature treasures to make your own magic wand.

- You will need the best stick you can find. Does it need to be long and thin or short and bumpy? That is up to you! Maybe each family member needs their own wand too.
- Collect the most magical looking leaves you can find on the ground and any fallen flower petals that catch your eye.
- When you get home; using twine, ribbon or string, attach your leaves to your stick and with a sprinkle of glitter you have created your own perfect nature wand.

You can then use this magical wand to help you with the next activities!




## Activity 2: Sensory Magic Potion

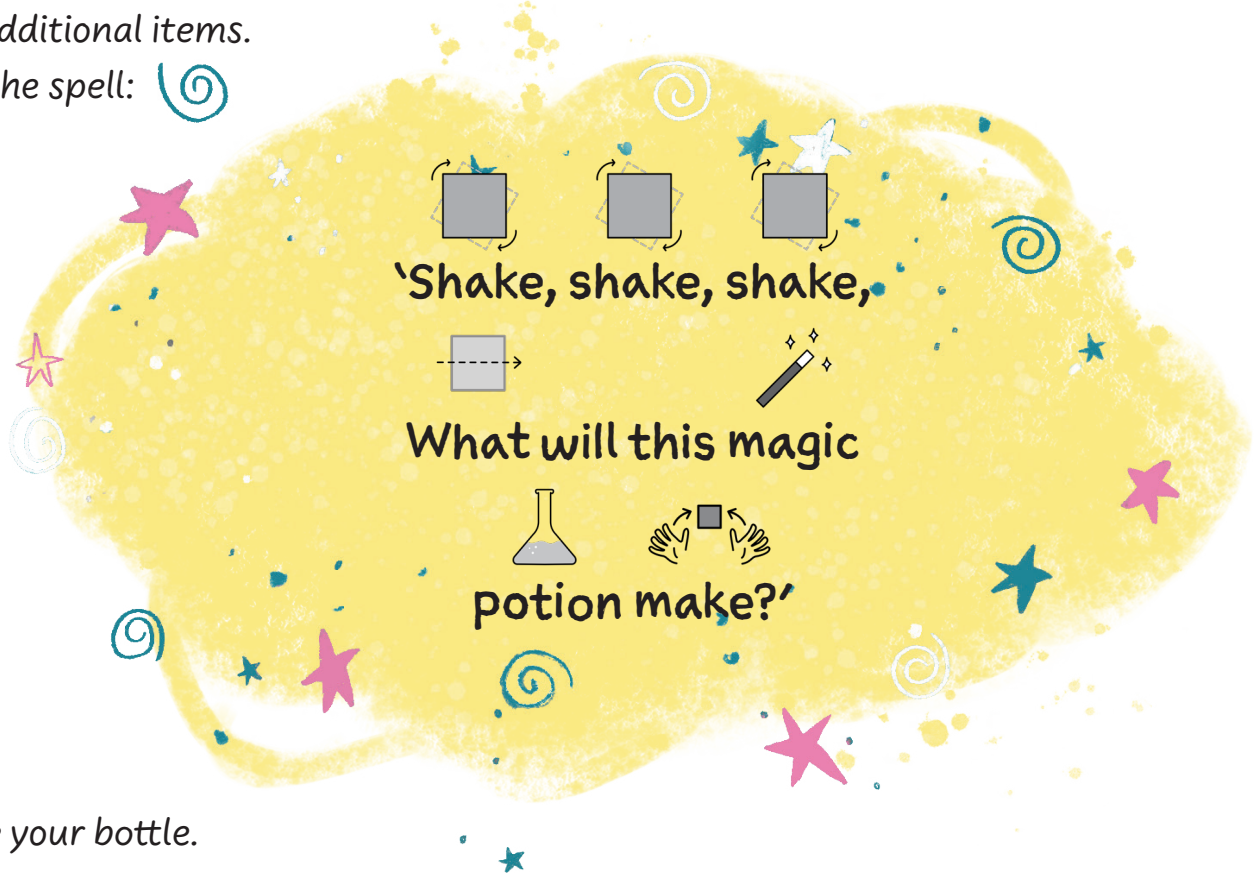
Maggie uses her wand to cast spells. Sometimes this can get her into trouble! Create a sensory magic potion that won't get you into trouble!

### What you need:

- A clean, empty, transparent bottle
- Baby oil
- A few drops of food colouring
- Additional items, such as buttons: sequins, beads, googly eyes and beads.

