

At home materials

Year 4 Week 1 to 4

Week 1

I have carefully read and thought about the chapter.

I have written a diary using correct person and tense.

I have read and answered the grammar questions carefully.

I have practised the spellings and used some in my own sentences.



Week 2

I have answered the questions using information from the text.

I have written using lots of description and adjectives.

I have read and answered the grammar questions carefully.

I have practised the spellings and used some in my own sentences.



Week 3

I have carefully read and thought about the chapter.

I have written an interesting story thinking about the character.

I have read and answered the grammar questions carefully.

I have practised the spellings and used some in my own sentences.



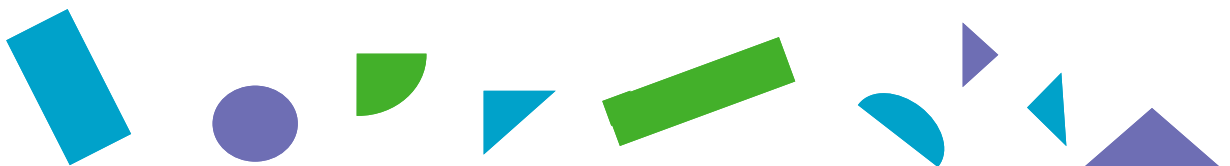
Week 4

I have used the text to answer the questions.

I have written using persuasive language.

I have read and answered the grammar questions carefully.

I have practised the spellings and used some in my own sentences.



This booklet consists of weekly tasks in all areas of English: reading, writing, grammar and spellings.

 **How do I use the booklet?**

- Set aside time each week to complete the tasks. You don't have to do one every day.
- Take your time to read and understand the extract. Ask an adult if you need help understanding the text.
- Read the instructions and questions carefully before you start a task.

 **How do the lessons work?**

Below are some suggested timings for each lesson:

- Reading** - 30 minutes (including time to re-read, look up words and ask questions)
- Writing** - 45 minutes
- Grammar** - 5 minutes
- Spelling** - 10 minutes

**Can parents, carers and siblings help?**

Yes, of course! Family members can help in the following ways:

- Read the extracts with you aloud.
- Gather all the exciting and difficult words you want to find out about or use in your writing and put them on display.
- Help you with the planning of the story
- Write a story at the same time as you. You could then compare your stories and check each other's writing.

**What else can I do if I love writing and I want more of a challenge?**

- Keep writing stories using your own ideas.
- Explore www.lovereading4kids.co.uk or www.newsela.com to find other extracts to read and write about.



Week 1: Reading and writing prompts

The Bolds Go Wild – Chapter 1

Reading

Before reading:

Predict. What you think the story might be about based on the name of it?

During reading:

Write a list of the names of every new character you meet.

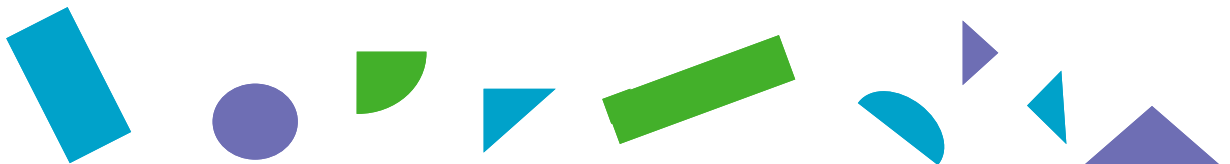
After reading:

Which character do you think is the most important and why?

Writing

Imagine you are Bobby. Write a diary entry about the fun day you had in the rain.

Use this space to jot down some key words to use.



Week 1: Grammar and Spelling prompts

Grammar

Rewrite this sentence using the correct punctuation.

the Bolds were a family of hyenas

Fill in the missing verb.

The Bolds _____ in puddles.

Underline the subject in this sentence:

Mr McNumpy is a grisly bear.

Which adjective best describes Mr Bold?

grumpy angry funny hungry

Complete this sentence about the weather that day.

The weather was _____.

Spelling

Practise each word. Choose two and write their definitions.

Choose two to write in sentences.

interest

island

knowledge

learn

length

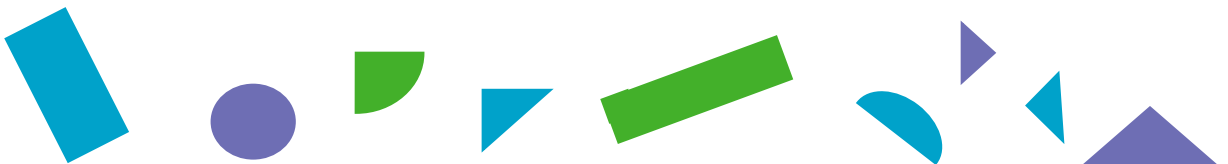
library

material

medicine

mention

minute



Week 2: Reading and writing prompts

The Bolds Go Wild – Chapter 1

Reading

On page 3:

1. What did the Bolds love about rainy days?
2. How do we know the Bolds aren't humans?

On page 4:

1. Disguised is closest in meaning to:
a) hidden b) open c) afraid d) funny
2. What two hyena traits can the Bolds get away with?

On page 7:

1. What is surprising about how Mrs Bold reacts?

Writing

**Imagine you are walking past the park on that rainy day.
Describe what The Bolds are doing.**

Start your story with...

I saw the most unusual sight in the park today.



Week 2: Grammar and Spelling prompts

Grammar

Insert a comma to complete this list.

The Bolds loved puddles mud and getting wet.

Circle the two verbs in the sentence.

Uncle Tony grabbed hold of the tin and scooped up some dirty water.

Insert the missing inverted commas.

Let's play said Betty.

Complete this sentence with the correct coordinating conjunction.

Mrs Bold opened the window _____ she wanted to let the bird in.

Which sentence needs a question mark?

- Why do hyenas get wet
- Hyenas like rain because its good for their skin and keeps mosquitos away

Spelling

**Practise each word. Choose two and write their definitions.
Choose two to write in sentences.**

natural

naughty

notice

occasion/occasionally

often

opposite

ordinary

particular

peculiar

perhaps



Week 3: Reading and writing prompts

The Bolds Go Wild – Chapter 1

Reading

On page 8:

1. What does Mr Bold love:
a) lemonade b) cakes c) jokes
2. What is Mr Bold's job?

On page 9:

1. Which word is closest in meaning to retaliating:
a) hiding something b) getting revenge c) fighting

On page 10:

1. Uncle Tony was angry with Miranda. **True or False.**
Find evidence to support your answer.

On page 11:

1. Which two words are closest in meaning to pandemonium:
a) calm b) chaos c) quiet d) mayhem
2. How long did the pandemonium last for?

