

# Comprehension

## Introductory Pupil Book



**John Jackman**

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Under a bush in the garden  
is a very good place to hide.

So is a big umbrella,  
or down at the end of a bed.

Sometimes Dad hides  
behind a newspaper.  
And Mum hides behind  
a book on the sofa.

You can even hide under a hat.

Tortoises hide inside their shells  
when they aren't feeling friendly,  
and hamsters hide right at the  
back of their cages when they  
want to go to sleep.

When the baby hides his eyes  
he thinks you can't see him.  
But he's there all the time.

Shirley Hughes



## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences.  
Fill each gap.

1. Where is the boy hiding?  
The boy is hiding under the \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Where is the girl hiding?  
The girl is hiding under the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Which animals hide inside their shells?  
\_\_\_\_\_ hide inside their shells.
4. Who hides behind a newspaper?  
\_\_\_\_\_ hides behind a newspaper.



## More to think about

Read these sentences about the story.  
Write 'true' or 'not true' for each one.

1. Under a bush is a bad place to hide.
2. Dad is hiding behind his newspaper.
3. Mum is sitting on the floor.
4. Tortoises hide inside their shells.
5. The baby thinks you can't see him.



## Now try these

Write a sentence to answer each question.

1. Why do you think Dad hides behind his newspaper?
2. Why does the baby think you can't see him when he hides his eyes?
3. Where is your favourite hiding place?
4. What other creatures hide in shells?

Our dog has to go for walks every day.  
She stares at us until we take her.

One day she found a smelly pond  
and jumped into it.

“Pooh! You smell disgusting!”  
we told her.



Then she rolled in the mud.

“Pretend she’s not ours,” whispered Mum.

“We must get her home quickly and  
give her a bath.”

We made her wait outside the kitchen door.  
Mum filled the bath.

“I’ll put her in,” Mum said.

“Now hold on tight! Don’t let her jump out!”

Helen Oxenbury



## Do you remember?

bath

mud

day

smelly

Copy these sentences.

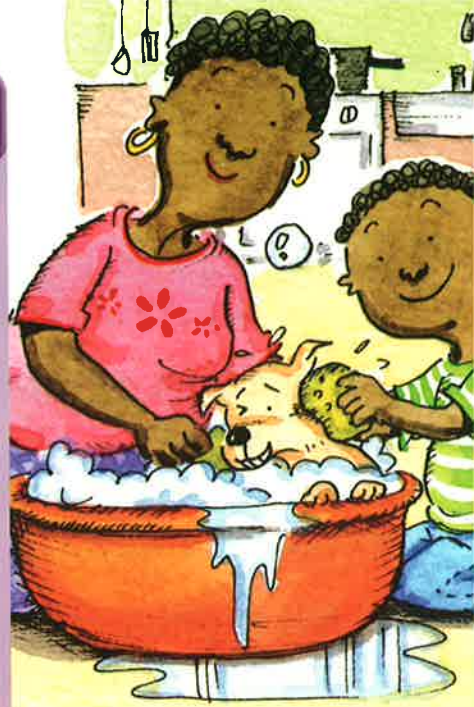
Choose a word from the box to fill each gap.

1. The dog has a walk every \_\_\_\_\_.
2. One day she jumped in a \_\_\_\_\_ pond.
3. She also rolled in the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. They took the dog home and gave her a \_\_\_\_\_.

## More to think about

Read these sentences about the story.  
Write 'true' or 'not true' for each one.

1. The dog has a walk once a week.
2. She barks when she wants a walk.
3. The dog likes smelly ponds.
4. Sometimes she gets herself muddy.
5. She has a bath in the kitchen.
6. The dog sits quietly in the bath.



## Now try these

1. Why do you think the dog would want to jump out of the bath?
2. Imagine you are the dog.  
Explain how you feel as you jump into the pond.
3. These instructions for bathing the dog are in the wrong order.  
Copy them in the right order.

**Dry her with a towel.**

**Rinse off all the soap.**

**Splash the water onto the dog's coat.**

**Fill the bath with warm water.**

**Lift the dog into the water.**

**Rub shampoo into her wet coat.**

Owl was out on his first ever hunting trip when a storm blew up.

A sudden gust of wind made Owl lose his balance and tumble into the chimney.

Owl felt frightened, but the house was warm and calm after the stormy night. He shook his sooty feathers and flew off.



In the hall, Owl stood still and spread his wings. No wind ruffled his feathers. There were no smells of trees or grass, earth or rain. So Owl knew the house was locked up tight, like a big sealed box.

**Gregory Evans**

## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences.

