

SILLY



BILLY



Anthony Browne



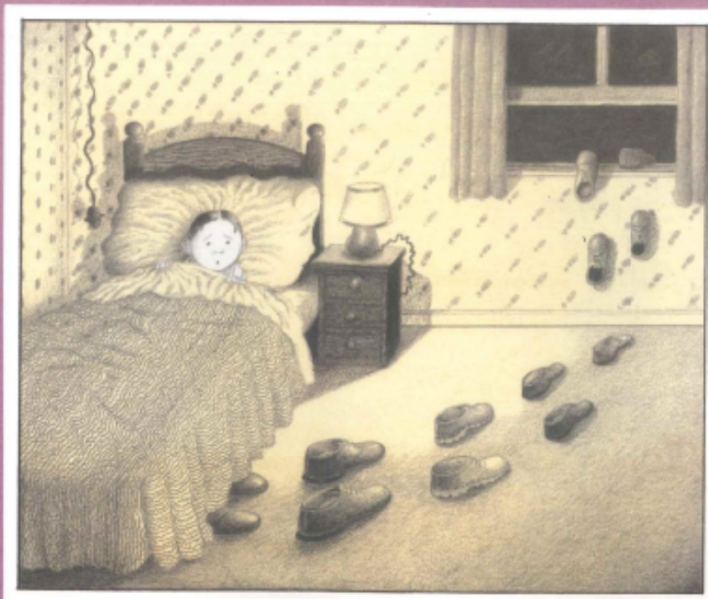
Billy used to be  
a bit of a worrier.



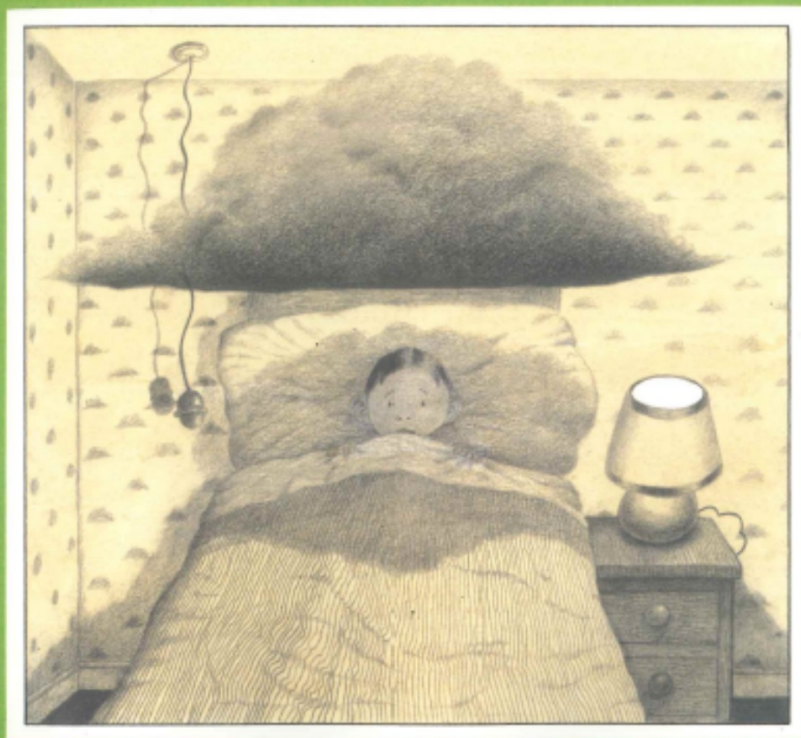
He  
worried  
about  
many things...



Billy worried about hats,



and he worried about shoes.



Billy worried about **clouds**,



and rain.



Billy even worried about **giant birds.**



His dad tried to help.  
"Don't worry, lad," he said.  
"None of those things could happen.  
It's just your imagination."



His mum tried too.  
"Don't worry, love," she said.  
"We won't let anything  
hurt you."

**But still Billy worried.**

One night he had to stay with his grandma. But Billy couldn't sleep. He was too worried. He always worried about staying at other people's houses. Billy felt a bit silly, but at last he got up and went to tell his grandma.





"Well fancy that, love," she said. "You're not silly. When I was your age I used to worry like that. I've got just the thing for you."



She went into her room and came out holding something.

"These are worry dolls," she explained.

"Just tell each of them one of your worries and put them under your pillow. They'll do all the worrying for you while you sleep."



Billy told all his worries  
to the worry dolls.  
He slept like a log.

The next morning Billy went home.  
That night he again told all his worries  
to the dolls. He slept like a stone.



The next night Billy slept well,  
and the night after that.

But the night after that Billy started to **worry**.



