

Stimulus - The World of Jumanji

In 1981 Chris Van Allsberg wrote a book called *Jumanji*. In the story, a brother and sister discover a game that turns fiction into real life. Whatever square you land on in the game, brings a new challenge to overcome. Worst still, the challenge becomes a reality for everyone around.

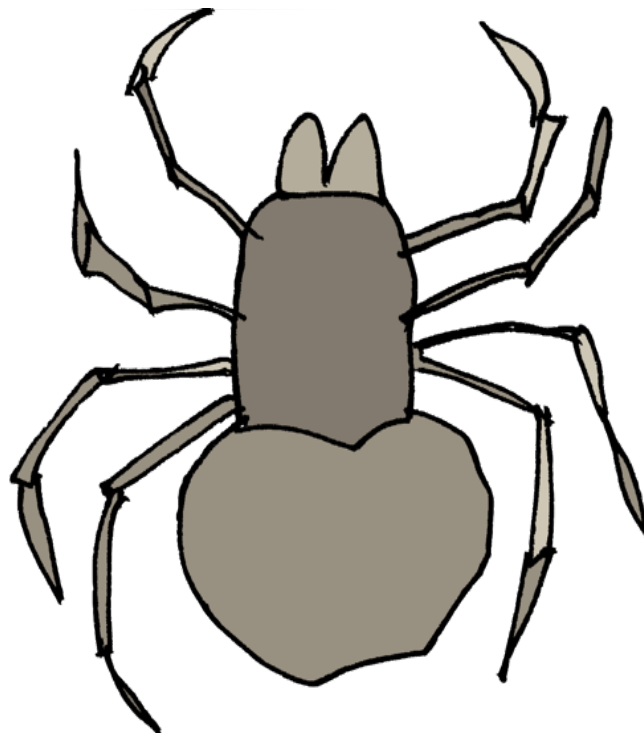
If you have access to the Internet, type this into Google:



<https://cutt.ly/JtxrUyf>

This is a link to the original movie trailer for *Jumanji* in 1995 and you can see the consequences of playing the game!

First check with an adult that it's ok to do this.



Get Plotting!



Now let's take a look at a story that follows the same plot idea as *Jumanji*. *The Game* is a finding tale and has this simple underlying plot pattern:

Basic story structure	Structure of a finding tale
Opening	Introduce the main character/s (MC)
Build up	MC goes somewhere and finds an unusual/amazing/important object
Problem	Something goes wrong – it is the fault of the object
Resolution	MC puts back/hides/throws away the object – the problem is solved
Ending	All is well again and lessons have been learnt

You can listen to a recording of The Game story below here:

<https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/game>

The Game

Danny and Susie were bored. It was wet play *again* and it felt like they hadn't seen the playground for weeks. Rivers of greasy rain streaked the classroom windowpanes and pooled to make gigantic puddles in the centre of the netball court. Another lunchtime inside was clearly stressing Mrs Allbright, as she seemed to be tense and a bit more snappy than usual. She sat at her desk with a steaming cup of tea and marked books with the ferocity of a wild beast. To top it all, every good game was being used and only the tub of dominoes was left. Everyone knew that half of them were missing and the other half had been chewed by the school 'Reading Dog'. Danny and Susie searched the classroom for something to do.

To their dismay, the comic box was empty, the iPads had been snapped up by Freya and her gang and Billy seemed to have started a resurgence of the game Slap, which didn't look like fun at all. As the two friends

squeezed past the art table to get to the wet-play books, a tatty, cardboard box fell from the top shelf of the bookcase. Susie picked it up.

"I've never seen this game before," she said, wiping the dust from the unusual lid. It was embossed with intricate patterns and around the edges were pictures of animals, insects and other strange creatures.

"An animal game? Boring!" said Danny, already losing interest.

"Oh come on, let's play. There's nothing else to do," suggested Susie, smiling widely and shaking the box.

They sat down in a quiet corner, lifted the lid and took out the board.



