

kid zone



COMIC:
page 4

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THIS WEEK IS...

Kidzone chats
to author ...

AARON
BLABEY



MAKE
YOUR
OWN...

EATS



PUZZLES * QUIZZES * STORIES * RECIPES * PRIZES

k THIS Week...

AXOLOTL

This week **Kidzone** chats to super-star author **Aaron Blabey** about his brand-new book series, **Game of Pets**.

Play **Would You Rather** and make **Cheffy's axolotl Oreos**. Check out **BitBoy's** cool new pet in this week's awesome comic and make an axolotl puppet with **Oliver**. Plus, don't miss this week's awesome colouring comp, collector card and puzzles galore. **Happy reading!**



Draw a head and a body.

Add legs and a tail.

Add a face and frills.

Finally colour your axolotl.

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Be allergic to lots of animals

OR

be allergic to lots of foods?

Have a pet that can talk to you

OR

have a pet that can do your chores for you?

Work in a pet shop

OR

work at a vet clinic?

Drive in a monster truck to school

OR

ride a unicycle to the shops?

Travel to outer space

OR

stay on Earth?

Have a pet bird that can swim

OR

have a pet fish that can fly?

Be a contestant on a TV game show

OR

be the host of a TV game show?

Have the world's cutest pet

OR

the world's most clever pet?

Read books that are part of a series

OR

read books that don't have sequels?

Know what your pet is thinking

OR

have a pet that knows what you are thinking?

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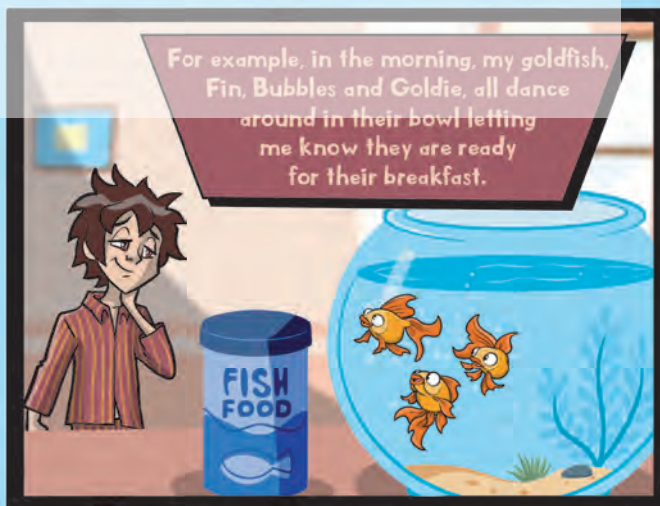
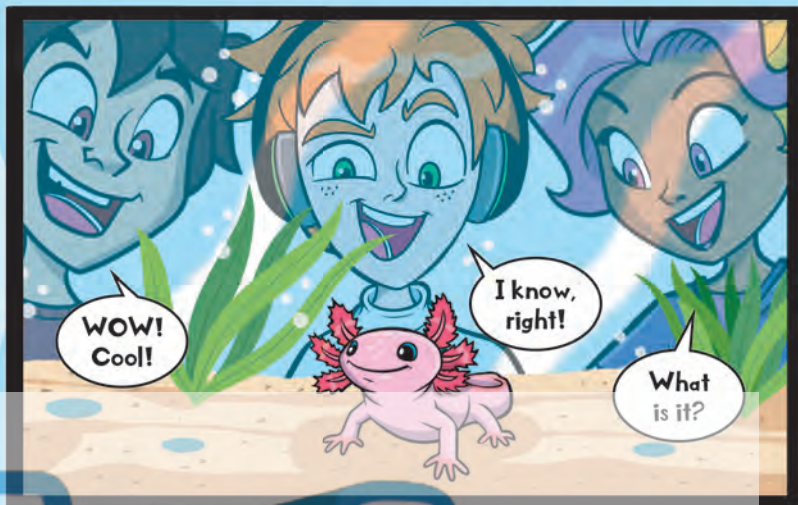
03



THANKS A-LOT!



by Rod Allen





BIBLE MESSAGE

Care for every living creature on earth.

