

Take Off

A second level braille reading scheme

Teachers' Handbook

Revised UEB edition 2020
Produced and published by
Royal National Institute of Blind People
Peterborough

Contents

Introduction.....	5
Section one: The braille booklets	8
Layout and stories	8
The practice pages.....	9
The fun pages.....	10
Section two: Braille signs and rules.....	10
1. Knowledge required prior to starting Take Off.....	10
2. Order of braille introduction in Take Off.....	11
3. Braille not introduced in Take Off	18
Section three: Checklist for successful braille reading	19
Section four: Additional Resources	20
1. Reading Together.....	21
2. Hands On	21
3. Abi Books	22
4. RNIB Bookshare UK Education Collection.....	23
5. The RNIB National Library Service.....	23
6. The Clearvision Library	23
7. Braille Magazines	24
8. Making Your Own Material.....	24
9. Effective Teaching of Literacy through Braille – Online Training Course	25
10. Mailing Lists.....	25
Section five: Full text of the Take Off booklets.....	27
Series 1: Magic.....	27
Series 2: The Space Travels of Rusty, the Red Rocket.....	35
Series 3: Animals	44
Series 4: Charlie the Cheeky Robot	54
Series 5: Adventures Under the Sea	64
Series 6: People We Meet	74
Series 7: A Family	86
Series 8: Places.....	104
Series 9: Transport.....	122

Series 10: Seasons 138
Series 11: Journeys..... 155
Series 12: The Haunted Cottage 172

This edition of the Take Off teachers' handbook relates to the revised UEB (Unified English Braille) edition of Take Off Series' 1-12, produced by RNIB in 2013.

Anyone using older versions of the Take Off books will find substantial differences in the text for all the books in the scheme.

To order the revised Take Off scheme, please use the following code:

TC21413 Series 1-12 inclusive

This Handbook is available in print (TC21415P), contracted Standard English braille (TC21415B), contracted Unified English braille (TC21415UEB) and on DAISY audio CD (TC21415DCD).

Introduction

Take Off is a second level reading scheme aimed at young primary age children who are learning to read using braille. The first six series were originally published in the late 80's, with Series 7 to 12 being added in 1998. While retaining the sign introduction order and story titles, revisions have been made over the years. Series 1 to 6 were substantially revised in 1999; and in 2007, the content of all 12 series was revised, and the braille capital indicator sign added.

Now in 2013, it has been further revised to incorporate the changes to braille introduced by the adoption of Unified English Braille (UEB) in the UK. UEB includes some significant changes to braille and braille terminology. The deletion of certain contractions including: BLE, DD, COM, ATION, ALLY, BY, INTO, and TO, are just some of these changes. The shortform for o'clock has also been deleted to avoid an exception to the capitalisation rule in UEB. Sequencing has been changed so that braille more closely reflects the spacing of print documents. This means that previously unspaced contractions such as: FOR, AND, WITH, OF and THE, are now spaced from one another, and from the word "a". As already mentioned, the INTO contraction has been deleted from UEB, so when writing into in braille you can use the IN contraction and then the letters T and O.

Unified English Braille does not provide any rules on braille format, it only applies to braille code. For a full statement of the rules of UEB, please refer to the Rules of Unified English Braille compiled by the ICEB (International Council of English Braille), which you can download from www.iceb.org. You will also find a full symbols list as well as guidelines for technical materials.

Take Off builds on the signs learned through a first level braille reading scheme such as Reading Together, or Hands On, which have also been revised in 2013 in line with the rules of Unified English Braille. It is essential that the child is already familiar with the braille alphabet and a few simple signs and shortforms before starting Series 1 of Take Off (See section two). With the exception of a few rarely-used shortforms (e.g. rejoice, oneself), more advanced punctuation signs (e.g. semicolon, inner quotes) and typeform indicators (bold, italics and underline), Take Off introduces the child to the contracted Grade 2 code of UEB (see

Section Two for a full list of signs and rules not covered by the end of the Take Off scheme).

The UEB mathematics rules are not covered in this course and should be taught separately; however, simple numbers are used, and the learner should be encouraged to use the page numbers in the braille booklets.

It is assumed that the course will be taught by someone with a thorough knowledge of braille and its rules, and who can reinforce good practice in touch-reading technique, hand position, etc. As new touch readers are often rather heavy-handed to begin with, it is also vital that worn booklets are replaced, so that each new learner has good quality dots to make the learning process as easy and enjoyable as possible. Braille books should always be stored correctly on a shelf and not piled up or crammed in boxes, which will squash the dots.

RNIB can supply braille courses for sighted adults, including a fully-supported correspondence course. A factsheet called 'Information on Learning Braille' is available to download free of charge from the RNIB website at www.rnib.org.uk/learnbraille. It gives up-to-date and detailed information about all braille courses, resources and reference books for those learning or teaching braille. You will also find other links on our page to further resources for teaching, or learning braille.

The booklets in all twelve series of Take Off contain the text in braille and clear print on facing pages. As the booklet lies open, the right-hand page contains the braille text, with the exact print equivalent on the left-hand page. This makes paired reading possible, and allows a closer involvement by parents and others in the child's progress with learning to read by touch. Production of this format has meant that the child must get used to turning two pages each time to avoid the blank page backs. If this proves difficult, it is suggested that paper adhesive may be used to stick the blank page backs together.

Each series of booklets can be identified by the colour of the covers, a raised indicator showing which series the book is in, and a tactile illustration; the title of the specific booklet appears in braille parallel with the binding. Some children will readily recognise tactile illustrations, but many will need help in identifying

the pictures at first. It is important that the child's writing skills are developed alongside reading skills.

The final page in each booklet in the first ten series is designed to offer writing practice.

The full text of the 62 booklets making up the Take Off course is contained in this handbook, which is set out in exactly the same way as the braille booklets (see section five).

Section one: The braille booklets

Layout and stories

Series 1 to 6 contain six booklets each, series 7 and 8 each contain five booklets, and series 9 to 12 each contain four booklets with slightly longer stories. Series 11 differs from the others as it tells true stories, which can be linked with other areas of the National Curriculum.

Series 1 to 8 are in double-line spacing, with just 5 or 6 lines per page, whereas series 9 to 12 are in single-line format, with 10 lines to the page. Some children find single-line spacing rather difficult at first, and tend to lose their place when tracking back to the next line. Encouraging a two-handed reading style from the very beginning - where the left hand is used to find the start of the next line while the right hand completes reading the current line - will help here; it will also increase reading speed and fluency.

All booklets in the Take Off scheme are in single-sided braille, but few touch readers have trouble reading double-sided braille once they are becoming confident with the braille code. Those reading braille by sight will always find double sided braille difficult, however!

The page number appears in the top right corner of each page, and the child should be encouraged to use this to find his/her place. In Series 7 to 12, the title of the story appears, centred, at the top of each page - which is a normal convention in braille books.

The normal braille convention is used for indicating paragraphs throughout the Take Off scheme; that is, the first word in a new paragraph is indented two spaces from the left margin, with all other lines starting at the margin.

The booklets in each series of Take Off follow the same formula: the title page is followed by a practice page, the story and then (except in Series 11 and 12) a "fun" page to encourage braille writing.

The title page merely gives the series number, series name, book number and book title. The child may not be able to read this page until he/she has worked on the practice page, as some of the new braille signs are used in the series and book titles. The practice

page introduces any new signs, and enables the child to become familiar with using them before the story begins. Any new and difficult vocabulary is also introduced on this page.

The stories vary considerably in length, and obviously become more interesting as the child's confidence in reading braille increases. The final page in each booklet, except those in Series 11 and 12, is a fun page. On these pages the child is asked to answer some questions on the story, encouraged to do some creative writing, etc.

In series 1 to 6, as well as gradually developing the child's knowledge of braille and enjoyment of reading, the course aims to develop the child's phonic skills. The child will also need practice in developing his/her sound blending skills. Phonic skills can be further developed by creating material based on the sounds used in the stories, e.g. word families; collecting objects beginning or ending with the sounds; rhyming poems. The practice pages at the beginning of the booklets in the earlier series are intended to highlight the sound blending skills the child needs to develop for the vocabulary in the stories.

In order to create a natural flow to the stories, it has been necessary to use a fairly large vocabulary. However, it will not always be essential that the young reader becomes word perfect in all the vocabulary used.

Each series introduces a new group of signs and contractions. The final story in each series is generally slightly longer, and aims to revise all the new signs and rules learned in the earlier booklets of that series. If a child has trouble with a particular sign or group of signs, further practice text can be devised, or supplementary material at the same reading level can be tried (see section four of this handbook).

The practice pages

In all series of Take Off, the practice pages are identified by the page number 1 in the top right-hand corner. As well as introducing the child to any new braille signs and difficult vocabulary used in the story, these pages can be used for revision.

In series 1 to 6, the practice pages may include a mixture of new braille signs, letter blends or punctuation marks. It is expected that the teacher will talk the child through the new signs and any rules

which apply to their use, pointing these out as the story is read. In addition to a complete "order of sign introduction" list, this handbook indicates at which point the braille rules applying to the new signs could be introduced (See Section Two).

In Series 7 to 12, the practice pages aim to consolidate recognition of new braille signs to be learnt within that series. As many touch-readers have difficulty with spelling, on practice pages where new signs are introduced these are first given in their contracted form, followed by the meaning of the contraction in uncontracted form; the rest of the line may contain words using the sign or further practice of a shortform.

The fun pages

The final "fun" page in each booklet in series 1-10 is intended to stimulate the child's interest and understanding of the story and give an opportunity for written work based on what the child has read. It is important to encourage the learner to write complete sentences as far as possible when answering questions. Hopefully the child will soon develop the skills and confidence to tackle the fun page in each book independently. A variety of activities have been included to maintain interest, such as filling blanks, answering questions, re-ordering muddled sentences, short pieces of creative or original writing, giving opposites, categorizing items, etc. Blanks to be filled are indicated by 4 hyphens (dots 3-6) in the braille, and the child could be encouraged to copy the sentence, replacing the blank with the correct word.

Section two: Braille signs and rules

1. Knowledge required prior to starting Take Off

The child will need to be familiar with the following signs and braille rules before tackling Series 1 of Take Off:

The alphabet and alphabetic wordsigns:

a
b but
c can
d do
e every
f from
g go

h have
i
j just
k
l like
m more
n not
o
p people
q quite
r rather
s so
t that
u us
v very
w will
x it
y you
z as

Other signs and shortforms:

AND (wordsign and groupsign, e.g.: “I have cold hANDs AND feet”)

THE wordsign

FOR wordsign

GOOD (shortform – gd)

LITTLE (shortform – ll)

Punctuation and indicator signs

Full stop

Question mark

Numeric indicator and numbers 1 to 10 (note the numeric indicator was formerly the number sign)

Capital letter indicator for symbols

Standing alone rule: Alphabetic wordsigns, such as “d” for “do” may not have letters added to make longer words.

2. Order of braille introduction in Take Off

The following is a complete list of where each new braille sign is introduced in Take Off. Rules relating to the various types of braille sign can be introduced as appropriate (e.g. where the lower wordsign “in” “his” “be” “were” “was” are followed by punctuation

containing only lower dots the contraction is not used. Letters may be added to shortforms - "fr" for "friend" can have letters added at either end to give "friends", "boyfriend", "unfriendly", etc).

Please note that only some of the books introduce new braille signs.

Series 1: Magic

Book 1: The Magic Box

- For (as a wordsign)
- Ing
- Of (as a wordsign)
- In (as a wordsign)
- Ou
- Out
- The (as a wordsign)
- Comma

Book 2: The Magic Ring

- And
- In (as a groupsign)

Series 2: The Space Travels of Rusty, the Red Rocket

Book 1: Rusty, the Red Rocket

- Ed
- St
- Ar

Book 2: The Red Rocket Zooms to the Moon

- With
- Him

Book 6: Rusty Gets Lost

- Still

Series 3: Animals

Book 1: Bob, the Sheepdog

- Sh
- Er

- En
- Ow
- Day

Book 2: Ben, My Noisy Donkey

- This

Book 3: Sooty, the Cat Next Door

- Of (as a group sign)
- Th
- Apostrophe

Series 4: Charlie, the Cheeky Robot

Book 1: Laura Meets Charlie

- Was
- One
- Some
- There
- Ch

Book 2: Charlie Has a Bath

- Children
- Time

Book 3: A Game of Chase

- Child

Series 5: Adventures Under the Sea

Book 1: Gilbert the Goldfish

- Wh
- Where
- His
- Ea

Book 2: Gilbert Escapes to the Sea

- Under

Book 3: Gilbert Finds a Shipwreck

- Were

Book 6: Dreaming

- Which

Series 6: People We Meet

Book 1: Kevin, the Policeman

- Work
- Tion
- Friend

Book 2: Ted, the Postman

- Letter
- Name
- Again

Book 3: Winston, the Milkman

- Your

Book 4: Linda, the Nurse

- About

Series 7: A Family

Book 1: The Mill Lane family

- Bb
- Sion
- Gh
- Had
- Great

Book 2: Noises in the Night

- Together
- Father
- Mother
- Said
- It's (wordsign with apostrophe)

- Nonspecific quotation or speech marks

Book 3: Trouble at the Shoe Shop

- Know
- Himself
- Ff

Book 4: Mr Brown Goes Missing

- Herself
- Perhaps
- Also

Book 5: A Walk up the Hill

- Yourself
- Myself
- Cc
- Gg
- Enough
- Its

Series 8: Places

Book 1: The Supermarket

- Ong
- Ound
- Ence
- Could
- Would
- Today

Book 2: The Fire Station

- Cannot
- Much
- Such
- Be
- Dis

Book 3: The Farm

- Afternoon

- Shall

Book 4: The Seaside

- Tomorrow
- Tonight
- Exclamation mark

Series 9: Transport

Book 1: A Ferry Trip

- Right
- Here
- Because
- Behind
- Should
- Always
- Ance

Book 2: Trains

- After

Book 3: Aeroplanes

- Grade 1 indicator (dots 5-6, formerly the letter sign)
- Hyphen

Series 10: Seasons

Book 1: Spring

- Their
- Ount
- almost
- Part
- Before
- Semi colon (informally within text)

Book 2: Summer

- First
- Above
- Quick
- Across

- Ever
- Many

Book 3: Autumn

- Through
- Con
- Wordsigns with hyphens (e.g. cat-like)
- Beneath

Book 4: Winter

- Ment
- Already
- Paid
- Beside

Series 11: Journeys

Book 1: Journey to the Indies

- Less
- Ness
- Ful
- Ity
- World

Book 2: Journey into Africa

- Ought
- Character
- Spirit
- Declare
- Declaring (informally on practice page)
- Knowledge

Book 3: Journey to the South Pole

- Below
- Between
- Beyond
- Question
- Against

Book 4: Journey to the Moon

- Immediate
- Receive
- Receiving

Series 12: The Haunted Cottage

- **Book 1: The Cottage at the Forest Edge**
- Young
- According
- Upon
- Themselves
- These
- Must

Book 2: A Mystery Develops

- Neither
- Necessary
- Ourselves
- Word
- Either

Book 3: The Mystery Deepens

- Whose
- Yourselves
- Although
- Blind

Book 4: Sold

- Altogether
- Those
- Itself
- Afterwards

3. Braille not introduced in Take Off

The following signs and rules have not been included in Take Off. While the majority of these are rarely used, particularly in writing

for children, it is suggested that the shortform for "braille" ("brl") is introduced where appropriate, as this may well be useful.

afterward (afw)

braille (brl)

conceive (CONcv)

conceiving (CONcvg)

deceive (dcv)

deceiving (dcvg)

lord (dot 5 l)

oneself (dot 5 of)

perceive (pERcv)

perceiving (pERcvg)

rejoice (rjc)

rejoicing (rjcg)

thymself (Thyf)

colon

Dash of any length

Ellipsis (not introduced, but used in S11B4)

Inner single or double quotes

Parentheses (brackets of any kind)

Typeform indicators or rules (bold, underline, italics)

Capital passage indicators or capital terminator signs.

Technical subjects (mathematics, science, or foreign language code)

Section three: Checklist for successful braille reading

Many children will be highly motivated to learn to read while others will need lots of encouragement. It is important to bear the following points in mind:

- Braille sessions should be short and frequent;
- The reader's hands should be clean and warm – cold fingers can't feel much;
- The reader should be sitting comfortably at a table of suitable height, with back supported and feet on the floor;
- The book should be laid open on the table, so that the child's hands, wrists and forearms are supported, and the book can be slid further away as the child reads down the page;
- The child should be encouraged to use the finger pads of both hands if possible, as two-handed readers generally

attain the fastest reading speeds eventually. If nothing else, the child should be encouraged to use the left hand to find the start of each new line. Employing both hands avoids fiddling and keeps the child focused on reading;

- Finger pads should move very lightly and smoothly over the braille lines, avoiding circular or "scrubbing" movements; If a reader gets used to trying to distinguish braille characters by feeling around with the finger tips (or even the nails) instead of moving smoothly across the shape with the whole finger pad, sensitivity will not develop over the whole area of the finger pad, and dots (or the position of signs in the braille cell – upper or lower sign, for instance) will be missed;
- Try to involve the child's family and friends in learning a little braille, and encourage them to read with the child;
- Avoid constantly saying how difficult braille is, encourage and praise the child for their efforts in mastering a complicated code;
- Point out the advantages of braille over print: for example, reading (or writing) just a couple of signs can give a whole word, i.e. "children" or "under" ... and being able to read after "lights-out" or during a power cut is something most people can't do!
- Show the child that braille is not just for schoolwork and reading books, but how useful it is for labelling to give independence (e.g. choosing CDs, breakfast cereals, flavours of crisps, DVDs, etc) or joining in with games (RNIB stocks a range of card and board games, with many other games easily adapted by the addition of braille labels). This may give even a reluctant reader some motivation to persevere.
- Try to ensure that braille lessons are not monotonous: if a child needs extra practice with a certain sign or group of signs before moving on, invent some additional materials, see below.

Section four: Additional Resources

The Take Off scheme aims to give the learner a reasonable amount of reading and writing practice at each level, but the speed at which new signs are introduced is quite rapid. Frequently a child will benefit from consolidating a new group of signs before moving

on to the next Series of Take Off, and the following resources may be useful:

1. Reading Together

Designed for young children, Reading Together encourages emergent reading and writing. Five or six letters with associated braille contractions must be taught before the "real" stories at each of the five levels can be read by the child. Print text appears above the braille in these humorous stories about Kali, Kai, and their friends and family.

Levels one to three have a full text on the left-hand page, with a simplified version of the same on the right. Having been read the full story, the young learner should be able to read the simplified text and can also scan through the full text to look for familiar signs and words (indicated in bold print). Levels four and five are completely readable by the young learner.

- Reading Together levels one and two correspond exactly with levels one and two of Hands On.
- Level three can be used after the letter Y is taught in level four of Hands On.
- Level four can be used after the letter W is taught in level five of Hands On.
- Level five can be used after level five of Hands On is completed.

Reading Together introduces some additional dot 5 contractions and extra shortforms.

2. Hands On

Hands On is a first stage braille reading scheme, designed for a young child. This resource introduces the alphabet

and alphabetic wordsigns, a few shortforms, numbers 1 to 10, basic punctuation and capitals.

Divided into five levels, Hands On contains 32 practice books, 5 booklets of fun activities and 26 story books. The whole scheme includes simple tactile pictures and puzzles to enliven the reading material. It is linked as closely as possible with the Letters and Sounds framework, whilst not compromising the need to keep tactually confusing braille signs apart.

- The practice books each introduce a letter, contraction, punctuation marks or numbers, and provide discrimination and word building exercises using them;
- The story books can be read in any order once the practice books at that level have been completed;
- The fun books provide a range of activities and games, many including tactile graphics, which consolidate and extend everything learned so far and encourage tactual exploration and familiarity with simple graphic representations.

Each book contains print and braille on facing pages to encourage shared reading. An accompanying teachers' handbook for Hands On is also available.

3. Abi Books

This series of humorous stories featuring a six-year-old blind girl offers material to supplement Take Off series 1 to 6. Books 1 to 20 cover the same braille signs as series 1 to 2 of Take Off, Books 21 to 30 cover the same braille signs as series 3 to 4 and part of series 5 of Take Off, and books 31 to 40 (added in 2008) cover the remaining signs in series 5 and series 6 of Take Off. Print facing pages are included, and a teachers' handbook is available in print or braille, which includes the full text of all the Abi stories. For details please contact RNIB Helpline on 0303 123 9999, or go to the online shop at www.rnib.org.uk/shop and type 'Abi books' in the search box.

4. RNIB Bookshare UK Education Collection

RNIB Bookshare UK education collection is a free service providing accessible educational resources to support dyslexic, partially sighted or blind learners who have difficulty reading standard print. There are thousands of resources in the growing collection; including popular print reading schemes, children's fiction titles and textbooks, along with accessible images and guidance information. The books can be accessed in a range of formats including DAISY, braille, PDF, Word and MP3 audio. If the book you need isn't yet on the site, you can put in a request for it. For further details please contact RNIB Bookshare on 0300 303 8313, send an email to bookshare@rnib.org.uk or go to the RNIB Bookshare UK education collection website at www.rnibbookshare.org.

5. The RNIB National Library Service

The RNIB National Library Service (formerly National Library for the Blind) stocks a large range of books for children, available through a free postal loan service. To join the Library service you can contact our Helpline on 0303 123 9999, send an email to library@rnib.org.uk, or go to the website at www.rnib.org.uk/library.

6. The Clearvision Library

Based at Linden Lodge School, this library offers a fast-growing stock of titles for children, with uncontracted or contracted braille on clear plastic sheets interleaved into print books to facilitate shared enjoyment of books. For information on membership and titles available, please contact Clearvision on 0208 789 9575, send an email to info@clearvisionproject.org, or go to the website at www.clearvisionproject.org.

7. Braille Magazines

RNIB produce a range of magazines for children and teenagers. Blast Off is aimed at children between 7 and 11 years. It is bursting with brilliant articles and features aimed at engaging the young braille reader. It is written in double line spacing making it easier for those less confident with tracking skills. The magazine is also available in uncontracted braille so even if the child has not yet learned contracted braille they do not miss out. Contact our Helpline on 0303 123 9999 or email helpline@rnib.org.uk for prices and to subscribe. A free magazine sample is also available.

8. Making Your Own Material

You can use a braille translation program with a computer and braille embosser to convert your own material from print into braille. In addition to generating contracted or uncontracted braille, some translation programs also contain "learning tables", so you can use only braille signs that have been learnt so far. The learning tables are often based around a reading course, such as Take Off or Fingerprint.

One thing to consider when making your own material: words may appear in a semi-contracted form. In some cases, this could lead to learning a word written one way, then having to relearn it once all contractions have been introduced. If this is a consideration, try to avoid using words which would contain contractions which haven't yet been taught.

Further information can be found in the manual for your braille translation software.

9. Effective Teaching of Literacy through Braille – Online Training Course

This course has been designed to provide specialist training to qualified teachers of children and young people with vision impairment (QTVIs) in how to teach literacy through braille. It is written and tutored by nationally recognised practitioners in braille and created as an online course by an experienced instructional designer. The six month course combines online study and discussion activities and leads to an RNIB/NatSIP certificate on successful completion. For more information please visit www.rnib.org.uk/eventsandtraining or email cypf@rnib.org.uk.

10. Mailing Lists

Email mailing lists can be a great way to ask questions and exchange ideas. The following email lists are UK-based email discussion groups, for all issues relating to the teaching of learners who have the most severe vision impairment and require materials in alternative formats.

The groups are comprised of education professionals who work with children and young people who have vision impairment, including teachers, teaching assistants, support workers and early years practitioners, as well as RNIB and UKAAF members, and in the case of the Braille UK list, any person with an interest in braille.

Email lists are easy to use and do not require you to log on to an external website, as all information is sent to you as email messages. Once registered, you can send emails to the list. When a member emails a message to the list, it will immediately be sent to all members. To respond to a colleague's message, simply reply.

Becoming a member is easy! Simply send a blank email with "subscribe" in the subject, as shown below for each list. You will then receive a welcome email asking you to confirm your registration. Once confirmed you can begin posting!

You can also leave a list at any time, simply put "unsubscribe" in the subject line instead of "subscribe".

Most lists have other options, such as vacation mode (so you don't receive emails while you are away), and an option called "digest mode", which means you receive one email per day containing all the posts. Digest mode is off by default, so you will receive an email whenever a member posts to the list. To find out what options are available type "help" in the subject line.

The UEB Ed List

This list is for educators and transcribers who may have coding queries about Unified English Braille. You can search the archive to see the questions that people have been asking or you can join the list to ask your own questions. To subscribe to the list please send a blank email message with the word "subscribe" in the subject field to ueb-ed-request@freelists.org.

To write to the list, email ueb-ed@freelists.org.

Braille UK List

This list is for general discussion of braille in the UK. To join the list, send a blank email message with the word "subscribe" in the subject field to brailleuk-request@freelists.org.

To write to the list, email brailleuk@freelists.org.

Teach Braillists

This list is a subsidiary of VI Forum and aims to create a community of educational professionals to focus specifically on issues relating to the teaching of learners who are or will become braille users. The list gives the opportunity to post useful information about braille, including resources, news and general queries around classroom practice, in relation to the teaching of this very specialist skill.

To join the list, send a blank email message with the word "subscribe" in the subject field to teachbraillists-request@lists.nib.org.uk.

To write to the list, email teachbraillists@lists.nib.org.uk.

VI Forum

This is a discussion group aimed at professionals in the field of vision impairment. The list is used to share ideas of best practice, resources, as well as a weekly newsletter where members can share information about upcoming events, training and job vacancies.

To subscribe to VI Forum, complete the registration form at <https://siforums.org.uk/4-the-vi-forum>.

To write to the list, email viforum@siforums.org.uk.

Section five: Full text of the Take Off booklets

Series 1: Magic

Book 1: The Magic Box

Page 1

for FOR for like for go for like for go for good for for for for for
ing ING ing ing ing ing but ing ing so ing ing for ring springs
of OF of ing of us of can for that of ing of have of ing of of
in IN in for in in in do in people in for in of ing in in in
ou OU out out of out out it more out very for loud house
the THE the the the for the of the in the the house the ring

Page 2

At the top of Spooky Hill is a big old house. My Grandad lives in it. The house has lots of rooms. A room at the back is very small and creepy.

On the floor is a big black box. It has a brass lock but no key.

Page 3

Grandad keeps the key. The key is big, and Grandad keeps it on a keyring. He puts the big key in the brass lock.

Ping.

The magic box lid springs up. It makes me jump. Bang, ring, bang, ring go

Page 4

the magic drum and bell in the deep black box. Grandad smiles and waves a hand.

Out hops the drum and plays for me.

Bang, boom, bang.

It is a very loud noise in that small, creepy room. The little bell rings in the box.

Page 5

It is calling for the drum.

Back jumps the drum, and Grandad locks the big, black magic box. He puts the key for the box away in a deep pocket.

It is all quiet in the old house. We have milk and cookies. I like magic.

Fun Page

Find the gap for brass, black and creepy

1. The room is ----.
2. The lock is ----.

3. The box is ----.

Book 2: The Magic Ring

Page 1

and AND and and and hand Grandad and drum and bell
spin spins spins spin tin tins drink winks
My pocket. As in zip. Little like little boy.
In and out. Out you go. I ran out of the house.
take plate game hides gate home
coat and spin out hides game of loud

Page 2

My coat has a secret pocket. The
pocket has a zip. I put my magic ring
in the secret pocket and zip it up. If I
take the magic ring out of my pocket it gets
as big as a plate. It slips from my hand and
spins away from me.