Writing

Choose an animal you like. Think about its behaviour and what it might do if it had to live like a human.

Write a story about a day in the life of your animal in a world of humans.



Week 3: Grammar and Spelling prompts

Grammar

Circle the three words that need capital letters.

they took uncle tony, miranda and mr McNumpty to the park.

Insert the missing inverted commas.

We'd better stop said Mrs Bold breathlessly.

Circle all the verbs in this sentence.

The Bolds were laughing and shrieking as they hopped over puddles.

Which sentence needs an exclamation mark?

- They were so funny
- It was a wet day

Circle the adjectives in this sentence.

The deep puddles were great to jump into.

Spelling

Practise each word. Choose two and write their definitions.

Choose two to write in sentences.

popular

position

possess/possession

possible

potatoes

pressure

probably

promise

purpose

quarter



Week 4: Reading and writing prompts

'Try to make 2019 the year you and your family use less plastic'

Reading

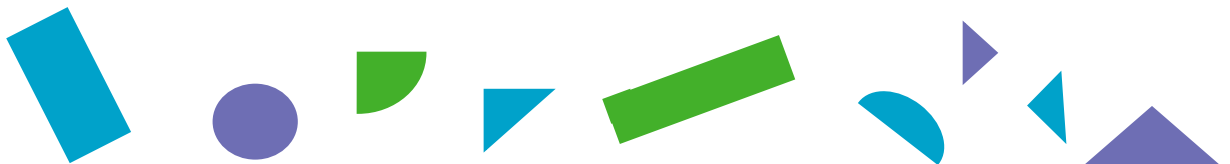
Carefully read the article.

Answer the multiple choice questions at the end of the extract.

Use this space to write a multiple choice question of your own.

Writing

Write a persuasive letter to a supermarket asking them to reduce the use of plastic on their products.



Week 4: Grammar and Spelling prompts

Grammar

Circle the correct verb in each sentence.

The Bolds was/were all enjoying the wet weather.
Mr Bold's jokes was/were funny.

Which sentence is a command?

- Jump in that puddle.
- The Bolds jumped in the puddle.

Circle the adverb in the sentence.

The bird tapped on the window urgently.

Write the following verbs in the simple past tense.

throw > understand > laugh >

Complete this sentence.

The hyenas couldn't play because

Spelling

**Practise each word. Choose two and write their definitions.
Choose two to write in sentences.**

question

recent

regular

reign

remember

sentence

separate

special

straight

strange



Extracts

Weeks 1, 2 and 3

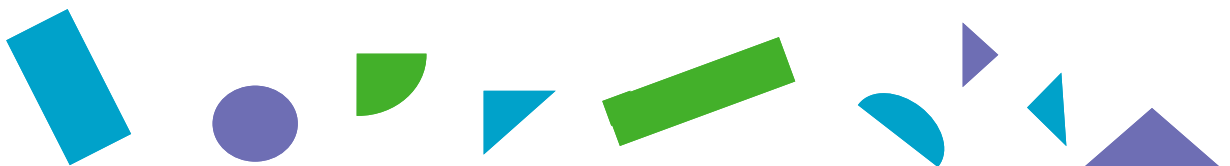
The Bolds Go Wild – Chapter 1

Extract from [lovereading4kids](https://www.lovereading4kids.com): find out more about the book and the author



Week 4

'Try to make 2019 the year you and your family use less plastic'



Illustrated by
David Roberts

THE BOLDS

Go Wild



By Julian Clary

THE BOLDS

Go Wild

Look out for other books
by Julian Clary & David Roberts:

