

Miffy and Friends - Series Overview

The iconic white bunny from Dick Bruna's children's book classics comes to life in a 3D stop-motion animated series. Miffy, along with her friends Boris and Barbara Bear, Melanie the bunny, Poppy and Grunty Pig, and Snuffly the Dog, takes preschoolers along for adventures exploring basic concepts and themes. Miffy's world includes activities recognizable to young children like numbers, colors, seasons, nature, friendship, and family celebrations as well as visits to Africa, Asia, Europe and the North Pole to discover new cultures as a preschooler would understand them. A female narrator, sounding like a child's favorite teacher, guides viewers through the action.

The half-hour episodes make the unique artwork of Dick Bruna stand out, without losing the simplicity that made his work in the *Miffy* books world famous for more than 50 years and leaving space for children's imaginations to roam. The characters interact in typical stories like 'Miffy's Gift from Boris', 'Miffy's Day with Snuffly', and 'Miffy and Poppy Pig Have Breakfast.' Segments like "Who Has More?" and "The Same Game" teach counting and number comparisons with audience interaction.

MAIN CHARACTERS

Miffy

Miffy is a charming girl bunny. In the TV series she is about five years old. Miffy is simple, innocent, resolute, and always open to new experiences. She likes riding her red scooter and to visit her friends very much.

Boris and Barbara

Boris is a bear and Barbara is his girlfriend. They are a little older than Miffy. Boris lives in a house in the woods and is cool and adventurous, but sometimes a little clumsy. Barbara, with her seven freckles, often joins Boris on his adventures and helps him out of scrapes. She is steady and firm, while Boris is a bit mischievous and a scatterbrain. They are real outdoor bears and they are also a little bit in love with each other.

Poppy Pig

Poppy Pig is a friendly little pig. She is single and is happy with that. She is also very sociable and brings joy and happiness into the lives of her friends and her niece, Grunty, who lives nearby. She goes to the flower market and likes gardening and doing household work.

Grunty

Grunty is Poppy's niece who lives nearby and often visits Poppy. Grunty likes to play with Miffy. They fly kites together or play in the garden.

Snuffy

Snuffy is a nice, brave little dog. She is courageous and has a strong sense of justice. She is also a clever dog and warns her friends when things go wrong or finds lost toys for Miffy. Snuffy is a very active dog and likes to join Miffy on her adventures. Her eyes are wide open, her ears are hanging at the side and her nose is cold and moist. She is a playful little creature who has exciting adventures.

Additional Background Information

Dick Bruna

Dick Bruna is one of the most famous creators of children's picture books in the world. He has written and illustrated more than 100 books. Bruna created his first Miffy story in 1955. His work has been translated into 45 languages and awarded with numerous prizes. He has sold nearly 85 million books worldwide.

How it all started

From a very young age, Dick Bruna had a passion for drawing. During World War II, which began when he was 13, he drew and painted a great deal. After the war, school had lost its appeal for him. His father wanted him to become a publisher like himself. Dick comes from a family of publishers who, under the name 'A.W. Bruna & Son', began printing books in 1868. To learn the trade he went to London and Paris, where he enjoyed even more to admire the work of well-known artists in famous galleries and museums. By the time he returned to The Netherlands, he had decided to become an artist as well, rather than a publisher, and he put his talent to use as a book cover designer in his father's publishing house. Now his illustrations made him into a world famous artist himself.

What has made Dick Bruna so successful in his work? It has to do with knowing how to use the right colors, what unnecessary items to leave out and the recognizable stories told on rhyme. Most important in Dick Bruna's work is the clarity of what he says in his pictures. This makes children recognize their own world in his work and at the same time, leaves enough space to let their own imagination roam.