Page 3

I call for it, but on and on it spins. My
magic ring is playing a game. Mum runs
for it. Dad runs for it. I run for it, but the
bad ring spins on. The little cat and big dog
run for it.

The magic ring spins out of the house. It

Page 4

rolls on the grass. It rolls out of the
gate. A tree hides it, but the ring rolls
on. It spins up the hill. A little boy
grabs at it, but the ring spins away.

Soon it is at the top of the hill. My
Grandad sees it, and waves a hand. The ring

Page 5

hits a wall, and it will not spin on.

Good. I can pick up my ring. It gets
small, and I put it back in my secret
pocket. I zip it up until the next
game.

Mum, Dad, the cat and the dog all like the

Page 6

magic ring. My Grandad winks at me as we all go in for cold drinks.

Fun Page

A game of yes or no.

1. My secret pocket has a zip?
2. I hang my ring in a tree?
3. The cat and the dog run out of the house?
4. A big plate hides the ring?

Book 3: The Magic Bell

Page 1

spin tin din pin spins bin tins mint
ding ting sing ring swing bang clang
trick magic loud gold bell tune handle
call ball tall fall hall small wall
Top of the class, in and out, big and little.
floor unhappy loudly make take cake

Page 2

The magic bell is gold.
If you lift the bell it will ring. Ding, ding.
If you swing the bell it will sing. Ting, ting.
If you drop the bell it will hop. And if you
bump the bell it will jump.
If you give the bell a little tap, you will

Page 3

see all the tricks it can do. Do not call out
or it may make you very small like a pin. If
you run, the magic bell will make a big din.
Clang, clang, clang.

The gold bell plays a magic tune if
you put it on the floor. It is a happy little

Page 4

tune. It makes you spin and jump for joy.
Just pick the bell up from the floor and it will not
play any more.

If the magic bell is cold, it is

unhappy, and it will not do tricks for you. If you put it in a little bag, it will not feel cold.

Page 5

It will feel quite happy, and then you can make it do lots more magic tricks.

It rings in the bag, and the little bag hops.
It rings loudly, and the bag spins in my hand.
I hold the handle and bring the bell out.
Can you play magic tricks?

Fun Page

Can you fill in the blanks?

1. The magic bell is ----.
2. The bell plays a happy ----.
3. If the bell is cold it is ----.
4. It will make you small like a ----.

Book 4: The Magic Hat

Page 1

toe toe toe ring king wing sing ting toe
tin tin tin spin win bin fin pin tin din
land sand hand hands band candy handle candles grand
hide ride sides safe waves
mouse mouse house mouse house house
A mouse in a house. A pin in a tin.

Page 2

Dad has a big hat. He keeps it in
a hat box. It is safe in the box. Out of
the box the hat is magic.

If I clap my hands, the hat jumps up
and gets so big that I can sit on it. If
Dad waves a hand, the hat gets small and

Page 3

I fall on the floor. Bump.

The hat is a house for a fat little mouse.
If I tap the top of the hat, the little mouse
runs out. We play a game of hide and
seek in the hall. It is fun. Dad calls
and the little mouse jumps back in the hat.

Page 4

Dad can make the hat jump on the floor.
Bump, jump, bump, and it jumps on my
big toe. I yell loudly. The little mouse
peeps out of the hat at me.

Dad picks up the bad hat and puts it
back in the box. But the lid will not go on. The

Page 5

hat is too tall. It is playing a magic
game of tall and small. Dad waves, and the
hat is good. It gets small, and I put the
lid back on the box and rub my big toe.

Do you like magic games? Look out for more
magic in Book 5.

Fun Page

Magic quiz. Can you fill in the blanks?

1. Book 1 is ----.
2. Book 2 is ----.
3. Book 3 is ----.
4. Book 4 is ----.

Book 5: The Magic Book

Page 1

ee ee ee feel sleepy deep tree
ai ai ai sail sailing sails
ew ew ew new few blew
ea ea ea sea tea pea
lands island picture uncle pirate
playing flying cutting rocking wings

Page 2

The wind blew lots of apples from the old
tree. Uncle Billy gave Simon a
book for picking up all the apples from the
grass. Simon took the new book out of the
toy box. He sat on the settee. Simon
did not feel like playing a game. He felt

Page 3

hot and sleepy as he held the book.

The picture of a bad pirate in a boat on the sea made Simon feel more sleepy. He felt a rocking feeling. It felt like the rocking of a boat, and he fell asleep.

The magic book is playing tricks.

Page 4

In a deep sleep, Simon set sail on the sea. Out from port he sails, away from the land. He sees a pirate boat. It is flying a black flag. He can see the bad pirate and he has a hook hand.

A big bird is flying out of a tree on

Page 5

a little island. Simon sees the big bird and calls out for help. The bird flops on the boat and Simon grabs the big wings. Up, up and away fly the bird and Simon.

A big bump wakes Simon. He is on the settee and the magic book is on the

Page 6

floor. Simon picks it up and looks for the picture of the pirate boat. It is not sailing on the sea. It is just a picture. Simon is awake and not rocking on the sea in a boat. The bird is not flying from the magic island. Simon feels safe and happy.

Fun Page

A quiz for you.

1. Did Simon have a new book?
2. Did Simon cut the grass?
3. Did Simon fall asleep?
4. Did Simon fall on the floor?

Book 6: The Magic Wand

Page 1

band land wand hand wand Grandad
creepy deep feels floor room booms

house mouse magic fun pulls pocket key
hop pops top waves twirls jump clap
ring rings ting springs making turns
tin spins grins inside brass away tricks

Page 2

Simon is in the creepy room at the back of the old house. He looks at the magic box on the floor. It is very big and black. Grandad gives Simon the brass key. Simon turns the key in the lock, and up springs the tin lid. He looks inside the

Page 3

deep box.

Simon can see a bell, a drum and a hat. He tells Grandad that he will do magic tricks. Grandad sits on the settee.

Simon picks up a wand and waves it. The magic bell jumps up. Ring ring, ting ting

Page 4

clangs the bell. The bell spins away.

Simon taps the wand on the floor. The magic drum jumps out of the box. Bang, bang booms the loud drum. It gets very big, and Simon sits on it.

He twirls the wand. Up jumps the magic

Page 5

hat from the big tin box, and hops on the floor. A little black mouse pops out of the hat. It jumps and spins like a top. The hat gets very tall and hops out of the door.

The magic box is empty, and the creepy room is very quiet.

Page 6

Simon waves the wand. The bell rings, the drum bangs and the hat hops back from the hall. They all jump back in the box.

Simon looks for the little black mouse. He calls and calls. He waves and taps and

twirls the wand. But no mouse.

Page 7

Then Grandad grins. He feels in a pocket, and pulls out the bad little mouse. It jumps in the magic box and the lid bangs. Simon turns the key in the lock.

Grandad claps and Simon grins. Making magic is lots of fun.

Fun Page

Make a magic box. Find a bell, a mouse, a hat and a drum for the box.

Can you hop? Can you jump? Can you spin like a top? Can you wave, tap and twirl a magic wand like Simon? Can you clap like Grandad?

Series 2: The Space Travels of Rusty, the Red Rocket

Book 1: Rusty, the Red Rocket

Page 1

ed ED ed ed ed red bed Fred bedroom teddy
st ST st st stump sticks stands Rusty plastic
ar AR ar ar ar Mark ar yard ar star stars barn
moon bedroom last bottle tube excited
rocket planet suit lemon space glue

Page 2

Fred looks in the dressing up box. He puts on a space suit. He will go to the moon, but he has no rocket. Fred looks in the toy box and the sand pit, but does not find a rocket. He runs up to the bedroom but only finds a teddy. Sadly, he sits on

Page 3

the bed.

Then Fred has a good idea, and jumps up feeling excited. He will make a rocket. He starts to look for the stuff he needs. He finds a big tin tube in the barn. He

stands it up on a tree stump in the yard.

Page 4

Next he finds six plastic bottles for the rocket. He finds glue, and sticks the bottles on. Fred looks for a pointed top for the rocket and sticks it on. He paints the rocket red and calls it Rusty.

The red rocket looks very smart. Fred will

Page 5

go to the moon in it. He will travel to the planets and go to the stars in Rusty. He calls Mum to see the red rocket on the pad in the yard.

Mum likes the red rocket, and gives Fred flapjack in a tin and a bottle of

Page 6

fizzy lemon.

Just as Fred steps inside the red rocket, Mark, the boy next door, calls out to Fred. Mark wants to go in the red rocket as well. Fred finds a space suit for Mark and he puts it on.

Page 7

At last all is set for the trip to the moon. Fred and Mark are very excited.

Fun Page

1. Did Fred find a teddy in the sand pit?
2. Did Mark help make the rocket?
3. Did Mum give Fred buns and milk?
4. Did the boys put on pirate hats?
5. Try to make a rocket like Rusty.

Book 2: Rusty Zooms to the Moon

Page 1

with WITH with with with with me with you with us with Mark with him HIM him him him with him him him with him him pressed jumped sped zoomed Fred climbed

sprinkled walked carried looked landed red
humming looking landing snoring
face secret noise snore asleep fire

Page 2

Fred and Mark looked at the alarms and buttons inside Rusty, the red rocket. Fred pressed a small red button. A humming noise came from inside, and then a rattle. With a big spit of fire, Rusty sped up to the sky. Zoom, zoom, zoom.

Page 3

Rusty sped on, up and up. Fred and Mark looked back. The yard looked far away. The rocket zoomed very fast up to the moon, and soon it landed with a bump.

Mark slid back the door, and out jumped Fred. He took a step and a hop, and felt

Page 4

like a Jack in the Box. He left Mark and set out, to look for the man in the moon. He did not find him, but he did find moon rocks. He picked a few up, and carried a bag of them back to the rocket.

Mark jumped from Rusty, and he too looked

Page 5

for the man in the moon. He looked in the hills and every hole. A loud noise made him jump. He peeped in a big crack in the rocks in front of him, but he did not see the man in the moon. Mark climbed on to a tall rock and looked every way.

Page 6

Then he spotted him. On the moon dust not far away lay a very big man, snoring loudly. Mark jumped from the rock, picked up a bit of moon dust and sprinkled it on him. A big smile came on the face of the man in the moon, but he did not wake.

Page 7

Mark left him asleep, and walked back to the rocket. He did not tell Fred, but kept it a secret.

Fun Page

Can you copy the story and fill the blanks?

Fred pressed a small red ---. Rusty sped up to the ---. Rusty landed with a ---. Fred and Mark looked for the --- in the moon. Mark saw him lying on the moon ---.

Book 3: The Red Rocket Visits Mars

Page 1

Mark Mars Martians bars
scared climbed started handed tasted wanted
welcomed greedy ate drank drink rain
standing goodbye hungry four cave two

Page 2

The moon is dry and no rain falls on it, so Fred and Mark left the moon. The boys wanted a drink, so Fred drank from the bottle of lemon and handed it to Mark. Fred got out the tin and ate a bit of flapjack, and hungry Mark ate four bits. Rusty

Page 3

zoomed on as they ate and drank.

They sped away from the moon, and far, far away from the yard. Soon they saw a red ball in front of them. They tried hard to make Rusty fly past it, but the rocket hit the planet with a bump and a bang.

Page 4

Out they jumped, on to the red dust of the planet Mars, and started to explore. They soon saw a funny little man. As they walked to meet him, they felt a little bit scared.

The Martian smiled, and welcomed them to

Mars. The boys did not feel scared any more.

Page 5

They walked with him to a big cave in the red rock.

Inside the cave they saw lots of funny little Martians. They gave Mars bars to the boys. Yum, yum. The Mars bars tasted very good. Greedy Mark ate two, and did a big

Page 6

burp.

Fred and Mark liked it on Mars. The kind Martians took the two boys to see the red planet. At last they all walked back to Rusty, standing on the red dust of Mars.

The boys climbed in and gave the rest of the

Page 7

tin of flapjack to the Martians. They all waved goodbye, and Fred closed the door. Mark started up Rusty. Away they sped once more.

Fun Page

Find out. Write liquid or solid.

1. Rain is a ----.
2. Flapjack is a ----.
3. Rock is a ----.
4. A drink of lemon is a ----.

Book 4: The Red Rocket and the Lost Planet

Page 1

hard drink stared sugar started park upwards
marzipan landed tired poked bleeped agreed
lost stuck stared stick tasted nasty food
fantastic morning away candle rolling

Page 2

With a big hiss, the red rocket zoomed upwards to find the lost planet of Bump. Bump is made of food. It has cake for

hills and ponds full of milk. The people look like little balls with feet. They are called Bumpits.

Page 3

Mark and Fred landed the red rocket on the flat top of a marzipan hill. Rusty is stuck in the marzipan like a candle on a cake.

The boys did not get out. They felt tired, so they slept. They agreed to go exploring in the morning.

Page 4

As it got dark, King Bump and all the Bumpits crept up to the rocket. They bleeped and stared. Rusty looked just like a big stick of red rock to them. So they started to lick the red rocket. But Rusty tasted quite nasty, and soon they all started to feel rather

Page 5

sick.

In the morning, Mark and Fred got up and jumped out of the rocket. They stared at the fat little Bumpits. Mark poked a Bumpit, and it bleeped loudly. The poor Bumpits looked very funny, all rolling from side to

Page 6

side. It made the boys smile.

The Bumpits did not like that, and King Bump led them away. But the boys called them back, and they played hide and seek happily all morning. Then they all felt hungry. So the Bumpits took Fred and Mark to a park with

Page 7

lollipop trees and sugar grass. King Bump picked lollipops for the boys to take home.

The planet of Bump is quite fantastic.

Fun Page

Write a list of all the foods that the planet of Bump is made of. Can you make up a fantastic planet with funny little people? In Zog, my planet, the Zogwigs live in cups and ride on pink bugs with red wings.

Book 5: The Return of the Red Rocket

Page 1

stars lost Rusty stops last start fin
stories yard far Mars Mark nail
red travelled tired bumped fixed
sand hand handle landed out outside inside
needs speeding tool space return
rattle zoom away

Page 2

The red rocket zoomed in and out of the stars. In and out, in and out it zoomed. It has travelled far in space. It has travelled to the moon, to Mars and to the lost planet of Bump.

Fred and Mark are tired. Rusty, the red

Page 3

rocket, is tired too. They will all return home.

A big bang makes Fred and Mark jump. The red rocket has hit a little star. A fin on the back of the rocket is badly bumped, and the rocket stops. Mark and Fred

Page 4

jump out to fix the fin back on the rocket.

They find the fin and get the tool box. Fred needs a nail and looks in a little tin. Mark gets a mallet out of the tool box and gives it to him. Fred bangs in the nail. Bang, bang, bang on poor Rusty.

Page 5

At last the fin is fixed. Mark and Fred return the tool box to the rocket and

climb in. The boys try to start Rusty.
The rocket starts with a hum and a rattle.
Then, with a zoom, away they go, speeding in and
out of the stars.

Page 6

At last they return to the sand pit in the
yard with a big bump. Mum is glad to
see them land. Fred and Mark tell fantastic
stories of the moon, Mars and the Bumpits
on the lost planet.

Mum gets food and drinks for the hungry

Page 7

boys.

Outside in the yard, the red rocket is
resting on the pad. Far away, the man in the
moon is snoring.

Fun Page

Yes or no?

1. Did Mark nail the fin on Rusty?
2. Did Fred and Mark feel very tired?
3. Did Dad see the rocket land?
4. Is the man in the moon awake?

Book 6: Rusty Gets Lost

Page 1

still STILL still It is still dark. The cat sat still.
dark heard cars him them then
pink sky secret play return Mars
scared jumped led landed stayed wanted
twinkled played looked climbed zoomed sped
surprised waved gazed loud cloud clouds

Page 2

Rusty, the red rocket, stood in the sand
pit. He heard Mark and Fred playing in the
house. Rusty felt upset. He wanted to
go to the moon with the boys, but Fred and Mark
wanted to play with cars.

Far away, the stars twinkled, and Rusty

Page 3

wanted to return and see them. As he gazed sadly up at the sky, Tommy, the cat from the farm, climbed inside Rusty. He stood on a little red button, and with a spit and a rattle, Rusty and the surprised cat sped up to the stars. They zoomed in and out of the stars

Page 4

and up to the moon. Rusty made big loops of sparks in the sky. He flew very fast and waved to the man in the moon as he zoomed past. The little rocket felt very happy.

But Tommy did not want to be a space cat. He did not like zooming near the moon and

Page 5

the stars. He felt scared, and just wanted to go home to find a mouse for tea. So Rusty sped back to the yard. He kept quite still, and let the scared cat jump out on to the tree stump. Then Rusty, the bad red rocket, turned and zoomed back up to the stars.

Page 6

Just then, a big cloud hid the moon. The sky got very dark. Rusty looked back, but clouds hid the house too. Rusty started to feel lost and scared. He wanted to go back to Mark and Fred. He badly wanted to return to the sand pit. Rusty, the sad

Page 7

red rocket felt like crying.

He jumped as he heard a big bang in the sky. Rusty saw a pink rocket flying past him. Inside the pink rocket Rusty saw lots of little Martians waving to him. Rusty zoomed up to the pink rocket very fast. It

Page 8

soon led Rusty back to the house and the sand

pit.

Rusty landed with a little bump, and the pink rocket sped away, back to Mars. Rusty stood quite still, and felt happy.

Fred, Mark and Mum did not see Rusty

Page 9

fly away or return. Tommy, the farm cat, did not tell, so the last space travels of Rusty, the little red rocket stayed a secret.

Fun Page

Can you do the quiz?

1. Did Rusty go in the house?
2. Is the rocket from Mars pink or red?
3. We call the little people from Mars ----.
4. Did Rusty take a dog with him?

Series 3: Animals

Book 1: Bob, the Sheepdog

Page 1

sh SH sh sh sheep sheepdog Josh fresh rush
er ER er er farmer supper water
en EN en en hen ten Helena end kennel
ow OW ow ow down cows How now brown cow?
day DAY day day A good day, a tiring day.
steep settle barks brings asleep

Page 2

Mr and Mrs King, with Josh and Helena, live at Hill Farm. Josh is six and Helena is ten. Mr King is a sheep farmer, and Mrs King feeds the brown hens.

Bob, the sheepdog, is a help with the sheep. The farm is on a hill in Wales.

Page 3

The sheep have to climb up and down the steep hillside to look for fresh grass. Helena and Josh like to climb up the hill and roll down.

Bob will stop a sheep from straying and getting lost. He barks at it. In the spring, he

Page 4

helps to keep the lambs safe. Josh and Helena like to pick up the little lambs.

At the end of the day, Helena, Josh and Bob play hide and seek in the barn. Bob hides in the hay, but Helena sees him and brings him out. Josh hides in a big box

Page 5

at the back of the barn. Helena is surprised to find a hen sitting on a nest as well as Josh in the box. Josh and Helena rush to tell Dad.

Bob, the sheepdog, has supper and a drink of fresh water. Bob is very happy

Page 6

living with the King family, and helping with the sheep. He is tired at the end of a busy day, so he settles down in the kennel near the back door. Soon Bob, the sheepdog, is fast asleep.

Fun Page

Write the opposites of

1. Good
2. Up
3. Fast
4. Happy
5. Big

Book 2: Ben, My Noisy Donkey

Page 1

this THIS this This is Ben. Is this a good book?
field coat bray donkey apple
Ben evening enjoys down now cows brown
start carrot dark ears sugar far loud
eyes nose ears coat shed pushes
day noise noisy noises Hee Haw

Page 2

Ben is a donkey with a very noisy bray. At the start of a day, Ben calls for me with a loud Hee Haw. This is the way he asks me to hurry to the big field at the back of my house. Ben has a dark brown coat. He looks at me with two big, dark brown

Page 3

eyes, and he sees the crisp apple in my hand. Ben is noisy but he is good, so I will give him the apple.

I hold my hand very flat, so that Ben will not bite me. He flaps two big ears as he takes the red apple. Ben enjoys this sweet

Page 4

apple, and he gives a loud Hee Haw to let me see that he likes it.

He will stand still and let me stroke and pat him. Ben will give me a ride. He trots up and down the field, then back to the wide gate. I get down, and Ben pushes a big

Page 5

nose in my coat pocket. He finds a sugar lump. I give him this for my ride.

I have a busy day, so I pat my donkey and say goodbye for now. Ben trots to a shed at the far side of the field for a rest. Hee Haw he brays as he trots away.

Page 6

I will bring Ben a carrot this evening. Then I will brush the dark brown coat of Ben, my noisy donkey.

Fun Page

Sort out the animals and noises.

1. Dogs cluck.
2. Ducks bray.
3. Cows bark.

4. Hens quack.
5. Donkeys moo.

Book 3: Sooty, the Cat Next Door

Page 1

of OF of of soft Soft ears and soft paws.
th TH path Timothy thud thick bath this thinks
her number supper purr purrs hers fingers
she shed pushes fish washes grown pedal
ten ends kitten garden pretends twelve
Lucy Lucy's Tim Tim's doll's

Page 2

Lucy and Timothy live at number ten Hillside Road. Next door, at number twelve, lives Sooty, a big, black cat. Every day, Sooty runs out of the house at number twelve. She jumps up on the wall, and drops down to the garden

Page 3

next door with a thud.

Tim and Lucy like Sooty. She plays with Lucy's ball and Tim's car. Lucy rolls her ball down to the tree at the bottom of the garden, and Sooty runs for it, patting it with a soft paw. As Sooty dabs

Page 4

at the ball, it moves. She pretends it is a mouse and jumps on it.

Sooty is a grown up cat, but she is playing like a kitten. Tim lets her sit next to him in the pedal car, and she purrs loudly as Tim drives it down the path to the

Page 5

shed.

Sooty climbs in the doll's pram, and Lucy pushes her back up the path.

Sooty, Lucy and Tim play and play.

At last the game ends. Sooty sits and

washes her ears and paws. Soon Dad

Page 6

calls Lucy and Timothy in for supper and bed. They are having fish fingers, and Sooty thinks they smell very good.

Sooty will go home to number twelve for her own supper. She has milk and a bowl of fish. Then she will curl up and sleep in her

Page 7

warm box.

The next day, Lucy and Timothy will look for her to play with them in the tree house. It is fun playing with Sooty.

Fun Page

Write the opposites of

1. Bottom
2. Soft
3. Sit
4. Loudly
5. Down

Book 4: Sandy, the Very Lazy Tortoise

Page 1

shell shrubs shut wishes bushes shed shelter
day days tortoise lazy plants titbits
winter spring autumn summer Robert's
colder corner straw scared lettuce leeks
garden gardener postman escape week escaped
Sandy's crawls Grandpa goodbye prizes

Page 2

Sandy, the tortoise, has a very hard shell. He can hide inside it if he feels scared or wants to sleep. This shell is Sandy's house.

Sandy is a very lazy tortoise. He enjoys the warm, summer days. He walks in

Page 3

and out of the shrubs and bushes in Robert's garden, looking for food.

Sandy has short legs, so he moves quite slowly. Even so, he will escape from the garden if Robert or the postman do not shut the gate. If Sandy gets lost, Robert has

Page 4

to look for him in all the gardens.

On a rather wet day last week, Sandy escaped and walked down to the garden at the end of the road. Robert's Grandpa lives in that house, and he loves gardening. He grows leeks, lettuces, carrots and peppers.

Page 5

Grandpa wins prizes for the best plants every summer.

Sandy started to eat the little lettuce plants. He loves lettuce best of all. Grandpa did not mind, as he thinks Sandy is a funny old tortoise. Robert took

Page 6

greedy Sandy home in a box, and made sure that he shut the gate.

As the summer ends and the days get shorter and colder in autumn, Sandy gets very lazy. He will not eat any titbits, not even lettuce. He just wishes to hide in the

Page 7

shell house. Robert feels a bit sad. This happens every year and it shows that the cold days of winter are on the way.

Robert fills a box with dry straw and puts it in the corner of the garden shed. Sandy crawls from the garden to the warm shelter of the

Page 8

box. He is a sleepy tortoise now. Robert tucks him up with more straw, and says goodbye to him until he wakes up in the

sunny days of spring.

Sandy, the lazy tortoise, is hibernating.

Fun Page

True or false?

1. Sandy has a soft shell.
2. Sandy's legs are short.
3. Robert fills the box with wet straw.
4. Sandy loves peppers best of all.
5. Spring follows winter.

Book 5: Friday, the Greedy Goat

Page 1

day Friday days goat coat milk
tanker butter farmer supper her
buttons tickles smells lorry tractor
morning evening milking trying barn wears
taken even open fond pond eat
lane Mr Blake takes close nose

Page 2

Friday, the nanny goat, lives on a farm down West Lane. Mr Blake, the farmer, keeps cows, ducks and geese.

Every day, morning and evening, the cows walk down the lane for milking. Most of the milk is taken away in a tanker lorry, but the

Page 3

farmer's wife makes butter with the rest of it.

Friday, the goat, is not very fond of cows, and she keeps away from them. Every day, Mrs Blake milks Friday in the barn. Mr and Mrs Blake's twins drink all the goat's milk. If Friday has a baby kid

Page 4

to feed, Mrs Blake has to buy goat's milk from the shop for the twins.

At the back of the farm house, Mr Blake's ducks and geese live in the farm

yard. The ducks jump in the pond if Friday gets too close. They quack at

Page 5

her. The geese hiss at her if she gets in the way.

Friday is greedy, and she takes food from the ducks and geese. Mr Blake even has to stop the greedy goat from trying to bite the buttons from the coat he wears on the farm.

Page 6

Friday eats Mrs Blake's shrubs and plants. Most of all, she enjoys helping with the picnic if the twins are eating in the garden. If the farm house door is open, Friday will go inside and eat the farmer's supper.

Page 7

Friday is not happy with the noise of the tractor, and she runs away from it. She runs to the barn, and hides in the fresh hay. The hay smells good and it tickles her nose. So Friday, the greedy goat, starts to eat it.

Fun Page

1. Can you write the days of the week?
2. A ---- ---- takes away most of the milk.
3. Write a list of farm animals.
4. A baby goat is called a ----.
5. Can you make a noise like a goat?

Book 6: A Farm Adventure

Page 1

People, animals and birds in the story.

Nicky, David, Mum, Dad, Uncle Jim, the farmer, the farmer's wife
brown cows, sheep, lambs, Fly the sheepdog, Ned the donkey, Tanzy the

goat, Kizzy the cat, the ducks.

Page 2

On Monday, Nicky and David are going to Brook Farm for the day. Uncle Jim drives the tractor and milks the cows at the farm. The boys love to see all the animals and help with the jobs.

They go to Brook Farm in Dad's car.

Page 3

They drive up a steep hill, and Dad parks the car in the farm yard. The boys jump out at once.

David rushes to find Uncle Jim. He likes the big, brown cows best of all the animals, and he loves to see Uncle

Page 4

Jim milking them. He helps to take the cows back to the field.

Nicky likes to see the sheep. Fly, the sheepdog, helps to move the sheep and lambs to a field of fresh grass. Fly is excited to see Nicky.

Page 5

Just then, Dad calls Nicky to see the ducklings enjoying a bath in the duck pond. Nicky spots a duckling that has strayed onto the lane. He calls to the duckling, but it hops away. Nicky opens the gate, and runs to get the duckling. But it jumps in a

Page 6

bush, and then to the sheep field. David rushes out of another gate to help.

