

MY SECRET MARBLES

Marble Mya

(Age 9)

I've collected five hundred and sixty-four marbles. I've got one big one and I've got six medium sized ones and I've got four hundred little ones. I've got white ones with spotted different colours, blue ones, purple ones, two that are sky blue but one's a light sky blue and one's a dark sky blue and I've got an orange one with black spots and waves, a purple and white one that's all wavy and a dark green and light green all mixed up together. I haven't got a favourite; I like them all.

In my spare time I like to pretend they're people. I've got some toy cars that I pretend they drive around in and I've got this doll's house that I got for Christmas and I put some ornaments in it and pretend that they're sitting on them and stuff.

Sometimes I pretend they go to school, or they go to a youth club, or go to mail a letter, or go into this portal to a new world. It's this fun place that's called Happyland and everything's free and you can eat everything. You can even eat the road, you can eat a bus, you can eat anything. Even under the road would be dirt that you can eat. It's just like England but everything's eatable.

I've got this little basket that I keep them all in. Sometimes if I don't feel like putting them in the basket I just put them in the doll's house and I carry them to my bedroom but because the doll's house hasn't got proper sides sometimes they fall out and I have to do it all

over again.

I usually know if some are missing. They're usually under the table or under the settee or under mum's foot, because when she's passing she steps on them because she doesn't see them.

I'd like to collect a thousand marbles but I don't think my mummy will let me because I need to have a really, really big basket to collect a thousand and they'd be all over the living room floor.

I don't have any friends who have marbles; most of my friends collect pencil cases and pencils. I usually go to a childminder's house and we swap stuffed pencil cases. We gather round the table and we take everything out of our pencil cases and we trade for stuff that we like. I've got eleven pencil cases.

It's called *My Secret Marbles* because my friends always say it's a bit weird so I don't really tell them. I don't like it when people say stuff is weird but I don't really mind. Anyway, it is a bit weird because nobody else would probably do that. Maybe it's because they're not really into marbles, they're into pencil cases and stuff, and they don't realise how much fun it is if you haven't got any brothers and sisters to play with at home and have something to do when you're bored, instead of just sitting there watching TV or playing on your Nintendo all day long like I do sometimes.

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