



THE 2023 YOUNG MATHEMATICAL STORY AUTHOR (YMSA) COMPETITION

THE STUART J. MURPHY AWARD
(THE 8-11 YEARS OLD CATEGORY)

LONGLISTED

'1 x 64 Saves Bluebell Wood' by Frank O'Brien (8 years old)
at Trinity Primary School (UK)

You can read the author's inspiration for the story and the judges' comments
on:

www.mathsthroughstories.org/ymsa2023

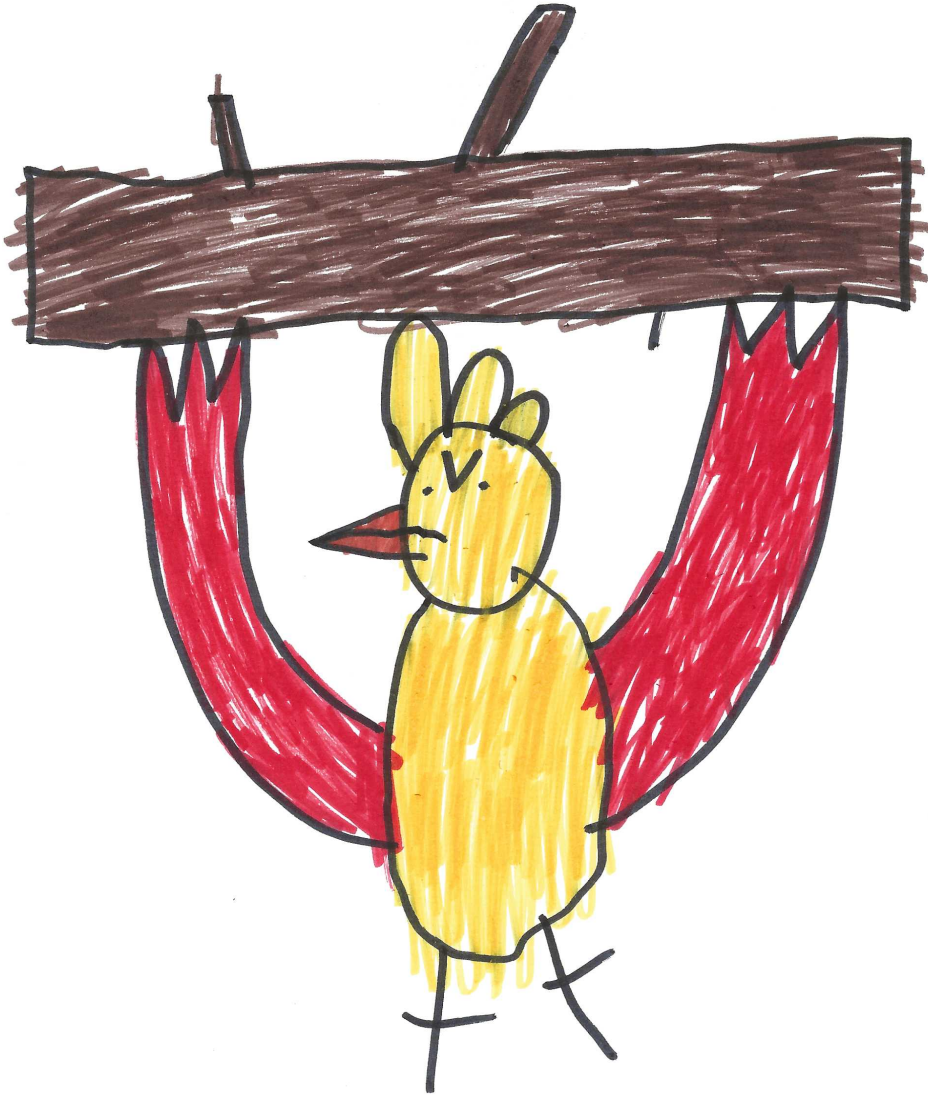
#YMSAMaths

Frank O'Brien



1 x 64
Saves Bluebell
!!! Wood !!!

Chapter 1



Once there lived two birds called Fretty and Jamie. They liked playing around with their friends and they loved weight lifting. The name of the wood they lived in was called Bluebell Wood because in spring bluebells covered the wood. Fretty and Jamie had six main friends. Their names were Tom, Bill, Noah, Benjamin, May and Grace.



Jamie had laid three pretty big eggs in a rather large nest. Fretty just saw a movement in one of the eggs and let out an ear-splitting shriek and said, "The eggs are hatching the eggs are hatching!" Jamie gave a piercing squawk of joy and flew down to watch. The egg now had a crack in it and the two birds gazed over it.