Choose the correct word to fill each gap.

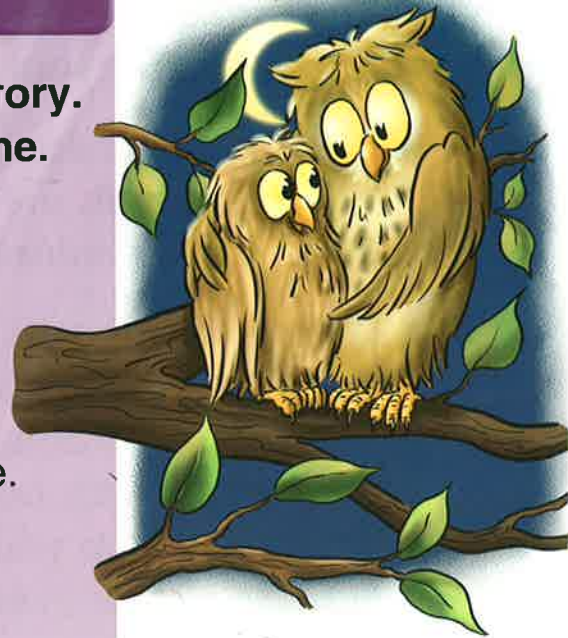
1. A sudden gust of \_\_\_\_\_ made Owl lose his balance. (wind, rain)
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ into the chimney. (jumped, tumbled)
3. He felt \_\_\_\_\_. (warm, cold)
4. In the hall, Owl \_\_\_\_\_ his wings. (spread, cleaned)
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ was locked up tight. (cupboard, house)

## More to think about

Read these sentences about the story.

Write 'true' or 'not true' for each one.

1. Owl was quite young.
2. It was a stormy night.
3. Owl had been hunting many times before.
4. He flew into the house on purpose.
5. His feathers got covered in soot.
6. Owl was trapped in the house.



## Now try these

1. What do you think happened next? Write your own ending.
2. Pretend that you are trapped somewhere. Write some sentences about where you are and how you feel.

A bike is a machine.

All machines need to be looked after carefully.

## Tips for looking after your bike



Clean and dry your bike when it is wet or muddy. This will stop it getting rusty.



Ask someone to help you to check the brakes. The brakes are very important for your safety.



Be sure that there is enough air in the tyres. When the tyres are soft or flat it is more difficult to keep your balance.

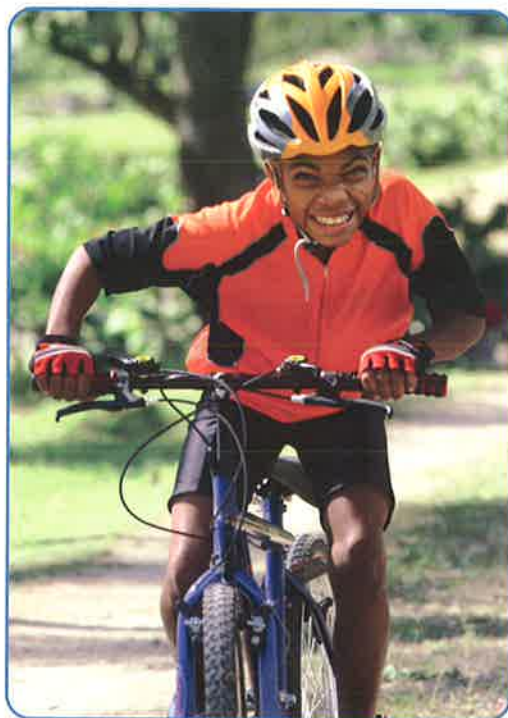


Make sure the seat is at the correct height for you. You should be able to touch the ground with both feet. When you stop you don't want to topple over!



Always wear your helmet when you ride your bike. If you fall off your head must be protected.

Be proud of your bike, and be proud of the way you ride it!



## Do you remember?

**Copy these sentences.**

**Fill each gap.**

1. If you don't keep your bike dry it will get \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Good brakes are important for your \_\_\_\_\_.
3. You might fall off if your tyres are \_\_\_\_\_.
4. You might topple over if you can't touch the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. You wear a helmet to protect your \_\_\_\_\_.


## More to think about

**Write a sentence to answer each question.**

1. Why do you need to keep your bike dry?
2. Why are brakes very important?
3. How can you tell if your seat is the correct height?
4. What might happen if your seat was too high?
5. What should you always wear when riding your bike?

## Now try these

1. Pretend it is your birthday. You have been given a new bike. Describe what it is like.
2. Make a list of the good things about having a bike.
3. Imagine you are about to go for a bike ride. Explain how you will get ready.

