

Paddington™ : The Story of a Bear

**Large Print Guide and
Audio Transcript**

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Photography

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#Paddington

Michael Bond with a Paddington plush toy

Courtesy of Paddington and Company
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Michael Bond/Terry Harris Photography

Michael Bond

Michael Bond (1926–2017) is perhaps most famous for creating Paddington Bear.

He began writing short stories and radio and television plays in the 1940s and 1950s. Michael gave up his job as a camera operator for the BBC in 1966 to become a full-time author. His other creations include The Herbs, guinea pig Olga da Polga, a mouse called Thursday, and Monsieur Pamplemousse.

Paddington's suitcase from the 'Paddington' films, around 2014- 2017

On loan from STUDIOCANAL and HEYDAY
FILMS

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Introduction

Over 60 years ago, Michael Bond wrote a story about a small bear with a fondness for marmalade sandwiches.

Paddington's adventures have delighted people around the world ever since.

Paddington is a curious bear and likes to try new things. He doesn't always get everything right, but he is kind and polite – and things usually turn out well in the end.

Join us to discover the story of this very special bear.

Paddington has left sticky marmalade all over the exhibition. Follow the trail and join the adventure.

Trail designed by Year 4 students from Argyle Primary School, Camden

Beginnings

Paddington's story has two beginnings.

One Christmas Eve, Michael Bond brought home a lonely toy bear and named it Paddington. Michael imagined the bear on all sorts of adventures and wrote a whole book in ten days.

We first meet Paddington sitting alone on his suitcase at Paddington station. He has travelled from Peru in search of a new home. He meets the Brown family, and life changes for all of them.

Michael Bond at his typewriter, around 1957

Courtesy of The Estate of Michael Bond

Finding Paddington

Michael Bond was doing some shopping one Christmas Eve in Selfridges when he spotted a toy bear alone on a shelf.

He bought the bear as a present for his wife, and they named him after Paddington station because it was close to where they lived. This toy bear inspired Michael's first full-length book, 'A Bear Called Paddington', published in 1958.

Audio: Michael Bond talking about the creation of Paddington

Recorded by the British Library in 2013

© The Estate of Michael Bond

Transcript

'I was doing some last minute shopping in Oxford Street and it started to snow, Christmas Eve. And I went into Selfridges and I found myself in the toy department for some reason. I had no reason for going there because I had no children at the time. And I saw this very small bear sitting on the shelf, looking very lonely. The only one left. And – again – it probably sounds a bit silly, but I walked away and then I thought, well, I can't leave him there all over Christmas.

And I had this blank sheet of paper in the typewriter and, in those days, I was just trying to think up plots, which never

happens now-a-days, but I didn't know what to write. I sort of looked around the room and I saw this little bear sitting on the mantelpiece and I thought, I wonder what would happen if a real bear landed up on Paddington station.

And so I wrote the first words to get my mind working - not meaning to write a book, or certainly not a children's book because, again, I didn't know any children. And I think I actually turned out to be a big plus, because if I had sat down to write a children's book, I think I'd have probably written down and children hate that.

Up until then, I'd always - that was another breakthrough - because up until then, I'd always tried to think up plots for stories and put the characters into them, and they never came alive. And I learned the fact that if you have a character, a strong character, stories arrive out of that character.

And Paddington is a character like that because I've only got to go out and sort of take him with me mentally, and something happens. And I think, what would happen if it was Paddington? The stories come alive.'

Concentration required

When Michael Bond wrote the first Paddington stories, people didn't have computers at home. He had to write stories out by hand, or use a machine called a typewriter. This is the typewriter that Michael used in the 1960s. It is much more difficult to change things or correct mistakes on a typewriter, but it still only took Michael ten days to write the first Paddington book in 1957.

Michael Bond's Olympia typewriter.
Around 1965.

On loan from Karen Jankel

**This types at lightning speed!
Can you make the click click
sound by using your fingers on
your own imaginary typewriter?
Fill the page with your
imagination!**

Adventures with Paddington

Michael recorded ideas for some of his Paddington stories in this notebook before typing them out. He had tried writing plots for stories before, and then putting characters into them, but he never felt the stories came to life. Paddington was different. He was such a strong character that Michael only had to imagine taking him out and about and then wait to see what adventures unfolded.

Michael Bond's notebook. 1957 onwards.
On loan from The Estate of Michael Bond
Please do not photograph.

This special notebook belonged to the author of Paddington Bear, Michael Bond. You can be a writer too!