Chapter 2



Soon all three eggs had hatched and the chicks were up and about so Fretty flew off to get food just as night was falling, but he did not just find food. As he soared over the night sky Fretty saw a poster stuck to a lamp post and this is what it said:

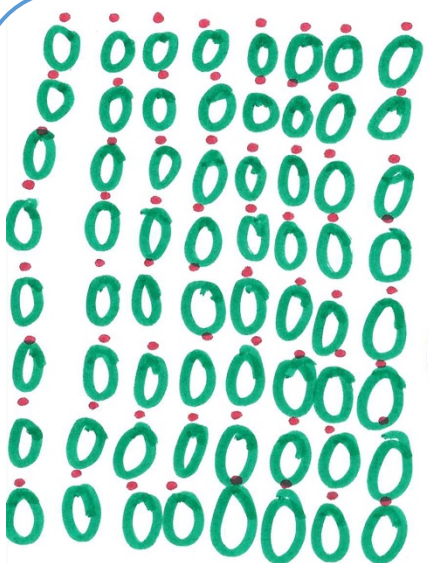
We need to
cut down Bluebell
wood so we can
build the building
site there. Meet
here at
11:00am

Fretty felt speechless after that and racked his brains to think of a plan and then it came. He flew back to Bluebell Wood and told everybody his plan and this was his plan...

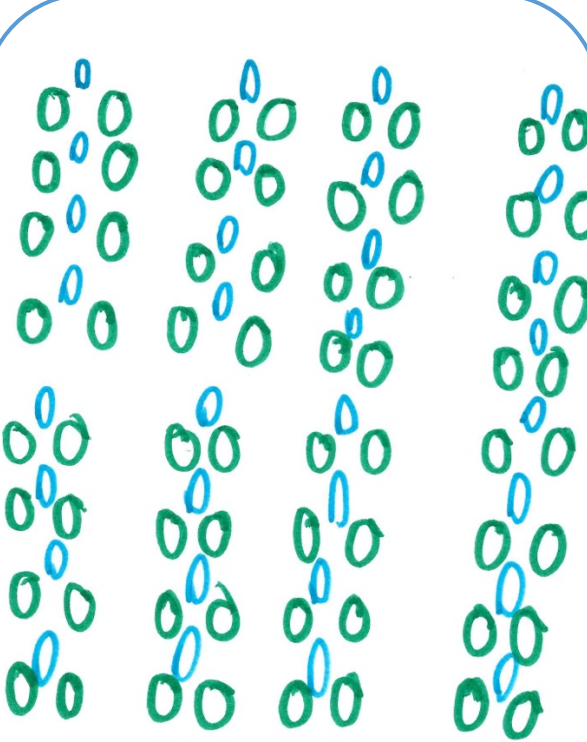
Chapter 3

"Animals of Bluebell Wood I have terrible news for you all! When I went to get food for my chicks, I saw a poster on a lamp post and it said that some builders were going to cut down all 64 trees in the wood just tomorrow at 11am!" said Fretty. "We need to save the wood for the sake of our chicks and us. So little birds like me, you can protect one tree each."

But Noah pointed out, "We don't have 64 little birds in this wood. You should know that," he said crossly. "But owls, you're bigger, can you protect two trees each?" he wondered.



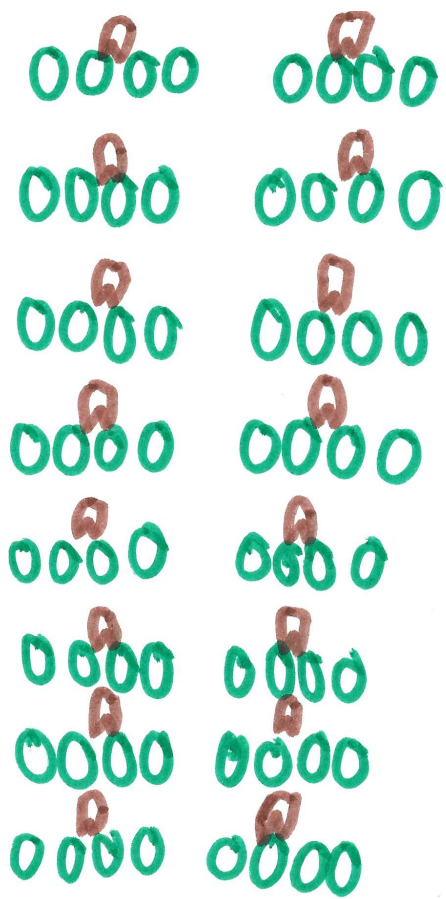
$\circ = \text{bird}$
 $\bigcirc = 1 \text{ tree}$
 $64 \times 1 = 64$



