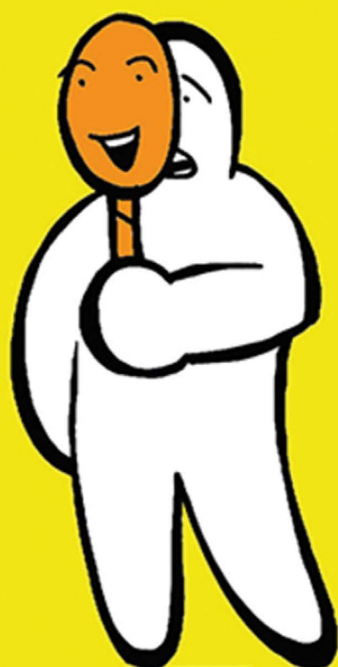


Second Edition



# THE BIG BOOK OF BLOB'S



PIP WILSON  
and  
IAN LONG



A Speechmark Book



Photocopiable

ROUTLEDGE

# THE BIG BOOK OF BLOBS

*The Big Book of Blobs* is a collection of Blob pictures that can be used as prompts to explore feelings. The relatable Blob characters are depicted in many different situations which can be used as a springboard for meaningful discussion on a range of issues and topics. The Blobs in this collection are organised into themes of places, issues, occasions and personal development, and include scenarios such as beach, cinema, city, concert, home, playground, bullying, death, fame, money, parents, romance, sleep, Christmas, Easter, Olympics, body, caring and feelings.

This second edition includes new Blob pictures in areas such as bereavement, self-harming, faith and A&E. Each Blob picture comes with suggested questions that can be used to guide the discussion; ranging from straightforward questions (Which Blob is happy?) to more personal questions designed to explore opinions and feelings (Which Blob do you not understand? Which Blob would you like to be?). Offering handy photocopiable resources, *The Big Book of Blobs* provides a unique way to initiate conversations on a range of topics with individuals or groups of any age.

**Pip Wilson** is the author of over 50 books and the famous 'Blob Tree' tools, which can open the hardest heart, and is able to open up meaningful communication in all cultures and contexts.

**Ian Long** is an illustrator who has worked with Pip all of his adult life, drawing, creating and visualizing ideas that they have imagined together since the early 1980's. He has been a youth and pastoral worker in Gloucestershire, a primary school teacher in West Sussex and Hampshire, a carer for his father who suffered with Alzheimer's and is now working full time upon books.

# Blobs

Blobs are delightful characters (without gender or age) that help facilitate and stimulate meaningful discussions about difficult issues or situations. Individuals or groups can start discussions by identifying themselves, or others, with an individual or group of Blobs whose actions or feelings represent their own.

The series includes a range of activities, books and posters, suitable for all ages.

Authors- Pip Wilson and Ian Long

Titles in this series include:

