

The Pixie Explorers

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Illustrations by Sonia Salvador

3-5 year-olds



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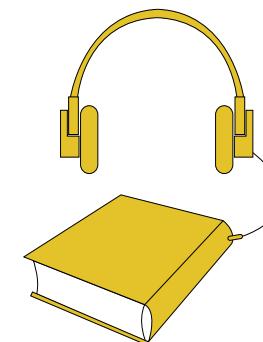
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It is Saturday morning. Jorge and his parents are getting ready to go and spend the day on the beach.

They are taking towels, sun cream, swimsuits, buckets and spades, sandwiches and cold water. They are going to have a wonderful time! Jorge sits in his children's seat in the back, and says to his mummy:

- I can fasten my own seatbelt, I'm big now!





Mummy checks that he is properly fastened in and puts the harness on Toby, their pet dog. At first both of them are happy but after a while, they start to get bored.

- Mummy, I want to go in the front, - says Jorge.

- Bore, wore! - barks Toby.

- Oh no you don't, you have to sit in your seat, - reminded his mummy.

- Well, can I take my seatbelt off to play with Toby? - insisted Jorge.

- Jorge bored. Can I? Can I? Can I?

Torge's mummy remembers a story that she was told when she was a child.

- If you take your seatbelt off, -she told him- the pixies will be sad!

- The pixies? -asked Torge, sounding interested-. What pixies?

- Our explorer pixies, the ones who always come with us on our trips out. They are in charge of making sure we travel safely.

- I've never seen them!

- Obviously not! That's because they're invisible, otherwise they would distract the driver. And you know how dangerous that could be.





Torge didn't know whether to believe her, but he was intrigued; and so he carried on asking questions.

- Mum, have you ever seen them?
- No, not in person, but your grandma saw them once and told me all about them.
- And what are they like?
- Well, they're tiny, they've got green hair, long pointed ears.

Torge could imagine them, and it was almost as if he were seeing them.

- And what else?
- They love travelling, but they feel sick when people don't take any notice of the signs, or if passengers are not sitting properly and distracting the driver.



Almost before they realised it, they arrived at the beach. Torge noticed that the car had come to a sudden stop.

- Eek, what a fright! What happened Daddy?

- Ufff, a dog off its lead just ran across the road out of nowhere; it must have escaped somehow, and its owner just ran across the street behind it, without even looking. It's lucky we weren't going fast, otherwise.

- Bone wone - barked Toby.

- Of course not, Toby, that could never happen to us, could it Mummy? We always keep you on the lead in the street, and in the car too. And we always cross the road on zebra crossings. We're the best!



- See how important the pixies work is?
said his Mummy.
Because we were wearing our seatbelts,
and Daddy wasn't being distracted, it
was just a little fright.
The family set off again.



While they were having fun in the sand, Torge thinks he has a lot of questions about the pixies:

How come they are so clever? How do they do their work? Can they drive? Where did they learn? Are there driving schools for pixies?

After a wonderful day on the beach, it is time to go home.





Torge feels very happy to be in his seat and his Mummy makes sure his seatbelt is fastened properly. Afterwards she checks to see if Toby's harness is properly adjusted and secured.

Torge whispers to his pet:

- If you see the pixies, tell me, I've got loads of questions for them.



Of course the pixies heard what Torge whispered, but they hold their laughter and get comfortable in Torge's hands. Their work is done for the day, all the seatbelts have been fastened and their passengers are safe. They just need to relax and enjoy their journey! Happy trip home family!

Silvia Gascó Rivas born in Albacete in 1975. Holder of a Teaching Diploma, Graduate in Humanities and DEA in Language Studies.

She founded La Llave. Gestión y Producción Cultural in 2011. an innovative company whose priority is to refine educational and cultural products.

As director of La Llave, she has vast experience in the field of educational products, production in the scenic arts and audiovisuals, publishing and photography. A workforce of highly qualified professionals work at La Llave every day to help make interesting cultural projects a reality. Her differentiating factors in the cultural sector are her creative treatment and the artistic component of her products and services.

Sonia Salvador Vicente born in Albacete in 1975. A Law graduate, she has a postgraduate degree in Digital Technology and a Master's in Archiving.

She soon found her perfect ally to satisfy her artistic side with photography. She was all but a child when she won her first photography contest. After that, she went on to win many more. Her individual and joint exhibitions are a constant in Sonia's life.

Her love-hate relationship with her camera has led to many unforgettable photographs. Sonia's experience and training, but above all the magic of her ideas and her aesthetic sensitivity lead her to explore mixed formats such as those used in this story: plasticine sculptures, photography and graphic design, are the perfect blend to illustrate the adventures of "The Pixie Explorers".

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