The sheep see the open gate, and all run out on to the lane. The cows follow David out of the other gate, and start to eat the hay in the barn.

Page 7

Ned, the donkey, sees the open gate and with a loud Hee Haw, he trots out too.

Tanzy, the greedy goat, rushes out of the gate to eat the carrots in the farm garden.

Only Kizzy, the cat, does not run onto the lane. She is hunting for a mouse in the

Page 8

old barn.

Just then, the farmer hears the loud noise, and sees all the escaped animals on the lane and in the garden. He calls Fly, the sheepdog.

Fly runs down the lane. He barks at

Page 9

the duckling. He barks at the sheep and the goat. He barks at the donkey and the cows.

The bad animals run back to the fields and the farm yard. The farmer shuts the gates. He pats the sheepdog and tells him that he is a good dog.

Page 10

The farmer's wife gives Dad and the boys a drink and a bun that is still warm from the oven. David and Nicky say goodbye to all the people and animals at the farm.

The farmer gives both the boys a brown egg to take home for tea, and he gives

Page 11

Dad a big pat of fresh farm butter.

Nicky and David run back to the car. It is not far to go home. They are tired but happy. They will tell Mum how the farm animals escaped, and how Fly, the good old sheepdog, got them all back.

Fun Page

1. A baby cat is a ----.
2. A baby duck is a ----.
3. A foal is a baby ----.

4. A baby sheep is a ----.
5. A calf is a baby ----.
6. A puppy is a baby ----.

Series 4: Charlie the Cheeky Robot

Book 1: Laura Meets Charlie

Page 1

was WAS was was It was hot. Bob was asleep.
one ONE one one I have one sister.
some SOME some some One cat with some kittens.
there THERE there there Is there any cake left?
into INTO into The cat got into the box.
ch CH Charlie cheeky chips chicken lunch

Page 2

It was a hot, sunny day. Laura got up and went out into the garden to play. She picked up a little spade and started to dig.

As she dug deeper down into the soil, her spade hit a scrap of rusty old tin. She put her hand down into the hole and took the

Page 3

scrap of tin out. It was dirty, so she put it on one side. Laura liked to dig, so she got her spade and went on with her job. As she dug, she felt some more scraps of tin.

Soon there was quite a pile of tin scraps. One piece was like a box and one was like a little

Page 4

ball. Some pieces looked like tubes and some looked like little springs. Laura liked finding things in the garden. It was good fun.

Soon Mummy called Laura to go inside and have a wash for lunch. Laura chose a safe place in the garden, and there she hid

Page 5

all her tin scraps.

She went into the house, and Mummy gave her chicken and chips for lunch. It was good.

Laura ate every scrap. She was not full up, so Mummy gave her an apple and some banana cake.

Page 6

As soon as they finished the washing up, Mummy took Laura out to get some new school shoes. Then they went swimming, so Laura did not play in the garden any more that day.

The next morning Laura ran into the

Page 7

garden to find the tin scraps. To her surprise she did not see a pile of rusty scraps, but a little tin robot standing there. He looked rather cheeky and Laura liked him. She called him Charlie.

Fun Page

Can you fill in the gaps?

Laura digs with a ---- in the garden. She digs up a pile of tin ----. Laura has ---- and chips for lunch. Mummy buys her some new ----. The next day she finds a little ----. She calls him ----.

Book 2: Charlie has a Bath

Page 1

children CHILDREN children The children play on the swings.
time TIME time It is time for bed.

body arms knees elbows bath cloth later
over perfect water her chin grin window missing
having splashing smiling bedroom puzzled wiped
cheeky rusty dirty gloomy happy

Page 2

Laura picked up Charlie and looked at him. The body was a tin box, and the tubes made good arms and legs. The little springs made the arms and legs bend, just like knees and elbows. The small tin ball made a perfect robot

helmet, and on the face was a very cheeky grin.

Page 3

Charlie was rather rusty and dirty, so Laura went inside to get a cloth to rub the dirt away.

As she came back into the garden, she saw that Charlie was missing. She looked all over the garden for him. She called and called him, but

Page 4

Charlie was not there.

Laura was sad, so she went up to her bedroom and looked out of the window. She put her chin in her hands and felt gloomy as she looked at the garden one more time.

Then she saw some children looking over the wall

Page 5

and smiling. Water was splashing up from the bird bath, but there was no bird there. Laura spotted lots of birds sitting in a row on a branch of the apple tree, looking rather cross. This was puzzling, so she ran down to have a better look.

Page 6

And there was Charlie in the bird bath, having a good time playing with the water. Laura was so glad to have Charlie back that she let him have some more fun.

Later on, she took him out of the water and wiped him dry. She put some fresh water in

Page 7

the bird bath to make the birds happy.

Charlie was put in a warm spot, and told to stay there. He did as he was told, for a little time anyway.

Fun Page

I have made up a Charlie poem. Can you make one up too?

Charlie, the little robot,
Is made from bits of tin.
He has springs for knees and elbows,
And a very cheeky grin.

Book 3: A Game of Chase

Page 1

child CHILD child One child was good but one child was not.
There are some children, and one child has chips.
One child stood still, some children are not standing still.
chase chased chocolate chuckled chair
Charlie chin china march each choose
other cloth crash broken stared grinned brother

Page 2

Charlie was happy in the house. Laura was
a very kind child, and he liked her Mummy too.
Another child called Jasper lived there as
well. Laura went to school every day, but her
brother Jasper was too little to go yet.

Jasper was too small to get Charlie

Page 3

down from the shelf. Charlie was quite glad.
Jasper seemed to have sticky hands all the time
and a chin with chocolate on it. He was a
messy child and made a lot of noise.

One day, Laura was not there and Charlie was
feeling fed up. Jasper came into the room.

Page 4

Charlie wanted to have some fun, so he got
down from the shelf and stood in front of the child.
Even standing up, Charlie was only a very small
robot. He wanted to be as big as
Jasper, so he turned some buttons on the
front of him. He started to grow and grow.

Page 5

Jasper saw Charlie. The robot grinned,
and then started to march up and down the room.
Soon Jasper was marching too, and they

pretended to be soldiers.

They played some good games. Jasper chuckled and ran away from Charlie. They chased

Page 6

each other all over the house. In one room, Jasper got up on a chair and Charlie chased him. Jasper held on to a cloth as he jumped down to run away from Charlie. The chair slipped. There was some china on the cloth. With one big Crash, the child, the chair and

Page 7

all the china cups and plates fell on the floor.

Charlie and Jasper stared at the mess of broken china. Jasper started to cry. Mummy rushed in, and Charlie got very small so that she did not see him there at all.

Page 8

Mummy was very cross with Jasper. Bad Charlie just grinned.

Fun Page

Choose five things from the list that are made from china.

cup, sweet, jug, gate, sock, bed,
plate, chair, mug, cloth, dish.

Book 4: Just In Time

Page 1

all ball hall small tall wall
day time there some time day one some there one
change changed chiming chimed children chain kitchen
back clock ticking sliding seeing pendulum
kept crept nobody radio clapped
pressed numbers shorter boomed nine

Page 2

Now that Charlie was so small, he crept into the kitchen. Nobody saw him. It was

sad having no children to play with. Laura was out and Jasper was in bed not feeling very well.

Charlie looked at the kitchen clock, and heard the little ticking noise. It was time for him

Page 3

to have some more fun. He climbed on to one of the hands of the clock and played sliding.

Then he went to the big bedroom and looked at the alarm clock that Mummy kept next to her bed. Charlie liked seeing the numbers change as he pressed some buttons on the

Page 4

top of it. He changed the time and made the radio play. He ran up and down, and clapped to the music.

Next it was time for Charlie to visit the chiming clock in the hall. There was a pendulum swinging from side to side as the clock ticked.

Page 5

So Charlie hung on it and swung for some time. As he swung, he spotted two chains, each with a ball on the end. He sat on the ball of the shorter chain, and it dropped down fast. The other ball shot up past him. Charlie played on the chains. It was good fun riding

Page 6

down and climbing back up, making the hands of the clock change places.

At last Charlie got tired of the game. He hid in the dolls house that Laura liked to play with. Soon Laura came home, and at last even Mummy went to bed. The house

Page 7

was very quiet and dark.

Then, just as Mummy was going to sleep, the radio boomed out that it was time to get up. Mummy was cross. She got back into bed and went to sleep.

Some time later, the big clock chimed nine

Page 8

and woke Mummy once more. She jumped out of bed and told Laura she was late for school. They ran down to find that it was not yet day time. Laura went back to bed, and there was Charlie, grinning. She told him to stay there and he did, for a little time.

Fun Page

Write true or false.

1. Charlie was a little boy.
2. Charlie stood on the radio.
3. Charlie did not like having fun.
4. Charlie got Jasper up too soon.
5. The big hall clock chimed nine.

Book 5: Fun In School

Page 1

cheeky lunch children children's child child's Laura's
walk robot tricks hope eat mix
bored followed started joined changed
shoes laces classroom home page
cheese chips gravy custard chocolate sugar
book cook hook look took foot

Page 2

One day, cheeky Charlie the robot was looking out of Laura's bedroom window. He saw Laura going to school, so Charlie followed her there.

Laura went to the classroom, and Charlie went in too. A child told Laura that

Page 3

Charlie was there, so she told him to go home. Charlie was so sad that Laura let him stay. Charlie was good for some of the time, and then he got bored. He started to play some tricks.

Charlie saw some of the children's shoes, so he got all the laces and joined them all up with

Page 4

lots of knots. The children went to the hall to play games, and Charlie played a game too. He did some fast marching on some of the children's story books, and left dirty footprints on every page.

Next, Charlie changed the hands on the

Page 5

clock, so that it was playtime. The children rushed out to play. Charlie liked playing with clocks, so he moved the hands once more. The children came back to find that there was no time for lessons, as it was time for lunch.

Charlie went to visit the school kitchen.

Page 6

He helped the cooks do a bit of mixing. He put cheese in the custard, and some sugar in the gravy.

Home time came at last, and Charlie changed all the children's coats over. Laura told Charlie he was very bad, but she still loved

Page 7

him, all of the time, even if he did eat her chocolate and some of her chips.

One child wanted to take Charlie home, but there was no hope of that. Charlie was happy and so was Laura. He was even good, for some of the time.

Fun Page

Make sense of this.

1. followed to school Laura Charlie.
2. the shoes joined up all Charlie.
3. rushed play the out to children.
4. custard cheese put Charlie in the.
5. was was Laura Charlie happy so and.

Book 6: Charlie Gets Chosen

Page 1

chose chosen chosen chose chosen chose choose
children cheer chatter china cheeky chasing child
dirty gloomy happy doll girl shop
bang picked pocket door tired waved
standing looking playing running exciting racing
close window other mud shelf face notice

Page 2

One day, cheeky Charlie was standing on the window sill. He was gazing at all the happy children playing chase in the garden. Laura came into the house and picked him up. She put Charlie in her pocket with some sticky toffee.

Charlie was happy. It was time for him to

Page 3

play with the other children, and he liked sweets. Laura ran over to one child, and some more children came racing over to meet them. It was fun for the children running and chasing each other. It was not very exciting for Charlie, and he was soon tired of keeping still in Laura's pocket. He wanted

Page 4

to have a good time too.

So he took some of the sweets and gave one big jump. He landed face down in the mud. Poor Charlie was stuck. Not one child saw him there. Even the sweets landed so far away that Charlie did not have them any more.

Page 5

Soon it was time for the children to go home for baths and bed. They waved goodbye to each other, and ran home. Laura was tired, and she did not notice that Charlie was missing.

Poor Charlie was sad. A cat came to try and cheer him up. Charlie chatted to her,

Page 6

but some children called the cat, and she ran home for some fish.

Charlie was cold, and it was dark. He did

not like it one bit in the sticky mud.

A dog walked over and munched up all the sweets. Then he spotted Charlie and barked

Page 7

at him. A man came to look. He picked Charlie up and took him home. He put the dirty robot in some soapy water, so that Charlie felt even more gloomy.

The next day Charlie was dried and polished with a cloth. The man put him on a shelf in

Page 8

a window looking out at the street. There was a toy racing car on one side of him and a china doll on the other side. The window was full of toys and games. Lots of children looked at the toys, and Charlie looked back at the children.

A little girl with red shoes chose the china

Page 9

doll. A boy with glasses chose the racing car, and a very small child chose a pink bunny. But Charlie was not chosen, and he stood feeling very sad and gloomy.

It was getting dark outside, and nearly time for the shop to shut. The shop keeper walked

Page 10

over to lock the door with a big key. Charlie felt very sad, and turned away from the window. Click went the key in the lock.

But just then there was a bang, bang, bang at the door. The shop keeper was surprised, but unlocked the door. A little girl rushed in and

Page 11

over to Charlie. As he was lifted down from the shelf, Charlie looked at the child. It was Laura.

One little robot was very happy, and so was Laura. She took Charlie home and told him to stay there. She did not want him to

Page 12

get lost any more. Cheeky Charlie wanted to stay with Laura, so he was extra good for quite some time.

Fun Page

Can you fill the blanks?

Laura put ---- in her ----. He jumped out and landed in the ----. A ---- cheered him up. Then a man with a ---- took him to a ----. Some ---- chose the doll, the racing ---- and the pink ----. Laura chose ----.

Series 5: Adventures Under the Sea

Book 1: Gilbert the Goldfish

Page 1

wh WH who while what who while what
where WHERE where time day there where one some where
his HIS his This is his book. That is his cat.
ea EA dream stream dreamed breakfast sea tea
floating miles brave life hated
forwards backwards front remember

Page 2

Sam won something at the fair. Gilbert was a little goldfish who hated life in a jam jar. If he swam forwards, he bumped his nose. If he swam backwards, he bumped his tail. He wanted to go to sea. He was very sad in the cramped jam jar.

Page 3

Gilbert did not recall who told him of the big salty sea. He remembered that it was an exciting place, where fish can swim freely for miles and miles. Gilbert wanted to have fun. He was a brave little goldfish who dreamed of adventure.

Page 4

On the way home, Sam took the jam jar

to the stream to get some fresh water for Gilbert. He put the jar on the grass bank, and went to scoop up some water.

While he was away, a black cat came past.

Page 5

She saw Gilbert floating in the jar. The big cat stared at him, and licked her lips. Gilbert remembered that cats like to eat fish. He did not want to be breakfast, dinner, tea or supper for this fat cat.

In a flash, the cat sprang forward, and

Page 6

struck the jar with her front paw. Over it went. The jar and Gilbert fell with a splash into the stream.

Sam heard the noise and rushed back, but it was too late. Gilbert was missing, and his big adventure was starting. Gilbert was free, and

Page 7

on his way to the exciting sea.

Fun Page

This is a poem. Can you write one too?

The One That Got Away

The cat ate bird for dinner,

The cat ate mouse for tea.

She wanted fish for supper

But he swam away to sea.

Book 2: Gilbert Escapes to the Sea

Page 1

under UNDER under where under there time under day thunder
where

stream overhead heavy reached surface pincers

when then they them when who them then who when

sharp search clear near scared raged voice

pretty lobster glittered raindrops shiny

Page 2

Gilbert swam down the stream. It was so cool and weedy. He felt very happy. As he swam, he saw little raindrops plopping on the surface of the water. Soon the stream got wider, and Gilbert was in the river that twisted and turned past open fields.

Page 3

The plopping raindrops changed to heavy splashes and the sky grew dark. A thunder storm raged overhead, and Gilbert was scared. He tried to hide in the reeds, but he was swept swiftly on in the swirling water. At last, the thunder faded and the storm was over.

Page 4

As the weary fish turned the last bend in the river, he reached the open sea. The water was clear now, and the sandy bottom glittered with pretty shells. A shoal of little fish swam past. Gilbert called to them, but on they sped, with a flash of shiny tails.

Page 5

Gilbert looked for a safe spot, and was soon fast asleep under a weedy rock. He was very tired indeed, but so happy. Until yesterday, Gilbert spent every day swimming in a small bowl at the fair with lots of other goldfish, waiting for a child to win him.

Page 6

This amazing day was the start of his new life.

Some time later, an angry voice woke him from his dreams. Gilbert opened one eye and frowned. A big lobster with sharp pincers marched up and down quite near him. The lobster was grumbling that he did not like to find fish hiding

Page 7

in his house or his bed.

Gilbert was scared of the sharp pincers. He

told the lobster that he was very sorry, and swam away rather fast. Luckily for Gilbert, the lobster was tired and wanted to rest, so he did not follow him.

Page 8

Happy and free, Gilbert set out to find some more exciting adventures in the clear, shiny sea. Good luck, little goldfish.

Fun Page

True or false.

1. Gilbert swam to the sea.
2. Some fish told Gilbert the way.
3. The shells glittered under the water.
4. A cross crab awoke Gilbert.
5. Gilbert was pinched on the nose.

Book 3: Gilbert Finds a Shipwreck

Page 1

were WERE were go his have was just weedy kinds hundreds
where gleaming seahorse stolen what chest
white blue gold silver wooden hard
jellyfish floating statues seabed
cracked wondered broken sunken wild
chains wreck darting explore exciting

Page 2

Feeling less sleepy, Gilbert swam on. He passed dark, weedy pools where gleaming fish of all kinds were darting in and out. He saw floating jellyfish and crabs that nipped his tail. His body moved fast in the blue water.

Page 3

Gilbert swam on until he came to an old sunken ship. This was very exciting, and he started exploring. There were lots of little secret places, but each time Gilbert poked his nose inside one to have a look, some cross old fish or octopus told him to

Page 4

go away. Gilbert wanted to find a little house of his own in the wreck.

He dived deep down to the seabed, but jumped backwards when he saw a lot of people there. Some were standing quite still, and others were lying down. They were all white and cracked, with bits of

Page 5

seaweed hanging on some of them. Gilbert poked them with his nose. They were hard like rock.

As Gilbert gazed at the white strangers, a seahorse and her children floated near him. The seahorse told Gilbert the story of the people on the sand.

Page 6

They were statues, stolen hundreds of years ago. While the pirates were taking the stolen statues to a far away land where they were going to sell them, a wild storm started.

The waves and wind pushed the wooden pirate ship onto the rocks. Each time it was bashed

Page 7

on the rocks, the wooden sides were broken a bit more. In the end, there was a big hole, and the ship filled with water and sank. All the statues and hundreds of chests full of gold and silver sank to the bottom of the sea. All the bad pirates drowned.

Page 8

A little seahorse child took Gilbert to see a big chest full of shiny gold chains and silver rings. Some of the other seahorse children showed him a scary pirate skeleton with a hooked hand. They showed Gilbert where they lived in the pirate's skull. That made Gilbert

Page 9

feel a bit creepy.

He thanked the seahorses for telling him the story of the sunken ship. Then he set out to find some more adventures under the sea.

Fun Page

This quiz will find out what you remember.

1. What did the statues look like?
2. What nipped Gilbert's tail?
3. Where did the seahorses live?
4. What was in the stolen chests?
5. What made the wooden ship sink?

Book 4: Strange Sea Creatures

Page 1

dive dived diving diver divers
crept creeping better shapes sizes
strange danger afraid things this thinking
reach heads creatures dreaming shells
human mask flippers starfish smile
liked carried wondered remembered stared

Page 2

The shipwreck adventure left Gilbert feeling rather creepy. The pirates were bad to have stolen the statues and other things, but he was sad that they were drowned. He wondered why people did not swim as well as fish. He remembered that human children liked water, but when

Page 3

they were little, they wore arm bands to help them float. Fish children swam with no help from the start. Thinking of fish wearing arm bands and splashing on the surface of the water made Gilbert smile.

As he was thinking all this, some rather strange

Page 4

creatures swam past. Gilbert stared, and wondered if he was dreaming. He felt a little afraid, remembering the skeleton in the old wreck.

The creatures looked a bit like men, but seemed to have big, flat, flipper feet like

Page 5

ducks. Gilbert saw that the heads were like goldfish bowls. Each of them seemed to have a hump on his back. Things looking like snakes led from the humps to the goldfish bowls, and Gilbert heard strange gurgling noises.

He hid under a stone where he watched what was

Page 6

going on. The strange animals were picking up shells. They stopped to watch the shoals of gleaming fish that darted in and out of the seaweed.

In fact, the creatures were divers wearing diving suits with flippers and masks, and the humps were tanks of air. The snakes were

Page 7

tubes carrying air from the tanks to the masks. The little goldfish did not understand this, and felt afraid of the strange creatures.

At last, he crept from under the big stone, but one of the divers saw him, and tried to catch him. With a swift flick of his tail,

Page 8

Gilbert swam out of reach. The divers in the masks and flippers swam well, but Gilbert the goldfish swam even better. In no time at all, Gilbert was far out of reach of the divers. He felt happy and free once more.

Gilbert turned to watch a red starfish

Page 9

creeping quietly on the sand. The seabed and the rock pools were full of shellfish of all shapes and sizes.

Gilbert swam on. There were a lot of dangers in the sea, but he was not scared. Gilbert was ready for more adventures.

Fun Page

Write the opposites of

1. Sad
2. Floating
3. Swift
4. Stop
5. Quietly

Book 5: Gilbert Finds a New Home

Page 1

creatures seaweed reached pleased gleamed
heard near nearly watching scary
strange shark dolphin goldfish fishing
forest branches voice pointed dizzy
under children there just was him good go were who
terribly captain teeth cruel jaws

Page 2

The sea was full of strange and scary
creatures. Gilbert was now in a dark
creepy forest. The waving branches of seaweed
seemed to reach for him.

Then he heard a deep voice and saw a
lot of very sharp, white teeth gleaming quite near

Page 3

him.

Gilbert was terribly scared. He knew
what this creature was. The shark snapped at
him greedily. Gilbert sped forwards just in time
to get out of the way, but the big fish dived
to attack once more, and the cruel jaws

Page 4

nearly closed on his little terrified body.

A dolphin heard and came to help.
She felt sorry for poor Gilbert. She
jumped far out of the water, and landed on top of
the surprised shark, who dived out of the way with
a last snap and a snarl.

Page 5

This gave the goldfish time to escape, and he swam and swam until he felt tired out and dizzy.

From the surface came the chug, chug, chug of a fishing boat's engine. Gilbert was not watching, and swam into the net. He was

Page 6

trapped.

The fishermen pulled in the nets. They were very pleased with the day's catch of good, fat fish.

When the captain and fishermen saw what was trapped in the last net, they were very surprised. Gilbert was too tired and scared to care.

Page 7

The captain gently lifted Gilbert free of the net, and put him in a jam jar.

When the fishing boat landed, the kind captain took Gilbert home for his children. In the garden there was a lovely big, weedy pond, full of goldfish. The children put Gilbert in the water.

Page 8

All his recent adventures were exciting, but Gilbert was happy with his new home. Now there were lots of other goldfish to play with, and plenty of cool, clean water to swim in.

Gilbert the goldfish flicked his tail, and darted under the water to start his new life.

Fun Page

What rhymes with

1. Dark
2. Boat
3. Fish
4. Care
5. Free

Book 6: Dreaming

Page 1

which WHICH which white what when which who where which why

tail fins eyes arms legs mouth skin
scaly streamlined instead coloured ready pencil
lobster crab seahorse jellyfish octopus
shoal shells shrinking shape splashing ship's
strange striped toast rusty breakfast

Page 2

I was getting smaller and smaller, shrinking until I was only the size of a pencil.

Instead of my legs I was growing a tail with fins to help me swim. Instead of my arms, I was growing more fins. I was covered in scaly skin which was golden coloured. My two eyes were

Page 3

at each side of my head, and my mouth was opening and closing ready for me to catch my food.

Instead of splashing in my bath, I was swimming in the sea where there were very pretty shells and all kinds of sea creatures. The

Page 4

water was warm and shoals of all kinds of fish were swimming past me. Some were like me, but some were white and black striped, like zebras. I was streamlined in shape, and I was swimming swiftly in and out of rock caves. It was fun. A big lobster was crawling on a rock

Page 5

which was covered with seaweed. Little crabs scuttled backwards and forwards, in and out of small holes in the rocks. Swimming near to them were jellyfish and seahorses. I even saw a big octopus, with lots of arms with suckers where people have hands.

Page 6

On and on I swam until I came to a rusty piece of metal. It looked heavy and it was a strange shape. Fixed to this was a thick, rusty chain. As I swam in and out of this

strange object, I wondered how it got there. It was not a living creature like the lobster,

Page 7

the seahorses and the shark.

A loud voice was calling me. My dream drifted away, and there was Mum, telling me it was time for breakfast.

As we ate toast and jam, I told her what I did and saw in my dream. She told

Page 8

me that the strange object under the sea was an old ship's anchor.

Fun Page

1. What did you like best in the dream?
2. What helped you to swim in the dream?
3. What shape and colour were you?
4. Who awoke you from the dream?
5. What is an anchor for?

Series 6: People We Meet

Book 1: Kevin, the Policeman

Page 1

work WORK one some there under work time where sometimes
tion TION station police station
friend FRIEND friends friendly friend fluorescent
which when what where duty safe touch thank
policeman, prisoner, dog handler, teacher
siren cell uniform helmet badge criminal

Page 2

Kevin is a policeman. He works at the police station in a town called Workington in Cumbria. He lives in the town with his wife, Cathy, and his little son, Danny.

For work Kevin wears a uniform with a badge and a fluorescent jacket outside.

Page 3

Danny loves to wear his Dad's big

helmet, which makes him look very funny.

The family have a car which they use when Kevin is not on duty. When he is at work, he sometimes drives a police car which has a siren and a blue flashing lamp on top.

Page 4

Kevin switches on the siren and lamp when he has to rush, so that other cars can get out of his way in time. When he is out of the police station his radio keeps him in touch as he drives at fast speeds on the roads.

Sometimes Kevin visits schools and tells

Page 5

children what it is like to be a policeman. He teaches them how to keep safe when they are out.

In year three, the children visit the police station, and Kevin takes them to see the police cars and motor bikes.

Page 6

Kevin's friend Andy is a police dog handler. He has a German shepherd dog who is trained to follow trails using his nose, and to help catch criminals.

If there are no prisoners in the cells when the children visit the police station, Kevin

Page 7

takes them to see where prisoners are kept. Kevin has a big bunch of keys which he uses to unlock and lock the doors. Kevin pretends the children's teacher is a prisoner, and locks her in one of the cells. The children find this very funny, and ask Kevin not to let her out.

Page 8

When it is time to go back to school, Kevin lets the teacher out of the cell. She is still smiling, and says she is glad that it was just pretend. The children thank Kevin for showing them the

police station where he works.

Fun Page

What is missing?

Kevin is a ----. His friend Andy is a dog ----. Kevin and Andy work at the police ---- in ----. A police car has a blue flashing ---- and a ----. Prisoners are kept in the ---- at the ---- station.

Book 2: Ted, the Postman

Page 1

letter LETTER letters letterbox letter postcard packet
name NAME name My name is Jack.
again AGAIN My sister wet her pants again.
Mr Brown Mrs White Mr and Mrs Pink
day Sunday holiday birthday Monday
office letter name again chemist friends leaves

Page 2

Ted is the village postman. Every day, except on Sunday and when he is on holiday, Ted delivers the letters, postcards and packets to the people living in five villages near the town of Sevenoaks in Kent.

At seven thirty each day, Ted loads his

Page 3

bicycle and mail bags into the post van at the post office in Sevenoaks. Then he drives to a village called Seal to start delivering the post. He parks the van near the shops, and unloads his bike. He finds the mail bag which is marked with the name

Page 4

Seal. It is full of letters and is very heavy.