### Instructions

- Take the lid off your bottle.
- Pour in some baby oil.
- Pour in a few drops of food colouring.
- Add additional items.
- Cast the spell: 



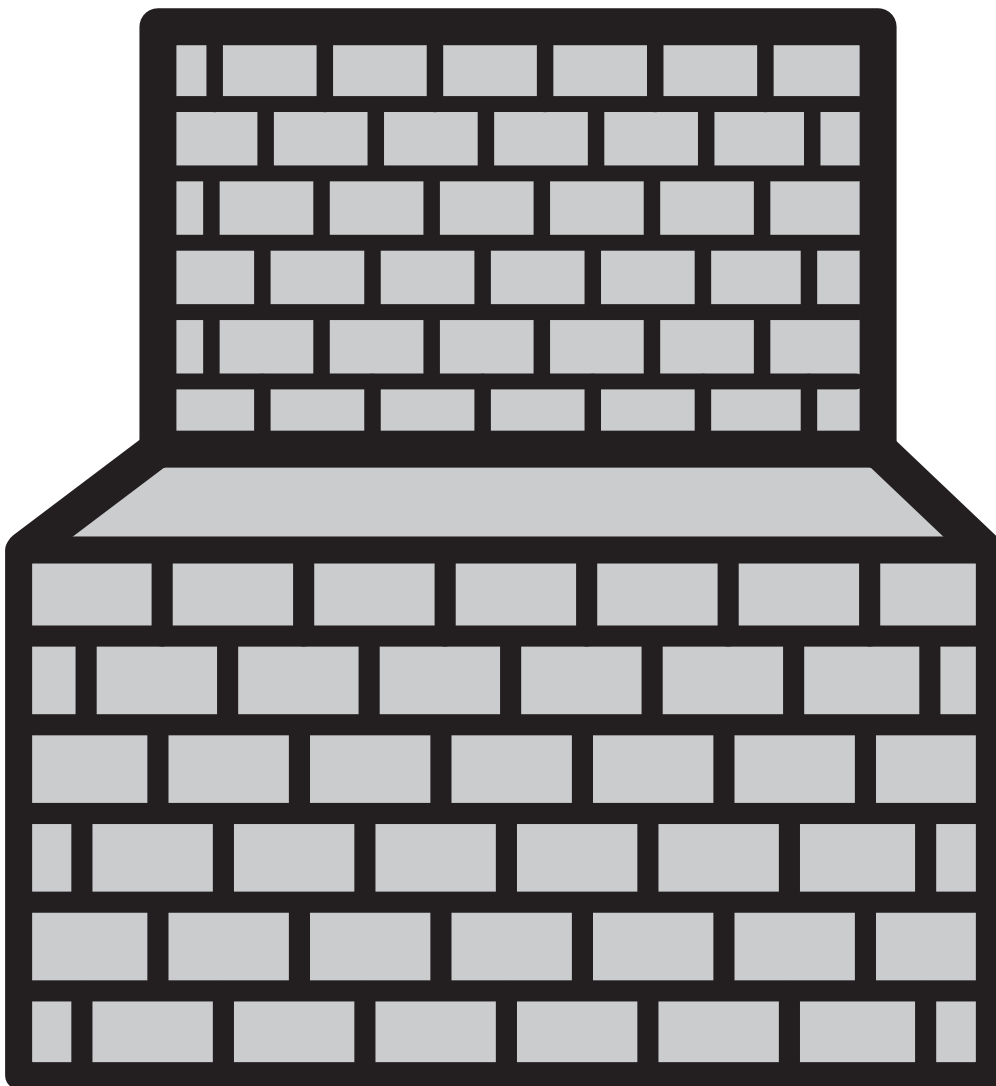
- Shake your bottle.

What does your magic potion look like?

## Activity 3: A Baby Hamper

*A new baby in the family can be very exciting. When a new baby is born, people often buy and give gifts for the new baby.*

*Think about how you would fill this box with gifts for a baby. Think about what a baby needs and likes. Fill the box with at least 5 ideas.*



## Activity 4: Maggie's Cookies

Maggie's mum makes some delicious cookies! Follow the recipe below to make some cookies of your own!

### Ingredients:

- 150g flour
- 100g butter
- 50g sugar
- 50g chocolate buttons

### Equipment

- Weighing Scales
- Mixing bowl
- Wooden Spoon
- Baking tray
- Greaseproof paper



1) Wash your hands



180°

2) Turn on the oven to 180 degrees.



3) Mix the butter and flour.



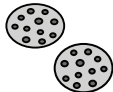
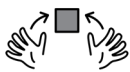
4) Rub the mixture between your fingers.



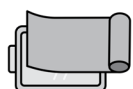
5) Add in the sugar.



6) Add in chocolate buttons.



7) Mould into cookie shapes.



8) Place on a lined baking tray.



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9) Bake for 15-20 minutes until golden brown.

**Make sure to take dietary requirements and safety considerations before you start.**

- *Page 12 - Why did Maggie think that something was wrong with her?*
- *Why did Maggie do a magic spell to make a huge burping noise? Did the spell do what she had hoped it would?*
- *What did Maggie do in the story to make it look like her brother was being naughty?*
- *Why was Maggie turning invisible?*
- *How did Maggie feel about her baby brother at the end of the story?*

## Extra Fun Challenges!

- *Design your own magical pet. What animal would it be? It might even be a new animal nobody has heard of. What is its name? What magic does it do? You could draw, paint, colour or even create your magical pet using junk modelling. If you are feeling really crafty, you could sew your own teddy of your magical friend!*
- *Maggie's mum bakes delicious cookies. Bake your own cookies to enjoy whilst reading the book again!*



*This Teaching and Learning Resource has been written by  
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