What next? We've stopped at an interesting part of the story. Summarise below what you think could happen next.

I predict...



Now let's find out how close your predictions were. Read on!

"Looks simple enough," said Danny, ever impatient, as he set the counters onto the start line. They were jungle animals: a rhino and a jaguar. He also shuffled the game cards and laid them in a neat pile. "Let's just start and learn as we go."

Susie went first. She grasped the dice and threw them down onto the centre of the board. An eight! She moved her rhino eight paces, to land on an orange-coloured square. It showed a picture of a giant Tarantula. She lifted a game card and read it out. "If you do not catch this beast,

then you're on the menu for its next feast." She stared at Danny and shrugged. "I don't get it!" she said.

At that moment, the table began to shake, the windows rattled and the floor vibrated. Everyone stopped what they were doing and the room fell silent.

"EARTHQUAKE!" shouted Billy, bursting into laughter. He soon stopped, as in a blink of an eye, an enormous spider, bigger than a horse, shot out of the game and landed in the centre of the crowded classroom. Everyone froze. Its enormous, hairy legs were tensed, ready to pounce and its whole body seemed to pulse. Eight, bulging eyes scanned the room and then ...

It sprung into action. It crushed the tables, smashed the windows and flung children all around the classroom with a flick of its legs. It powered towards Mrs Allbright as she stood rooted to the floor in terror. The room was filled with shrieks of panic and despair.

"What shall we do?" shouted Danny desperately, pressing himself tightly against the wall.

"Read the instructions," ordered Susie. "We have to stop it!"

Quickly, they scrabbled around to find the box underneath all the mess. They rescued it from under a pile of maths books and scanned the upturned lid to read the instructions. All the while, the spider got closer and closer to their teacher. It stretched out its forelegs, ready to grab her. Her eyes widened in horror as she realised what was coming next.

"It says we've got to throw two sixes to end the game," screeched Danny, looking pale. Susie grasped the dice again. She threw and she threw and she threw. No luck. She glanced up and saw the spider had her teacher in its grasp. Its striped legs were holding her in a vice-like grip. She threw again and then again, faster and faster each time and then, just as she was losing all hope, TWO SIXES!

Suddenly, out of nowhere, there was a loud hissing sound. It pierced the air and everyone covered their ears. A flash of light streaked through the classroom and the game rattled into life. It started to suck everything into a vortex in the centre of the room: the mess, the

children, the spider, Mrs Allbright. There was an almighty boom and then ... nothing.

Danny and Susie opened their eyes. Everything was back to normal; even Mrs Allbright was back in her chair, marking with the ferocity of a wild beast. Then the bell went.

"Pack up, Class 5!" ordered Mrs Allbright. "Science starts in two minutes and we're looking at animals in their habitats."

Susie looked at Danny and raised her eyebrows. They carefully packed the contents of the game back into the box. Everything went in except the dice and the animal counters, which Susie wrapped in a paper towel and placed into the bin instead. They put the lid on the box and lifted it high up onto the bookshelf. They never wanted anyone to play that game, ever again!

Everyone settled down to afternoon lessons. Everyone, that was, except Billy. He had spotted something on top of the bookshelf that he'd never noticed before and he intended to investigate it, the very next time they were in for wet play ...

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What Do the Words Mean?



Go back through the story and underline any words you don't know the meaning of.

Now let's investigate some of them together.

The Sentence Challenge:

Take a look at the definitions of the following words from the text. Take each word and put them into new sentences. How many sentences can you create?



... rain **streaked** the classroom windowpanes

To **streak along** – to move rapidly

e.g. John **streaked** along the pavement towards the crowd.

Now write your new sentences:





... a **resurgence** of the game slap

A **resurgence** – something that returns or starts again after disappearing for a while

e.g. The teachers have seen a **resurgence** of skipping games in the playground.

Now write your new sentences:





... the ferocity of a wild beast

Ferocity – extremely fierce (fierce = strong, powerful, violent or frightening)

e.g. We were surprised by the ferocity of the storm.