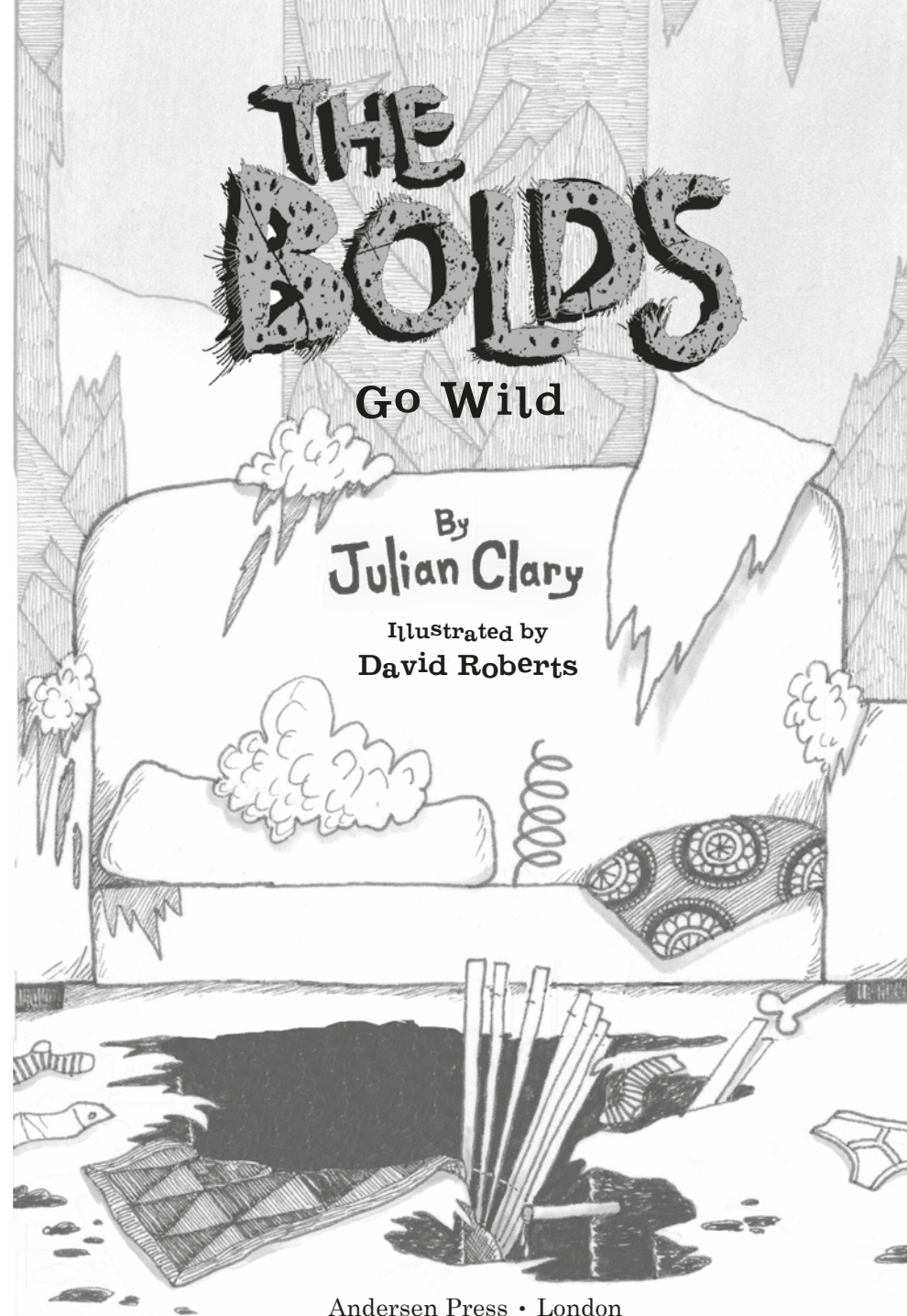
The Bolds

The Bolds to the Rescue

The Bolds on Holiday

The Bolds in Trouble

The Bolds' Great Adventure
(a World Book Day book)



Andersen Press • London

First published in 2019 by
Andersen Press Limited
20 Vauxhall Bridge Road
London SW1V 2SA
www.andersenpress.co.uk

2 4 6 8 10 9 7 5 3 1

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data available.

ISBN 978 1 78344 804 3

This book is printed on FSC accredited paper from responsible sources.
Printed and bound in Great Britain by Clays Ltd, Elcograf S.p.A.



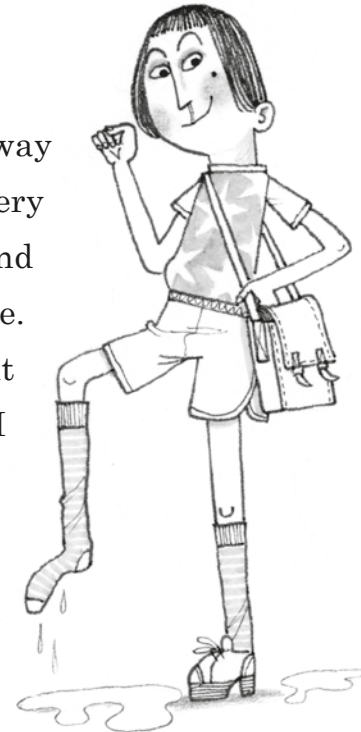
For Milo

Chapter

1

Some people think that everything happens for a reason. This makes perfect sense to me. Although sometimes it can take a while for the reason to become clear. You just have to be patient, that's all.

Why did I lose a shoe on the way to school? It was certainly very annoying; my foot got wet and my mother was cross with me. BUT . . . losing the shoe meant I was late for class and so I missed a maths exam. Result! It happened for a reason.

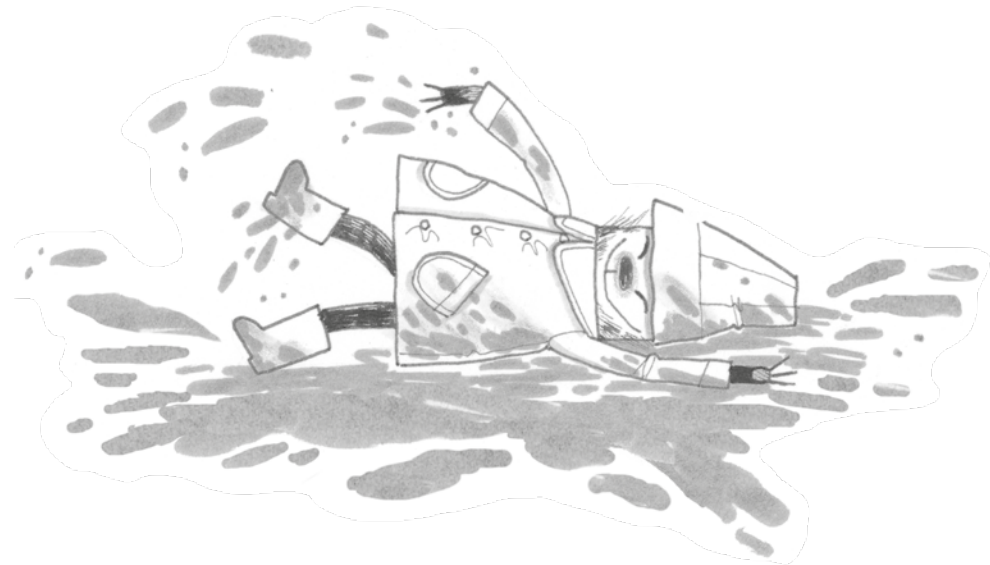



And I once told my best friend that I still slept with a teddy called Mr Pilchard. My friend told the whole class and they all laughed at me. But then I realised the reason for all this upset: it was time to dump my best friend and get myself one who *could* be trusted. So I did.

Now what about the things that happen to the Bolds?

Perhaps you are new to stories about them. I hope not, because that would mean you've been missing out on lots of fun. The Bolds, you see, are a family that strange things happen to – some things good, some not so good – but always for a reason. The good things are wonderful and the not-so-good always make the stories about them very interesting – though I say so myself.

Our story this time begins on a rainy day. Most people on days like that want to stay indoors and avoid getting wet. This isn't the case with the Bolds, though. Dear me, no. They love the rain. Rain means puddles and mud, both of which they are very keen on. Stamping in puddles and making a mess, getting mud in their fur, down their trousers or anywhere else you can think of, is their idea of fun. This is probably because the Bolds family, as you may already know, aren't actually people.





No. They're hyenas. Hyenas living *disguised* as human beings in a lovely little house in Teddington. In order to keep this unusual fact a secret, they are careful not to do anything too *hyena-ish* in public: no running around on all fours, no chasing things and eating them, no rubbing their *bottoms* on bushes.

But laughing *wildly* and messing about in the rain and mud are hyena traits they can get away with. And they do. People might think them a little *odd*, but those same people never jump to the conclusion that the family running around and laughing in the rain are *hyenas*. And for the Bolds it is a little taste of their old life. It satisfies their *hyena instincts*, so carefully covered up most of the time.

So on this particular day in early April, during a heavy shower, the Bold family (Mr and Mrs Bold, and their twins, Bobby and



Betty) spent a *glorious* couple of hours in a rather wet Bushy Park. They took with them their fellow hyena Uncle Tony, and Miranda the marmoset monkey, as

well as their next-door neighbour Mr McNumpty (who is a grizzly bear, *not a hyena*, but rather partial to a frolic in the mud nevertheless).