Genesis Chapter 1 verse 28

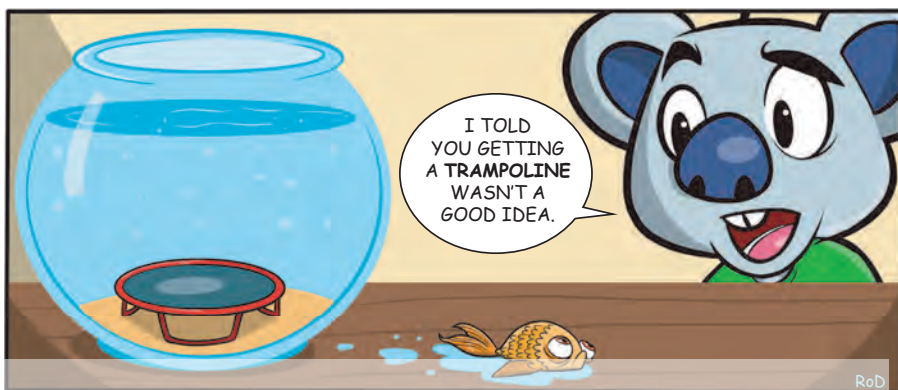


05



11/9/2026 10:29 am

COUSIN KOALA



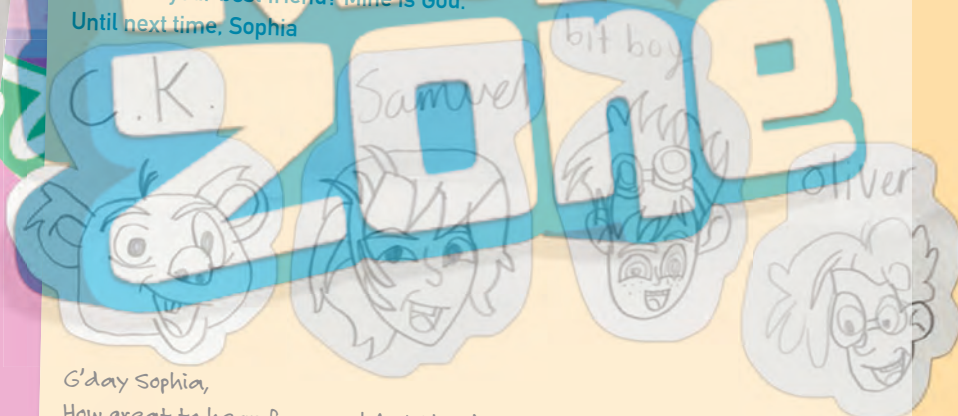
RoD

Hey Cousin Koala,

My name is Sophia. I have a few questions for you.

1. How old are you? When is your birthday?
2. Can you please tell us Kidzoners all the names of the people at Kidzone and all your friends and family in the next issue?
3. Do you like my drawing? It is of all the people in the issue for 15 August.
4. Can I please have my name in the Kidzone b'day list? My b'day is on 4/3/2015.
5. Who is your best friend? Mine is God.

Until next time, Sophia



G'day Sophia,

How great to hear from you! And thank you for sending in your cool drawings of Oliver, Samuel, BitBoy and me. You're an excellent drawer!

Now to answer your questions! My birthday is on 26 January and I'm one year older than I was last year. You can get to know all the Kidzone team, friends and family by looking at our awesome collector cards on page 15 of the mag each week. Have you started your collection? Your name has been added to the list, so make sure you look out for your name next March. And, finally, who is my best friend? God is, of course, but all the Kidzone gang are my best friends, too! I really enjoy playing videogames with BitBoy - he has the BEST game suggestions, I like to sit and chat with Sam and I like to talk art with Oliver and show him all the fab drawings Kidzoners send in.

Write again soon! Bear hugs, CK

GAME OF PETS

TALK ^{to}
UP



AARON
BLABEY

CRACK THE CODE!

CODE KEY

Kidzone chatted to Aussie author Aaron Blabey about his new book series, *Game of Pets*.

Kidzone: *Game of Pets* introduces readers to some unforgettable characters like Griff, Carol and Bob. How do you create such funny and interesting characters? Do you ever meet people in real-life who later inspire a character?

Aaron Blabey: Yeah, for sure. It makes me quite dangerous to know. There's always a chance you'll end up in a book ...

It's hard to say where it comes from. It's kind of like a movie playing in my head and I just try to write it down while it's happening. The characters just turn up and start talking to each other.

KZ: Brave hero Griff experiences some pretty strong feelings of worry and anxiety. Lots of kids and adults can relate to these feelings. Are there any situations that make you nervous? How do you deal with 'tricky' feelings like these?

AB: I'm not crazy about being the centre of attention. That makes me pretty nervous.

I just pretend I'm more social than I actually am and hope for the best.

KZ: Tell us about the pets in your own life.

AB: I grew up with pugs and sausage dogs, oddly enough. These days I live with a ragdoll cat named Maude and a Pomeranian puppy called

Bob the axolotl is trying to communicate with Griff, but he doesn't want any other animal to be like him.

Doro
They
Thou

KZ: Is
but ne

AB: M
and D
more
don't
piran
matte

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

doesn't want any other animal to know what he's saying. So he's using a secret code! Use the code key below to decipher Bob's message to Griff.

orothy. They don't get along. They're both pretty great though.

Z: Is there a pet you've always wanted, but never had?

B: No, they [Maude and Dorothy] are more than enough. I don't think adding a pranha would help matters at all.