**The Big Book of Blobs (2nd edition)**

**The Big Book of Blob Trees (2nd edition)**

**The Big Book of Blob Feelings**

**The Big Book of Blob Feelings 2**

**The Blob Anger Book**

**Feelings Blob Cards**

**Emotions Blob Cards**

**Anger Blob Cards**

**Bereavement Blob Cards**

**Behaviour Blob Cards**

**Family Blob Cards**

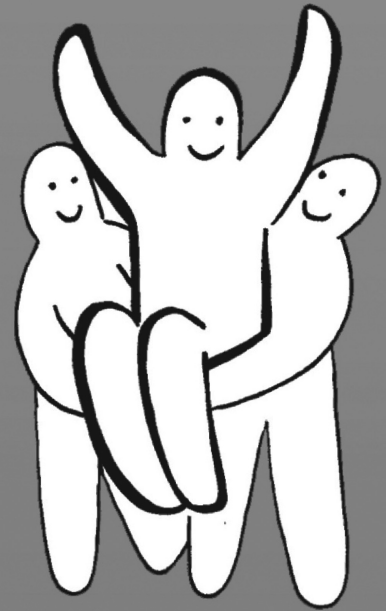
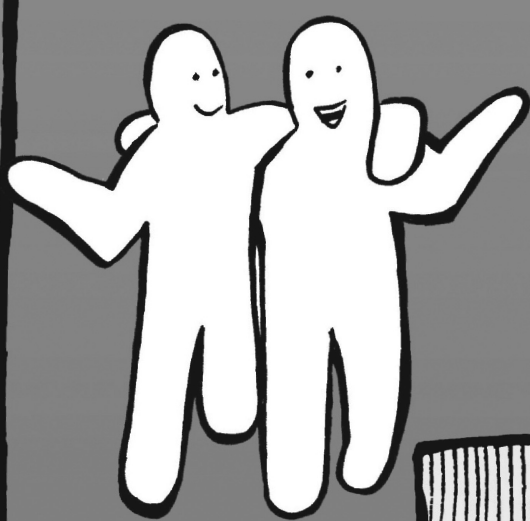
**Teenage Life Blob Cards**

**Blob School**

**The Blob Visual Emotional Thesaurus**

**Giant Blob Tree Poster**

**Blob Feelings Ball**



# THE BIG BOOK OF BLOBS

Second  
edition



PIP WILSON  
and  
IAN LONG

 **Routledge**  
Taylor & Francis Group  
LONDON AND NEW YORK

# THE BIG BOOK OF BLOBS<sup>®</sup>

Second edition published 2018  
by Routledge  
2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4RN

and by Routledge  
711 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017

*Routledge is an imprint of the Taylor & Francis Group, an informa business*

© 2018 Pip Wilson and Ian Long

The right of Pip Wilson and Ian Long to be identified as authors of this work has been asserted by them in accordance with sections 77 and 78 of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

All rights reserved. The purchase of this copyright material confers the right on the purchasing institution to photocopy pages which bear the photocopy icon and copyright line at the bottom of the page. No other parts of this book may be reprinted or reproduced or utilised in any form or by any electronic, mechanical, or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publishers.

*Trademark notice:* Product or corporate names may be trademarks or registered trademarks, and are used only for identification and explanation without intent to infringe.

First edition published by Incentive Publishing 2007 and by Speechmark 2008

#### *British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data*

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

#### *Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data*

Names: Wilson, Pip, author. | Long, Ian, author.

Title: The big book of blobs / Pip Wilson and Ian Long.

Description: Second edition. | Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon; New York : Routledge, 2018. | "First edition published by Incentive Publishing 2007 and by Speechmark 2008"—Title page verso.

Identifiers: LCCN 2017051588 (print) | LCCN 2017053497 (ebook) | ISBN 9781351113359 (ebook) | ISBN 9780815362067 (pbk) | ISBN 9781351113359 (ebk)

Subjects: LCSH: Imagery (Psychology)—Therapeutic use. | Imagination—Therapeutic use. | Art therapy.

Classification: LCC RC489.F35 (ebook) | LCC RC489.F35 .W55 2018 (print) | DDC 616.89/1656—dc23

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017051588>

ISBN: 978-0-815-36206-7 (pbk)

ISBN: 978-1-351-11335-9 (ebk)

Typeset in ComicSans  
by Apex CoVantage, LLC

# CONTENTS

---

<b>Preface to the New Edition</b>	— vi
<b>About the Authors</b>	— viii
<b>Introduction</b>	— 1
<b>Theme 1: places</b>	— 25
<b>Theme 2: issues</b>	— 53
<b>Theme 3: occasions</b>	— 93
<b>Theme 4: personal development</b>	— 111

# PREFACE TO THE NEW EDITION

---

When Pip and I first conceived the Blobs in his office, late one evening, after a day painting banners for The Rolling Magazine Show, we had no idea how far its impact would spread. Pip had intended it to be used in The Mayflower, a family centre in the East End of London, where he worked. Many of the young adults that he worked with struggled to communicate effectively, and feelings were rarely shared. He used singers, poets and images to help people reflect upon life.

