

The sixth-grade students graduate this week. It always reminds<sup>1</sup> me how quickly time passes when the graduation comes around<sup>2</sup>. It seems like only yesterday when these students were standing, nervously, in their brand-new<sup>3</sup> school uniforms, unsure<sup>4</sup> of what to do or where to go. Three years, or six years for many of them, have flown by. Incredible. I didn't have a graduation when I finished high school. We don't have graduations in the UK. On the last day, school finishes and everybody goes home. That was it. Nothing special. Just another day.

### Something You Don't Know (Miffy)

1. Miffy is the English name for the rabbit. Dick Bruna was Dutch<sup>5</sup> and the rabbit is called *nijntje* in Dutch. This is from *konijntje*, meaning "little rabbit", and is how a child would say the word.
2. The only colors used in the original books are black, white, red, blue, green, yellow and orange. He can sometimes search for a long time to find the right shade<sup>6</sup> of a color.
3. He shows all of the final images to his wife and if she doesn't like them he doesn't use them.
4. Miffy's face is made of only two small dots for eyes and a cross<sup>7</sup> for a mouth. Bruna said it was very difficult to draw different expressions<sup>8</sup> and sometimes he could spend a whole day getting her face right.
5. Miffy's birthday is June 21<sup>st</sup>.
6. The Miffy books have been translated<sup>9</sup> into over 50 languages.
7. In 2010, Bruna sued<sup>10</sup> Sanrio because their Cathy rabbit was too similar to Miffy.



### Last Week's Answers

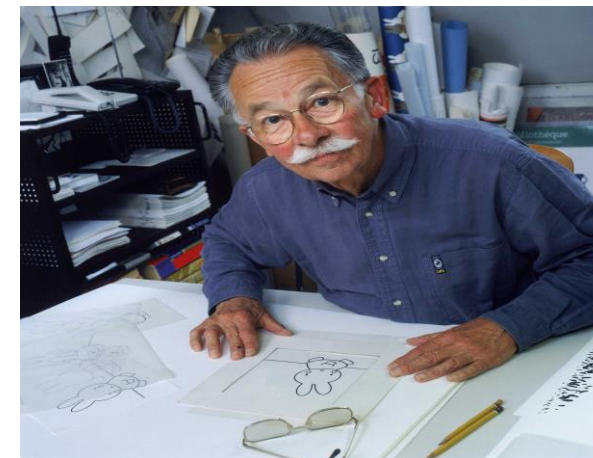
$$\begin{aligned} & \text{3 cats} + \text{3 cats} + \text{3 cats} = 30 \\ & \text{2 cats} + \text{2 cats} + \text{2 cats} = 20 \\ & \text{1 cat} + \text{2 paws} + \text{2 paws} = 9 \\ & \text{1 cat} + \text{1 paw} \times \text{1 cat} = 15 \end{aligned}$$

### Announcements

6<sup>th</sup> grade have graduation assembly on Wednesday and graduation on Thursday. The rest of you have no classes on Thursday. By Friday the second grade have to choose which course they want to enter.

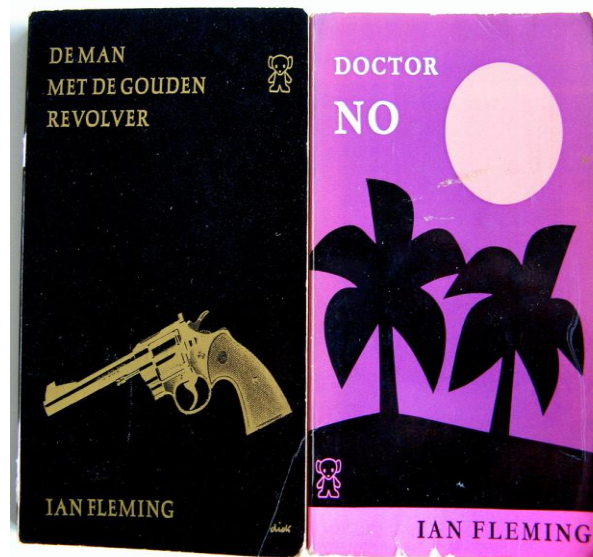
### Dick Bruna, Creator of Miffy, Dies

Last week, Dick Bruna died. He was 89 years old. His real name was Hendrik Magdalenus Bruna. He was Dutch. He accomplished<sup>11</sup> many things throughout<sup>12</sup> his life, but he was most famous as the creator of Miffy. He created the rabbit in 1955, in order to<sup>13</sup> make a story for his young son. He used very simple colors and images to allow children to<sup>14</sup> use their imaginations<sup>15</sup>.



Miffy only has two small eyes and a cross for a mouth. At first, people didn't like Miffy. They said it was too simple. Bruna couldn't find anyone to publish<sup>16</sup> it. But, once they did, it quickly took off<sup>17</sup> in popularity. He has sold over 80 million Miffy books and she has appeared on<sup>18</sup> many other things as well. He has written over 200 children's books.

Dick Bruna was not just a children's book illustrator<sup>19</sup>, he was also a graphic designer<sup>20</sup>. It took him ages<sup>21</sup> to decide on the right colors for Miffy. He also drew posters for movies and covers for books, including<sup>22</sup> a cover for James Bond. His Miffy series made a lot of money from the books and the merchandise<sup>23</sup>. But, the money never really changed Bruna. He woke up at five o'clock in the morning, seven days a week, and he drew his wife a small picture every single day<sup>24</sup>.



- 1.Remind 思い出せる 2.Come around 時期になる 3.Brand-new 新品 4.Unsure 不安がある 5.Dutch オランダの 6.Shade 色合い 7.Cross 罰マーク 8.Expression 表情 9.Translated 翻訳されている 10.Sue 訴える 11.Accomplish 成し遂げる 12.Throughout ~を通して 13.In order to ~するように 14.To allow ... to ~を可能にする 15.Use your imagination 想像力を使う 16.Publish 販売する 17.Take off 急に売れ出す 18.Appear on ~に出る 19.Children's book illustrator 児童書のイラストレーター 20.Graphic designer グラフィックデザイナー 21.Take ages 多時間がかかる 22.Including ~を含む 23.Merchandise 商品 24.Every single day 毎日毎日