On this Monday morning, Ted delivers letters and bills to the chemist and to the baker. Then he cycles down to School Road.

There is something in his bag for nearly every house.

He stops at number twenty, where Mr and

Page 5

Mrs Patel live. The name is printed on the front of the envelope, and there is a very pretty stamp from Canada. Ted pops the letter in the Patel's letterbox, and hears it drop on the doormat inside.

He gets on his bike again, and cycles

Page 6

to the next road. At number forty, he has to deliver a lot of cards and a small packet. Do you think they are birthday cards? Ted thinks that a girl with the name Miss Alice Cox is going to be very happy when she gets home from school.

Page 7

Ted leaves his bike leaning on Alice's garden wall while he walks to the end of the row of houses, where Mrs Smith lives. Ted has a packet for her, and he has to ring the door bell as the packet is too big to fit in the letterbox. There is a lot of

Page 8

barking from inside, but at last Mrs Smith opens the door, takes the packet and thanks him. The postman pats the little dog, who is a good friend of his.

Ted crosses the road and delivers letters to houses on the other side. Mr Fry has

Page 9

a postcard from his grandson, with a picture of a zebra on the front.

It takes Ted quite a time to deliver all the post in Seal, but at last the post bag is empty. He cycles back to the village shops, and puts his bike back in the van.

Page 10

Then Ted drives to the next village, where

there is less post to deliver.

The children are finishing school when Ted's last mail bag is empty and he has delivered the post to all five villages. He returns in the van to the post office in

Page 11

Sevenoaks, and all the way, he thinks of the nice big cup of tea he will have.

Next day, Ted sets out again to deliver letters, cards, bills and packets to more people in the villages near Sevenoaks, where he has lots of friends.

Fun Page

- What time does Ted start work each day?
- Which shops does Ted have post for this Monday?
- Who lives at 20 School Road?
- Who are the birthday cards for?
- Why does Ted ring Mrs Smith's bell?
- What does Ted have when his work is over?

Book 3: Winston, the Milkman

Page 1

your YOUR yours name work again friend your children there him
ready break cream bread breakfast each early
bottle crate float clink rattle whistle
customers delivered slowly pint chocolates

Page 2

Can you hear the milkman as he delivers milk to your home, or to other houses near yours? Lots of people buy milk at the supermarket, but some order it from the milkman, who delivers fresh milk in time for breakfast every morning. Winston is a milkman in the town

Page 3

of Bodmin in Cornwall.

As he hurries up and down the garden paths on his way from one house to the next, Winston whistles happily. The bottles clink and

rattle in the crates as he drives from one customer to the next. He likes his work,

Page 4

even when it is raining or cold. Winston stands the full bottles of milk near each customer's door, and then picks up the empty ones. His milk float is parked at the side of the road, and he returns the empties to the crates. The glass bottles will be cleaned

Page 5

very well, and then used again and again.

The Haywood family, who have five children and a baby, have six pints of milk delivered every day. Mr Kingsley, who lives on his own, has only one pint of milk each day, and a carton of cream on Saturdays. Most of

Page 6

Winston's customers have two or three pints of milk a day.

Winston is kept fit, as he walks miles every day, and has to jump on and off his milk float over and over again. He delivers milk to some blocks of flats where there are

Page 7

lots of stairs to climb.

Winston has to remember all the orders for each of his customers. Sometimes people leave him a note, asking for extra milk, or butter or cream. At Christmas and Easter, he delivers special things, like chocolates,

Page 8

cakes and hot cross buns. Most of his customers are friends, and he chats to them when he has the time.

On Fridays or Saturdays, Winston's customers pay him for the milk and other things he has delivered. At the end of his working day,

Page 9

when his crates are all empty, Winston drives his float back to the dairy.

Very early the next day, he stacks his full crates on his float, ready to start all over again.

Fun Page

Name two animals which give us milk.

Why does Winston whistle?

Which family buys the most milk?

List five things which Winston delivers.

When do Winston's customers pay him?

What happens to the empty bottles?

Book 4: Linda, the Nurse

Page 1

about ABOUT A book about sport. More about you. squeak leave ready reading breakfast leader operation tonsils bone medicine temperature working paperwork nurse porter operating theatre children then them they report hospital duty arrives early wears cleared ward care smart

Page 2

Linda works in a hospital in Bradford, West Yorkshire. She is a nurse in a ward for children. When Linda is working, she wears a blue uniform and a pair of black shoes which squeak when she walks. She looks very smart in her uniform, and the children like her.

Page 3

Linda has to leave home very early, and travel in her car to get to the hospital in time for work. She is on day duty, and as soon as she arrives, there is a meeting in the office with the nurses who are going off duty. The day nurses get a report about all the

Page 4

children on the ward, telling them about how the children have

slept, and what is happening that day.

Tariq, who is seven, has a broken leg, and he has to stay in bed for a while, until the bone mends. Poor Tariq has not slept well as his leg hurt a lot.

Page 5

Rukshana is having an operation to take out her tonsils, which give her a lot of sore throats. She needs to have a bath and put on a hospital gown ready for her operation. Later the friendly porters will take Rukshana to the operating theatre. When she wakes up

Page 6

from the operation, Linda will take care of her back in the children's ward.

Carlo has been very sick and floppy for a few days, so he is in hospital where the doctors can find out what is the matter. Carlo is only three, and he is crying for his

Page 7

Mummy when Linda arrives. She cheers him up by reading a story about Thomas the Tank Engine. Carlo's Mum will visit him later, when she has taken his big sisters to school.

Most of the children have breakfast, but poor Rukshana is not allowed any. When the dishes

Page 8

are cleared up, Linda helps the children to wash and dress. Some go to the play room, and Rukshana plays with the dolls house until it is time for her operation. A play leader sits with Tariq and they do some drawing. Some of the older children help Linda to make the beds.

Page 9

Later on, Linda hands out medicine and pills to the children. Carlo makes a big fuss about taking his nasty tasting medicine. But Linda is kind to him, and he drinks it and

is soon smiling again.

Linda rushes about working hard all the

Page 10

morning. She dishes up the lunches, and when the children have finished, she has her own. Later on, lots of visitors arrive, and the ward is full of people. Linda catches up with all the paperwork, and then takes the children's temperatures. Rukshana is awake again and

Page 11

hungry, so Linda brings her some ice cream.

At last it is time for Linda to go home.

She says goodbye to all the children. Linda enjoys her work. Tariq, Carlo, Rukshana and the other children will soon feel better and go home, but they will not forget Linda, the kind

Page 12

nurse on the children's ward, who took care of them when they were ill.

Fun Page

Where does Linda work?

Why is Tariq in hospital?

How does Linda cheer Carlo up?

How do the older children help Linda?

What is Rukshana given to eat?

Have you been ill in hospital?

Book 5: Priti, the Dentist

Page 1

some day name time work one there under again letter friend your
clean healthy about them which what good who why
busy surgery teeth decay gel toothpaste
each school chair check twice soft
move patient button care every kind emergency

Page 2

Priti is a dentist in a busy surgery
in Birmingham. Three other dentists work with

her, and they take turns to see emergency patients at weekends.

Sometimes Priti visits schools. She talks to the children about how to keep teeth

Page 3

healthy, and explains how to clean them properly. She tells them not to eat lots of sweets and other sugary foods which harm teeth. Then she checks the children's teeth, and if a child has any little holes that need filling, Priti sends a letter home, giving a date

Page 4

and time when she can see the child at her surgery.

The children rather like visiting the dental surgery. In the waiting room there are books to read and toys to play with. Priti has a big, soft chair in her surgery, which she can move up and down by pressing a button. A dental

Page 5

nurse called Zara helps Priti, by mixing fillings, taking notes, making sure all the things that the dentist uses are clean, and chatting to the patients if they are worried.

Callum is waiting with his Mum, as he has a hole that needs filling in one of his

Page 6

baby teeth. Prakash is seven, and he has just grown four big new teeth at the back of his mouth, which were quite sore when they pushed a way out of his gums. Priti is going to paint them with a protective coating so that they do not get holes in them.

Page 7

Zara calls out Prakash's name, and he goes into the surgery. It only takes a short time for Priti to paint all his new teeth with the coating. It has a bitter taste, but Prakash is very good and gets a sticker.

In two weeks he will return so that the

Page 8

dentist can put on a second coat.

Now it is Callum's turn to go into the surgery, and he looks very worried. Priti will tell him what she is about to do. She explains that sometimes a tooth gets a little hole which will decay more if a filling is not put

Page 9

in it.

Priti puts gel on Callum's gum near the bad tooth so that he will not feel anything. She uses a fast electric drill to get rid of all the decay, and then she puts in the filling which Zara has prepared. The

Page 10

filling soon sets hard like the tooth.

Callum is very interested in all the tools that Priti uses in her surgery, and he says he wants to work as a dentist when he is grown up. Callum has been so good that Priti gives him a tube of minty

Page 11

toothpaste and a book about how to care for teeth by brushing them twice a day. By the time he leaves the surgery, he is smiling.

Priti will see the children again in six months for a check up. She loves her work, and is happy that she can help people to have healthy teeth.

Fun Page

How often do you visit the dentist?

Have you any gaps where teeth are missing?

Where does Priti work?

Why will Priti have to fill a tooth?

Why do teeth decay?

What is used for cleaning your teeth?

Book 6: Interesting Lives

Page 1

You have read about the work that Kevin, Ted, Winston, Linda and Priti do every day. They all like the jobs they do and work hard. What kind of work do you want to do when you grow up?

Ted, the postman, works for the post office. The dairy is where Winston the milkman

Page 2

works. Kevin and his friend Andy work at the police station. A hospital and a dental surgery are where Linda and Priti work. People work in lots of other places too, like shops, offices, schools, factories and on farms. Can you think of other places where people work?

Page 3

Kevin, Priti and Linda all went to college, and worked very hard to pass examinations. Winston and Ted started working as soon as they left school. All five of them like talking to people and helping them.

Kevin and Ted enjoy cricket when they are

Page 4

not at work in the summer. Kevin's wife and little son Danny go to the cricket field to watch him play. He is a very fast bowler, and takes a lot of wickets. Ted was a good batsman, and scored a lot of runs for his team. He is too old to play regularly

Page 5

now, but he still loves to watch the cricket and other sport on telly.

Winston and his girlfriend live by the sea, and they enjoy swimming and surfing when the weather is warm. In winter they like to walk by the sea, and feel the spray as the waves crash on the

Page 6

beach.

Linda and Priti enjoy music. Linda has singing lessons, and she likes to listen to music while she is reading. She has two cats who both like to sit on her lap. Linda's grown up children often visit her at

Page 7

weekends.

Priti plays the violin, and sometimes she plays in an orchestra when she has time. In the summer she loves to play tennis in the courts at the park. Priti has three children, and they often have friends home to play, so it is

Page 8

a noisy, happy house.

The dentist, the policeman, the postman, the nurse and the milkman are all busy people at work, and love to have free time. They all have lots of friends, and enjoy the things they do.

Fun Page

Write a letter to a friend. In your letter, tell your friend about the things you enjoy doing.

What does Winston like to do in the winter?

Does Priti play the drums?

Who worked hard to pass examinations?

Think of some good names for Linda's cats.

Series 7: A Family

Book 1: The Mill Lane Family

Page 1

bb BB rabbit rubber cabbage bubble nibble

sion SION television mansion television

gh GH night fight eight

had HAD under thunder had under had underneath

great GREAT great great great great great

Page 2

Mr and Mrs Kibble lived in Mill Lane near the village of Kempford.

They had three children called Daniel, Tina and Thomas. Daniel was eleven and had just started his new school. Tina was nine and Thomas was eight. They both went to the

Page 3

village school which was ten minutes walk away. Mr Kibble worked at the local garage and Mrs Kibble worked Monday and Tuesday mornings at the play group.

The family had some pets, a cat called Tilly, and two puppies called

Page 4

Jack and Jess. As well as the family pets, the children had a pet each. Daniel owned a rabbit named Silk, Tina owned a hamster named Mr Brown, and Thomas had two white mice. He called them Bubble and Squeak.

Page 5

Tilly was a large tabby cat with black paws and a black nose. She liked to sleep in the sunshine and try to catch the birds as they flew on to the lawn.

Jack and Jess were brother and sister. They were lovable black and white

Page 6

collie puppies who enjoyed playing and scampering about. The children loved going for walks with the puppies where they were able to run and play.

Daniel's rabbit had a silky coat. He had lovely ears and a pink nose.

Page 7

Daniel loved to let Silk out of his hutch to run and jump in the garden. He made sure that Silk was safe and did not let him nibble the flowers or plants in case they harmed him. He

also made sure he did not get into the

Page 8

garden next door. But Silk loved to wander on to the vegetable patch and eat cabbage and lettuce leaves. Often Daniel pulled up a carrot for a treat. Silk's nose quivered as he ate it.

Tina's hamster lived in a cage which

Page 9

had tube runs and soft bedding. Tina cleaned Mr Brown's cage and gave him fresh water and plenty of hamster food. He liked to nibble sunflower seeds and every night Tina gave him a treat of apple, carrot

Page 10

or cucumber. Mr Brown was very small and Tina was able to hold him gently in her hands.

Bubble and Squeak lived in a special cage as well. It was Thomas' job to take care of them. Bubble and Squeak

Page 11

liked to curl up by each other to keep warm. The children visited the pet shop to buy food and bedding.

Tilly often sat by Thomas' bedroom door and tried to push it open with her paws. She had a good sense of smell

Page 12

and knew the mice were there. She loved to push the door open and creep in to watch the mice. When Thomas came up the stairs she slithered under the bed and pretended to sleep. When Thomas sat on the carpet to read a book

Page 13

Tilly crept out to have her ears tickled.

Sometimes Tilly sat by the cage in the lounge where Tina kept Mr Brown. Mr Brown slept all day and woke up in the evening. So Tilly got used to looking out for Mr Brown when the

Page 14

family sat down at night time to watch the television.

It was at night time that Tina took Mr Brown from his cage and let him run up and down her arms. He was very friendly and enjoyed his time out of the cage.

Page 15

Tina took great care that Mr Brown didn't fall as he was so small.

Tilly watched as she lay on the fireside rug. She stretched a paw as the hamster ran up Tina's arms.

In the evening Jack and Jess got up

Page 16

to mischief. They chased each other, jumped on the chairs, ran under the table and had a friendly fight. They nibbled each other's ears and rolled over. Sometimes the games were rather noisy but the puppies soon got tired and

Page 17

curled up to go to sleep.

When the family had gone to bed, Tilly crept to her warm, cosy bean bag. She slept for a while, then the cat flap went click as she went for a night time stroll. She passed

Page 18

Silk's hutch, but he was sleeping inside. At this time Mr Brown was wide awake and was busy collecting

food to eat and take inside his little house to store.

Bubble and Squeak were curled up

Page 19

fast asleep. But for the night time noises, the house was quiet and still.

Fun Page

Can you remember?

1. Tilly is a ----.
2. Jack is a ----.
3. Mr Brown is a ----.
4. Bubble is a ----.
5. Silk is a ----.

Book 2: Noises in the Night

Page 1

together TOGETHER together together together together
father FATHER father father father father father
mother MOTHER mother mother mother mother mother
said SAID said said said said said
it's IT'S it's it's it's it's
Mother said "Go to bed." Father said "No."

Page 2

Mr and Mrs Dent lived next door to the Kibble family. They had a little boy called Sam. Sam was seven years old and was very friendly with Thomas. Every morning Sam and Thomas walked together to the village school and played together

Page 3

at weekends.

Sam's father worked at a large factory about five miles away. His mother worked at the village shop.

Sam wanted a pet. He enjoyed playing with the pets next door, but he wanted one

Page 4

of his own. One evening his father walked in carrying a box. Sam was very excited to find out what was inside.

"What's in the box, Dad?" asked Sam.

"Listen, and you might find out," said Dad.

Sam listened and he heard a little noise.

Page 5

"Is it mice?" asked Sam excitedly.

"Listen again," said Dad.

This time Sam heard some scratching and a little cry.

"I think it's a kitten," shouted Sam.

He lifted the lid off the box and looked

Page 6

inside. His mouth opened wide for there was not one kitten but two. Sam had two ginger and white kittens.

"Thanks Dad," he said, "I wanted a pet but now I've got two."

The kittens were lifted gently out of the

Page 7

box and put on the lounge carpet.

Mum gave them some milk and kitten food, and they soon settled in.

Sam ran next door to tell them about the kittens. They all went to have a look at the new arrivals.

Page 8

In the next few weeks the kittens grew, and Mr Dent fixed a cat flap in the back door.

The kittens were named Candy and Spice. Sam loved to watch them getting up to all sorts of antics. They

Page 9

climbed the apple trees and chased the leaves in the garden.

When winter came, the pets spent

more time in the house. The cats loved to lie by the fire where it was warm.

One night the Kibble family were

Page 10

asleep. It was midnight, and outside the lane was quiet and still. But inside the house something strange was about to happen. There was a thud downstairs. Mr Kibble woke up. Then Mrs Kibble woke up. They were both afraid.

Page 11

"Is it burglars?" whispered Mrs Kibble nervously.

"I think so," replied Mr Kibble, "I will have to go downstairs."

Mr Kibble got out of bed and opened the door. It creaked, and he kept very still.

Page 12

Then he crept downstairs. His heart was beating fast. He held his breath as he stepped into the lounge. The noises were getting louder. He didn't expect what happened next. There was no one there, but the children's toys

Page 13

were all over the floor. Something flashed past his feet, followed by something else. Mr Kibble just stood and stared. A flash of ginger and white sped out of the lounge, and the cat flap made a loud clatter.

Page 14

Mr Kibble ran back upstairs with a big smile on his face. Mrs Kibble was still afraid.

"Who was it?" she asked.

"Some night time visitors," he said.

By this time the children had woken up

Page 15

and were wondering what was happening. They rushed into Mum and Dad's bedroom and jumped on the bed.

"What's the matter, Mum?" asked Tina with tears in her eyes.

Dad started to laugh, and told them

Page 16

what had happened. They all had a good laugh and Mum went downstairs to make a cup of tea. When they finished drinking tea, they went back to bed and fell fast asleep.

In the morning the children chattered

Page 17

happily about the noises in the night. When they finished breakfast, they ran next door to tell the story about Candy and Spice.

Fun Page

Write the answers.

1. How old was Sam?
2. What did Sam think was in the box?
3. What were the kittens called?
4. When did Mr Kibble hear a thud?
5. Who were the night time visitors?

Book 3: Trouble at the Shoe Shop

Page 1

know KNOW know know know know know
himself HIMSELF himself himself himself himself
ff FF stuffing puffing cuffs scruffy muffins
teatime great thunder scruffy
under television know himself light rabbit

Page 2

It was the October half term holiday and the children were looking forward to a

week with no school. On Monday and Tuesday morning, Daniel, Tina and Thomas were going to visit friends while Mrs Kibble was at work.

Page 3

Thomas wanted to go and play with Sam again on Wednesday morning. Mrs Kibble had said "no", as he needed a new pair of shoes. She wanted to take him into town. Thomas was upset and didn't want to go.

Page 4

At teatime on Tuesday, Thomas was very quiet. He wasn't interested in eating his tea. He was even more upset as Daniel and Tina were going next door.

When the family had finished the evening meal, Thomas went upstairs. He

Page 5

sat staring at Bubble and Squeak.

They were running up and down the ladder in the cage. As he watched the swishing tails and twitching whiskers, an idea came to him.

"I know what I'll do," he said

Page 6

to himself. "I'll take a mouse into town."

He crept downstairs and shuffled into the lounge with a large grin on his face. He sat on the settee watching television, but he was thinking of his mouse.

Page 7

"What are you up to?" asked Mrs Kibble, as she knew when Thomas was up to something.

"Nothing," said Thomas, "I'm just thinking about my new shoes."

That night Thomas got his jacket

Page 8

ready and stuffed some pet bedding in the top pocket. He hung the jacket on the back of the chair and climbed into bed. Soon he was fast asleep.

Mum called him early in the morning. She needed to go into town as soon as possible.

Page 9

The family had breakfast together, then Dad drove off to work and Daniel and Tina went next door.

Thomas ran upstairs and put on his jacket. He reached into the cage, lifted out the sleeping Bubble and popped him

Page 10

into his pocket. His pocket looked rather funny. It was lumpy and bumpy instead of flat and smooth.

"Let's go," shouted Mum as Thomas came downstairs.

They got into the car and went into town.

Page 11

Thomas kept his hand over his top pocket. He felt Bubble breathing as he slept.

Mum was very pleased as it was so early. They parked the car easily and walked up the high street to the shoe shop. Two

Page 12

other customers were in the shop. Thomas sat down and the shop assistant measured his feet. He needed a larger size than last time.

By the time Thomas had made up his mind to have the black shoes with wide laces, the shop was full.

Page 13

Suddenly there was a scream. All the customers turned to look at a lady who stood quite still in the middle of the shop.

"Something white ran in front of me," she said with a quiver in her voice.

Thomas felt his top pocket. There was

Page 14

no lump or bump or breathing. He felt sick as he looked all over the floor. He slithered from the seat and started to crawl on the floor.

"What are you doing?" yelled Mum. "Just sit down on this chair and wait for your shoes."

Page 15

Thomas was worried about losing his mouse. He took no notice of Mum, and ran to the window. A lot of people were looking in. They were watching something small and white running from shoe to shoe.

"What are you up to?" shouted Mum.

Page 16

Then she saw the mouse in the window. She knew what Thomas had done. He was crying and trying to catch his mouse.

The shop assistant ran off and came back with a shoe box. She climbed into the window and moved towards the mouse.

Page 17

Soon Bubble was safely inside the box and Thomas stopped crying.

"Thanks," he said. "I know I won't bring Bubble shopping again. I'll leave him at home with Squeak. I know that Squeak will have missed him." Thomas

Page 18

walked out of the shop with Bubble safely hidden in the box. Mum carried his shoes.

Daniel was surprised when he saw them.

"Oh, you lucky thing. You've got two pairs of shoes."

Thomas grinned and said "I know." He

Page 19

ran upstairs to put Bubble in his cage.

That evening he sat cuddling the puppies while he watched television.

"What now?" asked Dad.

"I'm thinking about my shoes," he said.

But he was thinking of his morning

Page 20

adventure and one very surprised lady.

Fun Page

Can you say who

1. Went into town in a pocket?
2. Screamed?
3. Crawled on the floor?
4. Put the mouse in a box?
5. Said Thomas was lucky?

Book 4: Mr Brown Goes Missing

Page 1

herself HERSELF herself herself herself herself

perhaps PERHAPS perhaps perhaps perhaps perhaps

also ALSO also also also also also

fluffy himself herself perhaps

know know mother know father know know know

Page 2

In the evening when Tilly was taking a stroll, Tina waited for Mr Brown to start shuffling about. She heard a tiny scratching noise. A pink nose popped out from the hamster house. Tina saw two tiny ears, two big brown eyes

Page 3

and twitching whiskers. Mr Brown was awake. Tina opened the cage door

and lifted him out. She stroked him and also gave him some seeds. He puffed out his cheeks as he took the seeds. He ran up and down Tina's arm.

Page 4

Then she put him in the hamster ball. He rolled himself over the lounge carpet. Sometimes he got stuck in a corner and wasn't able to move, but someone helped him out and soon he was off again at top speed.

Page 5

As she knew Mr Brown was safe in his ball, Tina often let him roll about on the floor while she watched television.

One night, Daniel and Thomas were making a model upstairs and Tina was downstairs with Mr Brown. She was

Page 6

reading a story, while he ran up and down her arms. It was a very exciting story and Tina read on and on.

When she got tired of reading, she put down her book and looked for Mr Brown.

"Mum, Dad. Have you seen Mr Brown?"

Page 7

Tina cried out.

Mum and Dad had been watching television and didn't notice Mr Brown climb down on to the floor.

The boys heard Tina shout and ran downstairs to see what was going on.

Page 8

Jack and Jess were also scampering about. Tilly strolled in to sit by the fire.

A quiet evening was soon forgotten as the family got down on hands and knees to look for Mr Brown. But there

was no sign of him. Tina was very

Page 9

upset and started to cry. They all looked, but Mr Brown had gone.

At bedtime Tina cuddled a furry toy. She cried herself to sleep.

When she woke in the morning she dashed into her parents' room to ask about Mr Brown.

Page 10

"We're very sorry, but we didn't find him."

Tina went downstairs and stared at the empty cage.

She didn't want breakfast and she didn't want to go to school. She

Page 11

hung her head and walked by herself.

Mrs Kibble went to see Tina's teacher. She told her why Tina was so upset.

Tina didn't feel like talking to her friends. One of her friends called Sophie put her arm in Tina's and tried to cheer her up.

Page 12

Tina was very quiet all morning. When break time came the children fetched bags and lunch boxes from the cloakroom. Then they sat in a circle on the carpet.

Tina had a big red bag which she carried on her back. It had some little pockets

Page 13

where she kept her dinner money. She sat with the other children, legs crossed, ready to eat her lunch. The children were talking and the teacher was busy at her table. Tina felt in her bag for her hat and gloves. Her hand touched something

Page 14

fluffy. She peeped inside and there in her woolly hat was Mr Brown.

Tina shouted with joy.

"What's the matter?" asked Mrs Smith.

She got up from her table and walked over to Tina.

Page 15

"I lost my hamster. He's in my bag."

Tina gently lifted Mr Brown from the bag.

She had a great big smile on

her face. Tina gave the hamster

to Mrs Smith. She showed Mr Brown

to the children. Tina felt very proud and happy.

Page 16

"Is your Mummy at home this morning?" asked Mrs Smith.

"Yes, I think she is," said Tina.

Raj's mum, who was helping the children with cooking that day, went to phone Mrs Kibble.

Mrs Kibble came to school with an ice

Page 17

cream tub. She had made a hole in the middle of the lid. The hamster was soon inside and on his way home with Mrs Kibble.

That evening Tina rushed home and went to Mr Brown's cage. Yes, there he was, quite safe, and fast asleep.

Page 18

Tina felt hungry at teatime and wanted some toasted muffins.

When bedtime came she ran upstairs and sang to herself as she got ready for bed.

Soon she was fast asleep. Perhaps she was dreaming about hamsters.

Fun Page

1. When did Mr Brown wake up?
2. What did Mr Brown like to eat?
3. Why didn't Tina see the hamster go?

4. What was the name of Tina's teacher?
5. Where did Tina find Mr Brown?
6. What was the hamster taken home in?

Book 5: A Walk up the Hill

Page 1

yourself YOURSELF yourself yourself yourself yourself
myself MYSELF myself myself myself myself
cc CC accident occur occupy success
gg GG bigger hugged giggle ragged luggage
enough ENOUGH enough, enough enough. enough enough?
its collar its lead its paw

Page 2

One Saturday during the Easter holidays
Daniel, Tina and Thomas invited some
friends for tea. It was a lovely day
so the family decided to go for a walk.

"Where do you want to go?" asked Dad.

"Up the hill," shouted Thomas.

Page 3

"Perhaps I'll take my kite. I can
fly it myself now."

Jack and Jess had grown bigger and
loved running up the hill. Tina hugged
the dogs, then fetched the leads from the hall.
They barked and ran out with tails wagging.

Page 4

They all laughed and giggled as they
walked down the lane. When they got to the
bottom of the hill the dogs were let off
the lead and ran together up the hill.