As Pip shared his latest thought, I sketched out the idea, with a spiky tree, Blobs with noses, and a few stances which we later decided needed to be changed. Eventually we reached something that we were both happy with, and Pip began to trial it with all sorts of people. He found it was effective with young people, children, people with special needs, people from around the world, in fact, there didn't seem to be anyone that couldn't read it's simple imagery.

After going into one of his books in the mid 80's, *Games Without Frontiers*, it soon became a regular on the photocopier walls around the UK. We heard that it had been used in schools, hospitals, youth offenders workshops, addiction counselling, churches, mosques, synagogues, workshops and more. It spread by word of mouth.

A couple of years after the Millennium, we were asked to create a set of books to help people share this idea more widely. This was the very first which we designed. It contains images that reflect our backgrounds and professions. Some of them, you may find, are more appropriate than others to your community. The Blobs work on the premise that there is no right and wrong. Feelings are the 'stuff' of the Blobs, and they have been given a context that often occurs in life.

It is worth noting that some images can create discussions that go beyond our own personal beliefs and preferences. We may feel uncomfortable being open, or using emotional or faith language at first, for example. Within your groups there will be many whose feelings and beliefs will be the driving force of their life. These sheets may help you to discuss these motivators and increase your understanding and empathy about what makes them tick.

A few of the sheets have been updated to reflect some of the changes in society - fifteen years ago smartphones were in their infancy. A few new sheets have also been added to the Blob Tree section as our key product has become so popular.

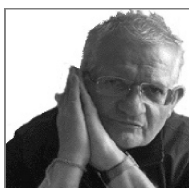
Happy Blobbing!

Ian and Pip

# ABOUT THE AUTHORS

---

## Pip Wilson



**Pip Wilson** is a beautiful human person who became an adult when he was 40. His work has ranged from urban street gangs, Hells Angels, special needs groupwork with humans with drug and alcohol issues, a people trainer, and more. He has been a charity CEO housing 172 young people in need, with 150 staff and 200 volunteers. Pip has far more scars than certificates! He believes that vulnerability is a strength not a weakness.

Pip is the author of over 50 books and the famous 'Blob Tree' tools, which can open the hardest heart, and is able to open up meaningful communication in all cultures and contexts. He currently works as a freelance people worker, conducting groupwork/ training/ facilitation in the corporate and voluntary sectors. He can be booked via his website [www.pipwilson.com](http://www.pipwilson.com)

Pip yearns for the uncomfortable, unease, dissatisfaction and daily refreshes the irritation. He believes that there is no such thing as a difficult person - only difficult behaviour.

## Ian Long



**Ian Long** is an illustrator who has worked with Pip all of his adult life, drawing, creating and visualizing ideas that they have imagined together since the early 1980's. He has been a youth and pastoral worker in Gloucestershire, a primary school teacher in West Sussex and Hampshire, a carer for his father who suffered with Alzheimer's and is now working full time upon books.

As well as creating numerous Blob books, he is currently translating the Bible into a no word book, the Blob Visual Bible, so that it can be used around the world, by people with no literacy, as well as children, adults with special needs and churches from all nations.

He is married to Jane, and they have two beautiful adult daughters.

# INTRODUCTION

## CONTENTS

---

What are the Blobs? . . . . .	3
Questions and the Blob Pictures . . . . .	4
Blob Questions . . . . .	7
Ways of Using the Sheets . . . . .	9
Blob Tree . . . . .	11
Blob Tree 2 . . . . .	13
Blob Smartphone Tree . . . . .	15
Blob Bereavement Tree . . . . .	17
Blob Competency Tree . . . . .	19
Blob Faith Tree . . . . .	21
Blob Needs . . . . .	23



Taylor & Francis

Taylor & Francis Group

<http://taylorandfrancis.com>

# INTRODUCTION

---

## What are the Blobs?

They are neither male nor female, young or old, slave nor free! They are open to interpretation. Each character could be you, your partner, your best friend or a personal enemy. What is true for you might be completely the opposite for someone else. Blobs are a way to discuss issues in a deep, meaningful way and yet they can be understood by adults and children alike. You might look at a sheet and say that you feel like one Blob today, but tomorrow be a completely different Blob. You might find that a friend sees you in a completely opposite way! You could use each Blob picture in a groupwork situation to stimulate discussion about how a team feels about itself.