What stories or facts would you like to write about?

Publishing Paddington

Michael Bond's agent Harvey Unna sent the stories about Paddington to several publishers to see if they would publish them in a book.

Barbara Ker Wilson, an editor at Collins Publishers, was the first to recognise that both children and adults would enjoy the warmhearted and humorous tales. Collins published 'A Bear Called Paddington' with illustrations by Peggy Fortnum in October 1958.

No 'whimsy-whamsy' here

Barbara Ker Wilson was a well-known author and editor of children's books. In this review of 'A Bear Called Paddington', she writes that she enjoyed the simple style and 'endearing central character'. She compares the stories to those about Jennings, a mischievous schoolboy created by author Anthony Buckeridge. At the top of the page is her recommendation – that Collins Publishers should accept the stories for publication.

Barbara Ker Wilson, typescript report on 'A Bear Called Paddington'. 1958.

On loan from HarperCollins Publishers

'Always kind and polite'

Barbara Ker Wilson sent the manuscript of 'A Bear Called Paddington' to one of her publisher's readers to review. The reader compares Paddington to other fictional bears like Winnie-the-Pooh, but finds that Paddington has his own unique character: 'determined and adventurous but always kind and polite'. She likes the way the stories are written, and has some suggestions about how the book should be illustrated.

Manuscript reader's report on 'A Bear Called Paddington'. 1958.

On loan from HarperCollins Publishers

Paddington in print

'A Bear Called Paddington' was published by Collins on 13 October 1958. It was hugely popular and sold out by Christmas. Barbara Ker Wilson had suggested Peggy Fortnum as the illustrator. Peggy's pen and ink drawings for the stories and the book cover capture Paddington's charm. She illustrated collections of Paddington stories for over 20 years. Michael Bond gave this signed copy of the first edition to his parents.

Michael Bond, 'A Bear Called Paddington', illustrated by Peggy Fortnum. London, 1958.

On loan from Karen Jankel

Illustrations © Peggy Fortnum/
HarperCollins 2021

Paddington arrives

We first learn about Paddington's journey from Peru and the family he left behind there in 'A Bear Called Paddington'.

He explains to the Browns that he travelled as a stowaway on a ship after his Aunt Lucy moved to a home for retired bears. He arrived in London alone and with nowhere to go before the Browns took him in.

Paddington's journey from Peru

This scrapbook describes Paddington's early life in Peru where he was brought up by his Aunt Lucy and named Pastuso after his uncle. It also records his journey to England as a stowaway on a big ship. The map shows the route across the ocean from South America – marked by the jars of marmalade Paddington ate on the journey.

Michael Bond, 'Paddington: My Scrapbook', illustrated by R.W. Alley. London, 2000.

LC.31.a.664.

Illustrations © R.W. Alley/HarperCollins 2021

Does looking at Paddington's travel scrapbook make you feel adventurous?

Pretend you're a plane travelling through the sky or a boat in a stormy sea.

'Please look after this bear'

These watercolours by Barry Wilkinson show two moments from Paddington's first meeting with the Browns. Mr and Mrs Brown spot Paddington sitting alone on his suitcase, before Paddington and Mr Brown set off for the station buffet (or café) while Mrs Brown waits for Judy. These illustrations were for 'Paddington Takes a Bath', a story for younger children based on the first chapters of 'A Bear Called Paddington'.

Barry Wilkinson, artwork for 'Paddington Takes a Bath', 1976.

On loan from HarperCollins Publishers

© Barry Wilkinson/HarperCollins 2021

Chaos in the café

By the time Mrs Brown and Judy join Paddington and Mr Brown in the café, there is a certain amount of chaos and confusion! John Lobban illustrated Paddington books for younger children in the early 1990s. Here he has captured the moment when Paddington slips, cakes fly, and Judy has to try very hard not to laugh.

Michael Bond, 'Paddington Bear',
illustrated by John Lobban. London,
1992.

YK.1992.b.2232.

Illustrations © John Lobban/
HarperCollins 2021

Number 32 Windsor Gardens

The Browns invite Paddington to come and stay with them. The illustration by R.W. Alley in this book shows him arriving with his suitcase at their home in Windsor Gardens, still slightly sticky from the chaos in the café. You can just see Jonathan and Mrs Bird peering out of the window. R.W. Alley has illustrated most of the Paddington stories since the late 1990s.