▶ CONTINUE READING ON PAGE 10

Game of Pets: The Boy Who Knew Too Much -

written & illustrated by
Aaron Blabey



WHAT IT'S ABOUT:

Prepare to have your mind blown and your cats and dogs under heavy suspicion. It's time to buckle up for an insane, laugh-out-loud new series, 260 million years in the making.

OK, here's the situation: Thanks to a diabolical intergalactic game show, we are all cooked.

Luckily, Griff, an 11-year-old kid with a very long list of allergies, just got told by a talking axolotl named Bob that Griff is the only one who can save us. I mean, that's kind of good news, right?

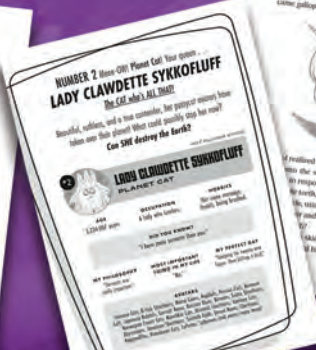
Trouble is, Bob's prophecy comes with a warning: "Watch your back, man . . . your PETS are not what they seem!"



WHAT WE LOVE:

Mega-bestselling author Aaron Blabey, creator of *The Bad Guys*, is back with this brand-new, diabolically funny, seven-book series where your pets are not what they seem. Readers will relate to brave but reluctant hero Griff and wish they had a talking axolotl for a pet, too!

For Kidzoners 8 and up.



KZ: If your pet could talk to you, what do you think it would say?

AB: "Just kibble? I clearly ordered caviar and strudel. Can I speak to the manager, please?"

KZ: It's exciting to know there'll be more instalments of the *Game of Pets* series ... especially with such a cliffhanger ending in book 1! What can readers expect from the rest of the series?

AB: A lot of madness and many more cliffhangers. And maybe even a few clues about saving the planet.

KZ: What's the best part of being a super-duper popular and much-loved kids author?

AB: My fleet of jet skis. I have a special licence to ride them on highways and there's nothing anyone can do to stop me. (That's a lie! I don't own even one jet ski and I apologise for misleading you!)

It's a pretty great job. I'd recommend it. I get to make up stuff for a living.

What's not to like?



Griff must find courage to face his anxieties as he's thrown into a crazy adventure that he didn't really ask to be a part of! With his new axolotl friend by his side, can Griff save the day ... and the planet?

Life can be surprising and sometimes we have to do things that make us nervous or a bit scared. God promises to be with us every step of the way. Whether we're trying to save the planet like Griff (!) or make new friends at a new school or an after-school activity, I'm so glad to know God is always with us. "Strength! Courage! Don't be timid; don't get discouraged. God, your God, is with you every step you take," (Joshua chapter one, verse nine*).



GAME OF PETS

Entries will be judged on artistic merit.



Colouring Competition

With thanks to Pan Macmillan, Kidzone has five prize packs including a copy of *Game of Pets: Book 1 The Boy Who Knew Too Much* and sticker sheet to give away!



SEND YOUR ENTRY (BY FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2026) TO:

Kidzone's Colouring Competition, 95-99 Railway Road, Blackburn VIC, 3130
OR HEAD TO kidzonemag.com.au/competition TO UPLOAD YOUR ENTRY.

Full Name

Address

Postcode

Age

Parent's signature

NT

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EATS

AXOLOTL OREOS

what you need:

pink Oreos, pink or red sour strap lollies, brown mini M&Ms, black liquorice, small amount of melted chocolate or icing (to attach decorations)

directions:

- 1 Carefully separate the Oreo biscuit.
- 2 Make 6 gills from the sour straps by cutting pieces around 1 to 1.5cm long and 1cm wide. Round off one end.
- 3 Gently place the gills onto the iced half of an Oreo, putting 3 on each side.
- 4 Add a small amount of melted chocolate or icing onto the plain half of the Oreo and reattach it on top of the gills.
- 5 Add small amounts of chocolate or icing to 2 mini M&Ms and attach as eyes. Do the same with a small slither of liquorice to give your axolotl a cute smile!



HEY CRAFTY CREW! MAKE YOUR OWN AXOLOTL



What you need:

a paper bag, pink construction paper, small pieces of orange paper, piece of pale pink paper, scissors, glue, black felt-tipped pen.



1 Cut a piece of pink paper large enough to cover one side of the paper bag. This is your axolotl's body. Glue it onto the front of the paper bag.