A colorful illustration of a boy and a girl walking through a park in autumn. The boy is wearing a blue jacket and a yellow scarf, and the girl is wearing a purple jacket and a red scarf. They are walking on a grassy path with many fallen leaves. In the background, there are trees with some leaves still on them, and more leaves are falling from the sky.

When the wind blows  
Coats flap, scarves flutter.

When the wind blows  
Branches groan, leaves mutter.

When the wind blows  
Curtains swish, papers scatter.

When the wind blows  
Gates creak, dustbins clatter.

When the wind blows  
Doors slam, windows rattle.

When the wind blows  
Inside is a haven  
Outside is a battle.

John Foster

## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences.

Choose a word from the box to fill each gap.

scatter    mutter    flutter    clatter

1. When the wind blows scarves \_\_\_\_\_.
2. When the wind blows leaves \_\_\_\_\_.
3. When the wind blows papers \_\_\_\_\_.
4. When the wind blows dustbins \_\_\_\_\_.



## More to think about

- Find a word from the poem that rhymes with each of these words.
  - mutter
  - scatter
  - battle
- The poet uses words that describe sounds. What makes these sounds in the poem? One has been done to help you.

Sound	Describes
groan	branches
creak	
slam	
clatter	
rattle	

## Now try these

- What else happens on windy days? Make a list of your ideas.
- What is your favourite weather? Say why you like it best.
- Write three words to describe your favourite weather.



# Gingerbread Man

One day Gran made a gingerbread man for the children. As she opened her oven, up jumped the gingerbread man and off he ran.

“Stop, stop,” called the cat.

“Let’s have a chat.”

“Oh no, not me.

No one’s eating me for tea,” he shouted, and on he ran.

On and on ran the little man.

“Stop, stop,” called the bird. “Let’s have a word.”

“Oh no, not me.

No one’s eating me for tea,” he shouted, and on he ran.

On and on ran the little man.



But then the gingerbread man came to a big, wide lake.

“I can help,” said the old fox.

“I will carry you across the lake.”

“Sit on my tail,” said the old fox.

“Sit on my back,” said the old fox.

“Sit on my nose,” said the old fox.



**Traditional tale**

## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences.

Choose the correct word to fill each gap.

1. The gingerbread man jumped from the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(oven, cupboard)
2. First he ran past the \_\_\_\_\_. (cat, rat)
3. On he ran past the \_\_\_\_\_. (chicken, bird)
4. When he reached the \_\_\_\_\_ he stopped. (hill, lake)
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ said he would help. (fish, fox)



## More to think about

Read these sentences about the story. Copy them in the right order. The first one has been done to help you.

The bird tried to stop him.

The gingerbread man ran past the cat.

He came to the lake.

The fox told the gingerbread man to sit on his nose.

The fox said he could help.

1. The gingerbread man ran past the cat.

## Now try these

1. Pretend you are the gingerbread man. Write about how you feel when you come to the lake.
2. Why do you think the fox tells the gingerbread man to sit on its nose?
3. Write your own ending for the story. Try to make it a surprise.

# Hippo and Monkey

Hippo was the strongest of all the animals, so he said he should be Chief. The other animals didn't want Hippo as their Chief. He was too grumpy and moody.

"If I can get you out of the pool, then I should be Chief," said Monkey.

"If you can get me out of the pool, then you can be Chief," said Hippo, "But if I get you into the pool, you will be my servant – for ever!"



Off went Monkey to get a really strong rope. "Hold tight to the rope," said Monkey, "but don't pull until I shout."



Monkey ran into the trees with the other end of the rope. Monkey tied the rope to a big, strong tree trunk.

"Pull!" shouted Monkey. "Pull!"

"This will be easy," thought Hippo to himself.

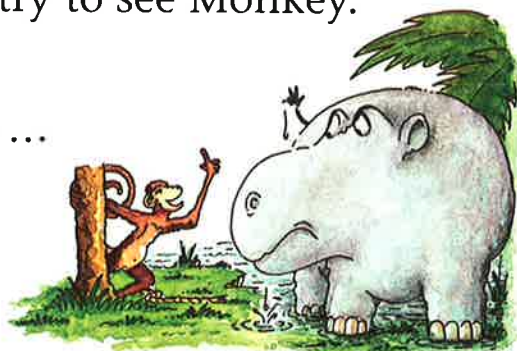
All day and all night Hippo pulled, while Monkey sat and ate bananas, and snoozed!

Hippo was getting very tired and cross, very cross indeed.

Slowly he climbed out of the pool, to try to see Monkey.

