

Sally Rippin

HOLIDAY
PROGRAM

Issue
#5



The Grumpy Neighbor

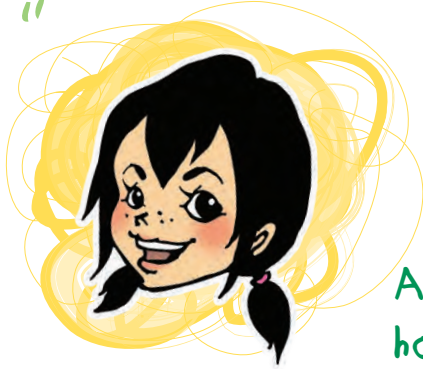
Includes:

**GROW YOUR OWN
AVOCADO TREE!**

Tips on how to **BRIGHTEN**
up your neighborhood!

Sally talks about
The Grumpy Neighbor!





Hello!

And welcome back to our SUPER-DUPER holiday program!

I hope you are having fun. I certainly am! I love being able to share all my favorite things with you each issue.

This time we are going to have a look at one of my brand-new Billie B. Brown stories: *The Grumpy Neighbor*.

Yes, it's about neighbors – grumpy ones AND friendly ones – but it's about gardening and playing soccer, too.

Some of you might be lucky enough to have a backyard you can play in. But did you know that even if you don't have a garden, you can still grow things? Amazing, huh? You can find out how in this week's program!

And there are so many more fun things you can do to keep yourself as busy as Billie.

Lots of love,

Sally
xxx



Read with Sally!

Sally introduces *The Grumpy Neighbor* - and chats about gardening and neighbors!

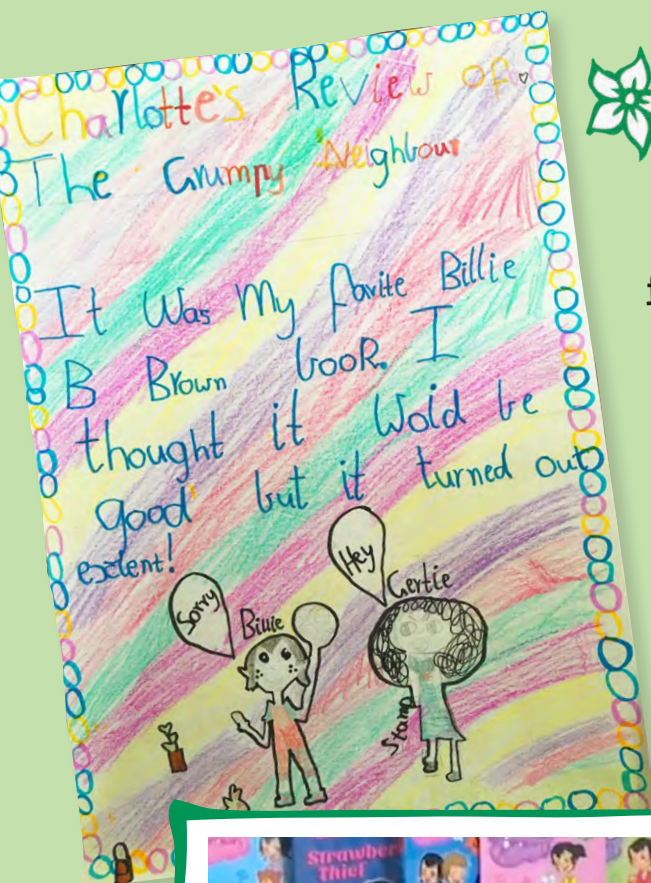
↑ PUSH PLAY!



↑ PUSH PLAY!

Have you started *The Grumpy Neighbor* yet? Why don't you read along with Sally, and see if you can finish the rest by yourself!

Mail Bag!



Charlotte reviewed **The Grumpy Neighbor** for us! It's now her **FAVORITE** Billie B. Brown book; she said it was excellent!

PUSH PLAY!



Charlotte!

Meet **ESME!**

Esme is a **BIG** Billie B. Brown fan - here are five **SUPER-DUPER** things about Esme!