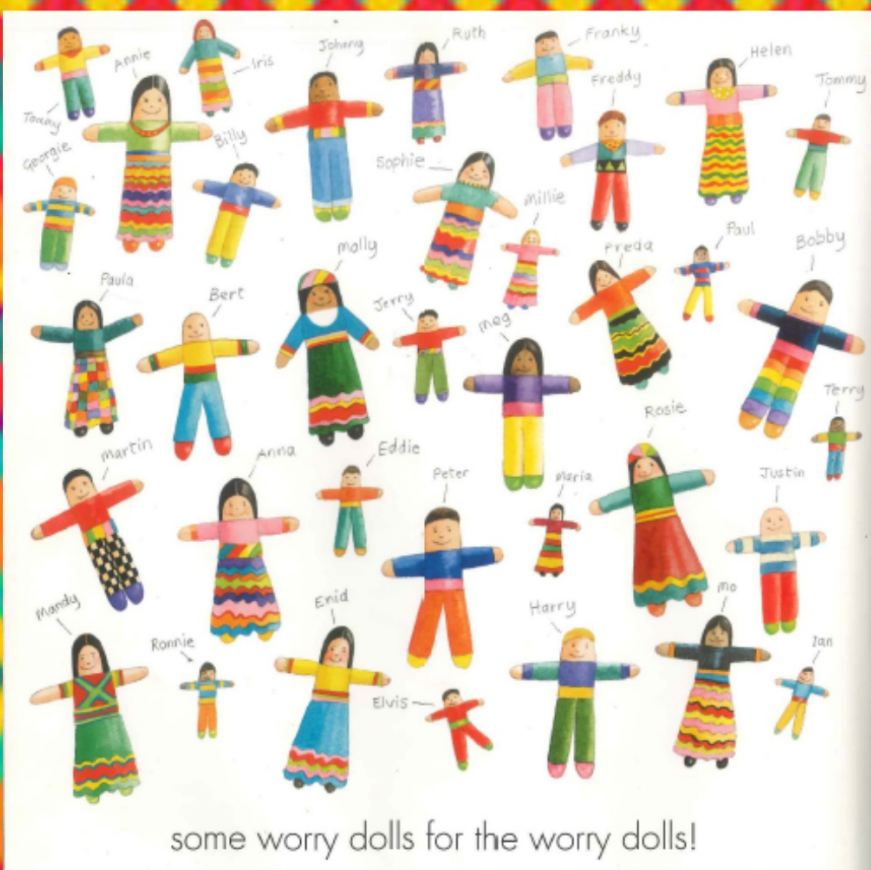


He couldn't stop thinking about the dolls –  
all those **worries** he'd given them...  
They must be so worried. It didn't seem fair.

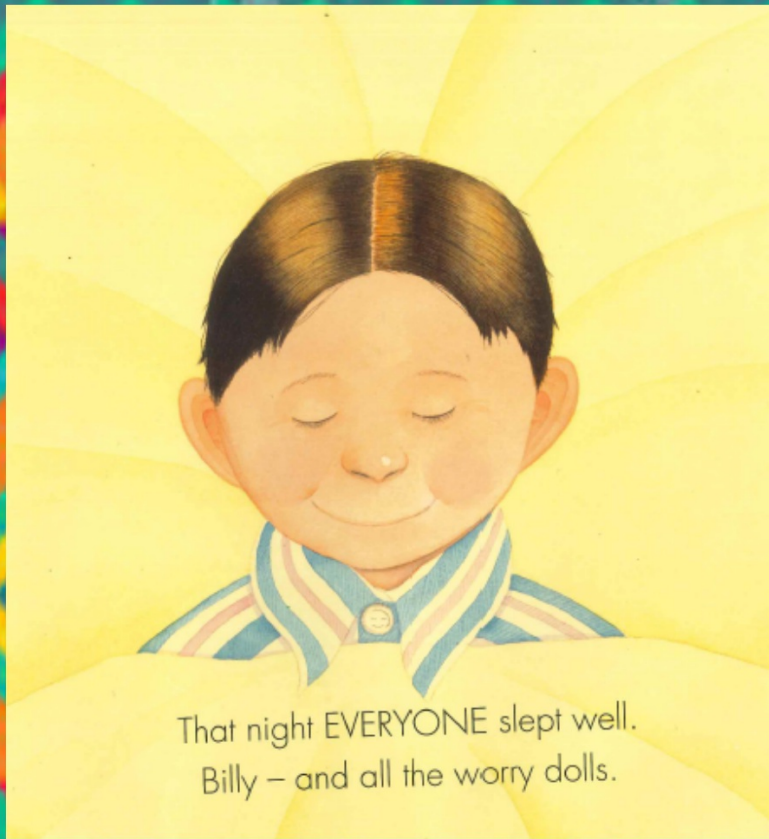
The next day Billy  
had an idea.  
He spent all day  
working at the kitchen  
table. It was difficult  
work and at first he  
made lots of mistakes  
and had to start again  
many times.

But finally Billy  
produced something  
very special ...






some worry dolls for the worry dolls!



That night EVERYONE slept well.  
Billy – and all the worry dolls.

And, after that,  
Billy didn't  
worry very  
much at  
all.





And neither did  
his friends...  
Billy made worry dolls  
for ALL of them.

**Worry dolls** come from the Central American country of Guatemala.

They are made from tiny pieces of wood and scraps of cloth and thread.

Long ago, the children of Guatemala made these dolls, and when they went to bed at night, they would tell a worry to each one before placing them under their pillows and going to sleep. In this way, they would wake up in the morning feeling much less troubled.



To this day, children in Guatemala trust their dolls to take away their worries as they sleep, and this custom has now spread around the world.