Michael Bond, 'Paddington: The Original Story of the Bear from Peru',
illustrated by R.W. Alley. Revised edition.
London, 2007.

EMC.2009.b.173.

Illustrations © R.W. Alley/HarperCollins
2021

Video: The Browns meet Paddington in the station, from 'Paddington'

STUDIOCANAL S.A.S., 2014

© 2014/STUDIOCANAL S.A.S. – TF1
FILMS PRODUCTION S.A.S

Judy reassures Paddington

This drawing by Peggy Fortnum of Judy holding Paddington's paw shows the moment he first arrives at 32 Windsor Gardens. Paddington can hear Mrs Bird's footsteps approaching the door and isn't sure what to expect. Michael Bond once wrote that Peggy Fortnum 'understands Paddington perfectly'. He described how she captured Paddington's appearance and character in just a few lines: 'the shagginess, the slightly hunched figure, the purposeful air'.

Peggy Fortnum, artwork for 'A Bear Called Paddington'. 1958.

On loan from The Estate of Michael Bond
Illustrations © Peggy Fortnum/
HarperCollins 2021

Paddington is nervous but the Browns welcome him into their home like a festival of kindness in their hearts.

Has someone ever given you a helping hand?

Paddington's first TV appearance

Paddington's adventures were made into a television series in 1975. Filmmaker Ivor Wood suggested using stop-motion animation, where characters and scenery are photographed again and again in slightly different positions to create a video. Paddington and the set, including this door to 32 Windsor Gardens, were three dimensional, but all the other characters were flat drawings. Ivor gave this door to Michael Bond as a present.

Ivor Wood, front door of 32 Windsor Gardens and Paddington puppet for FilmFair television animation of Paddington. Around 1983.

On loan from The Estate of Michael Bond
© P & Co. Ltd 2021

**Paddington is all buttoned up
and ready to go out. Do you think
he is going to see Mr Gruber?
Raise your hat like Paddington to
greet everyone you meet!**

Home

Paddington had to leave his beloved Aunt Lucy behind in Peru when he moved to England.

In London, he finds a new home with the Browns and Mrs Bird. He quickly makes friends with Mr Gruber and the market traders on Portobello Road. But not everyone Paddington meets is as welcoming – sometimes he has to remind people to be kind with a hard stare!

Paddington's family

Paddington leaves his Aunt Lucy behind in Peru when he moves to England. They write letters and visit each other when they can.

In London, the Browns (dad Henry, mum Mary and the children, Judy and Jonathan) and their housekeeper Mrs Bird welcome Paddington into their home at 32 Windsor Gardens. Paddington becomes part of their family too.

Mrs Bird

Mrs Bird is the Browns' housekeeper and does most of the cooking and cleaning. Her good opinion and advice are important to Paddington. Michael Bond wanted her to be a strong character. He based her on the aunt of a friend and on Mary Gordon, who played Mrs Hudson in Sherlock Holmes films in the 1930s and 1940s. This cut-out is from the FilmFair animation first broadcast in 1975.

Mrs Bird standing. 1983.

On loan from The Estate of Michael Bond

© P & Co. Ltd 2021

Life with Aunt Lucy

We learn more about Paddington's life in Peru in Michael Bond's later Paddington stories and in the films. Aunt Lucy looked after him when his parents died. She taught him English and told him about England. Paddington keeps her photograph next to his bed at the Browns. Later she visits him in London. This toy bear of Aunt Lucy was produced by Gabrielle Designs in 1978.

Aunt Lucy plush toy created by Gabrielle Designs. 1978.

On loan from The Estate of Michael Bond
© P & Co. Ltd 2021

Michael Bond and his father at Sandown, Isle of Wight, 1930

Courtesy of The Estate of Michael Bond

Michael Bond and his parents, around 1936

Courtesy of The Estate of Michael Bond

Aunt Lucy

In the very first story about Paddington, we hear about his Aunt Lucy in Peru. Paddington explains that he lived with her until she moved into a home for retired bears in Lima, the capital city. She and Paddington still send each other lots of postcards and letters. This book contains 15 letters written by Paddington describing his adventures. R.W. Alley's illustration shows Aunt Lucy writing at her desk.

Michael Bond, 'Love from Paddington', illustrated by Peggy Fortnum and R.W. Alley. London, 2014.

YKL.2016.a.1421.

Illustrations © Peggy Fortnum/R.W. Alley/HarperCollins 2021

A heart-warming and loving letter from Paddington to Aunt Lucy. The blobs of ink show how clumsy he is!

