

BOLO'S

BEST SONG

GROWN-UP'S GUIDE



WONDERBOOKS





Some helpful things to know

Where does vanilla grow?

Vanilla vines will only grow about 10 to 20 degrees north and south of the equator. What a fussy plant! Because of this, most of the world's vanilla comes from just two islands: Madagascar and Réunion.

Why is Bolo a vanilla farmer?

"The reason why people farm vanilla is that they want to have money. They'd like to get what their hearts desire," Bolo says.

Recently, farmers can get much more money for their vanilla, so more people like Bolo are growing it. Bolo's mother was a vanilla farmer too and taught him how to do it very well. *"Once the vanilla is harvested, we organise a big party with the community,"* says Bolo.

Is being a vanilla farmer hard?

Yes! To grow lots of beans you have to rub pollen on the flowers with a special brush while the flowers are open. And they're not open very long!

The other difficult thing about being a vanilla farmer is that your whole crop can be wiped out in a day by

extreme weather or even stolen. All that hard work can disappear very quickly.

How is Save the Children working with Bolo?

Unilever and Save the Children are working together to improve the lives of families producing vanilla for big companies.

At Save the Children's training centre, we help young people who've dropped out of school to learn a trade - like vanilla farming. We also help producers who sell their vanilla to Symrise (a Unilever company) get a fair price for their crop, sign up for health insurance, and get essential food supplies if things get tough.

"This is how I farm vanilla,

I do it with all my heart."

Bolo, 19



Tips for reading this book with your child

Before you read

Have a look at the cover together, and ask *What do you think this book might be about?*

While you read

Start each page by asking 'What can you see?' to give the reader space to respond freely.

After reading

Reflect on the book together. Try asking questions like:

What do you do to keep cool and calm?

Who do you look after when they're tired or worried?

Do you have any songs that make you feel better?

How did you feel when Bolo and his friends were fighting the fire?

Challenge

How many things can you think of that might have vanilla in them?
You have 30 seconds... GO!

Fun facts

1. Vanilla is actually an orchid vine that climbs trees! That's why vanilla is happiest growing in a jungle with lots of trees to climb.
2. Mostly we eat the seeds that are inside the vanilla pods. But to make vanilla extract, you can use the whole pod!
3. There is only one type of bee in the world that can naturally pollinate vanilla flowers.

To find out more about children who inspire stories like Wonderbooks, visit [savethechildren.org.uk](https://www.savethechildren.org.uk)



Friends together

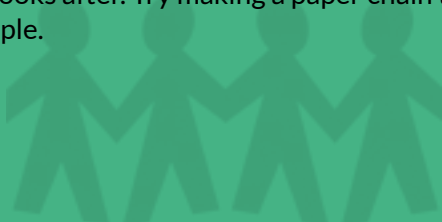
Note: Make sure you have a grown-up with you!

Bolo has lots of friends who he looks after. Try making a paper chain to represent all your favourite people.

You will need:

Paper

Safe scissors



Step one

Cut a strip of paper about 10cm high and as long as you like. The longer the strip, the more people will be in your chain.

Step two

Fold the strip of paper like a fan or accordion, making each panel about 6cm wide if you can.

Step three

Draw a figure on the top panel, making sure that the hands and feet go right to the edges of the paper. Younger children might need some help drawing their first figure.

Step four

Next, cut around the figure – but don't cut along the folds where the friends touch! Now you can unfold your chain. Decorate it with felt tips and crayons, or stick on paper outfits with glue.

Step five

Share a picture of your beautiful friendship chain with us on social media, or email us at the address below.

If you have any questions about Wonderbooks, email us at wonderbooks@savethechildren.org.uk

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