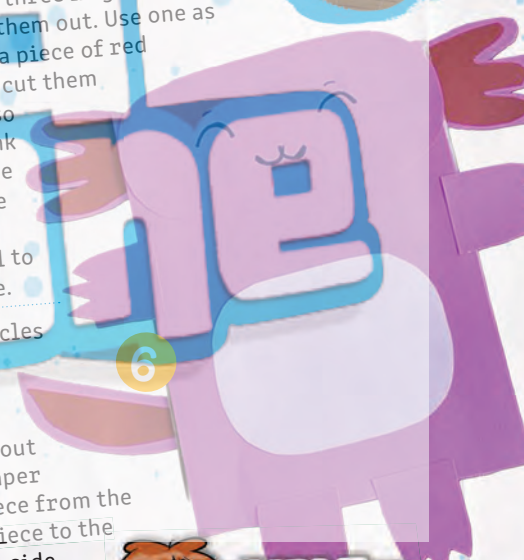
2 Cut an oval about a third the size of the body for your axolotl's head. Glue it onto the body so that the top of the head is almost level with the top of the bag.

3 On a piece of pink paper, draw the two gills. This is easy – it's like drawing three fingers! Make them as wide as the head. Cut them out. Use one as a template to draw around on a piece of red paper. Draw another one, then cut them out about 4mm inside the line so that when you put them on the pink gills you can see a border of the pink paper. Glue them onto the pink gills. Turn the bag over and glue the edge of each gill to each side of the axolotl's face.

4 Cut out four small half-circles from pink paper for your axolotl's legs and glue two to each side of the body and two at the bottom of the body. Cut out a long piece from the pink paper for the tail and a smaller piece from the red paper and glue the red piece to the pink tail. Glue the tail to one side of the body.

5 Cut an oval of pale pink paper and glue it onto the front of the axolotl's body. Cut out little triangles for toes on the axolotl's legs.

6 With the black felt-tipped pen, draw two eyes and a smiley mouth. Now your paper bay axolotl puppet is finished. CUUUUTE!



BIBLE MESSAGE

What an amazing creature an axolotl is! All of God's creations are amazing – especially each of us! "I thank you, God, for the wonderful way that you have made me," (Psalm 139, verse 14th).





Have you ever heard the expression 'stepping out of your comfort zone'?

It's a way of saying that you're doing something that's a bit hard and that makes you feel nervous. It might be talking in front of your class, riding a bike for the first time or trying to make new friends. Even starting something that we really want to do, like joining a sports club or kids church, can give us butterflies in our tummies. That's because we're doing something new and we don't really know what to expect. Doing things that seem a bit hard at first is how we learn and become more confident. When you step out of your 'comfort zone' next, pray to God and ask him to help calm the butterflies in your tummy!

Use the first letter of each picture to decode the Bible verse below!



example:
= C for carrot

(Proverbs 16, verse 3x).

JESUS LOVES YOU! & wants to be your friend!

If you would like to know more about prayer and how to read the Bible fill in the coupon below and send it to us. We'll send you some cool info!

Name: Age:

Address:

Postcode:

Parent's Permission: SIGNATURE

95-99 Railway Rd, Blackburn 3130 or email: kidzone@salvationarmy.org.au



Sam's Mega Puzzle: "Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand"



ANSWERS CK: page 3.
Crack the Code: The pets are plotting to destroy the world.
Grid 1: a:f5, b:d1, c:b2, d:c1.
e:d6, f:b4. Shadows: B. Pages: 1-3, 2-15, 3-5, 4-9, 5-4, 6-13.
Spot the diff:

Competition winners

CONGRATULATIONS TO ...



FELIX B
(10 - NSW)

JONAH O
(8 - VIC.)

HUGO P
(13 - NSW)



... a table tennis set.

NEXT WEEK
IN kidzone

123
SESAME STREET

Friends & Fun

COLLECTOR CARDS

Collect a new card every week!

1. Carefully cut along the dotted line to remove your card from the magazine.
2. Fold in half.
3. Now stick together and you're done!

FAVE BIBLE VERSE
"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me" (Psalm 28:7).

Scotty is a young albino kooda. That makes him super-duper rare! He is always a little nervous and very cautious but is easily dragged into misadventures by his best friend, Izzy. And he always ends up having an awesome time!

FAVES
White & burnt orange
Ballet
Gum leaves, gum leaves, gum leaves!
Hard Quiz
Kids & Zog: The Series
How to Play Chess
I don't think we should do that.



SCOTTY
029



SCOTTY

spot the diff

Can you spot the eight differences between these two pics?

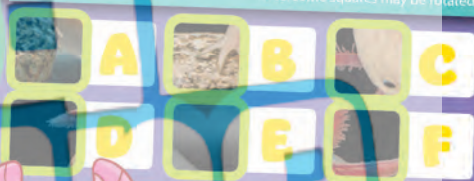


grid it

Can you work out the coordinates of the small squares which are taken from the big picture?



Note: some squares may be rotated.



shadows

Find the correct shadow.



pages

Can you find where each of these pictures came from in this week's Kidzone?



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