When they got to the top, Thomas wanted
to fly his kite. Daniel helped him

Page 5

to get the kite into the air. It was quite
windy and Thomas struggled to hold on.

The children ran about chasing the dogs in and
out of the bushes. Soon they were all huffing

and puffing and ready for a drink. They sat on the grass and drank some lemonade.

Page 6

There was a dish and a bottle of water for Jack and Jess.

Suddenly one of Tina's friends said "Listen. I can hear someone crying."

They listened and heard a muffled cry.

"Stay here," said Dad. "I'll go and see

Page 7

what it is." Dad went into the bushes while Mum and the children waited.

Dad came back carrying a small dog with a lead dangling from its collar.

The little dog was all of a tremble.

Dad was hugging it and trying to calm it down.

Page 8

"The dog's lead was caught in the bushes, and the poor little thing was struggling to get free," said Dad.

As Dad carried the dog towards them Daniel saw a name tag on the collar.

"This is Lucky from New Street

Page 9

Cottage. I wonder where he came from."

As Dad put Lucky down he was limping.

"I think he's had an accident,"

cried Thomas. Mum picked up Lucky and gave him a cuddle.

"We'll take him home," said Dad.

Page 10

The children finished drinking and helped to clear away the cups and bottles.

Jack and Jess were excited and started to run down the hill, followed by the children, Mum, Dad and Lucky.

When they arrived home Mum took Jack,

Page 11

Jess and the children into the house while Dad went to get the car. Daniel and his friend wanted to go with Dad. Soon they were off to New Street Cottage, and walking up the garden path with Lucky. A lady opened the door. She gasped and smiled with joy.

Page 12

"Oh, Lucky, Lucky. Where did you find him?"

Dad told the story and the lady said that Lucky was returning from a walk when a large dog ran up. Lucky pulled himself free and ran off.

Page 13

"I called and called but had to go home without him, and I was very upset. I'm so happy to see him home again and can't thank you enough," she said. "Perhaps you may like to have tea with us one day."

Dad said that he was happy to take

Page 14

Lucky to the vet to have a look at him.

"Oh, don't you worry yourself," said the lady. "I can manage myself, thank you."

They all said goodbye, and Lucky wagged his tail and barked.

When they arrived home the two boys

Page 15

ran into the house. They were all waiting to hear the news.

"We've made some new friends," shouted Daniel.

"And guess what," said Daniel's friend. "We are all invited to tea."

Page 16

"When can we go?" cried Thomas.

"Very soon," said Mum.

The children were so excited about the invitation. They were all looking forward to having tea with lucky Lucky.

Fun Page

Can you remember?

1. What did Thomas take up the hill?
2. What did the children have to drink?
3. Who heard a cry in the bushes?
4. What did Daniel say about the dog?
5. Where did Lucky live?

Series 8: Places

Book 1: The Supermarket

Page 1

ong ONG long song along wrong longer
ound OUND round ground found sound pound
ence ENCE pence fence evidence
could COULD could good could could
would WOULD could would would could good would
today TODAY today Oh no! Not today!

Page 2

Amy woke up slowly and stretched.
"What day is it today?" she said to herself.
"Oh no! It's Saturday and that means shopping!" She did not like shopping. She wanted to stay at home and play with her friends.
"Time to get up, Amy," called Mum.

Page 3

"Wake Tom up, please. We'll leave for the shops in half an hour."
Amy banged on the wall to wake her brother, Tom. Then slowly she got dressed, taking as long as she could.
When Amy and Tom went downstairs

Page 4

Mum and Dad were writing out a shopping list. Today it looked longer than usual. It would take most of the morning to do.

"I can't see why we have to go shopping every Saturday," Amy grumbled.

"If we didn't, you wouldn't have any

Page 5

food to eat," said Dad. "Cheer up!"

Mum, Dad, Amy and Tom got into the car. The supermarket they used was in the town, some miles away. Today Mum would drive. She liked to shop early so she could park near the store. She found

Page 6

an empty space next to the fence.

"It's my turn to push the trolley today," said Amy, as they got out of the car.

As they got near to the supermarket door, they saw banners and balloons hanging up. They also heard the sound of brass band music

Page 7

playing. Amy read the notice.

"One year today since we opened. Free sweets for all our customers."

"Well, we came on a good day," said Dad. "Aren't you glad you came?"

They went in, passing a crowd of people.

Page 8

Amy was trying hard to push the trolley along. It kept going the wrong way.

Ahead of her was a tall pile of baked bean tins. Amy pulled hard to turn the trolley round, but it was too late. CRASH! Tins fell all around.

Page 9

Some rolled along under the shelves.

Others rolled off down the aisles.

A little boy tripped over one.

Tom laughed, Mum was cross, and Amy wished that she had stayed at home!

"Don't worry," said Dad. "You couldn't

Page 10

help it." He and Amy picked up the tins.
An assistant piled them up again.

Mum took the trolley round the next corner away from the crowds to check her long list.

"We haven't found the things for Halloween

Page 11

and Bonfire Night yet," she said.

"Amy, will you choose a big round pumpkin, for a Jack o' Lantern.

Tom, we need ten apples, not too big, for apple ducking."

"I'll find some big potatoes for

Page 12

baking in the bonfire," said Dad.

When they got to the vegetables, Dad saw an assistant emptying sacks of potatoes on to the shelf. They were piled high.

Dad started filling a bag. He reached

Page 13

for a perfect potato and they all collapsed! There was an avalanche of potatoes! Round and round they rolled, all over the ground.

Now it was Amy's turn to laugh!

"Don't worry, Dad. As you said to

Page 14

me, you couldn't help it."

Just then the assistant who had helped with the tins came up, shaking his head.

"Not you two again! We'll have to put up notices saying DANGER when you go shopping!"

A very red faced Dad and a giggling Amy

Page 15

hurried back to Mum to tell her what

had happened.

"I think we had better leave,"
smiled Mum. "I can't trust you two
not to cause trouble!"

They pushed the trolley to the checkout.

Page 16

Mum handed over 46 pounds and
10 pence. As they were filling the shopping
bags, the manager of the supermarket
came over to speak to them.

"Well done!" he said. "You are the one
hundredth customer today, and have won a

Page 17

special prize. It's a week's
holiday for four at the seaside."

The family were very happy. They wouldn't
forget this shopping trip for a long time.

As they went back to the car, Amy
spoke. "I don't think shopping is

Page 18

quite so bad, do you Mum?"

Mum just smiled.

Fun Page

A game of Yes and No.

1. Tom stayed at home?
2. Dad drove the car?
3. It was summertime?
4. Amy pushed the trolley?
5. The family won a prize?

Book 2: The Fire Station

Page 1

cannot CANNOT cannot cannot cannot cannot cannot
cannot

much MUCH much much much much much much

such SUCH such such such such such such

be BE began being bell begun belt

dis DIS discuss dislike disk disaster dish

Page 2

Amy and Tom were excited. Today was an open day at the fire station. The children's Uncle Hugh was a fireman.

He liked his work. He said he would show the children round the station. He would be coming to collect them in his car.

Page 3

"Sorry I'm late. I've had such a lot to do today," he said when he came in. He asked Tom and Amy what they would like to see at the station as they would be there all day.

"I'd like to ride on a fire engine," said Amy. "That would be exciting."

Page 4

"Well, you may sit in one," said Uncle Hugh. "We cannot take you to a fire. That's much too dangerous. And Tom?"

"I'd like to see the long ladders."

It was not a long way to the fire station. They were soon there.

Page 5

They met Uncle Hugh's friend, Bob. They asked him what kind of work he did.

"It's hard to know where to begin. Some people think firemen just put out fires. We have to do all kinds of jobs, some we dislike. Quite often we go to car crashes and other accidents.

Page 6

We take special tools with us. We may have to free people trapped in cars. That can be very distressing."

"That's true," said Uncle Hugh. "Our work changes from day to day. Last week I had to rescue a cat from up a tree.

Page 7

It had gone much too high to climb down.

I used a very long ladder to reach it."

As they were talking, they heard the sound of crying. A woman came in looking very upset.

With her was a small boy. He had a saucepan stuck on his head!

Page 8

He was very distressed.

"We had to come. I cannot move it," said his mum. Amy and Tom tried not to laugh!

"No trouble, we'll soon have that off."

"I don't want my head off!"

Page 9

yelled the little boy. They all laughed.

Bob used his tools to take off the pan.

Uncle Hugh took Amy, Tom and the boy into a fire engine. He said they could turn on the siren. It made such a loud sound. They all jumped! They

Page 10

climbed down to the ground.

In the fire station Amy saw a pole.

"We use that when we are in a hurry. It can save such a lot of time," said Uncle Hugh. Amy wanted to slide down the pole. Her uncle said he would

Page 11

catch her at the bottom. He waited.

He couldn't see Amy. He looked up.

Bump! Amy landed on top of him!

"That was a soft landing!" she giggled.

They went out into the yard. Tom saw a fireman. He was at the top of a very

Page 12

long ladder which was next to a tower.

"Can I go up there?" he asked.

"No," said Uncle Hugh. "It wouldn't be safe. But you can go up high in this."

Uncle Hugh showed Tom a special

ladder. It was very long and strong. It had a

Page 13

kind of platform on it which could turn round.

"Get in," said Uncle Hugh, "and hold tight. We will be going up high."

Tom got in and the platform started to move. Up it went, higher and higher. The people on the ground had nearly disappeared.

Page 14

"This is exciting," squealed Tom. "I can see a long, long way."

"This is used to reach the top of tall buildings," said Uncle Hugh. "More than one fireman can stand in it. I'm sorry, but it's time to go down now."

Page 15

When they were back on the ground, Amy ran up to speak to them.

"Can I try to put a fire out?"

"You cannot do that, but you can hold a hose," said Uncle Hugh. "Come with me."

Amy found that the hose was very heavy.

Page 16

The children held it together. Uncle Hugh turned on the water. It came out fast.

"Look out!" shouted Tom. The water went all over Uncle Hugh. He gasped and laughed. There were puddles all over the ground.

"I think it's time I took you home now,

Page 17

you monsters," said Uncle Hugh. "I need some dry clothes, and I think I've had enough surprises today, thank you very much!"

As they drove home, Amy and Tom discussed what they had seen. It had been a very good day out at the fire station.

Page 18

"Guess what I would like to be when I grow up?" said Amy.

"Me too," shouted Tom.

Fun Page

Can you guess what Amy and Tom would like to be?

Write a short story about the job you would like to do when you are grown up.

Book 3: The Farm

Page 1

afternoon AFTERNOON afternoon afternoon afternoon afternoon
shall SHALL this still shall could which would today would good
shall

found sound round pound ground hound around
such much much much such such much
song long longer among pong bongos
fence pence fences sentences

Page 2

It was springtime. Amy and Tom were on holiday from school. Mum and Dad had taken some time off work.

"It's a sunny day today," said Dad.

"Why don't we go out for the day?"

"Great!" said the children. "That would be fun."

Page 3

They discussed where they would like to go.

"We could go for a farm visit," said Mum.

"My friend took her children to one. There was plenty to see. They all enjoyed going."

"That's a good idea," said Dad. "We could see the baby animals. Sometimes

Page 4

the farmer lets visitors feed them."

Tom and Amy helped Mum and Dad to make a picnic. They put sandwiches, crisps, pears and raisins into a bag. In a short time they were ready to go.

One hour later, the car came to

Page 5

a stop. They were at Round House Farm. Dad got the wellies out and they put them on. The ground was muddy, with puddles all around.

"Now where shall we start?" said Mum.

"There's a list of the animals we can see. There are cows, sheep and goats,

Page 6

pigs, horses and hens. We could have a tractor ride this afternoon, it says here."

"The hens are nearest," said Amy. "Shall we start there? Come on."

At the hen house they met the farmer, Mrs Seddon. She looked at Tom

Page 7

and Amy, and smiled. "I was just going to collect the eggs. Would you like to help?"

"We'd love to," said Amy.

"You will have to look all around. Sometimes the eggs are well hidden, or in odd places!"

Amy found six in the hen house.

Page 8

Tom began to look in the long grass. He found three and put them in the basket. Then he saw one more and bent to pick it up. Suddenly he was butted in the bottom! He fell to the ground and the eggs were scattered.

Tom sat up with a surprised look on

Page 9

his face. Everyone laughed!

"I am sorry," said Mrs Seddon.

"That goat is too bad. Last week it ate all my washing. Now it has scrambled my eggs! We will have to put a stronger fence round his field."

Page 10

They left the hen house and went to find the barn. Inside were some cows. Mr Seddon was milking the herd of Jersey cows by machine.

"I have to finish soon. The milk tanker comes early for our milk and we have to be ready. Have you seen our new lambs yet?"

Page 11

Six were born last week. You could have a go at feeding them, if you like."

Mr Seddon pointed out the way to the lambs. Mrs Seddon had some bottles of milk. She gave Tom, Amy, Mum and Dad a bottle each, and kept two herself.

Page 12

"Sit down on the bales of hay and I will let the lambs out of the pen. They get so excited at feeding time, and all push and shove each other." The bleating was getting very loud as Mrs Seddon opened the pen gate.

Six woolly little lambs rushed out,

Page 13

tumbling over each other to find some milk. Soon all the lambs were feeding happily.

"They're so sweet," said Mum. "Now it's time to wash our hands and eat."

They found a picnic table. It was near a large children's playground which looked exciting.

Page 14

"Can we go in there to play this afternoon?" asked Amy. "Please Mum, can we?"

"Yes," said Mum, "but don't forget there's a tractor ride at three. It would be disappointing to miss that."

Dad opened the bag to get out the food.

Page 15

He took out the sandwiches and put them on the table. He turned his back to get out more food and the drinks.

"Look out!" cried Tom, "We're not alone!" As Dad turned, he saw a goat eating the sandwiches, including the paper bag!

Page 16

Mum laughed. "It's a good job I made plenty. There are some egg rolls too."

When they had eaten, Amy and Tom rushed to the play area. There were swings and a very long slide. Tom found a tall net to climb over, and a wobbly rope bridge to cross.

Page 17

Then it was time for the tractor ride. They got on the trailer and Mrs Seddon drove round the farm. She pointed out the duck pond and the orchard where three pigs were resting.

"You will have to come again in the autumn. You could help with picking the apples then."

Page 18

The ride stopped at the farm shop. They went in to buy some milk, cheese, eggs and vegetables to take home.

"It's been such a lovely day," said Amy. "Let's come again soon."

They all agreed.

Fun Page

Write a funny story about a visit to a farm.

Book 4: The Seaside

Page 1

tomorrow TOMORROW tomorrow tomorrow tomorrow tomorrow
tonight TONIGHT tonight tonight tonight tonight tonight
found round pound aground sound wound
cannot had cannot discussed disaster dishes
long wrong along strong song among
Stop! Help! Listen! Be quiet!

Page 2

Tom and Amy were excited. It was the summer holidays and they were going to the seaside.

Some time ago at the supermarket they had won a week's holiday. Tomorrow they were going to stay at a big hotel in Wales.

Mum called the children down to the kitchen.

Page 3

"Have you checked your cases? Look round and make sure you have all you need. Pack it all tonight. We want to make an early start."

Next day the family were up early. Mum had planned the route. They would be going by car, using the motorways.

Page 4

"We will share the driving," said Dad, "as it is such a long journey."

It took a long time, but at last they arrived at the destination.

"I can see the sea," cried Amy. "Can we go to the beach straight away?"

Page 5

"Let's check in and take the cases to the room. Then we can go," said Dad.

The hotel was a big one. The family had a large room at the front. They could see the sea and the beach. Downstairs was a games room and a swimming pool.

Page 6

"Let's go to the beach now," begged Amy. "Can we have a swim as it's very hot?"

"You can, but I would rather paddle," said Dad.

The beach was full as it was such a hot day. There wasn't much room anywhere. They could hear the sound of children squealing and having a good time.

Page 7

Amy and Tom were soon undressed and eager to rush down to the sea.

"Race you there," shouted Amy.

The cold water felt good as they swam and splashed around, shrieking and squealing with joy. When they were tired, Tom and Amy came

Page 8

out of the sea and wandered along the beach.

"Look what I've found," said Amy.

There were some long razor shells on the sand.

"Let's get a bucket and look for some more shells," said Tom. They filled the bucket with a starfish, a crab and all sorts

Page 9

of shells.

"I cannot find any more now," said Amy.

"Let's go and show Mum and Dad."

When they got back, Mum gave Amy and Tom one pound 80 pence each to buy ice creams for all the family.

Page 10

Soon it was time to go back to the hotel.

Over the meal they talked about the holiday.

"What would you like to do whilst we are here?" asked Mum. "What about tomorrow?"

"I'd like to go on the beach every morning, then go off somewhere else in the afternoons," said Tom.

Page 11

"That sounds like a good plan," said Dad.

"I would like to go to the fair," said Amy.

"I would rather go to the aquarium," said Tom.

"They have loads of sharks and octopuses, and even a killer whale!" They discussed plans.

The holiday flew by. Each day there were

Page 12

new things to do and see. It was such good fun.

By Friday the weather had changed.

A wind was blowing, the waves were crashing and the sky looked stormy. The family were taking a last walk along the sea front. It started raining hard. They heard a loud clap of thunder.

Page 13

"Run for shelter!" cried Dad. They found some seats under cover, facing out to sea.

"What's that, by the rocks?" asked Mum. She took out the binoculars.

"Oh no!" she cried. "It looks like a sailing boat has run aground on the rocks."

Page 14

We will have to raise the alarm at once."

Just then a flare went up and a siren sounded.

"That's the signal to call out the lifeboat," said Dad. "How exciting!"

In a very short time the lifeboat crew were getting the rescue boat into the water.

Page 15

The waves were huge, blown up by the strong wind. "Won't it sink in that rough sea?" asked Tom, who felt a bit scared.

"No, lifeboats can't sink," said Mum. Even if it overturns it will stay afloat."

They took it in turns to use the

Page 16

binoculars. One of the rescuers threw a rope to the damaged boat. The waves were pounding the lifeboat. It was very near the rocks.

Slowly, one by one, the crew were taken off the wreck. They were soon all in the lifeboat and heading to the safety of the beach. Only a

Page 17

few minutes later a huge wave tossed the broken sailing boat off the rocks, and as the family watched, it sank.

"The crew were saved just in time," said Tom.

"Yes, thanks to the bravery of the lifeboat men," said Mum. "That was nearly

Page 18

a very nasty disaster. The boat has been lost,

but at least all the people are safe and sound."

They all agreed that they would not forget this holiday for a very long time!

Fun Page

Answer True or False.

1. The family went to Cornwall.
2. They stayed in a little hotel.
3. It rained every day.
4. Tom wanted to go to the aquarium.
5. A boat ran aground on some rocks.

Book 5: The School

Page 1

pence fence fencing fenced sentence
round pound found sound around boundary
much would could such much good would
today tomorrow tonight tomorrow tonight today tonight
37 pounds 99 pence 100 pounds 2 pence

Page 2

The summer holidays were nearly over.
There was not much time left. Amy and Tom would soon be back at school. Tom wasn't sure how he felt about this. He was to go to a new school for children who were very musical, as he was such a good violinist. Tomorrow he was off

Page 3

to boarding school, sixty miles away.
A few weeks ago, Tom had longed to go to his new school. Now he didn't think it was such a good idea!
"I'll miss you," he told the family.
"We'll all miss you too," said Mum.

Page 4

"But don't forget that you will be coming home every weekend. The days will soon pass."
On his last evening at home, Dad helped Tom to lay out all the things he needed on his bed, and Mum helped him to pack his case.

The next day Tom came downstairs

Page 5

wearing his new uniform.

"You look very smart and grown up," said Amy. "I wish I could go with you."

Tom helped Dad to load the car, then they were off. "It's a very big school, Dad. What if I can't find my way around?"

Page 6

"You needn't worry. Lots of you will be new, and the other children and teachers will help."

One hour later they drew up at the school. There were children, mothers and fathers all around. Dad helped Tom carry his cases upstairs. They were shown into a long room

Page 7

called a dormitory. It had six beds in it. A boy of around Tom's age sat on the bed next to Tom's, tuning a cello.

"Hi. I'm Andrew. I'm new here too. Shall we look around together when you've unpacked?"

Soon it was time for Dad to leave. Tom

Page 8

and Andrew set off to explore. They went down a long passage. There were classrooms on both sides. At the end was a big hall. Next to that was a gym and swimming pool.

"Wow, this is good," said Andrew. "Do you like swimming, Tom?"

Page 9

"Yes. I was in a swimming club and went every week at home," said Tom.

They went down a corridor and found the library, and at least twelve music rooms.

"Good," said Andrew. "Lots to read."

The best thing they found was a games room.

Page 10

There was table tennis and snooker, as well as lots of board games and puzzles.

"We're going to have plenty to do in the evenings," said Tom. "Let's come tonight."

Just then a bell rang. A teacher told them that all new children had to go to the hall.

Page 11

She showed them the way.

In the hall, the Headteacher spoke to them. He told them that every day, when school ended, they would have homework and music practice time. "When all the work is done, you are free. In the evenings there are clubs you can

Page 12

join, if you would like to." He told them they could choose from football, swimming, art club, choir, computer club, drama, judo and lots of others.

"I'd like to do them all!" whispered Tom.

The Headteacher told them about the weekly

Page 13

trip to the shops. Tom's Dad had given him three pounds to spend there.

By now it was time to eat. All the children were taken to the dining room. There were long tables in there. Tom was pleased to find that it was his favourite meal, pizza, chips and

Page 14

salad, followed by apple pie.

When they had eaten, Tom and Andrew went to play snooker, and met some of the other new children. They all seemed nice.

"Did you bring any food with you?" asked Andrew. "My sister made me some cakes."

Page 15

Mum had packed some crisps and chocolate for Tom, so the boys decided to have a midnight feast. Tom felt quite happy.

Later that night, when they were supposed to be asleep, Tom crept out of bed. As he did so, the other boys in the dormitory sat up.

Page 16

"Who wants to join in our feast?" asked Tom. All the boys crept out of bed. Most of them had food to share too.

The feast was nearly over when the boys heard a sound. The door creaked open and a member of staff came in.

Page 17

"What's going on here?" he asked, pretending he was cross. "In to bed this minute! Save your feasts for playtime!" The boys shot back into bed very fast.

Next day lessons started. When school was over and homework done, there were lots of

Page 18

things to do, including orchestra practice.

In no time at all it was Friday. To Tom the time had flown. Mum came to pick him up. Tom talked all the way home.

"It sounds as if you are having a good time," said Mum.

Page 19

"I'm so glad I went," said Tom. "There's such a lot to do at school, much more than at home. I do love you all, but I'm longing to go back on Monday!"

Fun Page

True or False?

1. Amy went to boarding school.
2. Tom's friend was called Scott.
3. The school had a swimming pool.
4. Tom's friend played the cello.
5. Tom hated his new school.

Series 9: Transport

Book 1: A Ferry Trip

Page 1

right RIGHT bright fright bright right fright right
here HERE here here right here atmosphere here right
because BECAUSE because because because because because
behind BEHIND behind behind behind because behind because
should SHOULD should should could should should would should
always ALWAYS always always always behind always should
ance ANCE dance chance distance glanced

Page 2

The Clark family were going on holiday.
This trip had been planned for a long time.
They were going camping in France. For weeks they
had been planning the holiday. They wanted
to see as much as they could. They would be away for
two weeks.

Mum wanted to use the Channel
Tunnel but Dad and the children wanted to go on
a ship. They booked to sail from Dover.

At last the great day had arrived.

Page 3

"Wake up," called Dad. "We have a
long distance to go." Mum was right behind Dad as
she asked "What time does the boat leave
Dover?" "Nine o'clock, so we should leave
here by half past seven. What are the children
doing? They should be up and washed by now." Mum
woke the children. They all had breakfast and
showered. Dad loaded the car and off they went.

As they reached Dover, they could see the
ferry waiting in the dock. Dad drove

Page 4

right up behind a long line of cars. Little by little
they got nearer to the ship. Then it was Dad's
turn to drive right into the hold. When the
car was in the right place, the family got out.
They went up some steps to the open deck.
They sat behind a pillar because of the wind.

When the children looked around, they could see lots of smaller boats in the water. Some small boats called tugs had to pull the big ships behind them into the dockside. There was quite a

Page 5

lot of noise as the ship was made ready to leave. The children felt the whole boat vibrate as the engines began to chug noisily.

At last they were off, and the voyage had begun. It was very exciting to feel the big ferry move and turn slowly as it headed for the open sea. The children jumped as a loud blast from the ship's funnel sounded right behind them.

Oscar and Zoe went to stand by the rails at the back of the ship. They could see other

Page 6

ships near by. There were two speed boats on the left. They seemed to be racing each other. A hovercraft passed by on the right. It was moving much faster than they were.

Dad came up as they were looking.

"Can you see some marker buoys in the distance? They show the ship's captain which way to go. The Channel is a busy place. It would be easy for an accident to happen. The crew always have to look out for other craft.

Page 7

They cannot take any chances."

By this time the family were hungry.

"I always feel hungry on board ship," said Dad. "It must be the fresh air. Let's see if we can find something to eat."

They all went down a deck to the buffet. They had something to eat and drink. As they left the buffet, they saw a shop. Mum went in to buy a map of France.

"I didn't expect to see a shop here

Page 8

on board ship," said Zoe. Dad smiled.

"You should have seen the cruise ship we went on for our honeymoon. It was a huge liner with three shops, two swimming pools and a large games room. There was even a cinema and a good library. There was live music every night and a great dance floor. You forgot you were at sea."

Behind the shop there was a place to change money. "I should go in there," said Mum, "I need to change some pounds into Euros."

Page 9

When this was done, they went for a walk round the ferry. They found lots of interesting things.

There were smaller boats hanging right over the side of the big ship. Dad said "The small boats are lifeboats. They are here because if something should go wrong with the ferry, people could get into them. They are lowered right down to the sea, then the passengers can get safely away."

"That would be fun!" said Oscar.

Mum didn't agree. "I'd much rather stay

Page 10

right here, safe and sound on the ferry!"

They all smiled because Mum was being a scaredy cat, and liked her feet on firm ground.

All at once, the foghorn blared out. What a noise! Oscar jumped because it frightened him, and they all clung on to each other.

Dad laughed. "That was only the docking signal. Don't worry!" The engines shuddered and the boat shook a little as the captain guided her right into the dockside. It was good

Page 11

fun driving off the big ferry. The children waved, and shouted a big "Thank you" to the captain and crew as they left them behind on the ferry. "BOOM" replied the foghorn as the family's car drove away from the dockside.

"Hello France. Here we come!" shouted Zoe.

Fun Page

Fill in the gaps.

1. The Clark family were going to ----.
2. They travelled by ---- and ----.
3. They set sail from ----.
4. They went to the shop to buy a ----.
5. Mum changed some money into ----.
6. The sound of the ---- made ---- jump.

Book 2: Trains

Page 1

after After after after after after after
afternoon AFTERNOON afternoon after afternoon after afternoon
right right here here right here right
should always should always could always would always
because behind because behind because because behind behind
chance lance dances prance ambulance
engine station train ticket railway

Page 2

One wet day Oscar felt rather bored.
"Dad, can we go to a museum, please?
The Railway Museum has new trains."
"Ask Mum, but it sounds good," said Dad.
"That's a great idea, Oscar," said Mum.
"I'll get some lunch ready to take with us.
We should be ready to go about 11 o'clock."
Mum got the children to help her.
"Shall we go by train for a change? We
always go by car," said Dad.

