



# Adventures in **MOOMINLAND** Resource Pack

16 Dec 2016  
– 23 Apr 2017

**SOUTHBANK  
CENTRE**

# How to use this resource

This resource pack is for primary school teachers working with pupils aged 7 – 11. The resource can be used to extend your student’s experience back at school post-exhibition visit to Southbank Centre’s Adventures in Moominland, as well as being an introduction for pupils who have not experienced the exhibition.

The resource explores the work of Tove Jansson, particularly how she drew inspiration from the world around her and provides activities which can be incorporated into your own lessons.

## Tove Jansson & The Moomins

Born 9 August 1914, Tove Jansson is undoubtedly one of the world’s best known Finnish artists and also the most widely read Finnish author abroad. Her lifework is immeasurably valuable because of her success as a writer, artist and cartoonist.

She was a multi-talented artist who is mostly remembered as the creator of the Moomins, the central characters in a series of adventure books and comic strips. The Moomin books have been translated into approximately 50 languages. Tove passed away on 27 June 2001.

## Exhibition

Southbank Centre presents an immersive and interactive exhibition which explores the internationally recognised and renowned stories of the Moomin family through the life and eyes of its Finnish author Tove Jansson.

This exhibition presents new insights into Tove Jansson’s life and the influences behind her work with rare archive objects and illustrations built into the experience. The exhibition displays objects never before exhibited in the UK: from original illustration; artworks and 3D models; to letters and personal items from Tove’s studio in Helsinki and her family island of Klovharu, where she lived for almost 30 years.

The show is part of Nordic Matters – a year-long exploration of Nordic art and culture at Southbank Centre throughout 2017.

## About Southbank Centre

Southbank Centre is a world-famous, multi-venue arts centre in London, with a dynamic year-round festivals programme and an inclusive ethos. Southbank Centre is the UK’s largest arts centre, founded with the Festival of Britain in 1951.

It’s a place where people experience world-class art and culture that stimulates, inspires, educates and amazes. Our festival programme encompasses art, theatre, dance, classical and contemporary music, literature and debate.

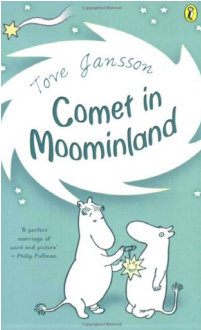
Our educational and participatory programmes use culture as a way to inspire learning, understanding and tolerance.

# Books



## Moomins and the Great Flood 1939 – 1940 (published 1945)

A story about Moominmamma’s and Moomintroll’s search for the missing Moominpappa and how they found their way to the Moominvalley.



## Comet in Moominland 1946

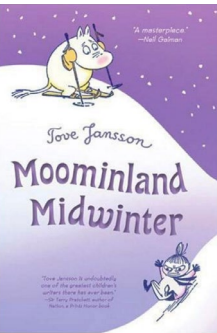
Comet in Moominland is often seen as the first novel in the series as it introduces many of the main characters, like Snufkin and the Snorkmaiden, and is set in Moominvalley.



## Finn Family Moomintroll 1948

This book owes its title in translation to the fact that it was the first Moomin book to be published in English, and was actually marketed as the first in the series until the 1980s.

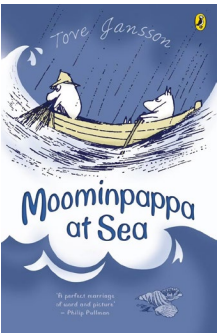
The 1961 English publication features a foreword ‘by Moominmamma’, where she explains the nature of Moomins for fear that English children may not have heard of them



## Moominland Midwinter 1957

This book sees Jansson adopt a darker, more introspective tone compared to the earlier books. Often in the book, Moomintroll is either lonely, miserable, angry or scared – the result of being forced to survive in a world to which he feels he does not belong.

While preserving the charm of the previous novels, the story involves a more in-depth exploration of Moomintroll’s character.



## Moominpappa at Sea 1965

Moominpappa is dissatisfied at life in Moominvalley so organises the Moomin family to set off on a journey to find a lighthouse in the sea, because even the home-loving Moomins need a change of scenery sometimes



# Characters



## Moominvalley

Moominvalley is an idyllic and peaceful place where the Moomins live in harmony with nature.



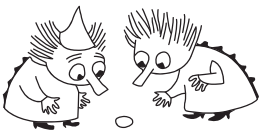
## Moomintroll

Moomintroll is interested in everything he sees, the world is full of exciting things to investigate!



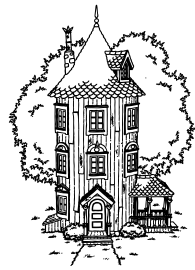
## Snufkin

Snufkin is a vagabond who wanders the world fishing and playing the harmonica. He carries everything he needs in his backpack.



## Thingumy and Bob

Thingumy and Bob are inseparable and almost always walk around hand-in-hand and speak in such a strange way.



## Moominhouse

The Moominhouse is blue and has the same shape as a ceramic fireplace.



## Moominmamma

Moominmamma is calm, collected and never lets little things get on her nerves.



## Little My

Little My is brave and fearless, and is eager to join the Moomins on their adventures



## Hemulen

Hemulens are great believers in order and expect all rules to be obeyed to the letter.