Pretend you are licking an envelope, sealing it and posting into a postbox.

**Video: 'Paddington and the
Meteor Shower',
from 'The Adventures of
Paddington'**

STUDIOCANAL S.A.S and Nickelodeon,
2020

© MARMALADE FILMS LIMITED –
MASCARET FILMS SAS 2019

© P&Co. Ltd/SC 2021

The Brown Family

This illustration by David McKee shows the Browns and Mrs Bird at breakfast suggesting things for Paddington to do that day. Michael Bond based Mr Brown partly on his own father, who didn't like decorating! He thought his parents would have welcomed Paddington in the same way as the Browns – his mum impulsive, his dad slightly more anxious.

Michael Bond, *Paddington's Busy Day*, illustrated by David McKee. London, 1987.

YK.1987.a.7607.

Illustrations © David McKee/
HarperCollins 2021

Michael Bond as a boy at the door of his house in Reading with his dog Binkie

Courtesy of The Estate of Michael Bond

Arrived safely!

When Paddington reaches the Browns' house, he writes Aunt Lucy this letter to let her know he has arrived safely in England. As you can see, he isn't yet sure how long he will be staying at 32 Windsor Gardens. He signs the letter Paddington and explains that it is his new name. Aunt Lucy's reply is in this book too, where she writes that she likes the name.

'Paddington's Post', based on the original Paddington Bear stories

by Michael Bond, illustrated by R.W. Alley. London, 2019.

LC.31.a.25145.

Illustrations © R.W. Alley 2021

Making friends

Paddington soon gets to know his neighbours and local community.

In Portobello Road he shops for fruit and vegetables and makes friends with the market stall holders. Most days he meets his friend Mr Gruber in his antique shop there. Mr Gruber was born in Hungary so he understands how Paddington feels about making new friends in a new country.

Exploring Notting Hill

After he moved in with the Browns, Paddington got to know the local area. Judy and Jonathan helped him draw this map. It is from the same collection as his letter to Aunt Lucy. You can see Paddington's room at the top of the house, Mr Curry's house, Mr Gruber's shop and even the place Paddington buys his buns.

'Map of important places near number 32 Windsor Gardens'
from 'Paddington's Post'. London, 2019.
LC.31.a.25145.

Illustrations © R.W. Alley 2021

Portobello Road

This is a guide to London from Paddington's point of view. It includes places he visits in the stories and even the British Library! This page shows Portobello Road in Notting Hill. It is famous for its antique stalls, and Paddington's friend Mr Gruber has his shop here. Paddington knows many of the market traders in the local area and buys fruit and vegetables for Mrs Bird from them.

Michael Bond, 'Paddington's Guide to London: a Bear's Eye View'.

London, 2011.

YK.2012.a.4194.

© P & Co. Ltd/HarperCollins 2021

Mr Gruber

Most mornings, Paddington shares 'elevenses' – cocoa and buns – with his friend, Mr Gruber. This illustration by Fred Banbery shows them in Mr Gruber's antique shop. Michael Bond wanted Paddington to have a friend who understood what it's like to move to a new country. Mr Gruber takes Paddington on trips to explore London and beyond, and gives him helpful advice. His character was mainly inspired by Bond's agent, a German refugee.

Michael Bond and Fred Banbery,
'Paddington's picture book'. London,
1978.

X.992/3590.

Illustrations © Estate of Fred Banbery/
HarperCollins 2021

Mr Gruber and Paddington are enjoying each other's company. There is a lot of kindness in this picture - can you see it? Tell someone you're with about something kind you've done.

A Christmas gift

One Christmas, Paddington thinks the Browns are expecting gifts from a rich friend. Mr Gruber explains that they were just singing 'The Twelve Days of Christmas'. As Paddington's present for the Browns, Mr Gruber helps him organise a procession based on the song. David McKee's illustration shows Paddington's friends from Portobello Road in costume. At the end of the procession, Paddington is holding a partridge in a pear tree.

David McKee, artwork for 'Paddington's Magical Christmas'. 1988.

On loan from David McKee

© David McKee/HarperCollins 2021

Mr Curry

Michael Bond wanted to include a less friendly character. Mr Curry, who lives next door to the Browns, isn't very welcoming to Paddington. They first meet in the final chapter of 'A Bear Called Paddington'. At his birthday party, Paddington's magic trick with Mr Curry's watch goes wrong. Mr Curry never uses Paddington's name but always calls him 'Bear', as you can see in this book illustrated by Nick Ward.