$\circ = \text{owl}$
 $\bigcirc = \text{tree}$
 $32 \times 2 = 64$

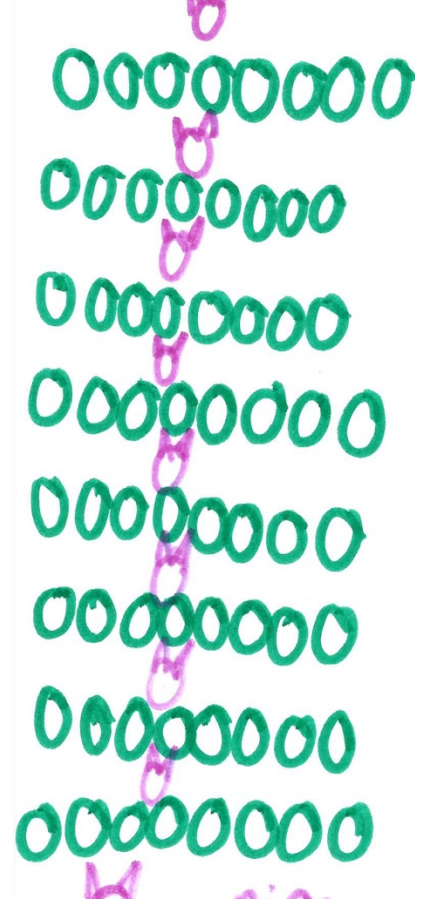
"No," said Grace, "we don't have 32 owls in this wood but do we have 16 eagles? I'm sure they could protect 4 trees each when the builders come."

"No, we do not," said Benjamin "but do we have 8 pigs? They can protect 8 trees each."



A 16x4 grid of green circles. Each row contains four circles. Above each circle is a brown eagle symbol. The eagle symbols are arranged in four vertical columns of four, one above each circle in the grid.

A = eagle
O = tree
 $16 \times 4 = 64$



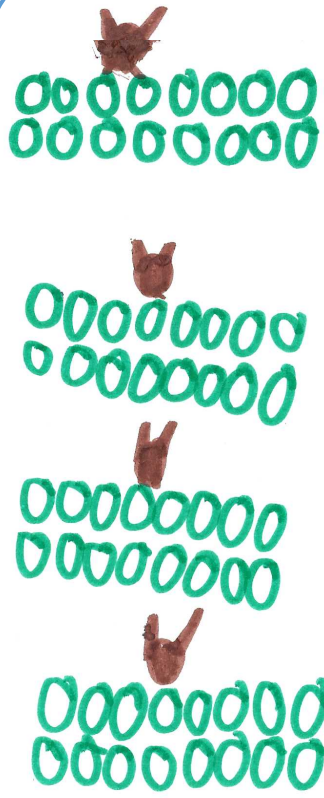
An 8x8 grid of green circles. A vertical line of eight pink pig symbols runs down the center of the grid, with one pig symbol above each circle in the fourth column.

O = pig
O = tree
 $8 \times 8 = 64$

May said, "We do not have 8 pigs but do we have 4 wolves?" she asked hopefully. "They could easily protect 16 trees each."

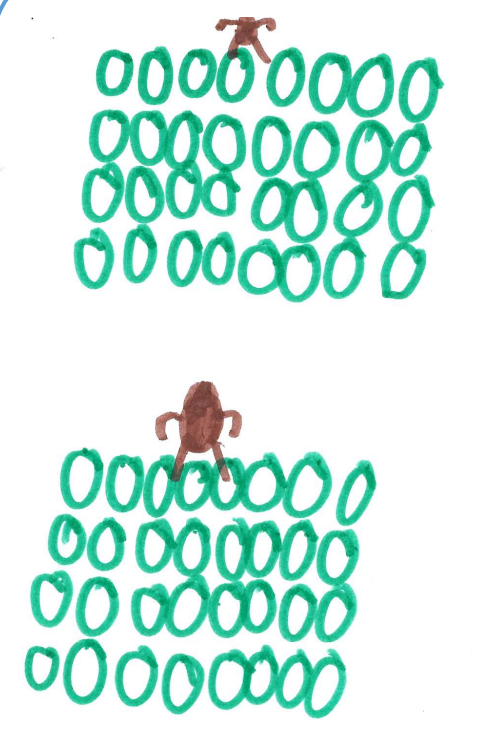
"We do not have 4 wolves," said Tom and Bill together, the two twins and the wisest of them all. "But baboons can protect 32 trees each and we do have 2 baboons."