Just as Hippo took his last foot out of the pool, Monkey ran out of the trees ...

**Nigerian folk tale**



## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences.

Choose the correct word to fill each gap.

1. Monkey wanted to be \_\_\_\_\_. (chief, servant)
2. Hippo liked to sit in the \_\_\_\_\_ all day. (mud, pool)
3. Monkey tied the rope to a \_\_\_\_\_. (tree, log)
4. Hippo thought getting Monkey into the pool would be \_\_\_\_\_. (hard, easy)
5. Monkey played a \_\_\_\_\_ on Hippo. (trick, game)

## More to think about

Sort the words in the box into two lists.

Two have been done to help you.

brown grey  
huge fat clever  
moody grumpy  
small thin

Words that  
describe Monkey

*brown*

Words that  
describe Hippo

*grey*

## Now try these

1. Why do you think the animals didn't want Hippo to be their Chief?
2. Imagine that Monkey is telling the other animals that he is Chief. What do you think they said? Write a conversation between Monkey and the other animals.

When I was One,  
I had just begun.  
When I was Two,  
I was nearly new.  
When I was Three,  
I was hardly me.  
When I was Four,  
I was not much more.  
When I was Five,  
I was just alive.  
But now I am Six,  
I'm as clever as clever.  
So I think I'll be Six now  
for ever and ever.

A.A. Milne



## Do you remember?

Look at the picture. Copy these sentences.  
Choose a word from the box to fill each gap.

presents

cat

cake

children

1. There are six candles on the \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ is under the table.
3. The boy hasn't opened his \_\_\_\_\_ yet.
4. Four \_\_\_\_\_ have come to his party.



## More to think about

1. Find a word in the poem to rhyme with these words.  
The first one has been done to help you.  
a) one ... begun                      b) two ... \_\_\_\_\_  
c) three ... \_\_\_\_\_                d) four ... \_\_\_\_\_  
e) five ... \_\_\_\_\_
2. Write a different word of your own to rhyme with these words.  
a) one                      b) two                      c) three

## Now try these

1. Write a list of the five things you like best about birthdays.
2. How old would you like to be now? Explain your answer.

**ever** always, for all time

**every** all, one

**examination** 1) a test  
2) a close look

**excellent** very, very good

**excuse** a reason for doing  
or not doing something

**expect** to think something  
will happen

**explode** to blow up

**eye** the part of the body you  
see with

## **Ff**

**face** 1) the front part of  
the head  
2) to look towards

**fact** something that is true

**factory** a building where  
things are made

**fail** 1) not to do something  
you try to do  
2) to break down

**fair** 1) a show or market  
2) blond or light in colour  
3) just, honest

**fall** to drop down

## Do you remember?

Look at the words in thick black print.  
Write a sentence to answer each question.

1. How many words begin with e?
2. How many words begin with f?
3. Which is the first word that begins with e?
4. What is the last word that begins with f?

## More to think about

1. Copy the lists of words and meanings.  
Draw lines to match them. One has been done to help you.

### Word

examination

excuse

eye

fact

fail

### Meaning

not to do something you try to do

the part of the body you see with

something that is true

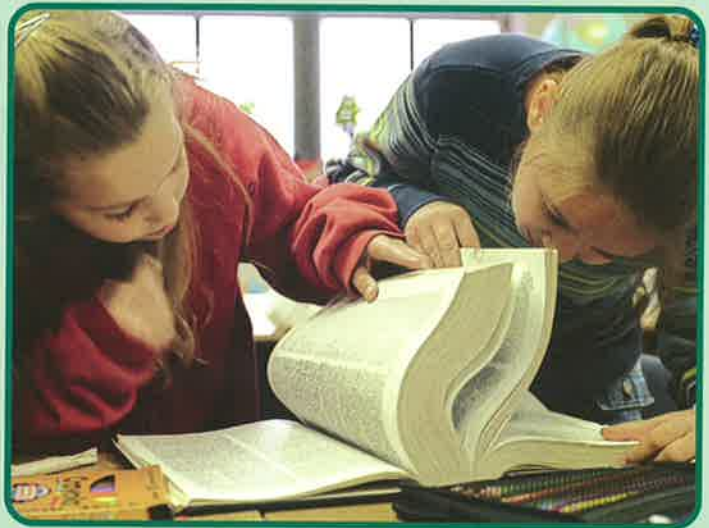
a reason for doing or not doing something

a test

2. These words have been missed out of the dictionary entry.  
Which word would they come after?
- a) expert                      b) famous                      c) fade

