



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

A Toy Story

An activity of "Art to Heart"

Writers and movie producers have long been fascinated with the idea of toys coming to life when their owners are not looking. Take, for example, animated movies such as *Toy Story* and *The Secret Life of Pets*.

Read the following extract from a storybook that has become a classic. In this extract, two toys are having a conversation about how they may become Real. Then, answer the questions below.

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't happen often to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

"I suppose *you* are Real?" said the Rabbit. And then he wished he had not said it, for he thought the Skin Horse might be sensitive. But the Skin Horse only smiled.

Extracted from *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams

1. According to the Skin Horse, what would most likely happen to a toy before it becomes Real?

2. Identify a favourite toy you have that comes close to the above description. Study it from the front view and record everything you notice about it. Notice its colour, shape, texture, unique features, imperfections, and so on.

Then, look at it from the back view and do the same. The longer you look, the more you will discover! You can sketch it or write about your toy from both views.

Front view of my favourite toy	Back view of my favourite toy

3. Explain why this toy is special to you. Describe a memory associated with it.

4. Write a short story entitled "The Day My Toy Became Real." You may choose to include some of the following details in your story:

- Description of the toy
- How it is special to the owner (you)
- How it came to life
- An adventure it went on
- A problem it encountered
- Thoughts and feelings that went through the toy's mind
- How the problem was solved and what happened eventually.

You might enjoy reading the complete story. *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams is at <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/11757/11757-h/11757-h.htm> or listen to its audio recording at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHLYvs5zOUU>.