To begin with they just hopped over puddles, *laughing* and shrieking. But then Bobby landed in a large one (perhaps by mistake, perhaps not) and splashed water all over Betty's skirt.

'Right! Game on!' said a laughing Betty, before jumping in the air and landing with a *splat!* right in the middle of an even larger,

ominously dark puddle. It turned out this puddle was much deeper than expected. Betty suddenly found herself knee-deep in filthy muddy water. And not only was Bobby drenched from head to foot in thick gravy-like mud, but Mrs Bold was too, as she happened to have been walking just behind Bobby.

Now I don't know about *your* family, but in mine Betty and Bobby would be in big trouble by now. However things are a little different with the Bolds.



'Eek!' said Betty, covering her mouth with her paws in surprise.

'You've had it now, Sis!' laughed Bobby,

jumping in beside his sister, creating a new wave that curled right up and engulfed a squealing Betty's neck.

Mrs Bold, meanwhile, simply inhaled the earthy scent and her nostrils twitched with delight. She gave Mr Bold a sly glance. 'Mmmm!' she said. 'This so reminds me of life in Africa during the rainy season. Have a sniff, Fred!' She scooped up a handful of mud and rubbed it over Mr Bold's face.

'Ahhh!' said her husband. 'I know what you mean, Amelia.'

What did one
raindrop say to
the other?

My plop is bigger
than your plop!



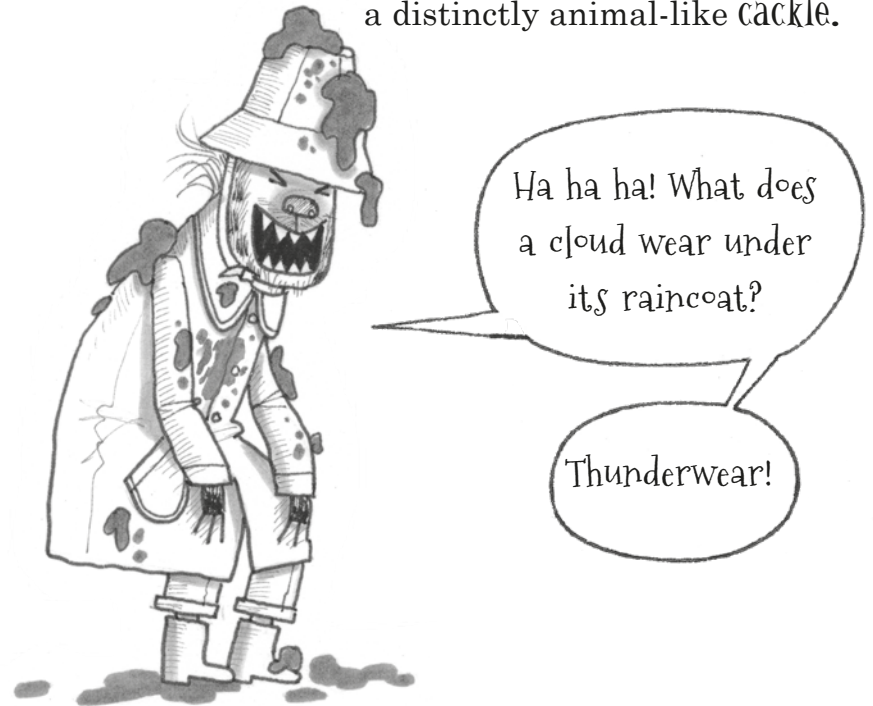
Now, in case you are unaware, Mr Bold loves jokes. Many dads do. But unlike lots of dads' jokes, Mr Bold's are actually funny and he even has a job writing them for Christmas crackers. A pretty cool job, don't you think?

When his wife heard his latest joke she threw her head back with laughter, and her hat (a home-made bonnet made from a round cake tin decorated with several empty tomato soup tins and some cleverly folded napkins) fell into the mud. But before she could pick it

up, Uncle Tony (who was bent over on account of his arthritis) grabbed hold of the tin, scooped up some dirty water and, with a hyena howl of mischievous laughter, flung it over his best friend Mr McNumpty.

Nigel McNumpty wasted no time before retaliating: he reached into the depths of the deep puddle, smothering his designer-suit sleeves with muck in the process, and flung a heavy lump of smelly mud at his friend. The mud ball hit Uncle Tony a glancing blow on the shoulder but somehow landed on Mr Bold's face where it slid slowly down to his chest, leaving a gleaming brown trail behind.

Momentarily shocked, Mr Bold then let out a distinctly animal-like cackle.



Mrs Bold was so busy laughing at her husband's joke that she didn't notice Uncle Tony now creeping up behind her with Miranda perched on his shoulder, and the cake tin, full of water, in her little monkey paws. When they were directly behind her, Miranda tipped the tin all over Mrs Bold, and Uncle Tony stood there shaking with laughter.

'Bullseye! Me wetty Missy Boldy!' laughed Miranda.

Well, it was sheer mayhem after that, I can tell you. Luckily no one was out in the park that day, so no humans were there to see the extraordinary sight of a family rolling about in cold muddy puddles, hooting with delight.

After an hour or more of this pandemonium – like a snowball fight with mud that got way out of control – the Bolds pulled themselves together again.



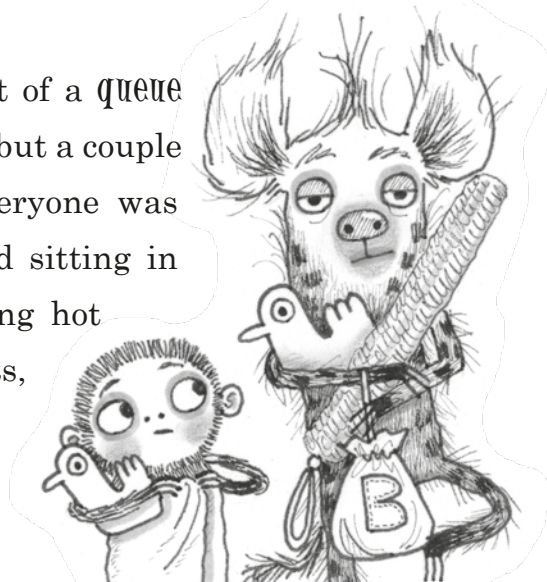



‘We’d better stop,’ said Mrs Bold breathlessly. ‘Before we are seen. Please, Bobby, don’t do that in the ferns – it’s not at all human-like.’