## Moominpappa

Moominpappa is boyish, adventurous and enjoys philosophical thinking.



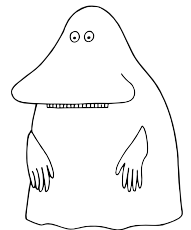
## Snorkmaiden

Snorkmaiden is happy and energetic, although her habit of suddenly changing her mind can sometimes irritate people a bit.



## Too-Ticky

Too-Ticky a wise woman who knows how to solve all sorts of dilemmas in a sensible and practical way.



## The Groke

The Groke is an ominous creature whose frightening presence scares everyone wherever she goes.

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# Activities

## Background

Tove Jansson lived in Helsinki, Finland and created the Moomins. She often took inspiration for her characters from the things around her - family, friends and public figures. Moomintroll was her imaginary friend who followed her everywhere and whom she created a whole world for. Moomintroll was created when she and her brother used to write their thoughts on the wall of their outhouse. One day after an impossible argument with her brother, she decided to draw the ugliest figure she could. This became the very first Moomintroll.

## Activity 1:

### Imaginary Characters

Like Tove, think about the people around you. These could be family, friends, teachers, television actors. Use elements from these people as inspiration to describe and draw your very own imaginary character.

Hints: What does your character look like? What kind of personality do they have? What do they wear? What item do they always choose to take with them on their adventures? Are they naughty like Little My or are they frightening like the Groke?



Unfinished drawing from Moominland Midwinter  
© Moomin Characters™





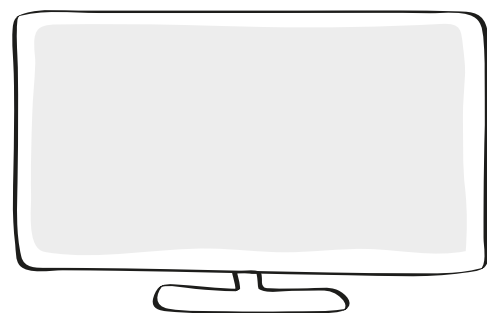
## Background

Tove Jansson ensured that elements of her life were present in every creature she created for the Moomin world. Two of her earliest books, *Moomins & the Great Flood* and *Comet in Moominland* were written at a time in Tove's life when her and the people around her were experiencing hardship and war.

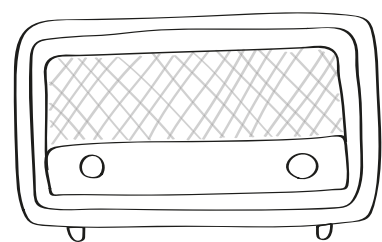
## Activity 2: New worlds and events

Take a moment to think about your surroundings, situations and the events taking place around you. Split into groups and ask each group to come up with ideas to create a new imaginary world for either the existing Moomins characters or for their brand new characters.

Hints: What events have you seen in the news (refugee crisis)? What places have you been to visit, either at home or on holiday? What is happening in the area you live in or within your school? What do the landscapes in your new world look like? What events in your own life can you incorporate into your new world?

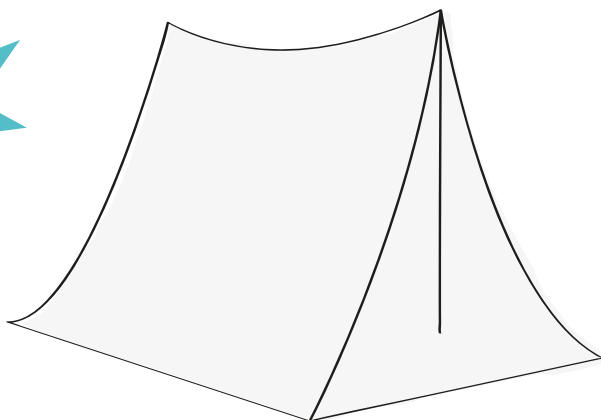


TV



Radio

Camping tent



## Background

Tove Jansson lived much of her life on her own island, which was called Klovharun. In fact, Moominvalley was inspired by this island, right down to the kinds of vegetation you could find in Moominvalley and the presence of the sea.

Throughout all of the Moomin stories, the central characters lived in various homes inspired by island living, including caves and lighthouses.

## Activity 3: Islands and Homes

Design a new home for your imaginary character. Would it be similar to where you live now? Would it be large or small? Would it be dark? Would they live alone? If your character had enough space in their house for a spare room what would they use it for?



An illustration from the *Moominvalley Collection*  
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## Background

Southbank Centre's *Adventures in Moominland* features some of Tove's original cartoon strips. During the 1950s, a London publisher showed huge interest in Tove Jansson's illustrations. This began a body of work which saw Tove and her brother creating regular cartoon strips that at one point featured in 120 daily newspapers.

## Activity 4: Cartoon Strips

Using the five panels on the next page, create your own cartoon strip for your imaginary character.

Hints: Try to keep the amount of text you use in each panel to a minimum, so that it's easy to follow and enjoy. We recommend limiting the number of speech balloons you use to two per panel.

# Further Reading

## Additional Resources

**Moomins**  
Official Website  
Facebook Page  
Twitter  
Links to Additional Moomin Activities

**Southbank Centre Schools**  
Homepage  
Mailing List

**Southbank Centre**  
Facebook  
Twitter

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