Michael Bond, 'Paddington's Disappearing Trick', illustrated by Nick Ward for Ross Design. London, 1992.

YK.1993.a.12395.

Illustrations © HarperCollins 2021

**Abracadabra! Paddington has
taken Mr Curry's watch and used
a spell to make it disappear.
Why is Mr Curry so angry?
Do the angriest face you can!**

Making a new home

People from all over the world have moved to different places to escape war or persecution or to make a new life just like Paddington.

The label round his neck reminds us of the children evacuated from cities in the UK during the Second World War. Unfortunately, not everyone who moves country experiences the same warm welcome as Paddington.

Leaving home

Michael Bond was 13 in September 1939 when the Second World War began. He always remembered seeing images of children being evacuated by train. He gave Paddington a label and a small suitcase just like them. Michael Aspel's memories of his experiences as an evacuee are still very clear in this later account. He describes his schoolmates with their labels and his surprise when they actually boarded the train. This time it wasn't just a practice.

Michael Aspel's account of wartime evacuation from a draft copy of 'The Evacuees' edited by B.S. Johnson, with annotations. 1967-1968.
Add MS 89001/6/5/5, page 22

Children at Paddington Station being evacuated to the countryside in 1939

Pictorial Press Ltd / Alamy Stock Photo

Coming to England

Michael Bond wrote 'A Bear Called Paddington' in 1957 and set it in Notting Hill where he lived. At that time, lots of people from the Caribbean had settled in the area as part of the Windrush Generation. While Paddington is welcomed into his local community, not everyone has the same experience. In 'Coming to England', Floella Benjamin described the racism she faced as a child in the 1960s.

Floella Benjamin, 'Coming to England', illustrated by Diane Ewen. London, 2020. LC.31.a.25398.

Illustrations © Diane Ewen 2021

How many birthdays?

Paddington has two birthdays. He isn't quite sure when he was born – so he celebrates one in the summer and one at Christmas. Do you know anyone else with two birthdays? This illustration in oil pastel by Peggy Fortnum was originally created for 'The Adventures of Paddington', a collection of stories published in 1965. It was later used for the cover of 'Paddington's Birthday Book' in 1969.

Peggy Fortnum, artwork for 'The Adventures of Paddington'.

Around 1965.

On loan from HarperCollins Publishers

© Peggy Fortnum/HarperCollins 2021

Marvellous marmalade

Paddington is famous for liking marmalade sandwiches – which he often keeps under his hat. Michael Bond chose marmalade simply because he liked it more than honey! These illustrations by David McKee show Paddington with (and without) his sandwiches. You can find out who steals his sandwiches in 'Paddington at the Zoo' in the Adventures section of the exhibition.

David McKee, artwork for 'Paddington at the Zoo'. 1984.

On loan from David McKee

© David McKee/HarperCollins 2021

Clothes fit for a bear

This wooden trunk with brass fittings was made by Michael Bond. It was used to store items belonging to the original bear that inspired the Paddington stories. But it doesn't just contain clothing, including a duffle coat and a knitted jumper made by Michael's wife. There is also a secret compartment for special keepsakes.

Wooden trunk made by Michael Bond,
1958.

On loan from Karen Jankel
Please do not photograph.

What does Paddington wear?

When you imagine Paddington, what is he wearing? Perhaps a hat and a blue duffle coat.

Does he have a suitcase or a shopping basket on wheels? What colour is his hat? Like Paddington, Michael's dad usually wore a hat – so that he could raise it politely when he met someone.

A hat and a label

In Michael Bond's first story about Paddington, the Browns spot him sitting on his suitcase. They notice that the bear has a 'funny kind of hat' and a label round his neck. So in Peggy Fortnum's illustration at the very beginning of Michael's first book, Paddington is wearing just a hat. Later, Michael explains the hat was given to Paddington by his uncle in Peru.

Michael Bond, 'A Bear Called Paddington', illustrated by Peggy Fortnum. London, 1958.

12840.l.4.

Illustrations © Peggy Fortnum/
HarperCollins 2021

Use your imagination and dress up - step into wellington boots, put on your hat, wrap up warm in your duffle coat and do your best Paddington impression!

But what about the duffle coat?

Mrs Brown took Paddington shopping for a coat the day after he arrived. In the story 'A shopping expedition', Michael Bond described the blue duffle coat with a red lining she bought. Michael once wrote that he based Paddington's clothes on the hat and duffle coat he used to wear himself. Now it's difficult to imagine Paddington without his famous blue coat, seen here in this illustration by Ivor Wood.

