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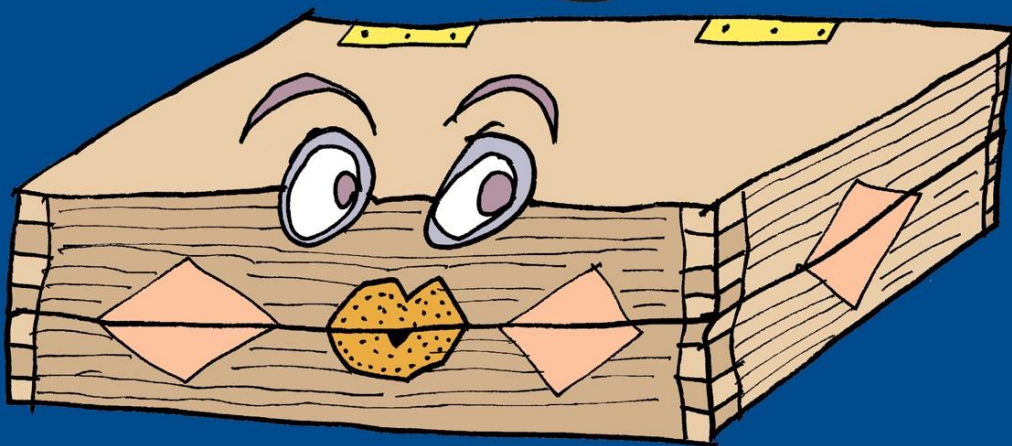
Year 2

Talk for Writing Home-school booklet

# The Magical Teaching Box

by Emma Caulfield

Hello!  
I'm a magical  
teaching box and  
I'm going to tell  
you a story.



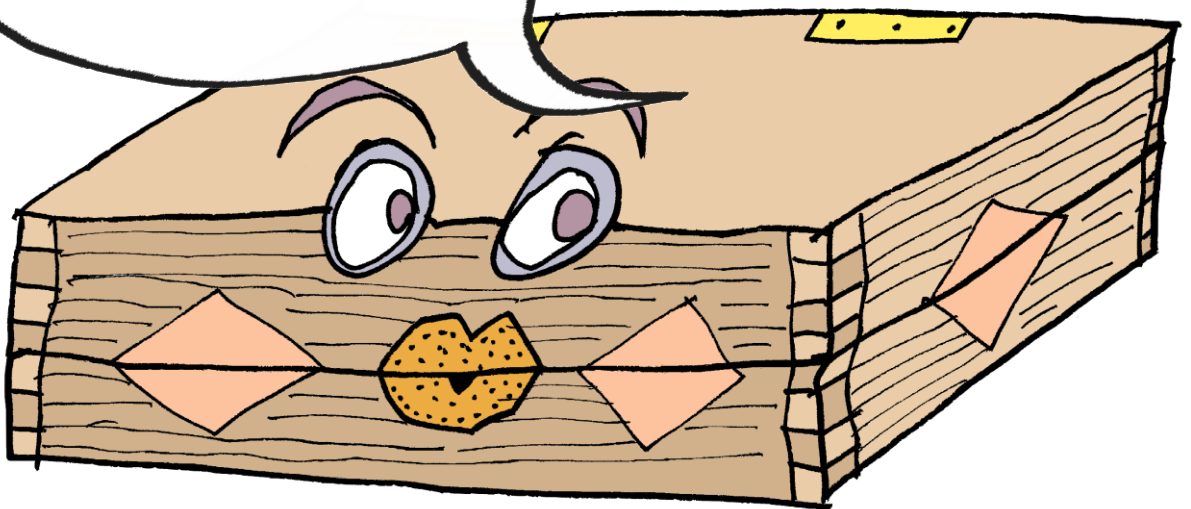
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# The Magical Box

Year 2 Workbook  
By Emma Caulfield

Hello!  
I'm a magical  
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story.





Dear Parent/Carer,

This booklet is designed for a child in Year 2 to work both independently and with a bit of support. All activities can be done alone, however there are some that will be more enjoyable for your child if you or someone else at home can join in.

The activities in this booklet are based on a myth from Ancient Greece called Pandora's Box. As well as reading the story, there are opportunities to draw, create, play with words and read and write poetry.

At the end of the booklet, please support your child to rate and comment on how they got on with learning through this booklet.

