

The Most Awesome Thing In The World

PROPS: a sheet of newspaper (tabloid size works well) for the origami story

Once upon a time there was a man who had so much money that he could buy anything he wanted. Anything at all!

And he wasn't just rich. He was powerful, too. In fact, he was so rich and so powerful that everyone he met treated him as if he was the most important person in the world.

But he knew that he wasn't. And he knew that there must be more to life than making money and getting his own way. When he was younger, when he'd first started to make lots of money and get what he wanted, it was really exciting. Whatever he said and whatever he did, people would nod and smile and say, "Awesome!" And being so rich and important *did* feel awesome for a while. But not any more. Now he found himself wondering: was *anything* in the world really all that awesome?

So, one day, the man decided to find out. He bought himself a boat...

Holding the paper with the long sides vertical, fold the top (short) edge diagonally across to meet the left-hand long edge:



Bob the shape along as if it's on the water, with the triangle as its sail.

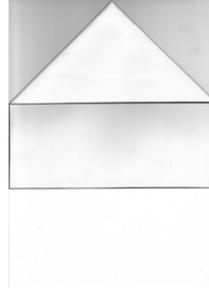
... and he sailed off across the ocean in search of the most awesome thing in the world.

And what do you think he saw? What awesome things are there in the sea? [TAKE ANSWERS]

Whales and waves ... sharks and starfish ... underwater caves and unbelievably huge icebergs... It *was* all awesome... but still the man felt that there must be more.

So he left his boat behind and went back to his own house, to sleep in his own bed for a while and think about what to do next.

Fold down the top corner of the triangle to make a 'roof' shape. Note that both folds you have made are on the same side of the paper. The other side (not shown here) should appear to be unfolded.



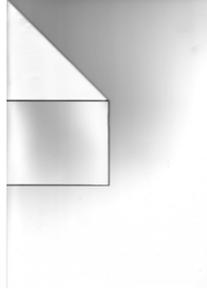
Now, of course this man's house was not like mine or yours. His house was a mansion. And as he spent time in it, he did begin to think that some of the things he had in it were pretty awesome.

What kinds of things do you think he had in his house? [TAKE ANSWERS]

Surround-sound cinema and beautiful pictures ... the finest of chefs to cook his meals ... the most talented of musicians whenever he wanted to hear them ... The man began to realise just how clever people could be, and yes, it was all pretty awesome. But still, he felt there must be more.

Then, one day, when he was walking in his garden, he saw a bird hopping along the grass in front of him. The bird flew away when it saw him, soaring into the air - and that gave the man an idea. The very next day, he bought himself an aeroplane.

Fold the house shape in half, making sure that you fold the unfolded-looking side inwards. You should still be able to see some of your earlier folds on the outside of your new shape:



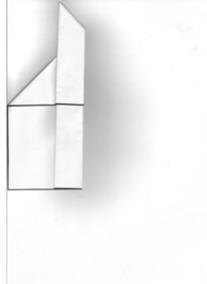
Holding the latest fold between your finger and thumb, zoom the shape through the air like an aeroplane.

It was a fine jet aeroplane, and as he flew around the world in it he saw many awesome things. What kind of things do you think he saw on his travels? [TAKE ANSWERS]

He saw Mount Everest and the Grand Canyon ... the Eiffel Tower and the Leaning Tower of Pisa ... he saw humming birds and elephants ... and it was all very awesome indeed. But *still* he felt there must be more. Still he felt that he hadn't found the most awesome thing in the world.

And then, one night, as he looked up at the stars, he had another idea - and because he was so rich and powerful, the very next day, he had bought himself a rocket.

Fold the aeroplane's wings over as shown, and crease firmly. The direction of this fold doesn't matter, as all you're doing is marking the place where you will tear in a moment. The end result is most effective if you make your rocket very thin, so you need to fold over quite a large area of the wings.



Now carefully tear off the wings, NOT along the crease that you've just made, but along the line where the wings meet the side of the rocket-shape:



so that you end up with a rocket like this:



Zoom your shape up into the air like a rocket.

Up into space he flew - and what do you think he saw there? [TAKE

ANSWERS]

He saw stars and planets ... meteors and moons ... but nothing to fill the gap in his heart. Nothing that cried out to him that *it* was the most awesome thing in the world.

So, at last, the man came back to earth. He went back to his house and he sat and he thought, and when he was tired of thinking he went for a walk.

As he walked, he met a woman. She was smiling, but when she saw the rich and powerful man, she stopped.

“Hello,” she said. “What’s wrong? You look so fed up.”

“I *am* fed up,” said the man. “I’ve been searching and searching for the most awesome thing in the world. I’ve been *everywhere*, and I’m so tired of looking.”

To his surprise, that made the woman smile. “Oh, that’s easy,” she said. “I can tell you what that is. The most awesome thing in the world...

Unfold your rocket as these last words are spoken:



... is God's love for us.”

“What do you mean?” asked the man.

“We all make mistakes,” she replied. “God knows that we think and say and do things that we shouldn't. But he sent Jesus to die on the cross, so that when we say sorry we can have a fresh start.

“Just as Jesus rose from the dead to new life, so we can start a new life with God every day - because when we say sorry he doesn't see our mistakes any more. He sees all the wonderful things that he's made us to think and say and do, and he helps us to be the wonderful people he made us to be.”