Esme!

1 Esme is **REALLY GOOD** at the monkey bars!

2 Esme is really kind to her brother!

4 Esme can run faster than quite a lot of people in her class!

3 Esme's favorite animal is a dog!

5 Her favorite color is **greeny blue**.

Did you know Billie sometimes likes to solve mysteries? You can follow these adventures in the **Billie B. Mysteries series**.

[CLICK HERE](#) ↗



There are lots of words in Billie B. Brown *The Grumpy Neighbor* that we know how to read. We call these words high-frequency words because we see them all the time.



First, **trace** the high-frequency words below.

and to is
on it the
as at of

Trace these words!

Now, we are going to go on a high-frequency word treasure hunt. Read chapter one of *The Grumpy Neighbor*. Every time you find one of the words listed below, put a tally mark next to it. Which word did you find the most?



Word	Tally
and	
to	
is	
on	
it	
the	
as	
at	
of	

The word I found the most was:

Billie is lucky to live next door to her best friend, Jack. David and Stella and Ivy are lucky to live right next to a park. They also live near Gertie, who turns out to be not so grumpy after all.



Where do you live?

Draw your house. Can you write the names of everyone who lives in your house?

My neighbor's house

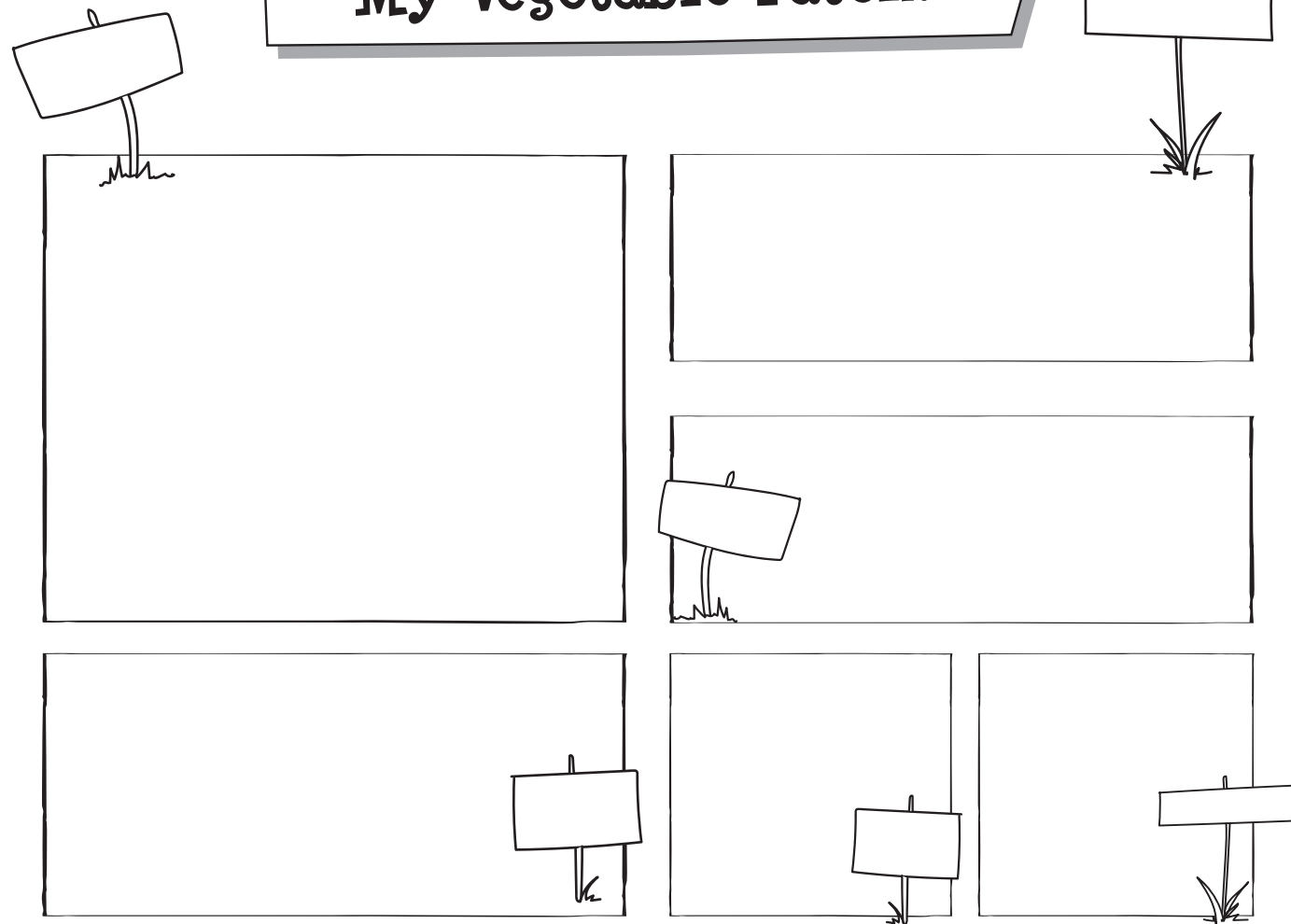
My house