Page 3

"It should be faster by train," said Mum.
"Great!" said Zoe and Oscar, both at
the same time.
At the station, they got some tickets from the
man behind the window of the ticket office.
"Good," said the man. "You've got the right
money. Here you are. Have a good time."
The man handed the tickets to Oscar, who
thanked him. They had to go down to the
platform. One by one they fed the tickets

Page 4

into the machine that opened the barriers. They all walked to the top of the escalator. There was a notice which read "Always stand on the right".

They stepped on to the moving stairs and stood one behind the other on the right. A man ran past in a hurry, bounding down the escalator.

At the bottom, they turned right and walked along a tiled passage that had a very good echo.

"Here we are," said Dad, as they turned right on to the platform and waited for the train.

Page 5

Soon there was a warm breeze and a growing roar as the train hurtled out of the tunnel and came to a stop at the platform.

"Mind the gap. Mind the gap," said a booming voice, as the train doors opened. There was a door right in front of the children. Two people got off, but it still looked very full near the door.

"There's bags of room. Squeeze in and try to find seats," Dad told the children.

Page 6

Seconds later the bleeps sounded, the doors swished shut and they were rattling along the tracks and back into the tunnel.

"It's a bit like sardines in a tin, but at least we're all here," laughed Mum.

Dad held on to a strap which was right over the children's heads. He looked at the underground map which was displayed, and told them they needed the seventh station. They felt rather wobbly when they got up and waited by the door ready to

Page 7

jump off. It was much more fun than the car!

Soon they were going up the escalator and out into the street. The museum was nearby.

Inside they saw all kinds of trains. Some were very old and others were more modern. Oscar saw a very strange engine with a tall funnel.

"This is called The Rocket," said Dad.

"Is that because it went so fast?" asked Zoe.

"When it was invented the passengers said it went very fast, but our trains today are much faster."

Page 8

Oscar went over to a huge engine and stood right by the wheels. He looked very small next to the shiny engine. Even the wheels were much taller than Oscar.

"Now here is a real beauty!" said Dad.

He ran his fingers gently over the shining brass name plate. It was a steam engine. There was a metal ladder fixed on the side. This was for the driver and the fireman to climb up to the cab.

Page 9

Just then a man behind them asked "Would you like to climb up and look inside? I work here and I'm in charge of this engine so it's all right."

"Oh yes please," cried both the children.

"I've longed to do this since I was little," said Dad happily. "What a treat!"

They got right up inside the cab. The man showed them around.

"The water goes in here, and this is the place for the fire, which heated the water that made steam."

Page 10

Zoe pretended to drive the engine. She turned handles and wheels and rang the big brass bell. She imagined the hiss of steam and the chuff chuffing of the great engine!

Oscar pretended to be the fireman. He kept putting coal on the fire to heat the water. He imagined the great heat and strong smell of coal smoke as he worked!

At last they climbed down and went to watch a film about railways long ago. They

Page 11

found out that early railways didn't carry people.

They were used in coal mines. The rails were made of wood, and men or horses pushed trucks filled with coal along the rails.

They heard about the people that built railways. The track had to be level, as trains could not run up or down slopes. Men had to cut out tons of rock from hills for the tunnels.

After the film Mum suggested that they should get a hot drink at the buffet to have with the

Page 12

sandwiches they had packed. "It shuts at 2 o'clock, so we don't have long," she said.

"Good idea," said Dad. "The buffet is right here behind us."

After lunch they went to look at the newer trains. "They can travel much longer distances than the early trains," said Dad. "They go much faster too and are cleaner, but I still like steam trains."

"Look behind you," said Mum. "Have you seen

Page 13

this monorail? It was made in France."

"I should like to go on that," said Zoe. "The train is hanging from the rail."

By now they had come to the exit. They had all had a very good day.

"Can we go into the shop? I'd like to buy some postcards for my project," said Oscar.

Both children chose souvenirs. They were tired and ready to go home, but it was hard trying to drag Dad away from the trains!

Fun Page

Write True or False.

1. The family went by car to a museum.
2. Trains go along railway tracks.
3. Trains have square wheels.
4. Some trains can travel up in the air.
5. You can go to bed on some trains.
6. Electric trains are cleaner than

steam trains.

7. Dad wished he'd stayed at home.

Book 3: Aeroplanes

Page 1

7 am 8 pm 2 pm 9 am 6 o'clock

I am 1 m tall.

Mum needs 50 g of sugar.

long-stay co-pilot long-range

X-ray T-shirt L-plate

could would today round song ladder cannot

right fright here frighten bright here atmosphere

should always be right here should always be right under

half-time half-price half-brother

Page 2

The children were very excited. Oscar and Zoe had not been able to sleep. It was the start of the holidays and they were going to a Greek island.

"Isn't it time to leave yet?" asked

Oscar. He had been ready for ages.

Zoe was getting worried because she could not get her bag to close. She had packed so much.

"Come on Zoe," said Dad. "You will have to leave some clothes behind. You should not need that much because it is going to be very hot." Zoe always

Page 3

took too much. Mum was ready, so helped Zoe. "Leave all the jumpers behind. You'll need lots of T-shirts and shorts because it should be pretty hot most days. We need to get going right now or we may miss our flight."

They all got into the car to drive to the airport. It was not far and soon they began to see lots of aeroplanes flying overhead. Some were very low as they were coming in to land or had just taken off.

Page 4

"There's one right behind us. It looks as if it's going to land on the car!" said Oscar.

"I hope it doesn't come any lower," said Zoe. "Its wheels are out for landing!"

"Don't worry. The plane isn't anywhere near us, and we'll be at the terminal very soon," said Mum.

They turned right and there was the big airport building. "We have to leave the car here for two weeks, so we need the long-stay car park,"

Page 5

said Dad. "That's always at the far end of the airport. There should be a bus to take us back to check in with our heavy cases."

At last they got to the terminal building. It was very busy. The doors opened as they got near. Oscar went back out to try it again. He stretched out his arm like a magician, jumped on the mat and the doors opened again. This was fun, so Zoe also tried it. A buzz of noisy voices greeted them as they entered.

Page 6

"Come on or we'll leave you behind," said Mum.

Dad took them all to the check-in desk. A man inspected the tickets, checked in the bags and gave them seat numbers. The bags were weighed and X-rayed. A sticky label was put on the handles to show where they were going.

"I hope my seat is near the window," said Zoe. Dad had all the boarding cards in his hand. "Here you are, Zoe. Choose one," he

Page 7

said. Zoe chose number 15A.

"You are always lucky, Zoe. I wonder if you will be this time," Dad said.

They had to show passports to a woman at another desk. She smiled when she saw Oscar's picture. Oscar agreed that it was funny. He did not like having his picture taken and often pulled a face.

Then all the hand luggage was put on a

special machine to X-ray it. This was to

Page 8

make sure that none of them were carrying anything they should not take on the plane. Mum, Dad and the children had to be checked one by one to see if they were carrying anything metal.

BEEP! Zoe had set the alarm off. She emptied her pockets, and there was her purse full of coins! Would she be all right this time or would she have to stay behind at the airport?

It was all OK. They had a look round the shops, and then had some crisps and a drink.

Page 9

"We'd better move to the transit lounge and watch for our flight," said Mum. Oscar checked the special TV screens.

Soon they were called for boarding at gate ten. They had to show boarding cards and walk on to the plane. Would Zoe be lucky?

They walked down the aisle of the plane to row 15. The seats had letters in front of them. "Yes!" shrieked Zoe, "My seat is right by the window." She promised Oscar that

Page 10

he could sit by the window on the way back.

They settled into the seats and found out how to fasten the safety belts. Oscar found a sick bag in the seat pouch in front of him. He made silly noises! Dad was cross.

More people came and sat down all around them. Stewards and stewardesses walked up and down the aisles, helping to stow hand luggage in the overhead lockers. Bang! Bang! The lockers snapped shut. One last seat belt

Page 11

check and they would be ready to go.

The aeroplane doors were locked, the air crew were seated and the plane began moving. It taxied on to the runway ready for take off.

Suddenly the engine noise changed, and as the plane picked up speed, the engines grew louder and louder. Lockers vibrated and seats rattled as the engines roared and the plane lifted steadily into the air.

"Wow! I didn't believe it would be like

Page 12

that," said Zoe. She leant back in her seat as the plane climbed higher and higher.

"I can see fields and houses and tiny little cars like toys down there. Look Oscar!"

"Bong!" went the stewards' call button.

"Seat belts can come off," said Mum.

"I expect the air crew will come round with drinks in a minute."

Suddenly they heard a message over the tannoy.

Page 13

"Could passengers Oscar and Zoe Clark please press the call button as there is an important message for them."

"That's us!" cried Oscar, "I wonder why they want us?"

"No idea," said Dad, "but you'd better press the button and find out!"

Oscar pressed the button, and a steward came over. "How can I help you, sir?"

"We're Zoe and Oscar," said the children.

Page 14

"Nice to meet you," said the steward. "Your Uncle Jason got in touch to tell us that you were flying today. The captain is a mate of his and he wants you both to meet him."

He led the children all the way up to the very front of the plane, and unlocked the door to the cockpit. The captain and his co-pilot greeted them. They were having a snack.

"Shouldn't you be watching screens and things?" asked Zoe in surprise.

Page 15

"No, we're on automatic pilot now," smiled the captain. "The plane's flying on its own!"

"Look, there's room for you to sit right behind us," said the co-pilot. So Oscar and Zoe sat down and looked out of the pilot's window. They saw sky that seemed to stretch for miles.

The captain pointed out vapour trails made by other planes. Then they heard the co-pilot speaking to people on the ground in

Page 16

England and Greece.

"This is magic!" said Oscar.

"It certainly beats my window seat!" laughed Zoe.

Fun Page

Answer Yes or No.

1. They were going to a Greek island.
2. Oscar and Zoe were going by car.
3. Zoe got a window seat.
4. Planes use automatic pilots.
5. The children liked being in the cockpit.

Book 4: A Visit to the Motor Museum

Page 1

right behind always should be here because
75 g of flour, 25 g of butter.

He stayed behind because he was always behind with his work.

Turn right round and touch the ground behind you.

You should turn right here to get to the underground station.

The dancing class starts at 4 pm every Tuesday, and football is at 10 am on Saturdays. Don't be late!

Page 2

The day came at last when it was Oscar's

ninth birthday. He woke early and felt excited. There would be cards and presents, and his special treat with Dad.

He jumped out of bed and rushed downstairs.

"Happy birthday, Oscar. I guessed you would be down soon. Guess what's for breakfast?" said Mum with a smile.

"Sausages and beans," shouted Oscar.

Zoe came in yawning, and gave Oscar the

Page 3

card she had made him.

When breakfast was over, Oscar was desperate for Dad to hurry up. They had spent the last few weeks planning an outing. They were to spend the day at a car museum.

"Are you ready Dad?" called Oscar.

"I won't put my coat on because we will be in the warm car. I'll wait for you by the gate, then I can close it when you have driven out. Goodbye Mum, bye Zoe. We'll have lots

Page 4

to tell you when we get back tonight." With that he was out of the front door.

The journey did not take long because they used the back roads. This avoided the main rush hour traffic. They went past the football ground, Rightwood Retail Park, and Melance Common. The children often played cricket there in the summer. At last Dad signalled right, and they drove into a big car park.

"Here we are at last," said Oscar.

Page 5

He grabbed his coat and slammed the door.

Soon they were inside the huge museum building. It had a lot of very interesting cars. They decided to go to the far end and start there. The Guidebook said that the building had once been an old aircraft hangar. Now that aeroplanes were no longer kept in it, the building had been made into four large

rooms. The one at the far end was interesting. The cars in it had all won races in the past.

Page 6

Oscar's father said that such races were called Grand Prix.

"Every year there are Grand Prix races in England, France, Spain and lots of other places," said Dad. "When the Grand Prix is in England it is sometimes held at Silverstone. One year it was held on the main roads around the centre of Birmingham. The roads were closed for a few days. Special fences were put up all around the course."

Page 7

"I wish it would come to Birmingham again," said Oscar.

The curator came to talk to them.

"Car racing is exciting to watch, but it is also where new ideas for cars are tested. Look at disc brakes, for example. They were tried out on the race tracks not that long ago."

The second room had the very oldest cars. They had not been driven on the road for years.

Page 8

"Some look very strange!" laughed Oscar.

"They don't even have petrol engines," said Dad. "They would have been powered by steam. Look, this one was built in 1769, over 250 years ago! Here are the earliest cars which were petrol driven. They are dated from 1885 onwards."

Oscar was amazed. One car looked more like a two-seater bicycle. It had two big wheels at the back and one smaller one at

Page 9

the front. There was no covering, not even over where the driver would sit.

As they were about to leave, they saw an

information board. They stopped to read about some of the cars. They learned that electric lights were not made for cars until 1912. Traffic lights were put up in America in 1919.

Cat's Eyes, the reflective studs in the middle of the road, were not used till 1935.

"What a lot there is to learn about cars,"

Page 10

said Oscar. "I'm glad we came here today."

"I think we should have lunch now," said Dad.

"I'd rather go on looking, but my tummy is rumbling a bit," said Oscar.

They found the museum teashop and had a lovely meal. Oscar ate fast so that they were soon ready to look around the next room.

Here there were about 50 very old cars, all well cared for. Dad told Oscar that they were called classic cars. Oscar could not believe

Page 11

that some of them had been on the roads. They looked brand new. He called his father over to one. It had a sort of shelf sticking out from the bottom of the door.

"What's that?" he asked.

"That is called a running board," said his father. "I remember your great grandma telling a story about that. One day she went out in a car like this. She dropped her bag as she got in, but did not notice. When the car stopped, she

Page 12

opened the door and there was her handbag, still on the running board!"

The third room also had a model of the biggest luxury car known to man. It was called the Bugatti Royale and was nearly six and a half metres long.

The last room had some very odd-looking models. They didn't look much like cars. One looked more like an aeroplane without wings, but with car wheels added! It was battery powered.

Page 13

Oscar read about it. He was amazed because it had set a land speed record in 1964 by going at over 429 miles per hour. It was called Bluebird. Oscar had read a book at school about its driver, Donald Campbell. He was thrilled to see a model of his car. He would love to have seen it on the move! Near Bluebird was a car called Noble's Thrust.

"This was the British car that got the land speed

Page 14

record back from the Americans in 1983. It reached more than 633 miles per hour and was faster than some jet planes." said Dad.

"Listen to what it says," said Oscar. "The earliest car to reach 100 miles per hour was a Ford in 1904. Less than a hundred years later, in 1997, a jet powered car travelled faster than sound. It still holds the land speed record of over 763 miles an hour. That's incredible!"

Page 15

Suddenly Dad looked at his watch.

"Something else that's incredible! Have you seen the time? The museum will close in ten minutes. We had better be getting home because I think that there just might be a special tea today!"

"What a great day I've had," said Oscar. "It will take ages to tell Mum and Zoe all about the things we've seen. This is my very best birthday. Thanks, Dad!"

Fun Page

True or False?

1. Oscar was nine.
2. They went to a car museum.
3. They went by train.
4. The Grand Prix was once held in Birmingham.

5. In the past, cars were powered by steam.
6. Jet engines have been used in some cars.
7. Oscar didn't enjoy his birthday.

Series 10: Seasons

Book 1: Spring

Page 1

their THEIR their their theirs their their theirs
ount OUNT count mountain fountain amount
almost ALMOST almost almost almost almost
part PART part part party part-time particular party
before BEFORE before before because before behind before
their mother their father almost before their party

Page 2

Emma and Joe went with their parents to
Great Auntie Jean's for Mothering Sunday.
Their Auntie Jean lived in a village in
the country, and the children didn't often visit her.

Auntie Jean greeted them with a hug and a
kiss, and her little dog, Rascal, jumped up
and tried to lick their faces!

The snowdrops had almost gone from the grass
verges. Crocuses had taken their places.
Emma loved their tiny purple and yellow

Page 3

heads.

"They are pretty, aren't they?" said
Auntie Jean. "We'll see lots more on
the village green later on."

There was a special event planned for that
afternoon. The annual pancake race had been
postponed that year because of snow, so it was being
held on Mothering Sunday instead. Auntie
Jean took Emma and Joe into the kitchen and
they helped her mix flour, milk and eggs in a

Page 4

big bowl.

"We'll need plenty of batter," said
Auntie Jean. "We're all taking part in

the pancake races and we'd like some to eat."

Once the batter had stood for a little while, Auntie Jean and the two grown ups made the pancakes in three small frying pans. Dad and Auntie Jean were quite good at flipping their pancakes over, but when Mum tossed hers, a couple fell on the floor. One

Page 5

almost got stuck on the ceiling, and made a horrible mess when it fell down, just missing Joe's head! At last, there was a huge pile of pancakes ready on the plate.

It was very busy on the village green. There were four separate races. One was for men, the fathers, grandfathers and uncles; the next one was for the women, the mothers, grannies and aunts; the third was for children over eight and the fourth for children aged eight and under.

Page 6

The children, their mother and Auntie Jean stood and cheered the men on as they thundered past, jostling each other out of the way, and with their shoes churning up the grass. Some of them forgot to toss their pancakes at all, and had to go back to the start! Emma and Joe's Dad came third.

As Joe and Emma waited for their race, Auntie Jean reminded them of the rules.

"Don't forget to keep tossing your pancake. You have to toss it four times before you

Page 7

get to the winning post."

"We won't forget, but it will be difficult not to drop them!" laughed Emma.

Joe and Emma lined up with the other children, frying pans in their hands, ready for the whistle. Auntie Jean was cheering them on even before the race had begun, and Mum and Dad put their thumbs up to encourage them.

Joe looked up at the sky. Clouds were hurrying past, but the sky was blue, and a pair

Page 8

of ducks flew over towards the pond at the far side of the green. Joe could hear them quacking. He was so interested in them that he almost missed the starting whistle. Emma was away at once, and Joe had to run fast to make up for lost time. He tossed his pancake in the air and caught it. Emma tossed hers and missed. It landed on the grass and she had to stop to pick it up.

Joe ran on, tossing his pancake again.

Page 9

He was doing well, and almost at the front of the group of excited children. As Joe tossed his pancake for the third time, he heard a yapping at his heels. Rascal had escaped from Auntie Jean's side and was jumping up and down, wanting to take part in the race.

"Go away, Rascal," Joe shouted, but Rascal was loving the game. Wagging his tail, he jumped at the frying pan, knocking it out of Joe's hand. The pancake fell on to the

Page 10

grass, Rascal closed his teeth round it and it was gone in one big gulp!

Emma came second. Joe was upset because he had lost his pancake and been disqualified. Auntie Jean put her arm round him and told him that Rascal was very sorry.

"He didn't mean it," she said, patting the dog. "Rascal just gets carried away because he loves to join in with children's games."

Joe sniffed a bit, but soon bent down so

Page 11

that Rascal could see that he was not angry.

"We'll go home and have our own pancake party now," said Auntie Jean. "There should be plenty of batter left. Is anyone hungry?"

"Yes, me," shouted Emma and Joe together. Rascal wagged his tail to show he was too!

They all ate lots of pancakes, some with lemon and sugar, others with chocolate and banana, and best of all, with maple syrup and

Page 12

cream. Rascal had a plain one.

Outside, a robin was flying backwards and forwards to the nest-box on Auntie Jean's wall, his beak full of twigs. This would be the second year that robins had nested here.

Now Emma and Joe could look forward to the time when the chicks would hatch. They loved to watch the birds feeding their chicks and to listen to their noisy chirping.

Rascal was now fast asleep on his bean

Page 13

bag. His paws were twitching and he looked as though he was dreaming.

The day's visit was coming to an end and the children began to collect up their belongings.

Rascal woke up, stretched his legs and wagged his tail as if to say "Don't go!"

He loved the children's visits.

A large cloud had covered the sun, and as they got ready to leave, they saw a bright flash in the sky.

Page 14

"Here comes thunder!" shouted Joe, and at that minute they heard a deep rumble overhead and the rain started. Within seconds it was pouring down heavily. Rascal hid under the table.

"Oh dear," said Dad, "I don't fancy driving in this. We'll wait until the worst of the storm has passed."

"I'm glad the weather was nice for our pancake races," said Emma, "I'd much rather have the storm now. Soggy pancakes would be

Page 15

horrible, and anyway we can stay longer and cheer poor Rascal up."

They waited for almost an hour before the storm died down. At last the sky cleared.

"We'd better go now," said Mum.

Auntie Jean and Rascal saw them off at the gate, and as the car pulled away, the children blew kisses and waved.

"We'll see you soon," shouted Joe, "and thank you for a lovely day."

Fun Page

Can you remember?

1. What season of the year was it?
2. The names of the children and their Auntie?
3. The names of the flowers in the story?
4. Who ran in the second race?
5. Who spoiled the race for Joe?
6. What kind of birds nested in

Auntie Jean's wall?

7. Why the family stayed an hour longer?

Book 2: Summer

Page 1

first FIRST first head-first first-class first
above ABOVE above about afternoon almost again above almost
quick quick QUICK quickly quickest quicker quick
across ACROSS across almost again afternoon above across
ever EVER ever never ever clever several everything
many MANY many many Germany many Germany
almost across across almost above across above almost
first ever part first everything their many quickly after never
county boundary country partly

Page 2

It was early in the morning when Emma and Joe ran down to the beach with their buckets and spades. Joe had longer legs than his sister so he was first on to the sand.

"Wait for me," Emma shouted, puffing and panting as she tried to keep up.

It was a warm morning in August and Emma

and Joe were staying with their Auntie Jess and Uncle George in a cottage on the clifftop above the beach. If she looked up

Page 3

Emma would almost be able to see Auntie Jess washing up in her kitchen, which faced the sea on the west coast of Scotland. The children loved it here, and came for a week every summer.

"Wait for me," Emma called again, but Joe had run across the beach to his right. A big rock jutted out of the water, and Joe loved to climb to the top and sit there, like a ship-wrecked sailor, looking out across the waves for a boat which would rescue him.

Page 4

Emma kicked sand with her bare feet and decided to go the other way, where she could see another big rock near the edge of the sea. She started running, faster and faster, enjoying the sensation of the wind on her face and the way it made her hair fly out behind her. As Emma got closer, she noticed that this was a much smoother rock than the one her brother was now perched on.

As she was thinking of the strange rock with its

Page 5

rounded top glistening in the sun, it suddenly moved! Emma was shocked and rather frightened. She gave a sharp little cry and blinked her eyes. Sure enough, the thing she had imagined was a rock was moving.

Emma approached very cautiously. As she got to within four metres she had an even bigger shock. The great thing turned its head and looked right at her. Its eyes were watery and looked as if tears were about to fall from them.

Page 6

"You poor thing. You're not a rock at all, are you? You're a stranded dolphin!" said

Emma gently.

She was right. The dolphin had been washed on to the beach, and now the tide was going out. Emma had learned about dolphins at school and remembered that sometimes they became stranded on beaches and were unable to move. She also knew that they had to be returned to the water very quickly or they would die.

Page 7

Emma turned around and called to Joe. Once he was looking her way, she waved then pointed at the dolphin. She didn't want to frighten it by shouting loudly. Joe jumped off his rock and started running across the beach towards her as quickly as he could.

Next Emma waved wildly upwards to the cottage on the cliff. Luckily, Auntie Jess had seen her and came running. Both Auntie Jess and Joe were out

Page 8

of breath when they reached Emma.

Auntie Jess took charge. She used her mobile phone to call her friend Shona, and asked her to be as quick as she could.

"We need lots of people with buckets and jugs, and we need the RSPCA. Please be as quick as you can Shona, because the tide is going out!"

While they waited, Joe, Emma and Auntie Jess poured buckets of water over the dolphin. All the time the distance from the

Page 9

sea to the dolphin was getting longer and longer. Emma began to cry. Whatever happened, they had to keep the dolphin wet.

At last some help began to arrive, and soon the beach was full of people working together to save the stranded dolphin.

Luckily there was a large rock pool nearby, and everyone ran to and fro collecting water in all the buckets, cups, vases,

jugs and bottles they had with them.

Page 10

"Keep pouring it over him but don't get any in his blowhole, whatever you do. And don't get sand in there or he'll die."

Emma, Joe and all the others worked very hard scooping up sea water and pouring it over the dolphin to keep him wet until an RSPCA inspector arrived at last.

"Well done, everyone. You've done just the right thing," said the RSPCA inspector. He had a large sheet of white material with him,

Page 11

and he made the sheet into a sling. It was a very tricky job getting the dolphin on to the sling, but the inspector knew what he needed to do, and everyone did as they were told. Several helpers, Joe and Emma included, formed two lines, one on each side of the sling. When the RSPCA inspector gave the order, they all lifted together. Auntie Jess arranged the sling underneath the dolphin.

Page 12

Once that was done, the sling was carried to the waves and the dolphin was gently set down.

As he felt the water around him, the dolphin began to move, struggling at first, and then thrashing about more strongly as he got into deeper water. At last he was far enough out to swim.

"We were just in time," said Auntie Jess. "The sea's going out fast."

Everyone on the beach began to wave and cheer as the dolphin started to swim. Emma and

Page 13

Joe watched as it swam away, first becoming a speck in the distance, and then disappearing. Emma was sure that she saw him pause and turn round briefly as if saying "Thank you" to the people on the beach.

When everyone had taken a last look to make sure the dolphin was safe, they began to walk back up the crowded beach. Everywhere there were people chattering excitedly. It seemed that the whole town had heard and come to help.

Page 14

Everyone was so pleased that the dolphin had been saved.

By now Uncle George was wondering where Auntie Jess and the children were. He was rather worried when he saw so many people gathered on the beach. He hurried down the cliff path and towards the crowd of people. Emma saw him coming and ran to meet him.

"Whatever is wrong?" asked Uncle George, who was quite out of breath by now.

Page 15

"Don't worry," laughed Emma, giving him a hug. "No-one is hurt."

Auntie Jess and Joe joined them. As they scrambled back up the cliff path together, they were all talking at once about the morning's exciting adventure.

"And we did use our buckets," said Joe, "But not to build sandcastles!"

Fun Page

Can you remember?

1. Who lived in the clifftop cottage?
2. Which of the children had the longest legs?
3. Why Emma cried out?
4. Which creature was stranded?
5. Who called who with her mobile phone?
6. What the people needed to do to keep the creature alive?
7. Which inspector came to help?

Book 3: Autumn

Page 1

through THROUGH through through through throughout

con CON conker contain container constable construct
action mention notion section condition
go-cart hair-do cat-like
beneath BENEATH beneath beneath beneath beneath beneath
beneath
through beneath mention contain can-opener throughout confusing
before beneath through their many there party never

Page 2

The leaves were crisp and crunchy beneath their feet as Emma, Joe and their parents walked through the woods.

"It's like walking over cornflakes," laughed Emma.

"You're right," said her mother, "it is." And she stamped her feet on the heaps of leaves while Emma laughed at her.

Joe was not interested in fallen leaves. He wanted to get on with the battle.

Page 3

Every autumn Joe and Emma had a battle in the woods. It was a ritual with them.

"Can we start now, Dad?" he asked. His father smiled, and took a brown paper bag out of his jacket pocket.

"We certainly can. Come over here, both of you, and choose your conkers," he said. The children crowded round the paper bag in their father's hand, peering in and taking the biggest, brownest, shiniest conkers they could find. Their father had made

Page 4

holes, top and bottom, in the conkers. Now he took two lengths of string and threaded one through each child's favourite conker. After that, he tied a knot at the bottom of the strings and then handed the conkers back to the children, ready for the great battle.

