Miniature Books

What's the smallest book you can think of?
Who would you read it with?

This book measure 57mm high and 47mm wide – around the same length as a mouse's tail!

It is part of 'The Infant's Library' created by John Marshall, a bookseller, more than 200 years ago!

Marshall had the brilliant idea of helping children to learn by reading these books to their dolls.

The Infant's Library series starts with the alphabet and ends with books about animals, flowers, birds, games, outdoor scenes, objects and a (very!) *Short History of England*.

In places, you might spot words printed with the old-fashioned ‘long s’, which looks just like an ‘f’.

These are some of the earliest books with coloured pictures on one side and text on the other.

Click on this link to flick through a miniature book from the collection! https://vimeo.com/390452044

Making miniature books became very popular!

The very first book that Charlotte Bronte (a very famous 19th Century writer) made was a miniature book containing a short story written for her baby sister Anne. She wrote and stitched it together when Charlotte was just 12 years old!

These miniature books, now held in a special Royal Collection the British Library Museum, are from the library of Queen Mary's Dolls House. Queen Mary was the Queen of England in the 19th Century.

The little royal house has a garage with cars, baths with silver taps that really work, there's even real wine in tiny bottles in the cellar, and a gramophone with very small records that play the National Anthem!

Queen Mary's Doll's House

The dolls' house library contains nearly 600 books, handwritten by famous writers such as the author of *Winnie the Pooh*, A A Milne, and James Barrie, who wrote *Peter Pan*.

You can find more about St Mary's Doll's House here….
https://www.bl.uk/collection-items/queen-marys-dolls-house

Now it's time to make your own miniature book!

BUT before you do, take a look at some famous authors of today, talking about their own miniature book making – including Axel Scheffler's idea for a miniature book based on the corona virus!
https://www.bl.uk/childrens-books/activities/miniature-books-by-your-favourite-authors

Inspired?

What will your miniature book be about?

Who will you write it for?

When you are ready, look in your home learning pack for the instructions on how to make your own miniature book!

HAVE FUN!