## Now try these

1. Which words have two different meanings?
2. Choose a word that has two different meanings.  
Write two sentences using the word you chose, one for each of its different meanings.
3. Write a meaning for each of these words.  
Check your answers in a dictionary.
  - a) acorn
  - b) blow
  - c) canal
  - d) dislike
  - e) enjoy
  - f) free

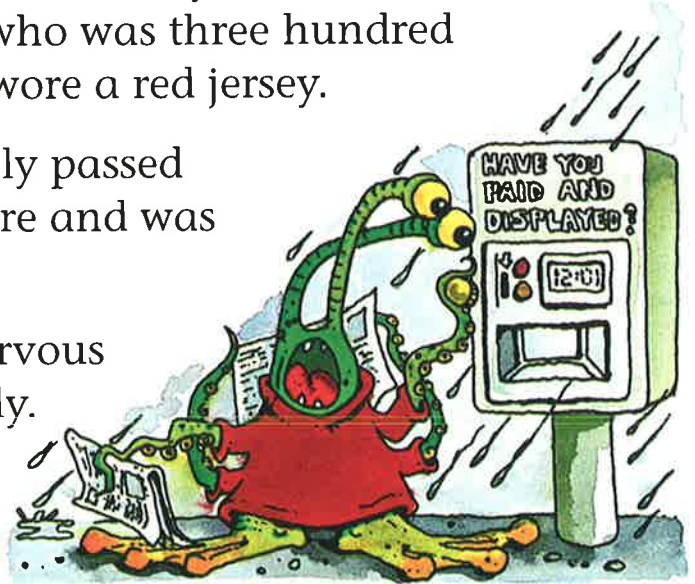


# Judy and the Martian

It was the middle of the night when the rocket landed in the supermarket car park. The engine had failed. The hatch opened and the Martian peered out. A Martian, I should tell you, has webbed feet, green skin and eyes on the ends of horns like a snail. This one, who was three hundred and twenty-seven years old, wore a red jersey.

He said, "Bother!" He had only passed his driving test the week before and was already losing his way.

He was also an extremely nervous person, and felt the cold badly. He shivered. A car hooted and he scuttled behind a rubbish bin.



It began to rain. He wrapped himself in a newspaper but the rain soon came through that. And then he saw that a sliding door into the back of the supermarket had been left a little bit open, just enough for him to wriggle through.

Penelope Lively

## Do you remember?

**Copy these sentences.**

**Choose the correct ending to finish each sentence.**

1. The rocket landed \_\_\_\_\_. (in a car park, in a field, in a garden)
2. The Martian had \_\_\_\_\_. (red skin, blue skin, green skin)

3. He was \_\_\_\_\_. (273 years old, 327 years old, 723 years old)
4. When it rained he \_\_\_\_\_. (climbed into the rubbish bin, got into his rocket, went into the supermarket)

## More to think about

Write a sentence to answer each question.

1. Why did the rocket land in the car park?
2. What did the Martian look like?
3. Why did he scuttle behind a rubbish bin?
4. How did the Martian get into the supermarket?

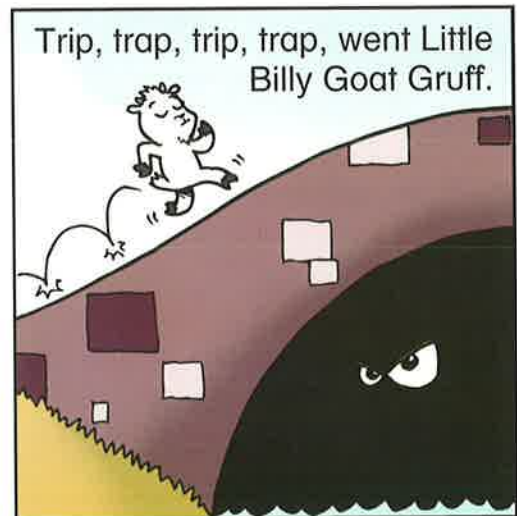
## Now try these

1. Which word in the story means:
  - a) broken down
  - b) an opening like a small door
  - c) very, very
  - d) ran with little steps
  - e) to twist and turn.
2. Write some sentences about how the Martian feels in this strange new world.
3. Imagine you are in a rocket that has crash-landed on Mars. Write some sentences to explain how you feel and what you can see.



# The Three Billy Goats Gruff

The three Billy Goats Gruff had eaten all the leaves. They were getting very hungry.



## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences.  
Choose a word from the box  
to fill each gap.

stream    leaves  
three    hungry    troll

1. There were \_\_\_\_\_ billy goats.
2. They had eaten all the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Now they were feeling very \_\_\_\_\_.
4. There were more leaves across the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. An ugly old \_\_\_\_\_ lived under the bridge.