"Right," said Dad, "I'm the referee. Joe, you stand by that oak tree. Emma, you stand beneath the beech tree." Joe and Emma did as they were told, and their father began to count.

Page 5

"One! Two! Three!" The children each took three steps towards each other. They were now only about a metre apart.

"OK," said their father. "I think Emma should go first, as she's the smallest."

Emma giggled and drew back her conker on its string. She swung it, and missed! Joe laughed. But with his first go, he missed too. Emma tapped Joe's conker very gently with her next try.

Page 6

"That was pathetic," said Joe. "I'll show you how it's done by the experts."

Drawing back his arm, Joe swung his conker and hit Emma's with a loud thud. Emma's conker shattered into lots of tiny pieces and flew in all directions.

"YES. I am the conker champion!" yelled Joe. But almost at once he stopped. A shout of surprise and pain had come from a clump of ash trees nearby. Joe, Emma

Page 7

and their parents stood quite still in shocked silence. They had not noticed that anyone else was around.

Dad hurried towards the sound. There was a man, very brown and wrinkled, as if he had spent a long time in the sun. His face looked a bit like an old, dry conker! He stood as if he was glued to the spot, holding a hand to his nose.

"Something hit me," he grumbled.

"Oh dear!" The children's father approached the

Page 8

man. "I'm afraid that was probably my daughter's conker, or a small part of it, anyway."

"It felt like rather a big part to me," the man replied grumpily. "Broken my nose

it has!"

"Oh, I don't think it's quite that bad," said the children's mother kindly. "Let me look. I'm a nurse."

The man stood quite still while his nose was

Page 9

examined. There was only one tiny red mark, but the man continued to look unhappy.

"It's just a nasty graze. I'm sure it's sore, but it will soon heal," said Mum.

"The children were having a conker fight. Emma's conker almost exploded when Joe's bashed it. It's very bad luck that a sharp piece hit your nose. We're so sorry."

"I'll tell you what. Why don't we make amends by helping you collect your

Page 10

firewood?" Dad suggested. He looked down at a wheelbarrow by the man's side. It was half full of twigs and branches from fallen trees. "We could fill that in no time at all, if we all help."

The man gave his nose another little rub, then looked at his wheelbarrow.

"All right then," he said, "you can do that."

So Joe, Emma and their parents spent the next thirty minutes hunting out the best dry

Page 11

sticks for the man. Soon the wheelbarrow was full and piled high. The man lifted the handles with a contented smile on his face.

"That's very nice," he said. "I'll have enough firewood now to start my winter fires. The dry sticks help to get the fire burning.

And I'll tell you what else. My nose doesn't hurt any more. How would you all like a cup of hot chocolate and some crumpets at my place?"

Page 12

"We'd like that very much," said the children. By then the afternoon sun had gone and the evening was rather chilly, so the man's invitation was very welcome.

They all followed their new friend through the woodland. The children picked up acorns and beech masts beneath the trees. Mum said she'd help them make model animals with them later.

After a few minutes they arrived at a small house on the edge of the woods. At the side there was a lean-to which was full of logs and

Page 13

branches ready for the winter. The man parked the loaded wheelbarrow behind the lean-to and beckoned the family into his house.

It was a cosy, old-fashioned cottage with tiny windows and small rooms. A log fire was burning in the grate.

The hot chocolate was soon ready, and they toasted crumpets in front of the fire on a long fork. It was a delicious tea. Quite soon they were all laughing about what had happened that

Page 14

afternoon, even the man.

As they scrunched through the leaves on their way home, Emma turned to Joe.

"It's been a fun day, thanks to your champion conker!" she said, and they all agreed.

Fun Page

1. Do you know another name for conkers?
2. In which season are conkers collected?
3. What did Emma think walking on the autumn leaves was like?
4. Why did the children's father tie a knot at the end of the strings?
5. What kind of tree do acorns come from?
6. Do you know how many wheels there are on a wheelbarrow?

Book 4: Winter

Page 1

ment MENT cement movement moment comment argument
already ALREADY already already already almost also already
paid PAID paid paid paid paid paid paid
beside BESIDE beside beside beside besides beside besides
movement comment action condition comment cemented
already across already almost above already above across
before beside behind beneath besides paid said beneath
I have already paid for this chocolate.
He wrote his comments beneath mine.

Page 2

It was a cold, frosty day in December.
Joe and Emma went with their father to do the
weekly shopping. Two days before, their mother had
slipped on a patch of ice and broken her
ankle, so she needed to rest it.

"You two can be a great help to me," their
father told them, as he studied the shopping list in
the supermarket car park. "I'm not used to
all this shopping malarkey!"

They took a trolley from the trolley park

Page 3

beside the door, and went into the store. At this
time of year, the store was crowded, so the shopping
would take longer than usual. Emma and Joe
took turns to push the trolley while their
father selected items from the shelves and placed
them in the trolley. Soon there were only a
few items still to find, all everyday things.
Baked beans, honey, eggs, teabags, washing
powder and pasta shells.

"This is easy," said their father. "There's

Page 4

nothing to it! We'll be finished in a moment."

The store was warm and brightly lit and, because it
was only three weeks away from Christmas, the
shelves were decorated with tinsel and coloured
baubles. At the end of each aisle there were

displays of Christmas goodies. There was a pyramid of chocolate biscuit tins at the end of the pasta and rice aisle.

"Special Chocolate Assortment. Buy one, get one free." Joe read out the

Page 5

notice. "That's a great offer. Can we have some, Dad? PLEASE?"

Dad reached to the top of the pyramid as it was rather high. He handed two tins of biscuits to Joe, who put them in the trolley.

Emma, meanwhile, was looking at an arrangement of Christmas crackers, great big ones, containing a joke, a paper hat, a snap and a small model animal.

"We haven't got any crackers yet,

Page 6

Dad," she commented. "Can we get some?"

"All right," said Dad. "At this rate the trolley will soon be too heavy to push!"

"How about some Scottish shortbread, Dad?" asked Joe, having already placed a special offer jar of nuts and raisins in the trolley. "Auntie Jess and Uncle George are coming on boxing day, and they love shortbread."

"So do I," said Dad, and added a large

Page 7

tin to their enormous pile of shopping.

The trolley was already full, but the children went on darting around the store, very excited as they spied more and more Christmas favourites.

"I suppose we've got to buy all this stuff sooner or later," their father said, as he squeezed a chocolate log in beside the Turkish Delight which Joe had just added to the groaning trolley.

After about an hour and a half, they made their

Page 8

way to the checkout, and the children began to unload the trolley. It took quite a while, and the man behind them "tutted" impatiently. Joe and Emma's father took his wallet from his pocket smiling at the girl behind the checkout.

"That's 187 pounds and 45 pence, please," she said. Joe and Emma's father went white.

"Oh dear. We have a slight problem," he said rather sheepishly.

"What's the matter? Haven't you got enough

Page 9

money, Dad?" Emma asked anxiously.

"No, not quite, and I forgot to bring the credit card," said her father miserably. The man behind them in the queue, who had already tutted, now moved away to another checkout, grumbling about being held up.

"Will we have to put some things back?" asked Joe.

"I'm afraid so," said his father. "I think we all had a few mad moments and got a

Page 10

bit carried away."

The checkout girl was very sympathetic. "Never mind," she said. "It happens to us all."

Joe and Emma watched as the crackers, the chocolate biscuits and all the Christmas things went on one side. All they were left with were the boring items from their mother's list, and the big tin of luxury Scottish shortbread. Dad paid the bill as the children loaded the bags

Page 11

back into the trolley. They all felt miserable. Joe helped Dad load the few bags into the boot of the car, while Emma took the trolley back.

They travelled home in silence. When they walked into the house, their mother called out from the sitting room, where she was reading with her leg

bandaged and up on the sofa.

"Ah, there you are at last. We've had a mysterious parcel delivered while you were out.

Page 12

It's in the kitchen. Perhaps you could deal with it?"

The children rushed into the kitchen, and found a large box. It had come from Auntie Jean.

Inside they discovered a hamper full of Christmas treats. There were chocolate biscuits, crackers, shortbread, Turkish Delight, and all the things they had left behind in the supermarket, and many more besides.

The children cheered up at once, and began to empty the large box. Dad smiled as he

Page 13

put all the groceries away.

"Well, well! Our good Christmas fairy was watching over us all the time," he laughed.

When they had packed everything away, they went into the sitting room to see Mum.

"Whatever have you all been up to?" she asked. "You were certainly a very long time doing the shopping!"

They all looked at each other and started

Page 14

laughing again. "I'll make a cup of tea," said Dad, "then in a moment we'll tell you all about our afternoon."

"And maybe we could have a shortbread with our tea," giggled Emma. "We've got more than enough for Christmas!"

Fun Page

1. Why didn't Joe and Emma's mother go shopping?
2. Which goods were displayed in a pyramid?
3. What special thing did Emma want to buy for Christmas?
4. How much was the original shopping bill?

5. What was delivered while the children were out shopping with their father?
6. What do you like best at Christmas?

Series 11: Journeys

Book 1: Journey to the Indies

Page 1

less LESS bless useless unless careless fearless
ness ness happiness darkness likeness kindness
ful FUL useful forgetful handful fearful
ity ITY city pity quality personality
world WORLD wonderful world beautiful world
heartless senseless lesson gentleness carelessness
forgiveness goodness skilful faithful disgraceful
opportunity quantity possibility ally
legally intentionally occasionally full

Page 2

Long, long ago, many people believed that the world was flat. Christopher Columbus was not one of them. He believed that the world was round. But how could he prove that he was right?

Columbus was born in the city of Genoa in 1451. Genoa is a busy sea port on the west coast of Italy. When he was small, he liked to gaze at the beautiful ships in the port. His greatest happiness was watching the skilful sailors at work. He made up his

Page 3

mind that he would become a sailor. One day he would sail from Genoa and explore the world.

When he was old enough, he worked on a trading ship which carried wine and cloth to other countries. Even in bad weather he was a fearless sailor. When there was less work to do, he would draw maps. Soon he was a skilful map and chart maker. Usually he spent any spare time reading, learning as much as possible about other explorers. Some had found wonderful

Page 4

treasure. Others had come home with useful goods like silks and spices from around the world.

Eventually Columbus decided it was time for him to discover new lands. His dream was to sail to China and the Indies. Usually ships sailed east. He would go west, and in this way prove that the world was round and not flat.

Columbus had to find ships and money. He was given two ships by the king and queen of Spain. He already owned a ship

Page 5

called the Santa Maria. He would take a total company of 88 men on the three ships. Columbus did not have a map to follow. No-one had ever travelled this way. He would find the way by the Pole Star.

Columbus and his men loaded a large quantity of food and tools on to the ships. They took enough for one year. It was Columbus' responsibility to provide for his crew.

Finally they set sail.

Page 6

At first the sea was calm and there was happiness and excitement in the air. But this did not last. As the weeks passed, things got worse. The ships stank. The food was awful. The sailors did not have beds, and had to sleep on deck. In the darkness, it was hard to find a dry place to sleep at night.

When the weather was rough, the sailors became fearful. They felt powerless when huge waves pounded the ships and splashed over them.

Page 7

"It is senseless going on," they grumbled. "We shall surely drown unless we go back." They were so angry that they wanted to throw Columbus overboard.

Then at last, on 12th October 1492 they saw branches in the water. Joyfully they realised this meant there would be land nearby. They

had found the place we now call the West Indies. Columbus chose this name because he believed that India was close by.

Page 8

As Columbus and his men rowed to the shore, the native people came to greet them. The Indians showed the travellers great kindness, showering them with handfuls of gold and many other fine gifts. Columbus did not show them much fairness, however, giving them only beads and bells. Even though the Indians liked their brightness, the gifts were almost worthless. Knowing this, Columbus still accepted a large quantity of gold from them.

Page 9

The sailors were given strange foods to eat, delightful foods they had never seen before. There were pineapples and potatoes. They tasted sweetcorn, which Columbus called "Indian corn".

Columbus and his men were full of amazement at what they saw. One day they noticed some men skilfully rolling up dried leaves. They made a tube shape, and then they set light to it intentionally and puffed smoke!

Page 10

This was the first time the Europeans had seen cigarettes.

Some days later, Columbus and his men sailed on. They discovered the places we now call Cuba and Haiti. Columbus built a fort at Haiti and left some men there to rule the island. Columbus and the remainder of his company then set off back to Spain.

On the way back there were huge storms, and a very frightening possibility that they would all

Page 11

drown. But at last all the battered ships and exhausted sailors reached Spain safely.

Columbus went to see the king and queen to tell them about the wonderful lands he had found on the far side of the ocean. He presented them with many gifts, including gold, parrots and even a stuffed crocodile! Naturally they were delighted with such gifts.

The next year Columbus set off on his voyages again. This time he took 17 ships and

Page 12

over a thousand sailors. Weeks after setting out, Columbus discovered more new countries, including Jamaica. He also went back to Haiti, where he set up a colony.

Several more of the Spanish sailors settled there, but the colony was not well or fairly run. The men in charge only cared about money, and had no interest in the well-being of the native people. Some were taken to Spain as slaves, along with a large quantity of gold.

Page 13

Columbus was a wonderful sailor and explorer, but he was rather a useless governor. In his lifetime he made four long voyages to what is called "The New World", discovering new lands each time. Often he and his men survived terrible weather at sea. On his last journey he found Central America.

Columbus died in Spain in 1506, believing he had found a westerly route to Asia. He had not, but he had made the

Page 14

greatest discovery of his time. He has long been known as the man who "discovered" America. The second Monday in October is still celebrated as Columbus Day in the United States of America.

Book 2: Journey into Africa

Page 1

ought OUGHT ought bought fought sought brought ought
character CHARACTER character characteristic character
spirit SPIRIT spirit spirited dispirited spirit spirits
declare DECLARE declare declares declared declaring declare
knowledge KNOWLEDGE knowledge knowledgeable knowledge
acknowledge
character ought thought characteristic nought characterised fought
Livingstone Stanley England Africa
Scotland medicine language exploring

Page 2

David Livingstone was born in Scotland in 1813. Like many children in his village, he started work when he was only ten years old. He worked in a cotton mill from 6 o'clock in the morning until 8 o'clock at night. It was a hard life, but David did not mind. He was a spirited boy. He thought he ought to learn as much as he could and expand his knowledge of the world.

With part of his first week's wages, David bought a Latin book. He went to school for

Page 3

two hours every night when work was over. Even after such long and tiring days, he still studied at home until midnight.

The Livingstone family were devout Christians. David declared that he wanted to become a missionary, and teach people in other countries about Jesus. He thought he would be able to do more good if he became a doctor. So he started to study medicine part-time, while still working as many hours as he could to pay

Page 4

for his travels later on.

When he was 27 years old he completed his medical studies and became a doctor. That same year, 1840, David set sail for his first visit to Africa. It took twelve weeks to get there by boat.

After spending some time with another Scottish missionary called Dr. Robert Moffat in

southern Africa, David travelled 700 miles inland to start his own mission. He

Page 5

married Dr. Moffat's daughter Mary, and they had four children. David and Mary thought they should get to know all they could about Africa, so they learned the native languages. Sometimes David's family travelled with him.

Very little was known in Europe about the enormous land mass of Africa, which was called "the dark continent". During his three trips there, which were spread over more than thirty years, David Livingstone explored and made the first maps of

Page 6

almost a million square miles of Africa.

Many times Livingstone met with danger, and often suffered from fever or malaria. Only a strong character like him could have survived. Soon after getting married, for example, David was attacked by a lion, which badly wounded his left arm so that he could no longer use it. This did not put him off teaching and healing people.

When Livingstone died, some of his diaries were brought back to England. In them he wrote

Page 7

about the rivers that were full of crocodiles and the many kinds of poisonous snakes his party had to look out for on their travels. In one entry he described trying to scare a lion away from the camp because it was stealing their meat!

On his expeditions David took very little with him. Just a small tent to sleep in, a blanket for warmth and some medicines.

David's first journey took him right across the Kalahari Desert, where almost nothing grew

Page 8

because of the drought conditions. No white people had ever been there before. David preached the gospel, and a great deal of his time was spent healing the sick,

sometimes using medicines he had brought from Scotland. Sick people would often be brought long distances by their friends. Sometimes he had to operate, and he did not always have painkillers. Many of the Africans were strong, proud characters. Even when sharp instruments were used on them, they would sit and talk as if they felt nothing! Because

Page 9

Livingstone cared for the African people, they came to love and trust him.

He had a great spirit of adventure. In two and a half years Livingstone completed a remarkable journey from the west coast of Africa to the mouth of the Zambezi river on the east coast. It was a trip of four thousand three hundred miles, and Livingstone became the first European to complete it. Along the way he had discovered a waterfall.

Page 10

The African name for it was Mosi-oa-tunya, which means "the smoke that thunders". Livingstone named it Victoria Falls after the British queen.

During his time in Africa, Livingstone was horrified to find that people were being captured and sold as slaves. For thirty years he fought to bring an end to slavery and declared that he would do all he could to put an end to the slave trade. One day he was so distressed and

Page 11

angry to see a long line of slaves chained together that he attacked the armed men guarding them. They ran away and the slaves were set free.

The slave owners were angry and ambushed Livingstone, injuring some of his men with poisoned arrows. But Livingstone and his men fought with spirit. The slave owners ran away. Africa's main slave market was closed one month after Livingstone died.

His third trip to Africa was to be his

Page 12

last. With his loyal African companions, Sisu and Chuma, he explored and made maps of some of Africa's great lakes. As he searched in vain for the source of the river Nile, the rest of the world had heard nothing about Livingstone's progress for months. Many people thought he had died. An American reporter called Henry Morton Stanley was sent to Africa to look for him. He sought for him for many months. When they met at last, Stanley

Page 13

is supposed to have greeted him by saying "Doctor Livingstone, I presume." This event in November 1871 has become one of the best known meetings in history.

Stanley had brought fresh medical supplies. Once more Livingstone set out to continue his travels. But he was a very sick man by then. One morning in May 1873, at the age of sixty, he was found dead, kneeling beside his bed. His heart was buried in his

Page 14

beloved Africa, but his body was carried for many miles by his companions, and sent back to England on a ship. He is buried in Westminster Abbey with many other famous people.

David Livingstone discovered more about Africa than anyone had ever known before, and passed on this knowledge. During his thousands of miles travelling on foot, he made careful maps wherever he went. He preached the gospel, healed the sick and helped bring an end to

Page 15

slavery. Livingstone was an amazing character never to be forgotten.

Book 3: Journey to the South Pole

Page 1

below BELOW below below before beneath beside below
between BETWEEN between below between beside between
behind

beyond BEYOND beyond beneath beyond between beneath below
question QUESTION question questions questioned questioning
against AGAINST against against against against

Go below deck before it is too late.

The men shared the food between them.

The river is beyond the trees.

The children asked question after question.

I pushed hard against the door.

Page 2

The South Pole is in the Antarctic, and is the most southerly point on planet Earth. To reach the South Pole, explorers have to travel over icy land. It is the coldest place in the world. Many times people tried to reach it, but everything was against them. It was so cold in the Antarctic, far below freezing all the year round. Even on the warmest days, vast icebergs float in the sea. At the coldest times of the year, the sea froze completely

Page 3

for weeks at a time. Even though ships pushed against the ice, they were not strong enough to break a way through.

One man who really wanted to explore the Antarctic was Robert Scott. Over and over again he asked himself the same question. Can my name go into the history books as the first person to reach the South Pole?

Robert Falcon Scott was born in England in 1868. When he was thirteen, he

Page 4

joined the Royal Navy. He soon proved himself to be a determined character. He was chosen to lead an expedition to the Antarctic in a

ship called Discovery in 1901.

He soon found out what it was like to live in temperatures far below freezing. He learned to travel over snow and ice, using tough Siberian dogs to pull sledges laden with food and other vital items. He studied the rocks and wildlife in the area. During this

Page 5

three year expedition, emperor penguin chicks were photographed for the first time.

When he returned to England, Scott continued with his career in the Royal Navy. He got married and had one son, Peter, who became a famous naturalist. Scott had enjoyed his scientific work in the Antarctic. He was ambitious, and had a strong desire to be the first to reach the South Pole. But he had to raise a great deal of money and do much

Page 6

planning before he would be ready to set off.

In 1910 Scott set sail at last for New Zealand in his ship Terra Nova. This was where Scott and his men would make final preparations and load up the ship with everything they would need for their demanding expedition. Between them, they loaded food, tents, sledges and tools, as well as ponies and dogs. They thought of all they would need to reach the South Pole and do their scientific work on the way.

Page 7

As they made preparations, Scott had some bad news. An explorer from Norway, Roald Amundsen, was also hoping to be the first man to the South Pole. He, too, knew how to survive in frozen lands. At first he had planned to reach the North Pole before anyone else. But in 1909, before Amundsen even set off on his trip, an explorer called Robert Peary reached it before him.

Amundsen was disappointed. He had spent a

Page 8

lot of money on a strong ship called Fram and had gathered a team of explorers and dog handlers. He decided to try to be first to reach the South Pole instead. The question now was who would get there first? The race was on between Scott and Amundsen. It would be a race against time.

Scott and his men set sail from New Zealand in the Terra Nova. The ship pushed its way through the ice. Eventually they got to Ross Island in the Antarctic and set

Page 9

up their base camp there. They built a hut to live in while they waited for better weather and made final preparations.

Amundsen arrived and set up camp ten days later. His base camp was about 100 kilometres nearer to the South Pole, on the edge of the Ross ice shelf. He planned a different route to the Pole, as he was not intending to do much scientific work on the way. Amundsen's party stayed on Fram as they

Page 10

made their final preparations.

Both parties had to plan carefully for the dangerous trip before them. They spent the winter making several journeys to leave food and fuel at places along their planned routes.

Scott kept a diary. In this way we know a lot about the expedition. For example, the men caught fish through holes in the ice. Amongst the party there were experts in weather, rocks and wildlife, and even a photographer.

Page 11

Finally the Antarctic summer arrived. The days were lighter and warmer. Remember that even summers in the Antarctic are much, much colder than our winters! Everything was checked before the journey began.

Scott's final party consisted of four men besides him. They were Dr. Edward Wilson, Henry Bowers, Captain Lawrence Oates and Edgar Evans.

Within days of each other, the two parties

Page 12

left their base camps to try to reach the South Pole. Amundsen's men set out first. Scott's party were caught in a blizzard, where the snow stuck to them and froze their skin. They had to stay in their tents for several days and wait for the blizzard to end. All the ponies died in the unusually bad weather. With them gone, Scott and his men had to pull the sledges instead, which slowed them down. But they fought on against the bitter wind and driving snow.

Page 13

A few weeks after setting out from the base camp, Scott's support party turned back. The five men led by Scott went on alone for two more weeks. It was Bowers who first spotted a black flag. This showed that Amundsen's party had got to the South Pole before them. Scott and his men arrived on 17th or 18th January 1912, only days after Amundsen had won the race to the South Pole. It was a terrible

Page 14

disappointment.

For Amundsen and his men, the journey had been easier. Strong dogs went before them to pull the sledges. They had survived the terrible weather much better than Scott's ponies. Amundsen and his men got back safely to their base camp. Later Amundsen went home to Norway. He continued his expeditions, and later became the first man to fly over the North Pole.

Page 15

In low spirits, Scott and his men started on the long journey back. The food they had brought was running out. Weakness and tiredness made the travelling speed slow. The weather became very cold. Some of the men had frostbite.

Evans died following a bad fall just days after the party started their journey back. Captain Oates became very ill after getting frostbite in his foot. He knew that he would slow the others down because he could not walk. On

Page 16

the morning of his thirty second birthday, he walked out into the snow beyond the tent they all shared, knowing that he would quickly die of cold. As he left he said "I am just going outside and may be some time." This was a very brave act to try to save his friends. He was never seen again, and his body was never found.

A few days later, on 29th March 1912, Scott and the other two explorers also died of cold, weakness and hunger. Unknown

Page 17

to them, they were only eleven miles from their store of food and 148 miles from their base camp. A search party found them six months later. The bodies of Scott, Wilson and Bowers were left in the Antarctic, buried under a mound of snow. Scott's diary was found and brought back. The whole party were seen as heroes when the news reached England.

There is no question that Scott, Amundsen and their men were very brave and fearless explorers. The

Page 18

conditions in the Antarctic are extremely harsh. Even now, with modern equipment, the biting winds mean that many explorers turn back. When you are older, you may like to read Captain Robert Scott's diary and learn more about his journey to the South Pole.

Book 4: Journey to the Moon

Page 1

immediate IMMEDIATE immediately immediate immediately
receive RECEIVE receive receives received receivers receiver
receiving RECEIVING receiving receive receiving received

"Come to my room immediately!"

"Did you receive my letter last week?"

"Yes, I do remember receiving it, thank you."

astronaut cosmonaut spacecraft Earth
equipment launching rocket lunar module

Page 2

For hundreds of years people looked at the Moon and stars, and dreamed about exploring what lay beyond our world. Astronomers studied space from the Earth, and found out that in space there is no weather and no air. They knew how hard it would be to get into space.

A strong force called gravity keeps people and objects on the surface of the Earth. A spacecraft would need a very powerful push to enable it to escape the pull of gravity.

Page 3

There would be many difficulties to overcome if humans were going to be able to travel to the Moon and to the planets beyond.

In space, there is no food or water. There is no air to breathe. A spacecraft would have to carry all the air, food, water and equipment needed to keep the crew alive.

People who travel in space are called astronauts by the Americans and cosmonauts by the Russians. Before they can

Page 4

go into space, crews have to receive training. Naturally they have to be very fit. They also have to be strong and fearless characters, for their work is very dangerous. Before they go, they have to get used to weightlessness. When they undo the straps that keep them in their chairs or beds in space,

they will immediately start floating about in the cabin.

The astronauts also have to be skilful at eating and drinking in space. Water will not pour from a glass. They have to suck drinks through a

Page 5

straw. Their food is usually made into a paste. They have to squeeze it into their mouths from a tube, like a toothpaste tube.

In space, the astronauts usually breathe the air in the cabin. When they go outside, they have to wear a space helmet which covers their face and protects their eyes against the strong sunlight. They carry air in a small tank. They breathe this air through a breathing tube like a deep sea diver does. They wear

Page 6

special suits which protect the body and keep it warm.

The first man went into space on 12th April 1961. He was a Russian cosmonaut called Yuri Gagarin. He flew once round the Earth before landing safely to a big welcome. Ed White, an American, was the first man to have the chance to walk in space. Before stepping out into space, he was attached securely to the spacecraft

Page 7

by a strong cable. He wore an air pack on his chest and held a space gun. When he fired a jet of gas, he could move.

Other men and women also went into space in American and Russian rockets. Each time the crews got a bit further into space and tried new things, in preparation for landing someone on the Moon. Rockets were sent to orbit the Moon, taking photographs to determine the best landing place. The race between America

Page 8

and Russia was hotting up. Eight years after

Gagarin had done his first space flight, still no-one had landed on the Moon. The question was, who would get there first?

A space rocket works a bit like a firework rocket. Hot gases shoot out of the back of the rocket, pushing against gravity and launching it into the air.

By the summer of 1969, the Americans thought they were ready to land on the Moon. The

Page 9

spacecraft, Apollo 11, stood loaded and ready for launch. On 16th July three American astronauts boarded Apollo 11 on its launch pad in Florida, USA.