Do you have a neighbor? Draw their house. Can you write the names of your neighbors?

Gertie and Billie both like their gardens. Billie plants pumpkin, peas and parsnip in her garden. What vegetables would you like to plant in a vegetable garden? Draw your very own vegetable garden below. Label each vegetable that you would like to plant. When you write your label, listen really carefully to the sounds you hear in the word and write those sounds down.



My Vegetable Patch!



I planted these vegetables:

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Oh no! Some of the letters have disappeared from these Billie B. Brown words! Fill in the missing beginning sound for each of these words. Can you read the words now that they have been fixed?



B

___all

___illie

___ox

M

___ad

___om

___ean

S

___leep

___oft

___eed

L

___ost

___ap

___ike

C

___an

___alls

___ry

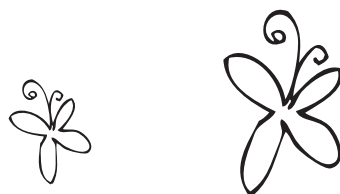


“This is the worst day ever!” Billie shouts.
Then she bursts into tears.



First Billie lost her ball and then Noah pulled out all of her plants.

Billie was having a bad day, but she didn't let that keep her down!
What can you do to make yourself feel better if you're having a bad day?
Write a list of five things that you can do to make yourself feel better if you're feeling sad. Draw a picture to match.