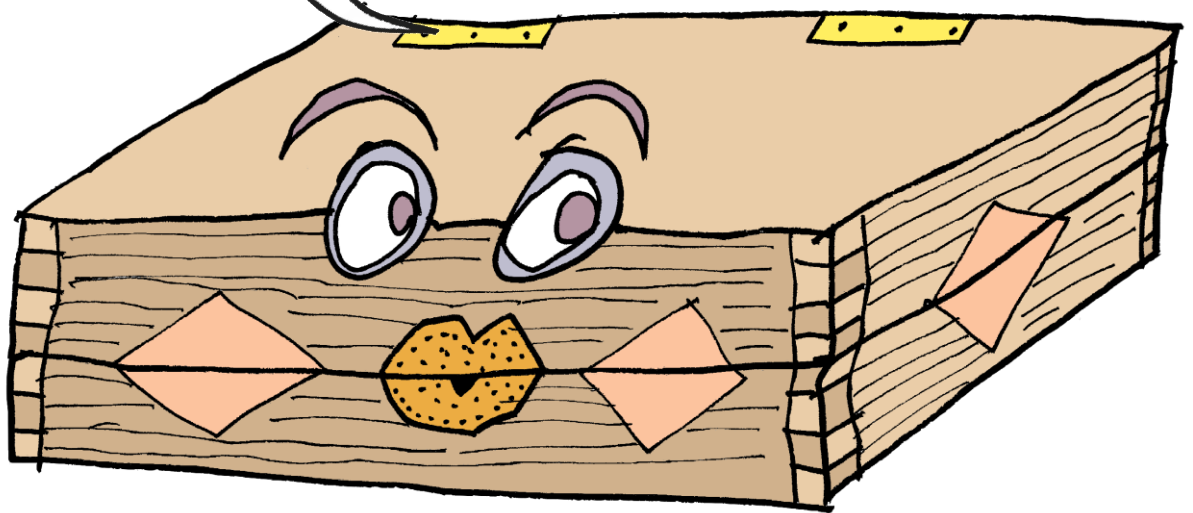
**The activities in this booklet are:**

- ★ Read Pandora's Box
  - ★ Do some activities during the story\*
  - ★ Sketch and label Zeus
  - ★ Answer questions about the story
- ★ Explore alphabetical order with Apollo
- ★ Match words to their meanings and write sentences
- ★ Explore apostrophes
- ★ Read *The Magic Box* poem
- ★ Make a magic box
- ★ Write a magic box poem

The uninterrupted Pandora's Box myth can be found at the end of this booklet. You can listen to a recording of the Pandora's Box myth here:  
<https://soundcloud.com/talkforwriting/pandora/s-c1so0vaCHt8>

**Best wishes, Emma Caulfield & the Talk for Writing team**

Hello!  
Let's start by  
reading a story  
together



## The Myth of Pandora's Box

Are you nosy? Do you like secrets? Have you ever done something that you've been warned not to, just to find out a secret? All through time there have been stories about people being told not to open doors, cupboards, gates and all sorts of other things, and in many of the stories the people just didn't listen. One person who did not listen is Pandora. Her story is from Ancient Greece, where her nosiness changed the world forever!

Not hundreds but thousands of years ago, in ancient Greece, there lived two brothers called Epimetheus and Prometheus. Although they lived in a world where the gods were in charge, they liked nothing more than to annoy the gods. One day, Zeus, a particularly powerful god, decided to teach them a lesson.

Zeus ordered the gods to create a beautiful woman. Her name was Pandora and she was to marry Epimetheus. As a wedding present, Zeus gave Pandora a beautiful box but there was one special condition, she was never to open it!

All day Pandora's husband Epimetheus was out working. All day all she could think about was what was in the box. Pandora could not understand why Zeus would give her a box that she could not open. It made no sense to her. Pandora was bored and lonely and her curiosity became unbearable.

★ **Let's stop here and do an activity**

...

★ **What do you think the box looked like? Draw it here:**

## ★ Continue reading the story here

One day, when she was sure that Epimetheus was out annoying the gods, Pandora searched for the key to open the box.

"I know it's here somewhere," she muttered to herself as she opened cupboards and drawers. There it was, high on a shelf in their bedroom! With shaking hands, Pandora slid the key into the lock and turned it.

★ Let's stop reading for a moment and think about what could be in the box. Draw or write your ideas below.



## ★ The story continues here ...

She took a deep breath, closed her eyes and slowly, with trembling hands, opened the lid of the box, imagining what could be inside: rubies as red as the blazing sunset, jewel encrusted gowns, piles of gold coins. But there were no coins or jewellery, no gowns or gems, for all at once every evil and spite, every sadness and misery flew out. Like a swarm of insects, they fled the house and infested the earth with heartache and sorrow.