They were strapped into the top section. They had to lie flat or they would be hurt by the force of the giant launch rocket. The middle of the spacecraft was the equipment store. It had been carefully packed with all they would need on the eight day flight. At the

Page 10

bottom was a small spacecraft called a lunar module which would land two of the astronauts on the Moon.

Soon it was time for take-off. The astronauts received their final orders from the people in ground control. If there were any problems, the ground control team would help immediately. All was ready. There was great excitement.

Five. Four. Three. Two. One ...
LIFT OFF!

Page 11

Apollo 11 sped into the sky with a great roar, going faster and faster. Soon it was in orbit, and travelled right round the Earth one and a half times. The astronauts fired the final rocket stage, and the spacecraft was on its way to the Moon far beyond.

After about three days, they were near the Moon. The crew received an order from ground control.

They fired the spacecraft's engine to go backwards, which slowed them right down. They were then

Page 12

orbiting the Moon.

Two of the crew, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin, put on their space suits before they crawled into the lunar module, which was called "The Eagle". Then they received the order to land on the Moon. Below, on Earth, over 600 million people watched this exciting historic moment on television.

Slowly the lunar module descended to the surface of the Moon. Immediately the news

Page 13

came over the radio that "The Eagle has landed!" Cheers broke out on Earth far below.

On 21st July 1969, Neil Armstrong became the first man to step on the Moon's surface. He climbed down the nine rungs of the ladder from The Eagle. As he stepped onto the Moon he declared,

"That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind!"

Buzz Aldrin soon joined him. People on

Page 14

Earth were receiving rather blurred pictures from the Moon on television.

The two astronauts began to explore the Moon. Because there was no air or water, there were no plants or other life. A thin layer of dust covered the Moon, so that the men left footprints. There were lumps of rock all around. There were also great pits called craters. The astronauts collected samples of Moon dust and rocks to take back with them.

Page 15

They also took photographs and hoisted an American flag on the Moon.

Armstrong and Aldrin became quite skilful at

moving around. Because they were almost weightless, it was hard to walk normally. They found it easier to jump and hop. On later trips, a moon buggy was used making moving easier.

After two and a half hours, their work was done. They climbed back on board and rested for seven hours before blasting off to rejoin

Page 16

the main spacecraft.

All the time Armstrong and Aldrin were on the Moon, Michael Collins was orbiting round the Moon in the main rocket. It surely seemed very lonely for him up there, with the whole world watching the other two astronauts. The Eagle skilfully "docked" with the command module. The three astronauts started their long trip back to Earth.

On 24th July 1969, Apollo 11

Page 17

splashed down safely in the Pacific ocean. It landed just fifteen miles from a ship which was waiting to welcome the astronauts home. Even the President of the United States of America was on board. The three fearless astronauts received a hero's welcome.

Theirs was one of the greatest journeys ever made. Man had finally landed on the Moon.

Series 12: The Haunted Cottage

Book 1: The Cottage at the Forest Edge

Page 1

young YOUNG young young younger youngest youngster young
according ACCORDING according accordingly according
upon UPON upon upon upon whereupon upon
themselves THEMSELVES themselves themselves
these THESE these these these
must MUST must must musty mustard must
According to him, these young people must have brought it upon
themselves

Page 2

It had stood there for as long as Mr and Mrs Langley could remember, empty and neglected. Mrs Langley's mother could just recall when she was very young and the cottage was owned by a forestry worker and his family. Flowers bloomed in the spring and summer and, at the back of the cottage, a walled garden hid from view a large vegetable plot, various sheds and outhouses. It was a stone cottage built with local quarry stone. The tiny

Page 3

windows were dressed with pretty floral curtains and the paintwork gleamed in the sunshine. Children's voices echoed around the area and the whole place, according to Mrs Langley's mother, was friendly and welcoming. At Christmas-time a holly wreath was nailed upon the door with a large notice of invitation for anyone to call in. As the cottage was isolated and standing on the edge of the forest, the family kept themselves to themselves, but always enjoyed having

Page 4

visitors. These visitors tended to be people from the village who were out walking in the forest. All the year round the cottage was a hive of activity and a talking point among the villagers. Nobody seemed to know much about the family, which must have led to hours of interested gossip over garden walls in the village!

On breezy days the washing line in the garden was full of bed linen and clothes being blown and dried by the wind. During the winter months,

Page 5

smoke curled into the sky from the cottage chimney. At dusk when the daylight began to fade, the lights were put on and the warm glow lit up the tiny windows. There was a strong contrast between the cold darkness outside and the warmth and cosiness within the cottage.

But that was a long time ago. No-one talked about the cottage now except to mention its gloom and loneliness, and a certain mystery which seemed to surround it.

Page 6

So what was the mystery and what had happened?

Mr and Mrs Langley's sons Ben and William had often asked their parents about the cottage. They had passed it many times when they went walking in the forest. They would ask questions over and over again, but the answers were always vague. As they got older and were in their tenth and twelfth years, they became more and more interested in the cottage. They thought of it as their Grandmother had described it and as their parents had known it.

Page 7

According to their Grandmother, the family had left very suddenly and no-one knew why and where they had gone. Some people claimed that the furniture still remained in the cottage and nothing had been moved.

Over the years, the sparkling windows had become dull and dirty. The paintwork was now peeling from the window-frames and door, and blistering in the sunshine. Some of the window-frames were rotting, and were now ill-fitting and

Page 8

partly open. The pretty curtains were faded, torn and hanging in shreds. The garden gate was off its hinges and lying against the hedge. The front garden, which had once been a blaze of colour and sweetly scented, was now covered in brambles and weeds. The path leading to the front door was completely overgrown by the untidy plants. To get there would involve battling through tall stinging nettles and thorns. Tiles from the roof had begun to fall and the

Page 9

guttering was sagging and broken. When it rained, the

water gushed down the walls and made pools by the side of the cottage.

The wall which surrounded the back garden was falling down and piles of stones could be found outside the garden. Birds twittered and nested in the eaves of the cottage and in the straggling bushes, while rabbits and other little creatures had the place to themselves as they scuttled about in the undergrowth. These were the only signs of life.

Page 10

The once pretty cottage stood forlorn and derelict.

William and Ben wanted to hack a way through the brambles and take a look in at the windows, but their mother wouldn't hear of it and always discouraged them.

It had been a particularly long hot summer. The boys were walking home one evening after playing in the forest, when they had a scare. All of a sudden there seemed to be a chill

Page 11

in the air, and far off they heard the first rumblings of thunder.

"We'd better get home," said Ben.

It would only take ten minutes to get there if they took the shortcut. As they approached the cottage they suddenly heard a loud noise. The two boys stood still as if frozen to the spot, their hearts pounding. The sound had come from the direction of the cottage.

William clutched Ben's arm.

Page 12

"Whatever was that?" he whispered.

"I don't know," said his brother. "But I'm sure it came from the cottage."

As he spoke, his voice sounded a bit wobbly. The boys felt like running away, but couldn't. Instead they got down on their hands and knees and crawled towards the broken-down wall. The cottage seemed to be drawing them

closer. They began to feel cold as they crouched by the wall, shivering.

Page 13

The thunder was getting nearer, and every now and again lightning lit up the darkening sky. They knew that they would have to pluck up courage and run home as fast as they could. Their legs felt like jelly, but they managed to make themselves get to their feet. The side of the cottage was barely visible, but they could just make out two small windows. According to Ben later, they looked like eyes watching them. As they turned away, a light suddenly shone out.

Page 14

Without thinking about it, they took off like hares, jumping over stones and roots as they tore down the path towards home.

By the time they eventually reached their own front gate they were breathless and gasping. Only then did they look at each other, their faces flushed and sweaty with fear. They scrambled through the door and banged it shut behind them. At that very moment there was an enormous clap of thunder right overhead.

Page 15

Their father heard the commotion and came to see what was happening.

"You were just in time to avoid a drenching," he laughed, "but you look as though you've seen a ghost! Come and sit down and get your breath back."

The two boys were so relieved to be home, but felt excited too. They suddenly realised how very hungry they both were after their frightening experience. So when Mrs Langley

Page 16

called to say the meal was ready, they washed their hands and quickly sat down at the table.

As they tucked into huge helpings of roast

chicken, their mother asked why they had been so late home.

"You nearly got caught in the storm, and we were beginning to get worried," she said.

The boys glanced at each other and very slowly the story was told.

"Well, I think you two young things are

Page 17

letting your imaginations run away with you a bit," said their father. "My advice is to forget about it if you can. And, if it spooks you out, you must keep away from the old cottage."

Book 2: A Mystery Develops

Page 1

neither NEITHER neither neither neither
necessary NECESSARY necessary necessary necessary
ourselves OURSELVES ourselves ourselves ourselves
word WORD word words sword crossword word
either EITHER either either either either
upon these upon word these upon words these
neither necessary necessary either neither either
ourselves ourselves themselves ourselves themselves

Page 2

William and Ben could not get the events of the previous evening out of their minds. It was extremely difficult to concentrate at school. They wanted to talk over their frightening experience as soon as possible.

"We ought to keep this to ourselves for now, and not breathe a word to our friends," said William at lunchtime, when they had a chance to chat.

"It's a pity we didn't ask Gran about the mystery before what happened yesterday," said

Page 3

Ben thoughtfully.

"Well, we could go to see her either today or tomorrow," replied William. Neither of them wanted to wait, but because Ben had football

training after school, they decided it was necessary to hang on for one more day. They wanted to find out all they could about the mystery surrounding the cottage before they went there again.

The next morning, they told their mother that they would be late as they were planning to visit

Page 4

Gran on the way home. They knew she would be worried otherwise, and they hoped she'd let Gran know they were coming. Gran always made something special for tea when the boys went round after school.

The school day seemed to drag, but at last they were on their way to Gran's bungalow. As they had hoped, she had prepared tea and scones for them. The three of them sat around the table chatting, as they worked their way

Page 5

through a delicious batch of scones with cream and home-made strawberry jam.

"Will you tell us about the cottage by the forest edge?" asked Ben.

"Why do you want to know?" asked their grandmother rather reluctantly.

When the boys had related their experience, she seemed a little bit concerned.

"Well, it's a pity that happened," she said. "But I'll tell you what I can. On

Page 6

no account must either of you enter that cottage. It may be very unsafe."

The boys listened intently while the story gradually unfolded. Apparently, two brothers had occupied the cottage after their parents had died. The two young men shared the everyday tasks between them. They seemed nice enough, but kept very much to themselves.

One late autumn day, some villagers were walking past the cottage when they witnessed a

Page 7

heated argument. The sound of raised voices, smashing glass and splintering timber filled the afternoon air. A full investigation followed, with many questions being asked in the neighbouring village. All the villagers spoke in whispers, and the whole place had an air of fearfulness. What happened on that awful afternoon remained unknown, despite the investigation. There were signs of a fierce struggle, but neither of the brothers was ever seen again. Had a crime

Page 8

been committed? Had it been necessary for one of the brothers to run away? No-one ever found out.

The cottage remained empty for several years before it was bought by a forestry worker and his family. The villagers were pleased to think that the cottage would be lived in again. But it was not to be. Only days after moving in, the family left in a rush, without a word.

Local people had become afraid, and totally avoided the place. Over the years,

Page 9

the cottage had gradually fallen into disrepair and neglect.

"So you see," said the children's grandmother, "It's not the sort of place for you to hang around."

The boys sat quietly for a moment, neither of them saying a word. They were both grateful to their grandmother for telling them about the cottage. It really was quite a spooky story!

As they walked home, they discussed possible explanations for what had happened.

Page 10

It certainly was mysterious, and rather exciting. They felt an uneasy urge to visit the cottage again, but would not do so immediately. Gran had said it would be very unsafe.

The days passed, and the boys realised that the winter weather would be against them if they left it

much longer. So, one afternoon in late October, they set out with a tingling feeling of adventure.

The afternoon sun was quite strong, and was shining on the side of the cottage as they approached. They

Page 11

stood and watched for a few minutes, but all was peaceful. Cautiously, they made their way to the broken-down wall, and spent a little time plucking up courage to climb into the cottage garden.

Eventually, William led the way, closely followed by Ben. The garden was totally overgrown, so they had to pick their way carefully through the brambles, which tore at their clothes. They kept as low to the ground as

Page 12

they could, and made their way to a window.

Ben pulled aside the broken shutter. The glass was missing from the window. A few pieces of shabby furniture were still in the room, but everything there had definitely seen better days, and looked dusty and in need of repair. There was a musty, damp smell, and there were large cobwebs everywhere.

"Ugh," William shuddered. "It's really creepy! We ought not to have come."

Page 13

Ben didn't feel much braver himself, but having got this far, he wanted to explore. He persuaded William that they may as well have a quick look inside. With a little effort, Ben clambered onto the window-sill, and then in through the window. William followed.

The pair were now actually inside the cottage, and neither of them felt very brave. They stayed just where they had landed, listening intently. It was so quiet that the silence almost

Page 14

whistled in their ears. They both noticed how

cold it felt.

On tiptoe, they moved to the door on the opposite side of the room. This led to an inner hallway which was quite dark. A stairway wound to the upper floor, and they made their way up. Each stair creaked horribly as they trod on it.

Upstairs, the three rooms were linked together, and they crept right to the end one. Here, in one

Page 15

corner, there was a half-open door. Ben peered in. Right in the middle of the floor stood an old trunk, facing the far wall, and with its lid open. They crept in, and both knelt beside the trunk to look inside. Because of the excitement, they had forgotten their fear.

Then, quite suddenly, the door slammed shut.

The boys froze. They dared not move a muscle as they stared at the closed door. They strained their ears to listen. Sure enough, there

Page 16

was the sound of footsteps on the wooden stairs. They seemed to be getting nearer and nearer. The boys' hearts were beating so loudly that they were sure that whoever it was would hear them.

The footsteps stopped. The boys stared at the door handle. Was it going to move? They both held their breath. There was absolute silence for what seemed like a very long time.

They jumped as they heard movement again. More footsteps, but this time they seemed to be fading

Page 17

away. The boys crouched, motionless, beside the open trunk. Long after they heard another door slam in the distance, they remained where they were, not uttering a word or daring to move.

By this time it was beginning to be dusk, and the sun had almost disappeared. William and Ben desperately wanted to get out of the cottage, but were terrified. At long last,

Ben shuffled over to the door, and opened it with trembling hands. There was complete silence.

Page 18

The boys stumbled back the way they'd come and down the stairs. They ran to the window they'd climbed in. Their exit was quick! They were out, across the garden and over the wall in a flash. William was sure that something had brushed past him as he climbed through the window.

Only when they reached the safety of the forest path did they stop for breath. Neither of them looked very brave now!

"What on earth was in the cottage?"

Page 19

whispered Ben.

"Well, we both heard it," replied his brother. "I think that place is haunted, and I don't want to go there ever again!"

"Neither do I!" Ben agreed, as they started for home.

Book 3: The Mystery Deepens

Page 1

whose WHOSE whose whose word upon whose these whose upon word

yourselves YOURSELVES yourselves themselves ourselves yourselves

although ALTHOUGH although already although always almost although

blind BLIND blind blindfold blinding blind blindly blind

Page 2

The boys arrived home as it was getting dark. Their parents could see immediately from their pale faces that something had happened.

"You haven't been poking around that cottage again, have you?" asked their father.

Although they expected trouble, William and Ben had to own up. Indeed, they confessed that they had actually ventured inside this time.

Mrs Langley sat between them on the sofa.

"Look here, you two. I can see you've had

Page 3

a fright, but luckily nothing serious happened this time. You must remember that the cottage has stood empty for many years. It is probably very unsafe in there. The floor boards may be rotten, even the stairs. You really must take care of yourselves, and not go in there again."

"We don't want to," said William.

"It was so scary!"

"Whose idea was it?" asked their mother.

"Well, both of us really," said Ben.

Page 4

"I don't want to question you too much, but do you want to talk about what happened?" asked Mr Langley.

With faltering words, William began to recount their adventure. Ben chipped in, and soon the words were tumbling out, with both boys talking at once.

"Upon my word," exclaimed Mrs Langley, "this is very odd. People used to speak of strange happenings at that old

Page 5

cottage, but we never really believed them. Mind you, we kept away from the place ourselves, just in case it actually was haunted!"

The children had expected their parents to be angry, but neither of them were. Instead they discussed the afternoon's events with their sons. Although at the moment the boys were completely against going back to the cottage, Mr Langley thought that curiosity would get the better of them again sooner or later.

Page 6

"Just don't put yourselves in any danger. It was probably some other nosy lad you heard today in the cottage," he said.

The weeks passed, and as their father had expected, the boys found themselves talking about the cottage more and more. William and Ben didn't want to lie to their parents, so agreed to let them know if they planned another visit. Although they admitted to being quite frightened, they felt drawn to the cottage.

Page 7

They didn't want to be anywhere near the cottage in the dark. So they decided on a Saturday morning, and set out early. As the weather was becoming colder, they dressed themselves up in warm clothes. By half past nine, they were making their way through the forest.

As the cottage came into view, their high spirits became mixed with nervousness. Neither of them wanted to admit that their fear was returning. Their pace slowed as they reached the crumbling

Page 8

stonework. They leaned against the wall and decided on their next move. Their interest was focused now upon the outhouses beyond the cottage. These had also fallen into disrepair, although the tiny shuttered windows and doors were still intact.

They clambered into the garden, and stood still for a moment, close enough to the wall to jump back over it if necessary. There was no movement.

The outhouses were surrounded by thick brambles. William could make out a way

Page 9

through to the nearest building, and set off cautiously. Ben followed close behind. The door was slightly open, and creaked loudly as William pulled it towards him. After a moment's hesitation, they stepped into the outhouse, pulling the door almost shut behind them.

They found themselves in a large, dismal room which smelt of oil and damp leaves. As there was almost no natural light, they had to feel their way around. William had reached the far

Page 10

wall, and could sense that there was something covering it. Whatever it was seemed to be quivering. Ben also sensed the subtle movement. It was as though the whole wall was shaking gently. Once again they felt fear creeping through their bodies. Ben stepped back in alarm, and tripped over something on the floor.

The sudden noise made William jump, and whatever was on the wall fluttered and writhed. William stared in horror. Suddenly he

Page 11

realised what it was.

"Bats! It's a huge colony of bats," he gasped. "Are you OK, Ben?"

Ben was beside him again. They could just make out a seething black mass. They were both interested in wildlife, and had seen bats swooping after moths late on summer evenings. These bats were probably hibernating. In any case, the boys knew that bats are nocturnal, so that they only leave their roosting place at night.

Page 12

"Bats are nearly blind, so they probably don't mind the dark in here," whispered Ben. "They make high pitched sounds we can't even hear, and find their way around by listening for the echoes."

"Phew," said William. "I'm glad it's still morning then. I wouldn't want to be here when this blind lot start stirring!"

As they peered at the bats, the silence was suddenly broken by the sound of something scuffling

Page 13

around outside. William moved carefully over to the shuttered window. A shaft of light was coming through a broken slat, and he peeped through the gap.

"There's somebody outside," he whispered.

He could just make out a crouching figure moving about near the corner of the cottage. Ben crept over to look. They were both wishing that they hadn't come back after all.

As Ben peeped through the broken slat, the

Page 14

strange character straightened up, and came fully into view. It was a tall man with long, dishevelled hair and a bushy beard. He was wearing baggy trousers, a colourful jacket and carrying something under his arm.

"Who is he, and what's he doing?" mumbled Ben.

"I don't know," replied William.

"Perhaps it's the person whose footsteps we heard last time." Whoever he was, they hoped

Page 15

the man wouldn't discover them. They'd have to stay absolutely quiet and wait. What could they do if he came in? They watched the man as he bent down again, and continued to move slowly along, as if he was searching for something.

Suddenly he looked up, and began to walk towards the outhouse. Although they were terrified, they managed to press themselves very close to the wall. Neither of them dared breathe.

They heard the door creak open, and something was

Page 16

thrown into the outhouse. A moment later the door banged shut, and something that sounded very heavy was slid across the ground. The bats seemed to be startled, but after a bit of fluttering, they settled down again. The boys listened, and heard the man move away. Within moments, a door slammed in the distance. Then everything was completely silent.

The boys waited, but there wasn't a sound. The man did not reappear.

Page 17

Stiff from keeping still, they decided to make a run for it. Ben made his way to the door and pushed against it. It would not budge. He realised that the noise they had heard must have been something heavy being pushed against the door to keep it shut.

"The windows are tiny, but we'll just have to get through there somehow," he said in a scared voice. It was their only means of escape.

William started to nudge the shutters.

Page 18

He was frightened of making too much noise. At last the window was open, and being smaller, he managed to squeeze through. He dropped down onto the bracken below. Ben struggled for a long time, but he couldn't get his shoulders through the small opening.

"Quick, Ben. Hurry," William pleaded. He was sure he had heard a noise from the cottage.

In terror, Ben pushed with all his might,

Page 19

and although he hurt himself, managed to force his way out. He fell breathlessly onto the ground beside his brother.

The boys were so glad to be out in the daylight again. But they weren't safe yet.

Ben picked himself up, and the two boys ran as fast as they could, although their legs felt like jelly. They were almost sure that they could hear someone shouting after them. But there was no way they were going to stop and find out!

Book 4: Sold

Page 1

altogether ALTOGETHER altogether although already altogether those THOSE those these those whose these those whose those itself ITSELF itself its myself itself himself itself afterwards AFTERWARDS afterwards afternoon after afterwards Upon my word, whose are these and those?

Page 2

Autumn merged into winter, and the mellow sunshine gave way to a dull icy chill. For William and Ben, walks in the forest became less frequent, except on rare days when the sun was able to make itself felt. In any case, they didn't feel much like going in the direction of the cottage after their last experience. There were still so many unanswered questions, but those would have to wait. The atmosphere in and around the cottage had really spooked them out.

Page 3

Mr and Mrs Langley were very relieved that the boys' intense curiosity about the place had decreased, although not altogether. William and Ben still talked about it occasionally, but it was obvious to their parents that those experiences earlier in the year had really frightened them. Ben had been in big trouble for tearing his jacket afterwards, and from his bruises, his parents realised that something dramatic must have happened that autumn day. Not only that, but William had experienced some

Page 4

terrible nightmares, and both boys had been jumpy about sudden noises for a fortnight.

The children's parents and grandmother discussed their concerns, so that the cottage remained a topic of conversation within the family.

The icy grip of winter arrived, and everyone was drawn towards the comfort of their own fire-sides. William and Ben felt much braver here, and could let their imaginations run wild with nerve-chilling stories about the cottage.

Page 5

However, they always reminded themselves afterwards that some of these stories were actually true!

One morning in December it began snowing. It snowed all day, and by early evening a thick white blanket covered the gardens,

hedges, fields and rooftops. The roads were becoming icy, making driving conditions very dangerous. The gritters were out, and snow ploughs were clearing the lanes. Apart from this disturbance, all was hushed and quiet.

Page 6

William and Ben loved the snow. They rushed home from school in high spirits, eager to build a snowman before it was completely dark and became too cold. That evening they talked about the cottage again.

"I wonder what it looks like in the snow?" said William thoughtfully.

"Miserable, and even more lonely than before, I should think," replied Ben. This last remark sent a shiver down William's spine.

Page 7

The next day was Saturday, and the overnight snow had drifted against the doors. During the morning, the boys helped their father to clear the snow from the paths, for their elderly neighbour and for themselves. With the work done, they had a lively snowball fight, and all ended up very wet and cold. Once they had changed into dry things, they had lunch, and afterwards decided to go for a walk.

"It would be a shame not to enjoy the snow,"

Page 8

said Mum. "We don't often get this much. We could offer to take next door's dog. It's far too slippery for an old man like Mr Jones to venture out today."

Ben and William called for the dog, and the party set off towards the forest. The family were well wrapped up in ski jackets, hats, scarves, gloves and boots with thick socks. The snow had cast an almost magical spell of silence over the trees. There were no human

Page 9

footprints upon the snow in some places, although the boys found the tracks of several different animals. Mr Jones' dog had a wonderful time, trying to catch the snowballs the boys threw for him.

They eventually reached the edge of the forest, where the cottage stood, looking cold and comfortless. As they walked past the gateway, they all noticed that the snow near the door had been disturbed. Mr and Mrs Langley

Page 10

glanced at one another, while William and Ben felt their old curiosity returning.

"There must be someone inside," said Mrs Langley. "How strange!"

"Whoever it is must be very cold," replied Mr Langley. "The place is derelict, and there's no smoke coming from the chimney!"

"What we told you was true," said Ben. "It's haunted, we're sure it is!"

Although Mr and Mrs Langley thought that the

Page 11

children's stories were rather exaggerated, they had to admit that the cottage had always concealed a mystery.

"Well, the snow didn't move itself, did it?" said William.

None of them wanted to investigate further that day. They all had cold feet, and everyone felt that going home for a hot drink and a snack was a much better idea than hanging around a bleak cottage! The whole family

Page 12

felt the eerie atmosphere. Even Mr Jones' dog seemed anxious to get home.

Winter gave way to spring, and the green shoots of the bulbs began to appear above the ground. All traces of the snow had gone. William and Ben could now look forward to their long forest walks again.

One sunny afternoon, they set off once more in the direction of the cottage. Word had been going round that the old place had a new owner,

Page 13

and was being renovated. People had started to speculate excitedly again about the cottage's mysterious history.

As the boys approached the cottage, they realised that the wall was no longer falling down. In fact, it had been repaired. The gate at the front of the cottage was now back on its hinges, and had been freshly painted. In the hedge there was a large "Sold" sign. The brambles had been cleared to reveal the

Page 14

original pathway, now bordered with flowers.

The boys crouched behind the hedge and waited. Quite soon a man appeared at the front door. It was the same man that they had seen before, although he looked altogether a lot less frightening today in the sunshine!

"He must be the new owner!" said Ben.

When they returned home, they told their parents. Soon afterwards, an article featuring the old cottage appeared in the local

Page 15

newspaper. The bats had a special mention too. They were rare, and would be protected. The outhouse they used as a roost would remain in its present condition so that they were not disturbed.

The boys' grandmother was very intrigued by the sale of the cottage, and said she would like to go with them to have a look. Mr and Mrs Langley were also interested.

So, two days later, they all set off through the forest in the spring sunshine. The cottage

Page 16

looked altogether different, and had been transformed from a sad, desolate place. It was now an

even prettier little home than Gran had remembered from those far off days and described to the boys.

As the family stood admiring the cottage, the new owner appeared. He did not notice them, and quickly disappeared round the corner of the cottage towards the outhouses. Gran stared for a long moment and then gasped.

Page 17

"What's the matter?" asked Mrs Langley, whose voice sounded concerned.

"I recognise that limp," said Gran.

"I'm sure that's Bill the younger of the two brothers who used to live here!"

And so it seemed that the cottage would still retain its mystery. On the way home, William turned to Ben.

"We might never know the answers to our questions now. Who slammed the door that first time?"

Page 18

Whose footsteps did we hear on the stairs and walking about upstairs in the cottage? Who or what brushed past me when we were getting out of the window? What was that man doing when we were hiding in the outhouse? And, most mysterious of all, whatever happened to the other brother after their fight?"

Ben was deep in thought as they scuffed the small stones on the dirt track. "I'm afraid it will remain a mystery. We'll just have

Page 19

to wait and see if anything drives our friend Bill away again. I still think that place is haunted, and I wouldn't want to live there," he said.

As he spoke, a bat swooped low over his head, and far away a fox barked eerily in the gathering darkness. The boys were very glad their own house was just round the corner.

The End