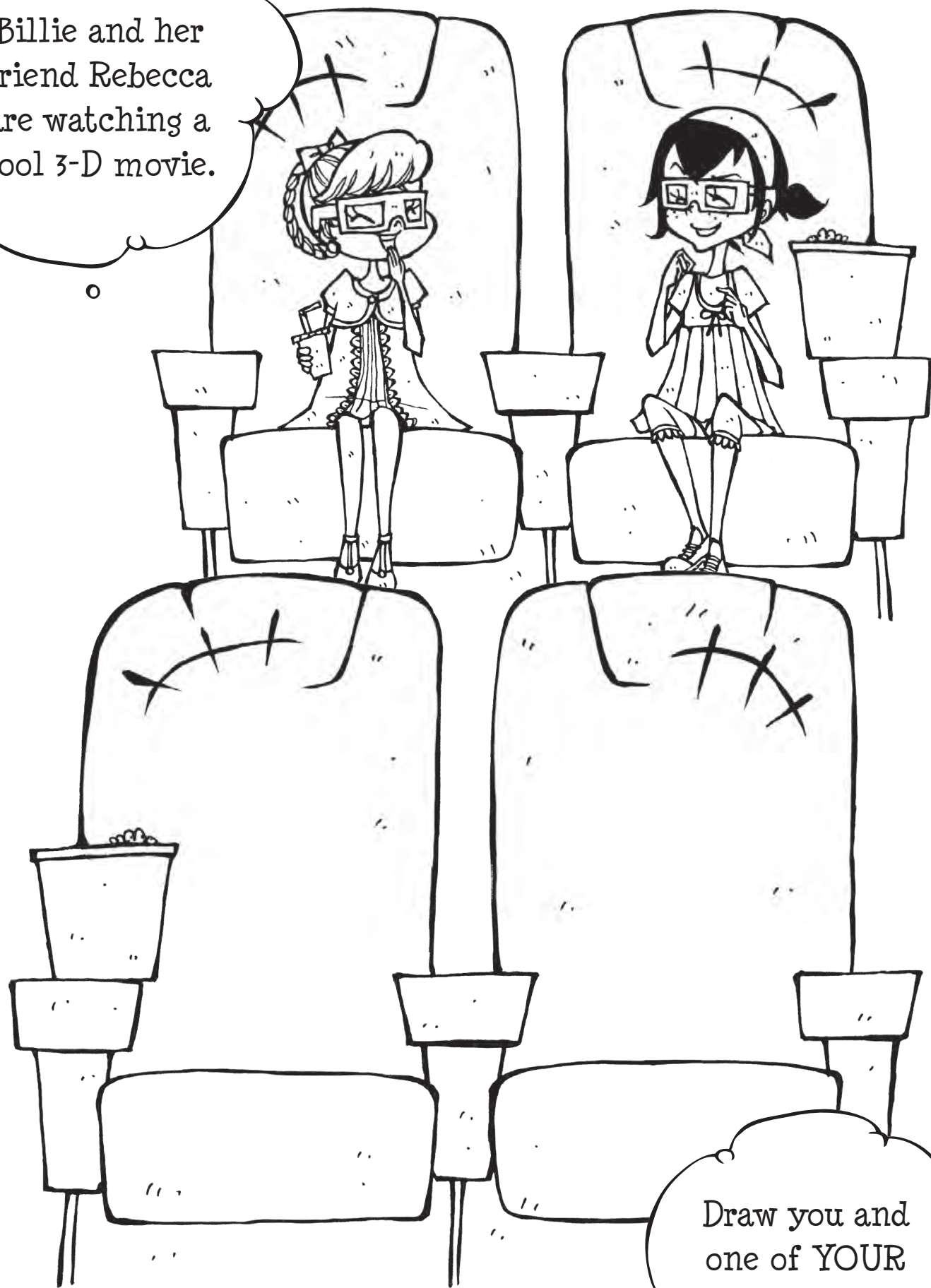
Things that I can do to make myself feel better if I'm feeling sad:

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.



Billie is planning to build a really cool cubby.
Draw what you think it might look like.

Billie and her friend Rebecca are watching a cool 3-D movie.



Draw you and one of YOUR friends at the movies too!

Super-duper coloring!

Color Billie's giant bowl of ice cream. Yum!



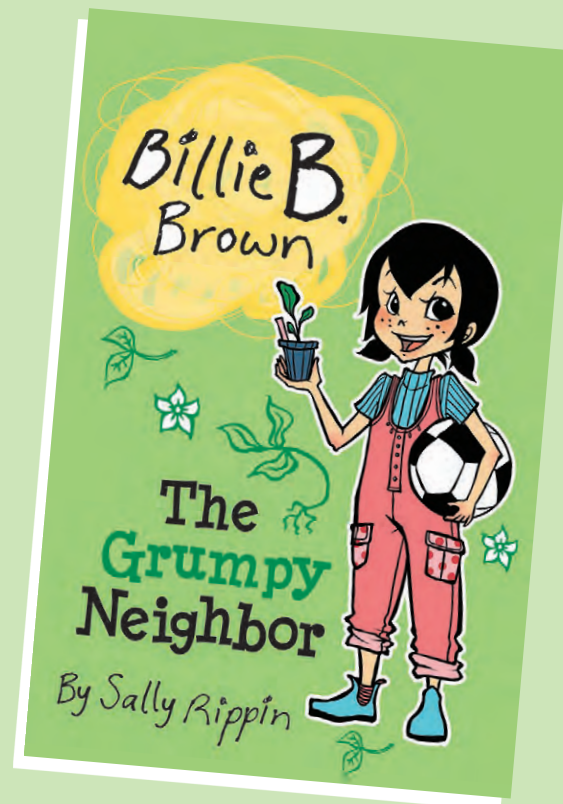
The Grumpy Neighbor QUIZ!