Pandora slammed the lid shut and turned the key. "What have I done?" she sobbed, holding her head in her hands. Sometime later, Pandora noticed a fluttering sound coming from the box, as if

something was trapped inside. Terrified, she pressed her ear to the box. "Let me out," a small voice pleaded gently, "I mean you no harm."

Once again, with shaking hands, Pandora unlocked the box and opened the lid. A beautiful butterfly of hope fluttered out of the box, for although Pandora had released pain and suffering into the world, she had also allowed hope to follow them.

★ Now draw the evil that came out of the box. Your magical teaching box has already drawn one idea for you:



★ Finally, share the story with someone at home. Talk and then write:

*Did you like this story? Why?*

**★ Read this first, then sketch Zeus and label the features listed – a stick drawing will be fine!**

Zeus was a sky god who controlled thunder and lightning. He was a strong, striking man with a muscular body and long, curly hair. He had a short beard and carried his trusty thunderbolt at all times.

He was also king of the gods and would sit on his golden throne at the top of Mount Olympus.



**★ Can you answer these questions about the story in complete sentences? (Don't forget to read the story again to help you.)**

- **How did Pandora change the world forever?**
  
- **When is the story set?**
  
- **Who was in charge of the Ancient Greeks?**
  
- **What kind of character was Pandora?**
  
- **Who was Prometheus?**
  
- **What is the evil that comes out of the box compared to?**
  
- **Why do you think hope is a butterfly in the story?**
  
- **Do you like the ending of the story? Explain your answer.**

★ Apollo was the Greek god of knowledge. He has found these words in the story and wants to know if you can sort them out.

★ First put these words into alphabetical order:

powerful

rubies

sobbed

condition

gown

pleaded

curiosity

spite

released

unbearable

fled

hope

trembling

infested

*condition*

*curiosity*

★ Now match the word to its meaning in the story – the first one has been done for you.

**powerful**

shaking slightly

condition

dress

curiosity

something that must happen

unbearable

large numbers causing damage

trembling

cruelty, upsetting

rubies

**strong and confident**

gown

cried

spite

asked in a begging way

fled

unpleasant, painful

infested

set free

sobbed

escaped from, ran away

pleaded

a feeling that things will go well

released

wanting to know about something

hope

red precious stones

★ Well done! Now that you have matched the words to their meanings. Take each word and put it into a new sentence. (Don't forget to start with a capital letter and finish with a full stop.)

Example:

Pandora's curiosity became unbearable.

 Emma's curiosity got her into trouble.

Pandora's curiosity became unbearable.



Slowly, with trembling hands, she opened the box.



Like a swarm of insects they fled the house.



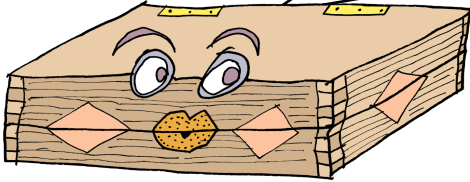
"What have I done?" she sobbed.



"Let me out," a small voice pleaded.



The title of this myth has a special punctuation mark in it, called an apostrophe. Can you circle the apostrophe?



★ Circle the apostrophe: Pandora's box

An apostrophe looks like this ' and it is used to show that something belongs to someone. Pandora's box = the box belonging

★ Read these examples and then write down your own examples. Don't forget the apostrophes!

	Whose is it?
the dog's ball	The ball belonging to the dog
the man's hat	The hat belonging to the man
the car's wheel	The wheel belonging to the car

★ Apollo was also a Greek god of poetry. Let's do some poetry activities together! Start by sharing this poem with someone at home.

## The Magic Box

I will put in the box

the swish of a silk sari on a summer night,  
fire from the nostrils of a Chinese dragon,  
the tip of a tongue touching a tooth.

I will put in the box

a snowman with a rumbling belly  
a sip of the bluest water from Lake Lucerene,  
a leaping spark from an electric fish.

I will put in the box

three violet wishes spoken in Gujarati,  
the last joke of an ancient uncle,  
and the first smile of a baby.

I will put in the box

a fifth season and a black sun,  
a cowboy on a broomstick  
and a witch on a white horse.

My box is fashioned from ice and gold and steel,  
with stars on the lid and secrets in the corners.  
Its hinges are the toe joints of dinosaurs.

I shall surf in my box

on the great high-rolling breakers of the wild Atlantic,  
then wash ashore on a yellow beach  
the colour of the sun.

by Kit Wright

© Kit Wright 1987 – originally published in *Cat Among the Pigeons* - Viking Kestrel. Poem reprinted with kind permission.

