A Town for Paper Puppies

A Make-and-Play ABC



LITTLE STORY MAGIC



Rain taps the window.
Two paper puppies stand in John's little cart.
"They need a home," says Julia.
"And an adventure," says John.
They spread newspaper on the floor.



Aa

A is for Apron

AY-pruhn

Aprons on.

The puppies watch.

"Yours would be very small," John tells them.



Bb

B is for Box

BAHKS

Box on the floor.

"A house!" says Julia.

John peeks in.

"Hello, anybody home?"

"Not yet."



Cc

C is for Cardboard

KARD-bord

Cardboard for a roof.

Julia holds it up.

The puppies look rather small underneath it.

"Room for tall ears."



Dd

D is for Door

DOR

Door swings open.

Julia knocks anyway.

John answers for the puppies.

"We're still waiting for the roof."



Ee

E is for Experiment

ik-SPAIR-uh-munt

Experiment time.

Will a flat roof stay up?

Flop!

"That's a floor," says John.



Ff

F is for Fold

FOHLD

Fold in the middle.
Now the roof stands like a little tent.
Julia peers inside.
"Still room for the ears."



Gg

G is for Glue

GLOO

Glue here. Press there.

Wait, wait, wait.

"The puppies are being very patient," says Julia.

John isn't.



Hh

H is for Hands

HANDZ

Hands stick together.

"We made a hand sandwich," says John.

Julia brings a cloth.

The house will have to wait a little longer.



Ii

I is for Idea

eye-DEE-uh

"Idea!" says John. "A bridge for their adventure."

Julia draws one.

John draws a dog too big to cross it.

"Smaller dog?"

"Bigger adventure."



Jj

J is for Join

JOYN

Join the cardboard. Two strong ends and a top.
John parks the puppies beside it.
"No crossing till we're ready."