Exhausted, but exhilarated and very, very happy (hyena happy), they made their way home to 41 Fairfield Road.

‘Right,’ said Mr Bold with a sigh when they were safely inside the house. ‘We’d better all get changed into some clean, dry clothes.’

There was a bit of a queue for the bathroom, but a couple of hours later everyone was clean and dry and sitting in the lounge enjoying hot buttered crumpets,





‘What goes up when rain comes down?’ Mr Bold asked her.

‘I know the answer to that,’ said Minnie. ‘An umbrella!’

‘Yes!’ Mr Bold said. ‘Although we don’t own one in this house. Can’t think of anything more silly than avoiding the rain. In the Serengeti it only ever rains in the rainy season. So when it does, we animals get very excited. We all get as wet as possible. I remember my mother teaching me and my brothers and sisters how to roll around in the mud. It’s good for our skin and keeps mosquitos away.’ Mr Bold stared into the distance. ‘Ah, yes,’ he sighed. ‘Happy days.’

But his thoughts of home were suddenly interrupted by an urgent tapping sound.

‘What’s that?’ asked Bobby.

‘It’s coming from the window!’ declared Mrs Bold, pulling back the net curtains to get a closer look. There, on the other side of the window, sat a fairly large, sleek grey bird, his beady eyes staring in through the glass. He gave three quick, impatient taps with his small beak and then sat there expectantly.

‘He wants to come in out of the rain,’ said Mrs Bold. ‘All right, Mr Bird! One moment.’

And she opened the window to let him in.



Chapter

2

The second the window was open, the bird flew in and perched on top of the television, looking round the room.

‘Hello there,’ said Uncle Tony, who was just finishing a slice of fruit cake. ‘Can I interest you in these crumbs?’ He held out his plate in the direction of the bird, who looked at them hungrily.

‘Thank you,’ he said. ‘That is most kind. Could someone bring them over here? I’ve had rather a long flight and my wings are all flapped out.’

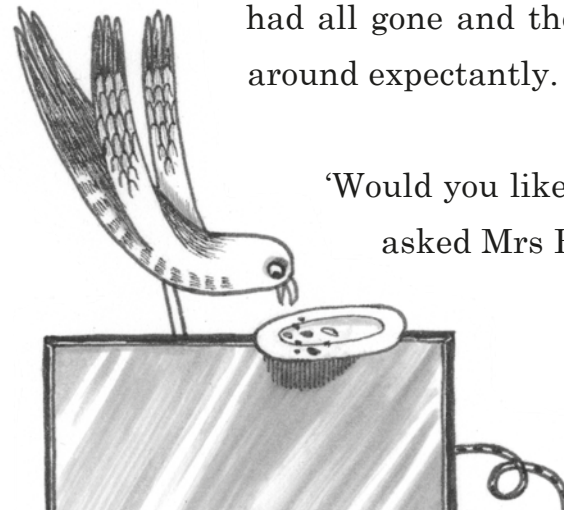
Betty jumped up, took the plate from Uncle Tony and rested it on the television next to the bird – who immediately began to eat all the golden crumbs.

‘Delicious!’ he said with his beak full.

While he ate, the Bolds were able to admire his lovely plumage. It was dark grey on his back, but much lighter over his chest, with stripes of darker feathers from chin to legs. His head was a soft, pale dove-grey and he had a short, yellowish beak that curved downwards, and startled-looking eyes of even brighter yellow with a black centre. Very quickly the crumbs

had all gone and the bird looked around expectantly.

‘Would you like some more?’ asked Mrs Bold.



‘Well, I don’t suppose you have any caterpillars? Or a grasshopper, do you?’

‘Er, I saw some caterpillars on the cabbages in your vegetable patch this morning, Fred,’ said Mr McNumpty.

‘I’ll go and get you some,’ offered Betty. She took the plate and went out to the garden.

While she was gone, Mr Bold filled in the silence with some jokes.



Where does a caterpillar buy his clothes?

A cater-logue!

It wasn’t one of his best jokes, but the hungry bird seemed to appreciate it. The bird’s laugh was most unusual, a sort of ‘coo, coo, coo!’ sound.

Encouraged by his reaction, Mr Bold tried another joke.

What’s a caterpillar’s favourite weapon?

A cater-pault!

The bird nodded appreciatively and again let out his gentle ‘coo-coo’ laugh.

What is the definition of a caterpillar?

A worm in a fur coat!



‘Oh, that one is very good,’ complimented the bird. ‘Your jokes are quite a tonic after my long journey.’

‘Have you come far?’

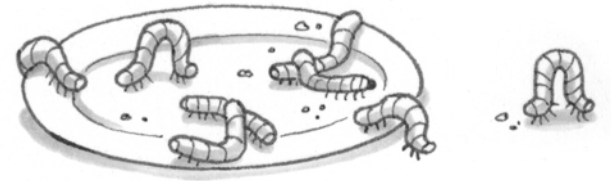
‘Three thousand, five hundred and eighty-three miles,’ the bird answered nonchalantly, giving his chest feathers a gentle peck with his beak.

‘Wowzers!’ said Bobby, impressed. ‘No wonder you’re so hungry. Did you do it all in one go?’

‘Er, no,’ said the bird. ‘I had a comfort break in Morocco and then I ate so much pasta in Italy I couldn’t take off for a week.’

Just then Betty arrived back from the garden with seven or eight green wriggling


caterpillars on a plate. Despite being so tired, the bird flapped his wings with delight.



‘Ah, thank you! The crumbs were a very nice starter, but this is my main course!’ He deftly picked up the first caterpillar with his beak, tilted his head back slightly, and it was gone. ‘Heaven!’ he sighed. ‘I haven’t had one of these tasty fellas since I left England six months ago. My name is Hector, by the way.’

There was an awful lot the Bolds wanted to know. Where had Hector been? Why had he flown back? And why had he tapped on their window?

But they all sat in polite silence while



Hector enjoyed his dinner, which, it has to be said, didn't take long. When the last juicy caterpillar disappeared into his yellow beak he sighed contentedly again. 'Thank you, thank you!' he said. 'You are all very kind. Now would you mind terribly, Fred, if I had a little sleep?'

Fred looked surprised. 'Er, no, of course not. But how do you know my name?'

Hector didn't answer. 'I could perch on the curtain rail, if that's all right with you?' he suggested, yawning and blinking with evident tiredness. He didn't wait for a reply and flew the short distance to the window, settling himself in the corner. 'Perhaps you'd better put some newspaper down on the floor below me?' he added. 'I sometimes do my business in my sleep. Embarrassing really, but that's our cuckoo way.'