Ivor Wood, untitled artwork. 1970s.
Courtesy of Paddington and Company
Limited

© P & Co. Ltd 2021

And the wellingtons?

In an early story, Paddington wore wellingtons in the snow – but it was a toy bear that made Paddington's boots famous. Shirley Clarkson first made a toy Paddington one Christmas for her children Jeremy and Joanna. Lots of people admired her bear and she started to make more to sell. She added red wellingtons so the toys could stand up. The toy business she ran with her husband was called Gabrielle Designs, and they first produced this classic design in 1972.

Paddington plush toy created by Gabrielle Designs. Around 1978.

On loan from The Estate of Michael Bond
© P & Co. Ltd 2021

This Paddington toy bear is soft and furry. He is marvellous like marmalade.

Pretend marmalade has dripped inside your hat and it's stuck on. Try pulling it off!

Adventures

Paddington is a curious bear and likes to learn about the world.

He explores new places with the Browns and Mr Gruber and has adventures at home too, helping them and learning new skills. Things don't always go to plan, but that's half the fun!

What adventure would you like to go on with Paddington?

Paddington's busy day

It's raining and Paddington is bored. The Browns and Mrs Bird suggest things he can do indoors: painting, sorting out his stamps and tidying the loft. Not everything goes to plan. In this illustration by David McKee, Paddington puts his foot through the floor of the loft, and his marmalade sandwiches go flying. Fortunately, the Browns admire the collage he creates to disguise the hole in his bedroom ceiling.

David McKee, artwork for 'Paddington's Busy Day'. 1987.

On loan from David McKee

© David McKee/HarperCollins 2021

Paddington is dropping all the sandwiches. Imagine you are helping to catch them as they fly through the air!

How many sandwiches can you count?

Chocolate fever

These small images of Paddington spattered with chocolate were created by David McKee for 'Paddington Minds the House'. You can find out more about the story and see the finished book in the nearby case. Paddington called the chocolate spots 'spring-cleaning fever'. David illustrated stories about Paddington in the 1980s. He also wrote and illustrated Elmer, King Rollo and Mr Benn.

David McKee, artwork for 'Paddington Minds the House'. 1986.

On loan from David McKee

© David McKee/HarperCollins 2021

Helping at the hospital and on the golf course

These original illustrations by Peggy Fortnum are for two stories in 'Paddington Goes to Town', published in 1968. In 'Paddington hits out', he helps Mr Curry at a golf competition. When Mr Curry slips on a marmalade sandwich, Paddington has to take over. In 'Paddington finds a cure', dressed as a doctor, Paddington visits Mr Curry in hospital.

Peggy Fortnum, artwork for 'Paddington Goes to Town'. 1968.

On loan from HarperCollins Publishers
© Peggy Fortnum/HarperCollins 2021

Trouble at the launderette

Mr and Mrs Brown are both unwell, so Paddington is in charge. He takes the washing to the launderette in a wheelbarrow. He puts too much soap into the machine, and soon there are bubbles everywhere. Luckily, while Paddington mops up, the supervisor washes and even irons the clothes. This pop-up version, with illustrations by Borje Svensson, is based on a longer story from 'Paddington Helps Out', published in 1960.

Michael Bond, 'Paddington at the Launderette', illustrated by Borje Svensson. London, 1981.

X.990/17326.

Illustrations © Borje Svensson/
HarperCollins 2021

Vacuuming and cooking are not a good mix

Paddington is looking after the house while everyone else is out. Things don't go entirely smoothly. He cleans, then starts to make a chocolate cake. He vacuums, but blows dust everywhere. He cleans again, but the vacuum sucks up the chocolate cake mixture. He does get the cake mixture back again, but sprays himself and the walls in the process – meaning he has to clean all over again!

Michael Bond, 'Paddington Minds the House', illustrated by David McKee.
London, 1986.

YK.1986.a.859.

Illustrations © David McKee/
HarperCollins 2021

Paddington the artist

The cover of this Polish translation of 'A Bear Called Paddington' shows Paddington painting. In the story 'Paddington and the "Old Master"', he cleans one of the Browns' pictures to see whether there is an older painting underneath. There isn't, but Paddington creates a new picture which wins first prize in a competition. The pictures in this translation are by Jan Marcin Szancer, a well-known illustrator of children's books in Poland.