How well do YOU know the

Billie B. Brown book,

The Grumpy Neighbor?

Take this quiz to find out!



1 In *The Grumpy Neighbor*, what does the "B" in Billie B. Brown stand for? Circle the right answer!

ball butter bat

2 When Billie and Jack play soccer with Jack's cousins, who is the goalkeeper?

3 Circle all of the words that are used to describe Grumpy Gertie.

kind short polite mean

4 How many balls have Jack's cousins lost over Grumpy Gertie's fence?

5 Billie has a baby brother. What is his name?

6 What does Billie's dad have in the trunk of his car?

7 Who pulls the plants out of Billie's vegetable patch?

8 What does Noah give Billie to say sorry?

9 Fill in the blank! To protect the plants, Billie's dad builds a _____ house.

10 Circle all of the vegetables that are **not** in this book.

beans pumpkin peas carrots
parsnip cabbage potatoes

Answers 1. Ball 2. Ivy 3. Short; mean 4. Three 5. Noah 6. A box of seedlings 7. Noah 8. His favorite teddy 9. Green 10. Beans, carrots, cabbage, potatoes

Billie B. Brown's Guide to Brightening up the Neighborhood!

Billie B. Brown has some great neighbors. In fact, her next-door neighbor, Jack, is her best friend! Sometimes, when it's gloomy outside, Billie likes to add some color to her neighborhood. It helps brighten up everyone's day!

You might like to try this too. Here's how.

1 Draw the biggest, most beautiful rainbow you can and put it in a window that can be seen from the street. When people walk past, they will see it and smile.

2 Paint some rocks and leave them around the neighborhood for people to find! You could even pop a little pile at your front gate with a sign saying FREE PET ROCKS TO MAKE YOU SMILE!

3 Do you have some chalk? Chalk is awesome because you can draw on the pavement with it and it washes off. It's a temporary art exhibition! Ask your family if it's OK to do some art on the pavement, then draw something there that makes you happy. Billie likes to draw rainbows and flowers. Sometimes she draws smiley faces, or writes nice messages in her best handwriting. Your artwork might just make somebody's day!





Billie B. Brown's Guide to

Growing an Avocado Tree



Did you know you can **sprout** an avocado pit and grow your very own avocado tree from it? **Here's how!**



1. Ask a grown-up to help you cut open an avocado, being careful not to cut the pit. (That's the big seed in the middle.)

2. Eat the avocado — they're delicious! Billie likes hers on toast.

3. Remove the pit. Wash any remaining fruit off it. Be gentle — don't remove any of the brown skin on the pit! Sometimes it helps to soak the pit in water for a few minutes first. Dry the pit.



4. Fill a jar with water, almost to the brim.

5.

Work out which is the "broad" end of the pit. Here's a picture to help you. You might need a grown-up to help make sure you get the right end.



This is the broad end!

6.

Carefully push three toothpicks firmly into the pit. Try to space them out evenly. They're going to be the scaffolding for your pit!

7.

Place the broad end of the avocado pit in the water, with the toothpicks resting on the edge of the jar. **About one-third of the pit should be in the water.** Be sure to leave the top of the pit out of the water so your plant can grow.



8.

Place your jar in a warm, sunny spot. Billie's kitchen windowsill is perfect for sprouting avocado pits!

9.

Check on your pit regularly to make sure it has enough water. Your pit should start to sprout in two to six weeks. If you haven't seen anything change in eight weeks, it's probably not going to sprout. Don't worry — just start again with another pit.

10.



Once the stem grows to about 6 in, cut it back by half. When the roots have grown thick and the stem has leaves again, **it's planting time!** Ask a grown-up for a pot and some soil and plant your avocado baby. Or you can plant it in the garden (but be sure to ask a grown-up first). Leave half the seed exposed above the soil. Make sure to water it! In time, you'll have your very own avocado tree. Hurray!



How to Make

Pet Rocks!