'You're a cuckoo?' asked Bobby, looking up at the bird, who ruffled his feathers.

Hector's head drooped as he gave another yawn and his eyes began to close. 'I am, yes. I'll tell you *everything* when I wake up. I'm really sorry, but I am so, so tired now. I've come to tell Fred something very important. But it will have to wait . . . until . . . morn . . . ing.' Hector's eyes closed altogether and within seconds there was a gentle 'C00-C00-ZZZ' noise.

'But . . . !' began Fred.

'Not now,' whispered Mrs Bold. 'He's snoring. No wonder, after that long journey. Let the poor bird have some rest. Let's leave him in peace.' She turned out the lights and signalled for everyone to leave the room. They all crept out in silence.

I don't know about you, but I'm not very good at being patient. If someone told me they had something 'very important' to tell me and then fell asleep, my imagination would be working overtime. Is it good news or bad news? Will it make me happy or cross or sad? I'd have to wake them up somehow.

Well, poor Mr Bold felt exactly the same. He poked his head round the lounge door several times that evening but Hector was always fast asleep. He tried to pass the time by telling jokes, of course. Telling jokes was always what Fred did in any situation. He found it relaxing.



What do you get if you cross a clock with a chicken?

A cluck!

What did the robber say to the clock?

"Hands up!"

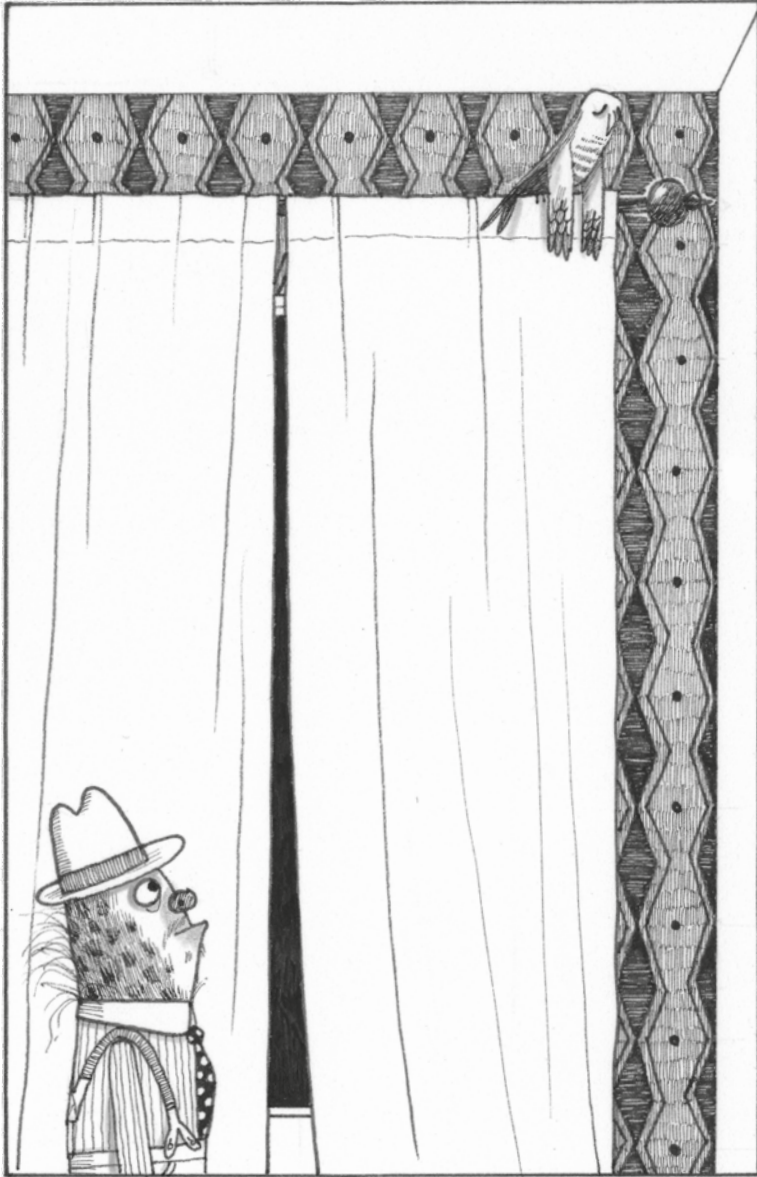
What did the watch say to the clock?

"Hour you doing?"



But even so, it was a very long evening for Fred as he waited and waited.

Eventually Minnie went home, and the twins had their cocoa and their bedtime story.



Then Mr McNumpty went home, and Uncle Tony and Miranda settled down for the night.

‘It’s nearly half past ten, Fred,’ said Mrs Bold to her husband. ‘I think Hector is so *exhausted* he will sleep until tomorrow morning. We will just have to wait.’

‘Wait?’ said Fred.

‘Yes,’ replied Amelia.

‘But I *can’t!*’ said her husband. He tried loudly whispering ‘*Hector!*’ but it didn’t work.

Hector kept on sleeping.

‘How about if I *accidentallly* drop a tin tray outside the lounge door?’

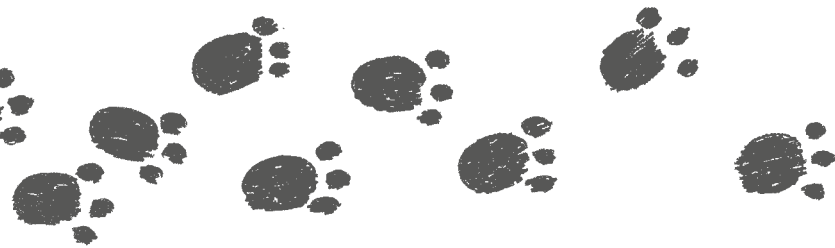
‘No,’ laughed Mrs Bold. ‘I won’t hear of it.’

‘Or I could have a coughing fit?’

‘You haven’t got a cough!’

‘But I’m desperate to know Hector’s news . . . what can it be?’

‘You’ll find out in the morning, dear. Try and think about something else.’



Chapter

3

It was a difficult night for Mr Bold. He couldn’t get to sleep for hours, wondering about Hector’s news. Then he was awake before dawn, washed and dressed and listening outside the lounge door to see if their visitor had woken up. He hadn’t. So Fred collected some more caterpillars from the vegetable patch ready for Hector’s breakfast. In fact, he tried one himself and rather enjoyed it. So he tried another. Then another, until in the end he had to make a second trip to the garden to replenish the saucer.