Michael Bond, 'A Bear Called Paddington', translated into Polish by Kazimierz Piotrowski, illustrated by Jan Marcin Szancer. Warsaw, 1971.

X.998/3046.

Illustrations © Jan Marcin Szancer/
HarperCollins 2021

Michael Bond working as a BBC camera operator, early 1960s

Courtesy of The Estate of Michael Bond

Blue Peter

Michael Bond worked as a camera operator on Blue Peter, the children's television programme. He wrote stories about Paddington for Blue Peter annuals from 1966 to 1980, many illustrated by cartoonist Harry Hargreaves.

Here Paddington wins a prize for (accidentally) using the most original material in a Blue Peter competition – Mr Curry's carpet. Mr Curry has arranged to share the prize, which turns out to be marmalade.

Michael Bond, 'Paddington goes halves', illustrated by 'Hargreaves' in Blue Peter sixth book. London, 1969.

X.0992/10.

© The British Broadcasting Corporation and Michael Bond 2021

Paddington in hospital

After an accident with a boomerang, Paddington has to go to hospital. He travels in an ambulance and stays in overnight. Michael Bond wrote this story with his daughter Karen as a way of reassuring children about what might happen in hospital. This illustration of Paddington lying on an operating table is by R.W. Alley. The book raised money for Action Medical Research, a charity that Paddington has supported as a mascot for 45 years.

R.W. Alley, artwork for 'Paddington Goes to Hospital'. 2000.

On loan from Karen Jankel

© R.W. Alley 2021

Paddington takes centre stage

In 'Paddington steps out', Paddington goes to Judy's school to watch a ballet performance. When the famous Russian dancer, Sergei Oblomov, needs a partner, Paddington volunteers. He tries to keep his tights up with drawing pins. Paddington amazes the audience with his wonderful 'entrechats'. In these jumps, the dancer crosses their feet and beats them together. But could the drawing pins have anything to do with his astonishing leaps?

Michael Bond, 'Paddington's storybook', illustrated by Peggy Fortnum. London, 1983.

X.990/21125.

Illustrations © Peggy Fortnum/
HarperCollins 2021

'Dinner for one'

Paddington is on a television cookery show. The contestants are all given some mystery ingredients to cook with. In R.W. Alley's illustration, Paddington is explaining how he made his meal – which he has already eaten. Luckily the judges love the marmalade sandwich he pulls from under his hat and declare him the winner. He plans to use the prize money for presents for the Browns and for Aunt Lucy's home in Peru.

Michael Bond, 'Paddington's Finest Hour',
illustrated by R.W. Alley. London, 2017.
Illustrations © R.W. Alley/HarperCollins
2021

A trip to the zoo

Paddington goes to the zoo with Judy and Jonathan. He has a bag of marmalade sandwiches but doesn't get to enjoy them. David McKee's illustration shows the parrot snatching a bite while Jonathan is taking a photograph. Later, several other animals eat some, a man sneaks one, and finally a mountain goat munches the paper bag! Paddington is hungry and not very pleased – but glad the parrot said thank you.

Michael Bond, 'Paddington at the Zoo', illustrated by David McKee. London, 1984.

X.990/24121.

Illustrations © David McKee/
HarperCollins 2021

Video: 'Do-It-Yourself', from 'Paddington Bear'

FilmFair, 1976

Paddington Bear courtesy of DHX

Worldwide Limited (trading as WildBrain)

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Adventure on the high wire

The Browns take Paddington to the circus. Somehow, Paddington ends up on the trapeze and has to be rescued by a clown on stilts. This picture is by Fred Banbery, an illustrator and cartoonist. Working closely with Michael Bond, he illustrated Paddington stories in colour for younger children in the mid-1970s. This is a later collection of those picture-book stories, including 'Paddington at the circus'.

Michael Bond and Fred Banbery,
'Paddington's Picture Book'. London,
1986.

YK.1987.b.2502.

Illustrations © Fred Banbery/
HarperCollins 2021

Happy birthday Paddington

On Paddington's summer birthday one year, he and the Browns go to the seaside. He tries out water-skiing. The Browns spot him shooting past. Suddenly, his umbrella opens and he is lifted into the air. The speedboat owner is pleased because everyone wants to try out this new sport. This pop-up version, with illustrations by Borje Svensson, is based on a longer story from 'Paddington on Top', published in 1974.

Michael Bond, 'Paddington's Birthday Treat', illustrated by Borje Svensson. London, 1981.