Billie B. Brown loves gardening almost as much as she loves painting. One day, Billie saw a rock in her garden that looked just like an apple – except for its color. And then Billie had an idea . . . a **SUPER-DUPER** idea!

Can you guess what
Billie's idea was?

That's right! She painted the rock **RED**. And she didn't stop there! Soon Billie was having fun painting all kinds of things on rocks. She even glued **googly eyes** onto some of them to make pet rocks. You can make some too!



What you will need:

- Rocks
- Paint 
- Paintbrushes (thin ones are good for adding details to your rocks)
- Googly eyes (optional, but FUN) 
- Craft glue
- Yarn (or cotton balls)

What to do:

1 Find some nice smooth rocks. Have a snoop in your garden, or look for some while you're on a walk with your family.

2 Wash the rocks and dry them. They need to be really dry or the paint won't stick.

3 Ask your family if it's OK to do some painting. Then work out where you're going to do your painting, and cover that area with newspaper. This is **REALLY** important. Billie once forgot this step and accidentally painted the kitchen table **green**. Her mom and dad were **NOT** pleased!

4 Have a good think about what you are going to make. Billie once made a handful of rocks look like a school of fish! And another time she made all sorts of bugs to put around the garden. Ladybugs are her favorite bugs to paint. Sometimes she just likes to do patterns or flowers. Sometimes she paints silly faces. You can paint anything you like!

5 Get out your paint and paintbrushes and paint away! If you're using different colors on the one rock, Billie suggests you wait for the first one to dry before you add the next one.

6 When the paint is dry, you can glue on optional things like cotton balls or yarn (for hair) and googly eyes.



Billie B. Brown's Guide to Writing Letters!

EVERYONE LIKES GETTING LETTERS, and they're fun to write, too! Billie has a lovely collection of sparkly pens that she likes to write letters with, but any pen or pencil will do. She and her best friend, Jack, sometimes send letters to each other through the fence between their houses. Other times, Billie leaves drawings and secret notes in the mailboxes on her street just to make people feel happy.

If you would like to write a super-duper real and proper letter, here are **BILLIE'S TOP TIPS!**

TOP TIP #1

Put your name, address and date in the top left corner, just like this:

My Name
My House Number and
Street Name
My City, My State, My
Zip Code

TOP TIP #2

Then write the person's name on the left side of the letter. Most people say "Dear someone or other." Or you can just say "Hi!" if you prefer. Like this:

Dear Jack,

TOP TIP #3

Then it can be nice to ask them how they are. If you ask lots of questions, you can be sure your friend will write back! It's a good way to get to know people, and to show you care about them, too. Something like this:

How are you doing? Did you finish that comic you were making?

TOP TIP #4

Then tell them something about how you are. A funny story or some news is always fun to read. Here is something Billie once wrote to Jack:

I am good. Mom is very busy with her work so Dad and I planted a ~~veg~~ ~~vejd~~ vegetable garden yesterday. I put in carrots because I know they are your ~~farrit~~ favorite, and sunflowers for me! We also collected some stones to make pet rocks. I'll make one for you, if you like?

Oh, and you know what else is exciting? My brother, Noah, said his first word yesterday and guess what it was? Beebee! That's me! That's how he says my name. Cute, huh?

TOP TIP #5

Then you might like to finish off with something about how special your friend is to you. Perhaps something like this:

I miss you lots. I can't wait until we can ~~bitd~~ build that Lego spaceship together. I am waiting for you to build it with me because you are my very best friend.

TOP TIP #6

Then it's time to sign off:

Please write back soon.

*Lots of love,
Billie (B. Brown — but I think you knew that already! Hee! Hee!)*

Don't worry if you mess up the spelling or if you need to cross things out. Everybody loves to receive letters. And if you want to include a drawing, that will make your letter even more special. **HAPPY WRITING!**

Do you keep A DIARY?

Billie B. Brown does!
Sometimes it's fun to look back and
see how much you have grown up!



This week, my favorite book was

by

I loved it because

The song that was stuck in my head was

The best thing I ate was

The best thing that happened this week was

Next week I want to try



Next issue!