"Good," said Fretty, "tomorrow the two baboons will protect the wood."



A diagram illustrating the protection of trees by wolves. It shows four separate groups of trees, each consisting of two rows of eight green circles representing trees. A brown wolf icon is positioned above each group of trees. Below the diagram, a legend defines the symbols: a brown wolf icon followed by '= wolf' and a green circle followed by '= tree'. At the bottom, the calculation $4 \times 16 = 64$ is written in brown ink.

$\text{W} = \text{wolf}$
 $\text{O} = \text{tree}$
 $4 \times 16 = 64$

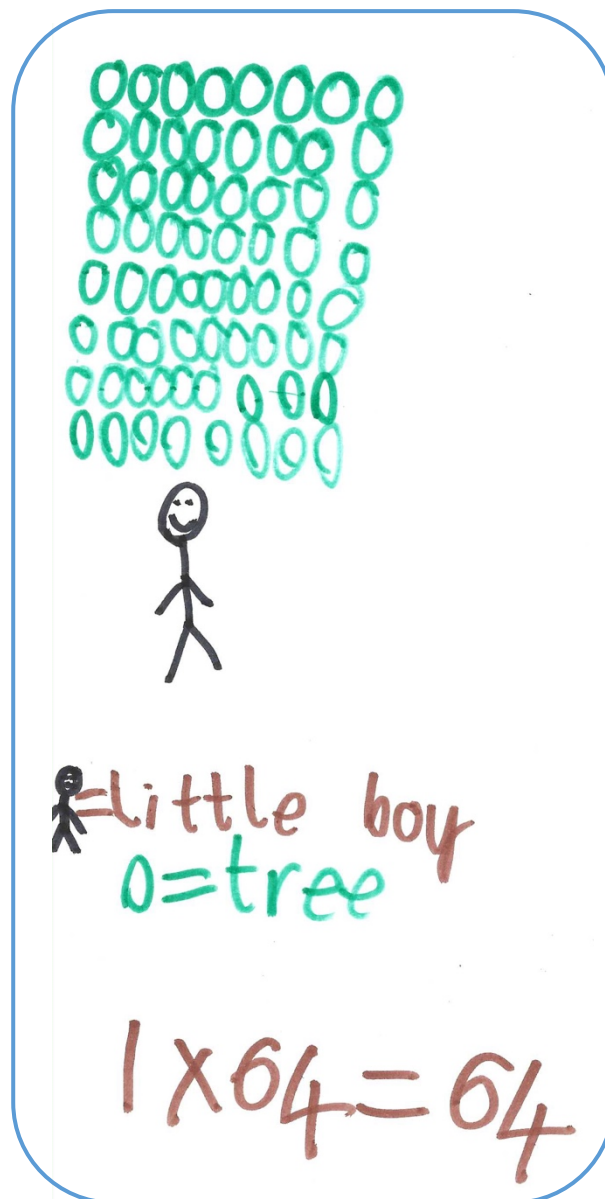


A diagram illustrating the protection of trees by baboons. It shows two separate groups of trees, each consisting of four rows of eight green circles representing trees. A brown baboon icon is positioned above each group of trees. Below the diagram, a legend defines the symbols: a brown baboon icon followed by '= baboon' and a green circle followed by '= tree'. At the bottom, the calculation $2 \times 32 = 64$ is written in brown ink.

$\text{B} = \text{baboon}$
 $\text{O} = \text{tree}$
 $2 \times 32 = 64$

Chapter 4

When the builders came, the two baboons peeped out of the canopy of leaves. But before they could start fighting a boy strolled up to the wood and said, "Please do not cut down the wood. I love watching the wild life here." And the builders said, "I suppose we don't have to. We have got some materials back at the hut," and the builders drove away. Then the boy went up to where Fretty was hiding and said, "There you go. Your wood is all safe!" and Fretty said, "You must have seen the sign too. Thank you and we feel much safer now." And Fretty had learnt a lesson that day. However strong you are and you want to fight back, use words because that is the strongest power of all.



THE END

BLURB

Once there lived two birds called Fretty and Jamie,
but some builders are trying to cut down their wood.
Will they be able to save it in time?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



My name is Frank O'Brien. I am 8 years old and I go to Trinity Church of England Primary School in the UK. My Mum has probably read about a hundred maths story books to me in my life. Some I really like, for example Earth Day Hooray and Shark Swimathon. It has been a fun challenge to write my own mathematical story about pairs of factors and the adventures of Fretty and Jamie.