## More to think about

Read these sentences about  
the story.

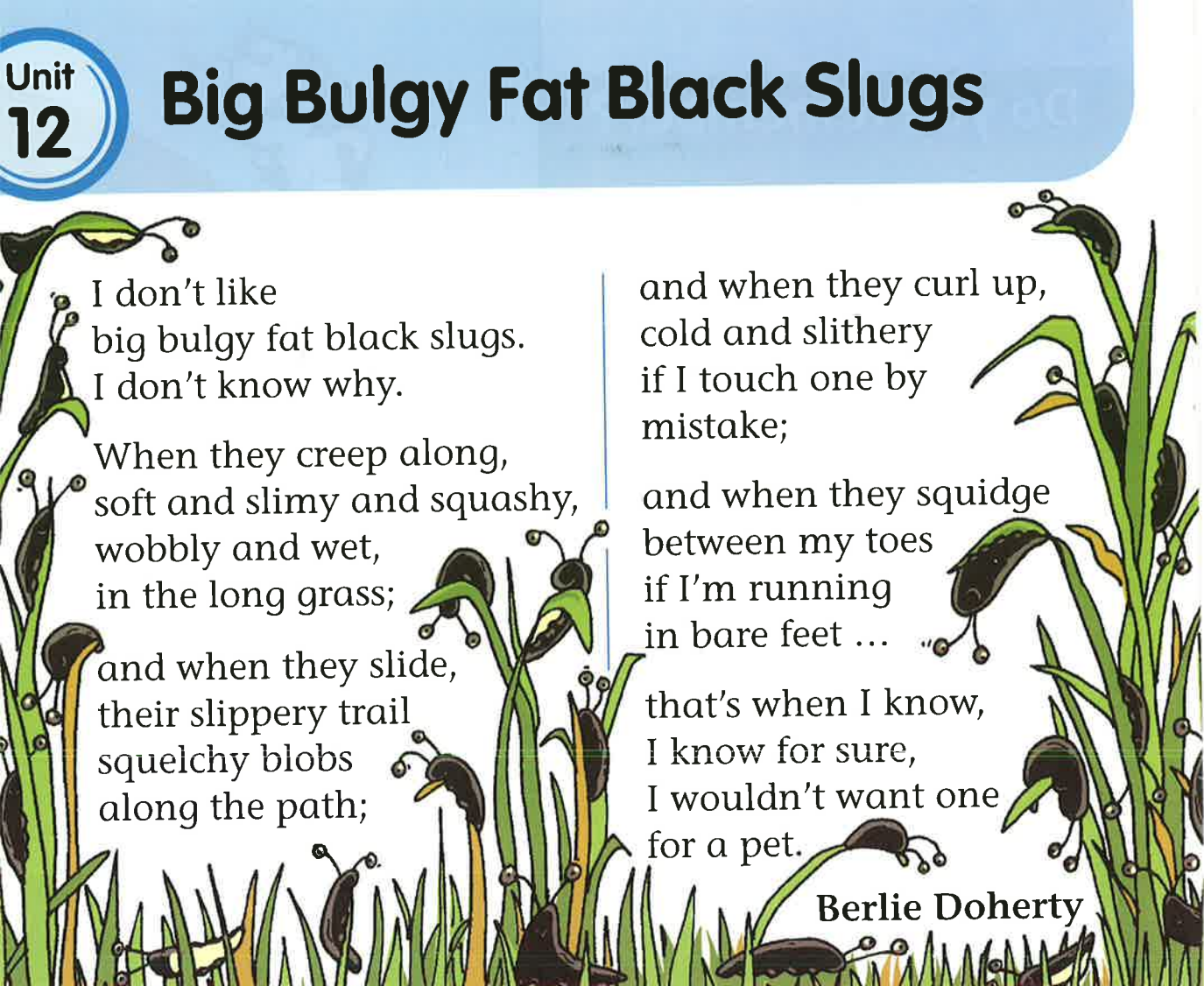
Write 'true', 'false' or  
'can't tell' for each one.

1. The three goats were sisters.
2. They liked beech leaves more than ash leaves.
3. The troll was young.
4. Little Billy Goat Gruff was very hungry.
5. He said he wasn't afraid of the troll.

## Now try these

1. What do you think Little Billy Goat Gruff was feeling when he saw the troll?
2. Write a short introduction to this story about how the troll came to live under the bridge.
3. Write your own ending for the story. Try to make it a surprise.

## Big Bulgy Fat Black Slugs



I don't like  
big bulgy fat black slugs.  
I don't know why.