Eventually everyone else got up and had



breakfast and they all gathered in the lounge, facing the still-sleeping cuckoo. The twins began to giggle. Mr Bold cleared his throat rather loudly. Then Uncle Tony had one of his wheezing fits and that did the trick. Hector slowly opened one eye, then the other. He yawned and looked around him as if he couldn't quite remember where he was.

'Er, good morning, Hector,' said Mr Bold brightly. 'I hope you slept well?'

'Yes, thank you, I did,' replied Hector sleepily.

'Breakfast?' offered Mrs Bold, holding

up the saucer with about a dozen wriggling caterpillars on it. Hector immediately flew down from the curtain rail to the coffee table and set about eating them. As soon as the last one was finished, Mr Bold could contain himself no longer.

'You said you had come to tell me something important?'

Hector wiped his beak on his chest and nodded. 'Yes. You are Fred Bold? And this is Number 41 Fairfield Road, Teddington, Middlesex, in England?'

'Yes, yes, yes,' said Mr Bold. 'I am and it is. What is the news?'

'Do you have any proof of identity? Passport? Utility bills? Photo ID?'





Mr Bold stood up and looked in the mirror that hung above the fireplace. ‘Yes, that’s definitely me,’ he said confidently.

‘Excellent. Then I will begin,’ said Hector. ‘Listen carefully.’

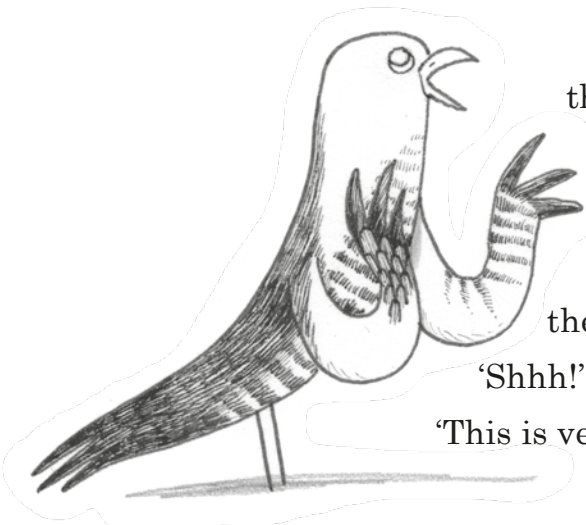
Everyone’s attention was focused on the grey bird sitting on the coffee table.

‘A little background information is important, I feel,’ began Hector, before clearing his throat.



‘My name is Hector and I am a cuckoo. Cuckoos are medium-sized, sleek birds, just like me, with soft feathers and long tails to help us steer. We enjoy a cosmopolitan distribution, mostly in tropical places, it’s fair to say, as we prefer to live in trees. We eat insects, insect larvae and various other bits and bobs, as well as fruit. Some cuckoos are known as “brood parasites”, which means they sneakily lay their eggs in other birds’ nests and let them have the bother of raising the hatchlings, but some also raise their own young. It just depends what mood we are in.’

Bobby and Betty let out a simultaneous sigh. This was not as interesting as they had



thought it was going to be.

Mrs Bold gave them a stern look.

‘Shhh!’ she whispered.

‘This is very educational.’

‘Cuckoos have always played an interesting role in human culture,’ continued Hector. ‘Notably in Greek mythology, where you may or may not know they are considered sacred to the goddess Hera. In Japan, cuckoos symbolise unrequited love, while here in Europe, our call heralds the beginning of spring to many. Isn’t that interesting?’

Mr Bold couldn’t contain his impatience. ‘Yes, Hector, yes. But what is the news you have for me?’

‘I’m getting to that,’ said Hector. ‘I am of the migratory variety of cuckoo. I spend April to October here in England and then I fly many miles south to avoid your winter months.’

‘Where do you go?’ asked Mr McNumpy.

‘Africa,’ replied Hector.

Suddenly everyone’s ears pricked up.

‘Africa?’ said Mr Bold, a slight tremble in his voice. ‘But that is where we come from.’

‘I know,’ said Hector simply. ‘And it is from Africa that I bring your news.’

Fred and Amelia looked at each other, eyes wide with amazement.

‘Please continue,’ said Fred. ‘What is the

important news you have for me?’

Hector cleared his throat again. ‘Do you think I might have some water? I’m a little dry, and after such a long time getting here I’m not used to all this **talking**.’

You could have fooled me, thought Mr Bold, but he said nothing. Bobby jumped up and went to the kitchen, returning with a saucer of water for the cuckoo.

‘Thank you so much,’ said Hector, before taking several long sips. Then he began talking again.

‘Africa is the **second** largest continent in the world, with the second largest population. It covers eleven point seven million square miles in fact, making up twenty per cent of all the land on planet Earth. Africa is surrounded by

bodies of water, including the *Mediterranean Sea* to the north, the *Suez Canal* and the *Red Sea* along the *Sinai Peninsula* to the north-east, the *Atlantic Ocean* to the west and the *Indian Ocean* to the south-east.’

Hector was then **interrupted** by the sound of snoring.

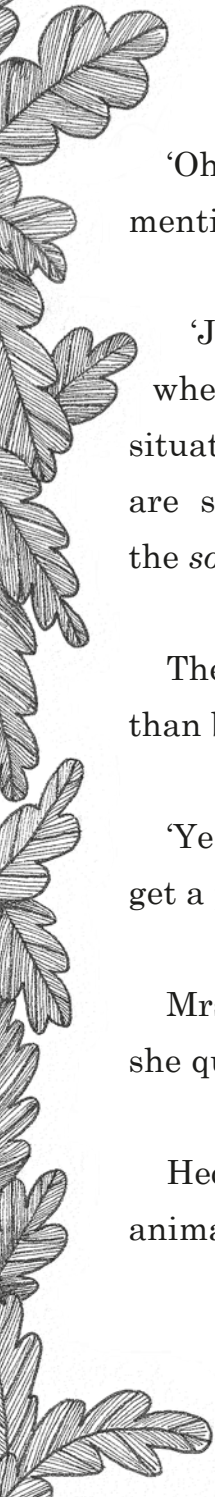
‘*Uncle Tony*,’ said Mr McNumpty, giving his friend a nudge. ‘Wake up!’

‘Oh, er, sorry,’ said Uncle Tony. ‘Have we got to the **important** news yet?’

‘Afraid not,’ said Mr Bold.

‘May I continue?’ asked Hector.





‘Oh, yes please,’ said Mrs Bold. ‘You mentioned some news?’