The Honey Bees
is a **BRAND-NEW** Billie B. Brown
book! Have you read it yet?

Billie wants to protect the planet.
She knows bees are super-duper important,
so she's going to build a beehive at school!
But why is her best friend, Jack,
so upset about her plan?

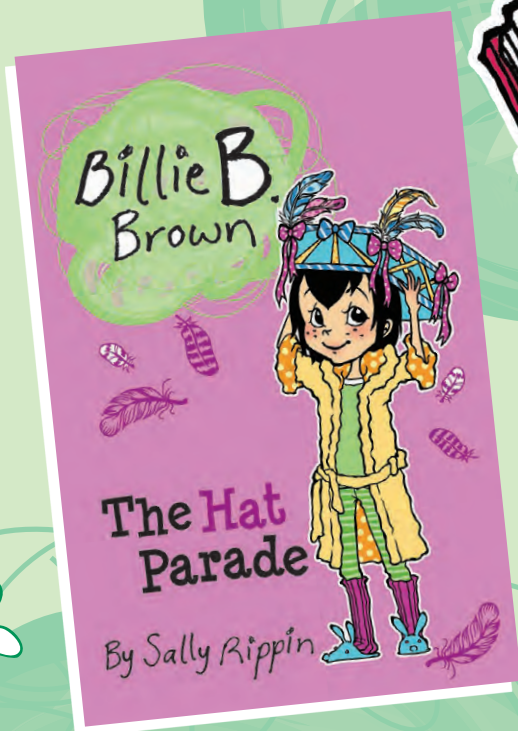
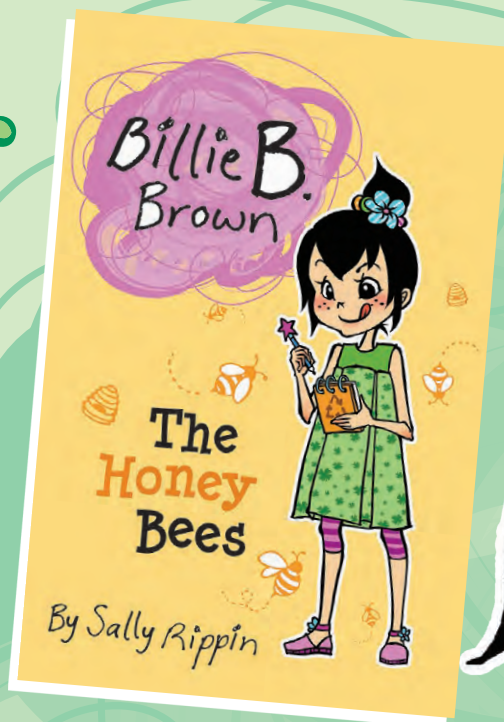
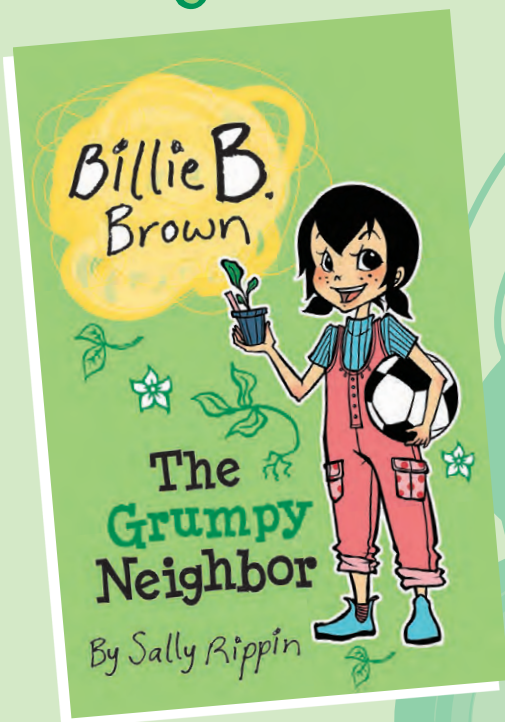
Interviews

Quizzes

Sally gets a beehive!

And
much
more!





Don't miss all
of Billie's latest
adventures!