When they creep along,  
soft and slimy and squashy,  
wobbly and wet,  
in the long grass;

and when they slide,  
their slippery trail  
squelchy blobs  
along the path;

and when they curl up,  
cold and slithery  
if I touch one by  
mistake;

and when they squidge  
between my toes  
if I'm running  
in bare feet ...

that's when I know,  
I know for sure,  
I wouldn't want one  
for a pet.

Berlie Doherty

## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences.

Choose a word from the box to fill each gap.

pet

slugs

toes

grass

path

1. The poet doesn't like \_\_\_\_\_.
2. She says they are wobbly and wet in the long \_\_\_\_\_.
3. They leave their slippery trails along the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. She doesn't want them to get between her \_\_\_\_\_.
5. She definitely wouldn't want a slug as a \_\_\_\_\_.

## More to think about

Look at the poem again.  
One word in each sentence is not correct.  
Write each sentence correctly.

1. Slugs are usually yellow.
2. They jump through wet grass.
3. When they swim they leave a slippery trail.
4. Slugs explode between your toes.



## Now try these

1. The poet uses words beginning with 's' to describe the slug.  
Make a list of these 's' words.  
Why do you think the poet uses these words?
2. Make a list of your favourite creatures.  
Say why you like each one.
3. Make a list of four creatures you don't like.  
Say what it is you don't like about each one.
4. Imagine the slug could understand English, and heard people saying unkind and rude things about him.  
How would he feel, and what might he say back?



When someone asks you,  
“What did you do today?”  
tell them you have been  
very, very busy.

After all...

Your hair grew.

Your teeth cut and chewed food.

Your nose smelled smells.

You took in air.

You took goodness from the food you ate.

Your skin stopped germs getting inside you.

Your skeleton moved hundreds of times.

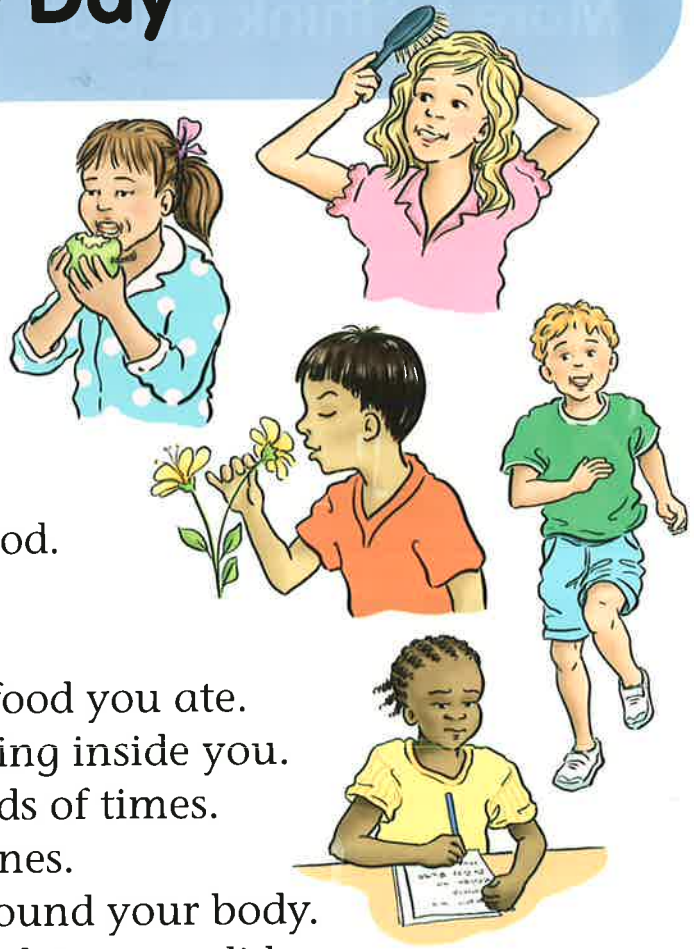
Your muscles moved your bones.

Your heart pumped blood around your body.

Your brain looked after everything you did.

Yes, you and your body have been very busy today!

Martin Skelton and David Playfoot



## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences.

Fill each gap.

