

Stories for My Little Sister
Free Online Books for 21st Century Kids
www.storiesformylittlesister.com

Dear Parents,

Thank you for stopping by Stories for My Little Sister. We hope you'll enjoy your time here, and share our stories with your children. We've written this letter to tell you a little more about us and the story behind Stories for My Little Sister.

We were both lucky enough to receive a first rate formal education, and to grow up in a home filled with books. From literature to comic books, we were encouraged to read, and although we have different learning styles and tastes (we're a lot more different on the inside than on the outside), we both learned to love reading.

Our biggest blessing, though, was having a mother who wanted to place the world at our feet and let us explore. She coloured our childhood with wonder at small things and the freedom to make our own brand of magic. Just like the characters in our stories, we were spirited, mischievous and full of giggles... and reading in our home was not only about learning, but also about escaping into a story and just having fun.

We constructed our own make-believe world from the fabric of stories that Samantha invented for the younger Diana, populated by an ever-increasing cast of characters whose stories continue to ebb and flow with the patterns of our lives, even now that we have left childhood far behind us. Storytelling and illustration have proved to be a source of both comfort and delight to us, and we hope to share that with you and your children here at Stories for My Little Sister.

We try to make each of the stories we post on Stories for My Little Sister the very best it can be, and the words and pictures you will find here are the product of many hours of work by our adult hands. Whilst many of our stories have their roots in our childhood, we cannot help but develop new ideas and characters all the time, and the impulse to also include those stories here is irresistible. All our stories are intertwined with our sisterhood, and however old Samantha gets, she still writes for her little sister, and Diana's pictures are still just what she sees in her head. The choice of a name for our website was easy!

We hope that our books will make the kids who read them laugh out loud, help them to dream big and try hard, and remind them that their own imaginations are limitless. One of our favourite aspects of storytelling is the way it has helped us to see the funny side of life. Little things happen to all of us, every day, that can bring a smile in the retelling, and we

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thought that a blog would be the perfect way to bring that to Stories for My Little Sister. We hope you'll agree that Harrison's Blog celebrates the everyday humour in an opinionated little hamster's rather marvellous life.

Sometimes it's interesting to know some solid facts about the people behind a website, so here are a few facts about us.

We live in London, England. We feel privileged to live in this vibrant and multicultural city, but we also love seeing other parts of the world when we get the chance.

We both went to university in London. Samantha went to University College London, where she earned a degree in Psychology. Diana holds an undergraduate degree in Physics and a PhD in Astrophysics from Imperial College London.

Samantha has done a lot of different jobs over the course of her career. She thinks the best thing about having worked in so many places has been getting to know the people she met along the way. Diana has worked as a scientist on a number of different projects over the years – mostly having to do with space. Some people would say that she's a rocket scientist (although she's never worked on an actual rocket). Samantha says that she's really just an alien.

Now for some random stuff...

Both of us have naturally curly (sometimes frizzy) hair. Samantha hated her curls when she was little, but has come to terms with them over the years. Diana had straight hair until her early teens, when it turned curly.

We both started off with brown hair. Samantha's hair has been turning grey progressively since she was about 18 years old. She is letting it. She hopes someday this will be considered a fashion statement.

We both have dark brown eyes. We both wear glasses, but need them for different things. Diana is short sighted and needs glasses to see in the distance but not to read. Samantha is long sighted and needs glasses to read.

We love making things, including jewellery, clothes and stuff for the home, and each of us

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always has two or three projects on the go at any one time. Not all our projects are successful!

Diana is a self-taught artist. One of her childhood dreams was to be a cartoonist, but she was a big Star Trek fan as well, and ended up studying physics. Her favourite artists are the Impressionists, and she especially likes the work of Monet, Degas and Renoir. She takes every opportunity to visit exhibitions of their work.

Samantha can remember a time when her class at school was asked to draw a picture of a cat, and she asked the teacher if she could write a story about a cat instead. The teacher agreed!

Diana is two years and nine months younger than Samantha. (We are not twins!)

We disagree. We argue. We fight. We forgive. We are sisters.

Samantha is shorter than Diana, but Diana will always be Samantha's little sister.

Stories for My Little Sister is our labour of love... although we enjoy working on our website together so much that it doesn't feel like much of a labour. We feel lucky to live in the internet age, which has allowed us to share our stories with you. A friend told us that there are little pieces of us in our stories. We like to believe that he is right, and that they are the best little pieces.

Thank you again for stopping by, and we hope you'll visit again soon.

Yours,

Samantha and Diana