Now write your new sentences:

Likes, Dislikes, Puzzles & Surprises!



**Now you have read the whole story,
what did you like & dislike? What puzzled you (what
questions do you have – why, what, how ...) and
what surprised you?**

Let's Think About the Text a Little More



We're going to reread the text carefully and answer some comprehension questions about *The Game*.

1. Does *The Game* remind you of any other stories that you know? List them below.



2. Danny and Susie had a good choice of things to do at wet play time. Is that TRUE or FALSE? Circle the answer

3. Find and copy a word that is closest in meaning to disappointment.




4. Write down two things that children are doing in the classroom.

5. Is Mrs Allbright the teacher in the class?
YES or NO? (Circle one)
What are the clues to suggest this?




6. Why might another lunchtime inside be stressing Mrs Allbright?




7. Look at this comment from Danny:


“An animal game? Boring!” said Danny, already losing interest.
Why might Danny think the game would be boring?



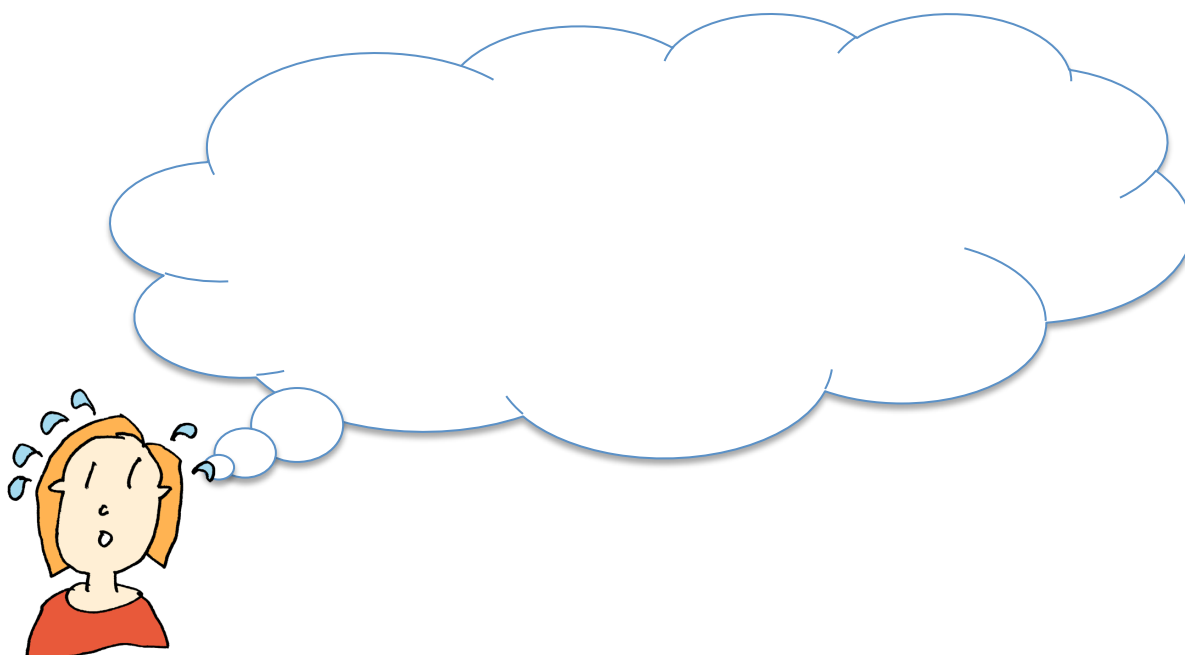
8. What were the three signs that something bad was going to happen once the game started?



9. List the things the spider did once it was out of the game:



10. The text says: "Her eyes widened in horror as she realised what was coming next." What might Mrs Allbright be thinking at this point?



11. Why did Susie put the dice and counters into the bin?



12. Billy spotted the game on the shelf at the end of the story. What do you predict might happen the next time it's wet play?