The secret of how to use the Blob pictures is in asking the questions wisely! Open each session with broad questions before coming to the deeper issues which lie behind each image. There is no magic technique which will enable you to become a superb Blobster - just practice! You will find that children, young people and adults warm to being visually stimulated and having the opportunity to discuss their ideas and feelings.

Mix the Blobs in with other creative activities. Think of them as an element of the group activities. They might be your key element, but they need to be wrapped up with ice-breakers or perhaps music. Blobs are one effective way to help a group speak to each other.

Let us know how you do with the Blobs by contacting the publisher. Once you get used to the way they work, you can start to explore more questions and judge the pace to take for your group.

Happy Blobbing!

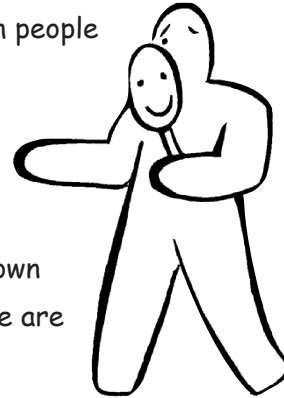
# QUESTIONS AND THE BLOB PICTURES

---

**"We become fully conscious only of what we are able to express to someone else."**

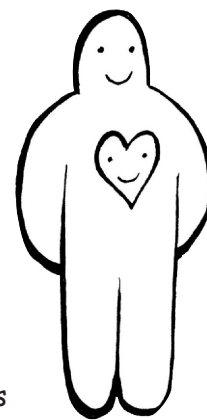
*Paul Tournier: The Meaning of Persons*

Questions are a very powerful tool. Those who work with people in education, law, care and personal development receive training in how to use them. A question such as, 'What can I do to solve the problem of poverty?' challenged Bob Geldof to initiate 'Live Aid' and Bono to urge the G8 leaders to end international debt. Talking about our own thoughts and feelings enables us to understand where we are and where we need to change.



**Can you think of a question which changed the direction of your life?**

Making time to talk about our emotions has become part of the primary National Curriculum in 'circle time'. Counsellors are skilled in the art of both asking probing questions and listening to the spoken and unspoken responses so that they can ask further questions. Job interviews depend upon them and those who are skilled in how to answer them move on in their personal ambitions. Church ministers use them to provoke us to think about our personal beliefs. Lawyers are trained in asking pertinent questions which expose the motives which lie behind our actions and reveal what we do not want others to know about us. We all appreciate people who want to listen to our problems and ask us the questions that give us the space to talk.



**Who asks you the best questions in your life?**

The most famous people in history were skilled at asking questions: Freud used them to reveal the thoughts of his clients; Jesus used them to expose the motives of the religious hypocrites; Newton used them to understand the design of the Universe; Mother Theresa used them to stir up the feelings of those who came to see her work with the world's poorest people; Martin Luther-King used them to challenge the racist attitudes of America.



### **When did a question give you the space to come to your own conclusion?**

There are different types of questions ranging from very superficial ones (How you doing?) to deep and probing ones (What started you crying?). When you use the Blobs remember that we all like to be questioned in a sensitive way. Sometimes we want to talk and other times we like to listen. Start with general questions, and then enquire about your group members' opinions, before finally giving them the opportunity to reveal their innermost thoughts. This whole process can happen the first time you meet together or it can take years.

### **Are there aspects of your work which would be improved by asking more questions?**

Whenever Ian leads a 'questions assembly' at his school he is aware that for the first few minutes people are not really listening to the answers he provides, but to the attitude behind what is being said. By the end of the twenty minutes he is being deluged with issues on children's hearts. Valuing everyone's response to the picture is essential. It enables others to discuss more freely. There are no right or wrong answers. The Blobs provide your group with a chance to talk about an issue, or themselves, using an image rather than a set of words. For some people it may be as simple as pointing at a picture to describe themselves, for others it will start a conversation full of stories.