If you have a computer, you can listen to Kit reading his poem by putting this address into the internet:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zkpmhyc>

★ Talk about the poem and then write your ideas here:

What is your favourite item in the magic box? Why?

Is this a happy or sad poem? What makes you think that?

## Make a Magic Box

★ It's time to get creative! Can you make a magic box?

You can:

- Find a shoe box or small box and decorate it OR
- Draw a box and decorate it

Think about:

- How you can make it magical? Perhaps it has eyes. Maybe it looks like a dragon or a witch's cottage.
- What is the theme? Perhaps it is magical creatures or places. Try to decorate it so that it fits your theme.
- Is the lid attached to the box or does it lift off completely? How are you going to decorate it?

Write a Magic Box Poem - Part 1



This box is magic, which means you can put anything you like in it.

★ Start by writing a list of your favourite things, people or places. (Ask someone to help you with ideas.)

*My eight favourite things, people or places are:*

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

## Write a Magic Box Poem - Part 2

★ Now, using Kit Wright's starter line, 'I will put in the box,' organise your nine ideas into three verses.

*I will put in the box*

*I will put in the box*

*I will put in the box*

**My box is fashioned from** ice and gold and steel,  
**with** stars on the lid and secrets in the corners.  
**Its** hinges are the toe joints of dinosaurs.

Think about:

- What is your box made of? Kit Wright's is made of ice and gold and steel.
- What is on or in your box? Kit Wright's has stars on the lid and secrets in the corners.
- What else can you add? Kit Wright has added that its hinges are the toe joints of dinosaurs.

Use your imagination. You can choose anything you like!

★ Write the final verse of your magic-box poem here.

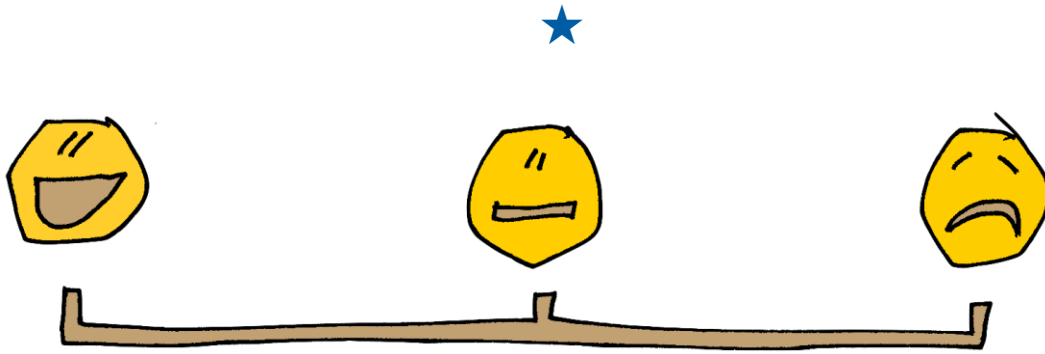
*My box is fashioned from*

*With*

*Its*

★ Apollo, god of knowledge, wants to know how you think you got on with this work.

★ Draw a circle around one of the faces:



### What I liked best

I liked ...

because ...

I also liked ...



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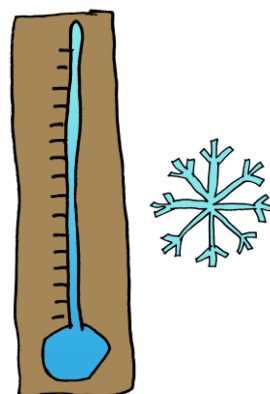
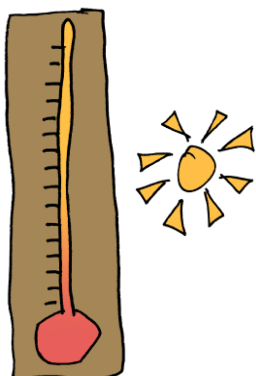
Once again, with shaking hands, Pandora unlocked the box and opened the lid. A beautiful butterfly of hope fluttered out of the box, for although Pandora had released pain and suffering into the world, she had also allowed hope to follow them.

Happy reading and writing!

*I really enjoyed ...*



**I would rate my journey through this booklet (tick hot or cold):**





*This workbook has helped me learn ...*



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**Emma Caulfield, former teacher and National Strategy Literacy Consultant, now works with Talk for Writing to help schools develop the approach.**

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Thanks to Jon Ralphs for the cartoons: [jonralphs.com](http://jonralphs.com)