Kk

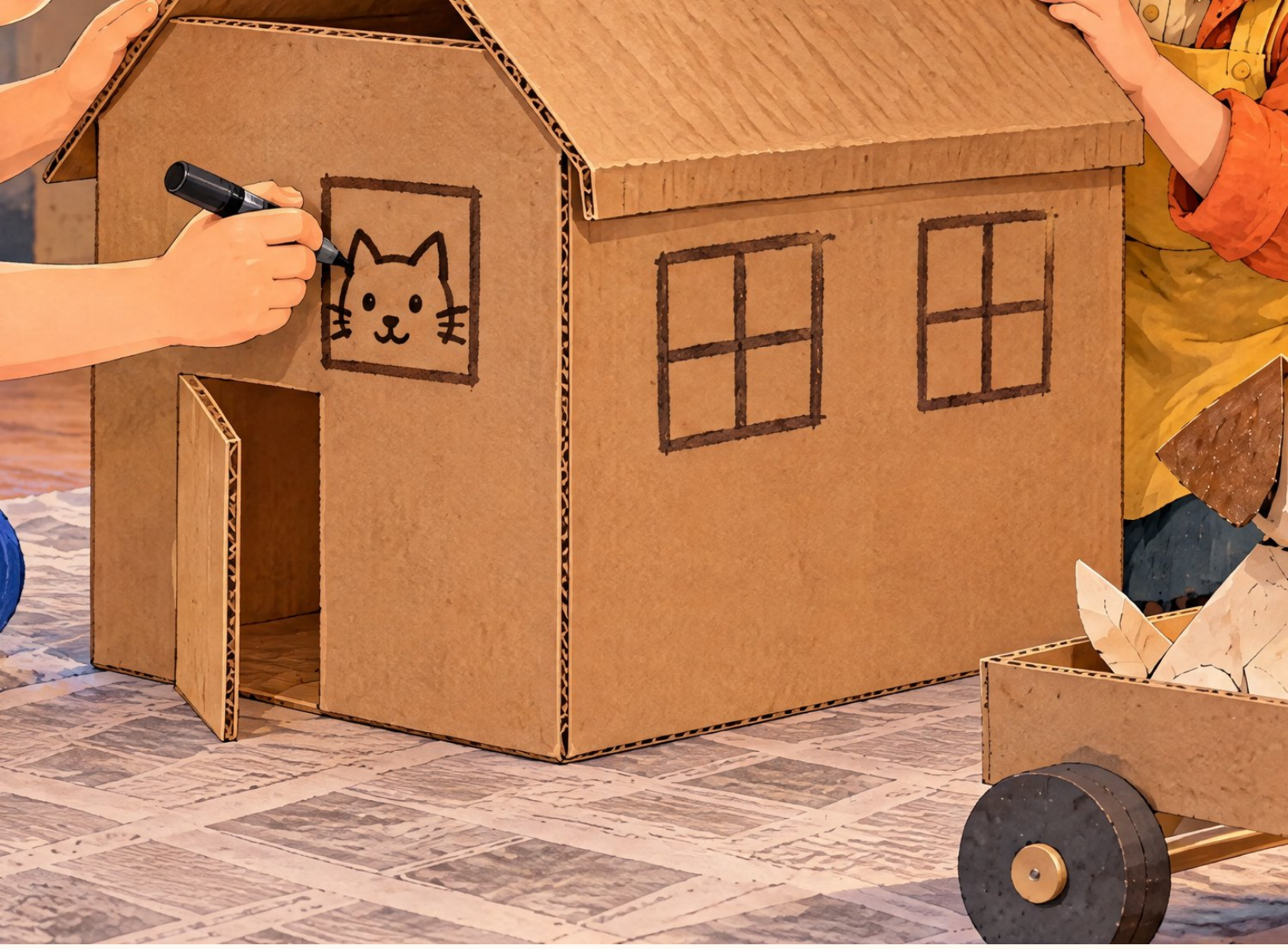
K is for Knot

NAHT

Knot the string.

A flag flies from the house.

"So the puppies can find home," says Julia.



LI

L is for Line

LYNE

Line after line after line.
Windows for the house.
John adds a tiny cat in one.
"The neighbors have arrived."



Mm

M is for Mix

MIKS

Mix red. Mix blue.

Julia makes violet paint.

John leans closer.

"That house is going to be very purple."



Nn

N is for Newspaper

NOOZ-pay-per

Newspaper crinkles under John's knee.
He gives the puppies a ride over it.
Rrrrumble!
"Bumpy road."



Oo

O is for Oops

OOPS

Oops!

The violet paint tips onto the newspaper.

"A lake!" says John.

Julia lifts the puppy cart to dry land.

"Now they need that bridge."



Pp

P is for Paint

PAYNT

Paint the house.

A little on the brush. A little on John's nose.

"You've got a purple window," says Julia.



Qq

Q is for Question

KWES-chuhn

Question: how will the puppies get onto the bridge?

John holds up the cart.

Julia points to the wheels.

"They can't climb stairs."



Rr

R is for Ramp

RAMP

Ramp up. Ramp down.

Julia rests the ends on blocks.

John gives the cart a tiny push.



Ss

S is for Slide

SLYDE

Slide!

The ramp slips sideways.

Julia catches the cart on the floor.

"Exciting," says John.

"Too exciting," says Julia.



Tt

T is for Tape

TAYP

Tape down the wobbly end.

John tests it. Julia tests it.

No slide.

"Ready, puppies?"



Uu

U is for Under

UN-der

Under the bridge goes Julia's hand.
She presses the last strip of tape.
"No wobbles underneath, either."



Vv

V is for View

VYOO

View from down here: a bridge, a violet lake, and home beyond it.

John lowers his chin.

"I see the cat."



Ww

W is for Wheels

WEELZ

Wheels turning. All four.

Up the ramp. Over the bridge. Down the other side.

"They did it!"



Xx

X is for X

EKS

X marks the parking spot.

The puppies stop outside their house.

John knocks.

"We're home!"



Yy

Y is for Yarn

YARN

Yarn makes a road beside the lake.

"Another ride?" asks Julia.

John answers for the puppies.

"Woof!"



Zz

Z is for Zigzag

ZIG-zag

Zigzag past the cat.

Zigzag round the lake.

The puppies take the long way home.

Then they take it again.



The rain is still tapping.
Inside, the little town is busy.
John picks up his enormous paper dog.
"Room for one more?"
Julia looks at the very small door.
"We're going to need another box."

A little more to share

Play another little adventure

Give a toy a home, make a pretend road, or answer for the puppies with John. Enjoy the wrong turns and small repairs together.

A little letter looking

Each letter has a big form and a little form, such as Aa. Name them when your child is interested. The parking X is a mark in the story. The puppies' town grows from cardboard, paint and the children's make-believe.

Saying the words

The small line helps you say the word. Hyphens separate syllables; capitals show the strongest beat. AIR sounds like hair, AH like father, AY like day, OH like go, OW like cow, OO like moon and UU like book. The light uh sounds like the first vowel in about. These are approximate American English guides; familiar regional pronunciations are welcome.

Letters and sounds

K is silent in Knot. The X page uses the letter name for a mark in the game.

Made for sharing

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