X.990/17327.

Illustrations © Borje Svensson/
HarperCollins 2021

Quick, help! Paddington is going to fall in the water! Close your eyes and imagine the sound of the waves and the strong gust of wind.

Don't fly away!

It's taking part that counts

Paddington and the Browns go to a local sports day. Paddington accidentally ties Judy's legs together in the three-legged race, drops the shotput on Mr Curry's foot and stops Mr Brown from winning the slow bicycle race. Paddington gets a gold foil medal at the end as the first bear participant. This story, with illustrations by R.W. Alley, was published in 2012, when the Summer Olympics were held in London.

Michael Bond, 'Paddington Goes for Gold', illustrated by R.W. Alley. London, 2012.
LC.31.a.12275.

Illustrations © R.W. Alley/HarperCollins
2021

Beneath the Whispering Gallery

Mr Gruber takes Paddington on trips to places all over London. In this story, they go to St Paul's Cathedral. R.W. Alley's illustration shows Paddington dashing down from the Whispering Gallery to join some schoolchildren lying on the floor, looking up at the roof. This was the last picture book about Paddington written by Michael Bond. It was published in 2018, 60 years after the first Paddington stories.

Michael Bond, 'Paddington at St Paul's', illustrated by R.W. Alley. London, 2018. Illustrations © R.W. Alley/HarperCollins 2021

A fair in Finnish

Paddington goes to a funfair on Hampstead Heath with the Browns. He has a go at the coconut shy and the dodgems and tries out several of the rides, including the spacecraft and the helterskelter. In David McKee's illustration, you can see him with Judy and Jonathan enjoying the merry-go-round (and a marmalade sandwich). Paddington's stories have been translated into many different languages. This Finnish translation is by Riitta Mäyrälä.

Michael Bond, 'Paddington at the Fair', translated into Finnish by Riitta Mäyrälä, illustrated by David McKee. Porvoo, 1986.

YKL.2016.a.9856.

Illustrations © David McKee/
HarperCollins 2021

Who goes there?

Did you recognise Paddington in these illustrations by Peggy Fortnum for 'Paddington turns detective'? He is wearing an old raincoat of Jonathan's and a beard and glasses from his new 'Master Detective's Disguise Outfit'. He is trying to find out who stole Mr Brown's prize marrow from the garden. This is a Japanese translation of More about Paddington, the second collection of stories about Paddington, published in English in 1959.

Michael Bond, 'More about Paddington', translated into Japanese by Kyōko Matsuoka, illustrated by Peggy Fortnum. Tokyo, 1968.

On loan from Karen Jankel.

Illustrations © Peggy Fortnum/
HarperCollins 2021

A very famous bear

Paddington is now such a well-known bear that he appears in many different places – and needs little introduction. Here he is on a series of special stamps and coins. The coins show him at some of the places he visits with Mr Gruber, including the Tower of London, St Paul's Cathedral and Buckingham Palace, as well as Paddington station of course!

Great Britain 2018–2019 Paddington Bear commemorative 50 pence coins, manufactured by the Royal Mint.

Great Britain 2006 Paddington Bear issue stamps, manufactured for the Royal Mail.

© P & Co. Ltd/SC 2021

Championing children's rights

Paddington is a champion for children with UNICEF, working to keep children safe around the world. This postcard and child's story are from the Paddington's Postcards subscription, from a pack that focuses on Bangladesh. Raheema had to leave her home in Myanmar and walk a long way with her family to reach safety there. We also learn about the weather in Bangladesh and the animals that live there.

UNICEF UK, Bangladesh pack,
Paddington's Postcards, 2020

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United Kingdom Committee for UNICEF
(UNICEF UK). Registered charity 1072612
(England and Wales) and SC043677
(Scotland).

British and French construction workers celebrating with a Paddington plush toy after meeting under the sea during the construction of the Channel Tunnel, 1990

qaphotos.com / Alamy Stock Photo

**If you were going on an
adventure like Paddington, what
one thing would you pack to
remind you of home?**

Creative work produced by Year 3
students from Edith Neville Primary
School, Camden

**Share your #Paddington photo
with us @britishlibrary**

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YEAR 3 CLASS, EDITH NEVILLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Staff: Loren Matar, Jade Bellevue de Sylva and Lindsay Manion

YEAR 4 CLASS, ARGYLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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What's on

We have plenty to keep sticky paws busy.

Find out what's on at bl.uk/more-paddington

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