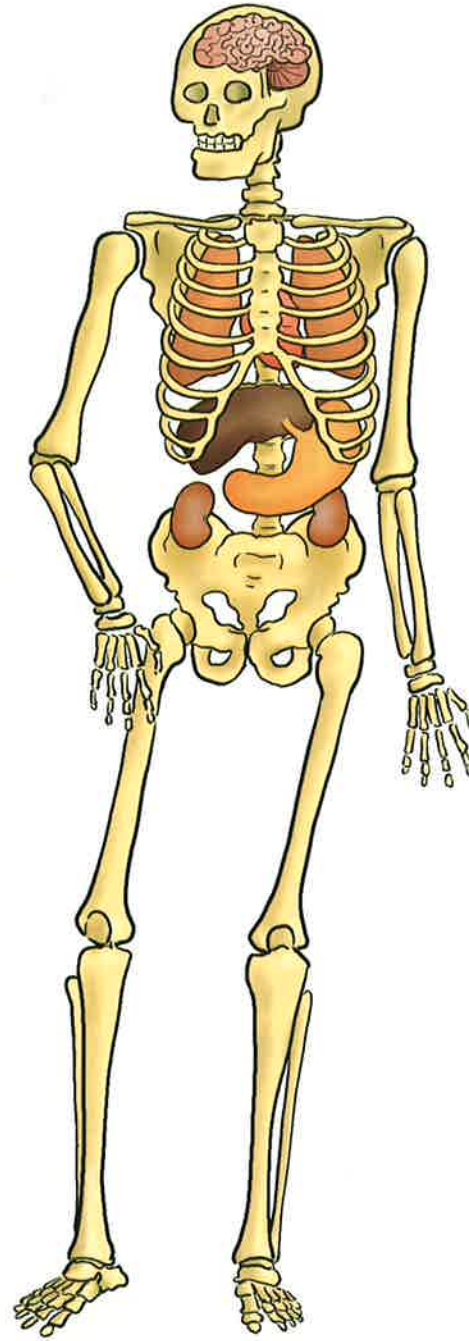
1. We need \_\_\_\_\_ to chew food.
2. Our skin stops \_\_\_\_\_ getting inside us.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ move our bones.
4. Our heart pumps \_\_\_\_\_ around our body.

## More to think about

Read these sentences.

Write 'true' or 'not true' for each one.

1. Our hair is growing all the time.
2. We take in air through our ears.
3. We must eat food to live.
4. All the bones in our bodies make our skeletons.
5. Our brains are very important.



## Now try these

1. Copy these lists next to each other. Match the body parts to the senses they control.

skin	sight
nose	hearing
ears	touch
tongue	smell
eyes	taste

2. Make a list of five rules to help you keep healthy. One has been done to help you.

1. *Always wash your hands before eating food.*

3. 'A Very Busy Day' is about how your body is busy every day. Write a list of the things that still happen when you are asleep at night.

# Two Legs or Four?

Ben wanted the new puppy to have the same name as him.

“It’s going to be very confusing,” said Dad.

In fact, as time went by, they found it rather useful to have both the son and dog with the same name. Ben spent all day with Ben, and the same words served for both.

“Be quiet, Ben!” for instance, stopped one yelling and the other yapping, and both came when the name was called, and sat down when they were ordered, and each looked equally pleased when told “What a good boy, Ben!”

And indeed Ben was a good boy or rather a good puppy. He never made messes on the carpet, he never chewed the curtains or covers, he ate well and he slept soundly at night. As well as learning the ordinary things that dogs learn, he took to copying everything the boy did.

If Ben laughed, Ben barked. If Ben cried, Ben howled. If Ben lost his temper and roared angrily, Ben growled.

And one day, would you believe it, Mum looked out of the window to see not one, but two Bens turning somersaults on the lawn.

Dick King-Smith





## Do you remember?

Write the correct answer to each question.

1. What new pet did the family have?
  - a) They had a kitten.
  - b) They had a puppy.
2. Who wanted the new pet to be called Ben?
  - a) Mum wanted to call it Ben.
  - b) Ben wanted to call it Ben.
3. How did the puppy behave?
  - a) It was a good puppy.
  - b) It was a naughty puppy.
4. Did the puppy mess on the carpets?
  - a) Yes, the puppy messed on the carpets.
  - b) No, the puppy never messed on the carpets.

## More to think about

1. Write a sentence to answer each question.
  - a) Why was it useful to have the boy and the puppy with the same name?
  - b) What did the puppy do when the boy laughed?
  - c) What did the puppy do when the boy lost his temper?
2. Find words in the story that mean:
  - a) becoming mixed up
  - b) shouting
  - c) giving an order
  - d) the same amount
  - e) crossly
  - f) rolling head-over-heels.



## Now try these

1. Why do you think the puppy copied everything the boy did?
2. Pretend that you have just been given a new pet. Write about how you feel and how you will look after it.
3. Do you think there would be problems caused by the boy and the dog having the same name? Explain your answer and give some examples.