‘Just getting to that,’ said Hector. ‘Now, where was I? Ah, yes. The continent is mostly situated in the *northern hemisphere*, but there are still a number of African countries in the *southern hemisphere*.’

The twins began to giggle. ‘This is worse than being at school!’ said Betty.

‘Yes, definitely,’ replied Bobby. ‘At least we get a packed lunch at school.’

Mrs Bold glared at them, although secretly she quite agreed.

Hector droned on: ‘There are many native animals in Africa. Too many to list just now—’

‘Quite,’ jumped in Mr Bold. ‘We don’t want to be here all day!’

‘Perhaps some of the best-known are the lion, elephant, giraffe, leopard, rhino, cheetah, buffalo, crocodile, hippopotamus and zebra,’ continued Hector. ‘I have seen all of these animals in my time, I’m pleased to say.’

‘What about hyenas?’ asked Fred, a little indignantly.

‘Yes, hyenas too,’ confirmed Hector.

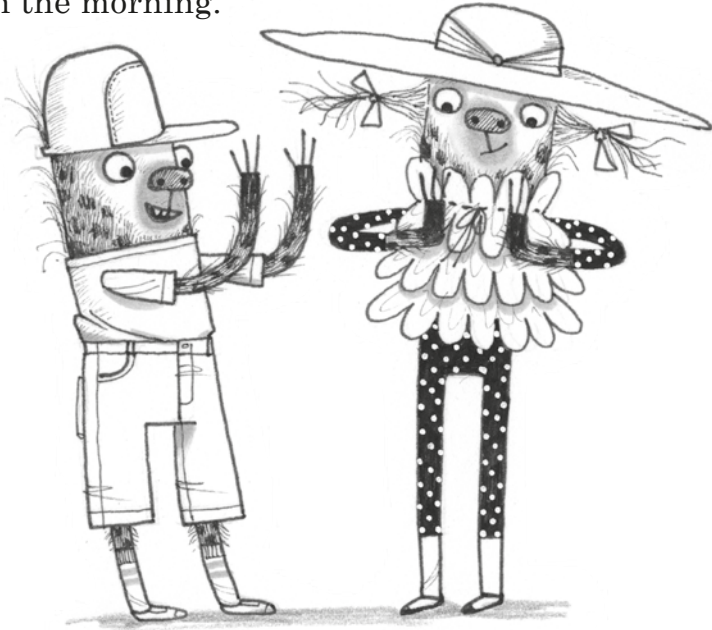
‘Now we’re getting somewhere,’ muttered Mr McNumpty.

Hector cleared his throat again. ‘Hyenas are very interesting animals. A bit like a mix-up of a cat and a dog. Hyenas catch their prey using their jaws, then eat very quickly, or sometimes

store their food somewhere secret. They have calloused feet with large, non-retractable, blunt claws, handy for running and turning.'

The twins both looked at their paws during this speech. 'See?' said Bobby to his sister. 'I knew there was a reason we had such big hands!'

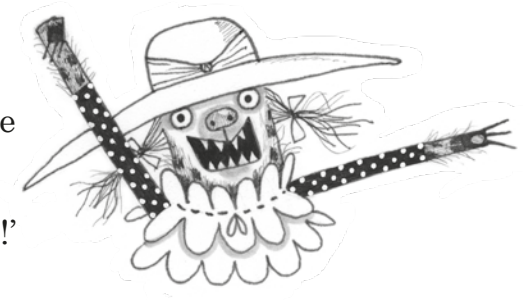
'Hyenas are, generally speaking, nocturnal animals,' continued Hector. 'But sometimes they venture out from their lairs first thing in the morning.'



'Er, we don't do that any more,' pointed out Mrs Bold. 'The neighbours were beginning to talk.'

'Over time hyenas evolved into two distinct types: the almost extinct, lightly built, dog-like hyenas and the more familiar robust, bone-crushing hyenas.'

'That's us!' said Betty, punching the air. 'We are the bone-crushing Bolds!'

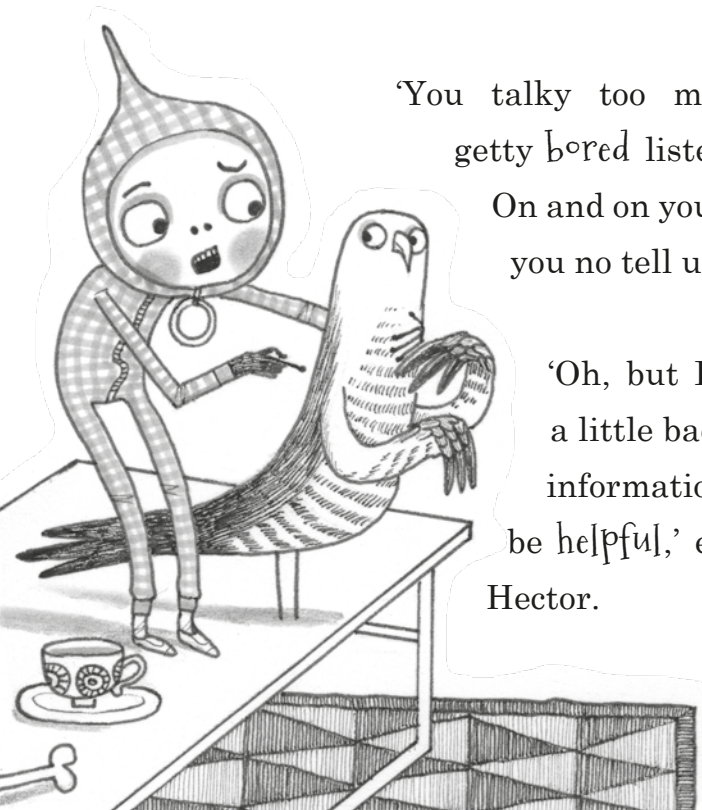


'Hyenas, like cuckoos, often appear in the folklore of human cultures. For example—'

But Mr Bold could take no more. 'Hector, I hate to interrupt you again. But we *are* hyenas. You don't need to tell us all this. We know it already.'

‘But I’m just getting into my stride,’ said Hector, sounding a little hurt.

Surprisingly it was Miranda – usually shy and retiring – who put a stop to Hector’s monologue once and for all. She suddenly leaped out from inside Uncle Tony’s T-shirt and landed next to the cuckoo on the coffee table. She placed a gentle hand on Hector’s back and spoke quietly to him.



‘You talky too much! We getty bored listen to you. On and on you go. Why you no tell us newsy?’

‘Oh, but I thought a little background information might be helpful,’ explained Hector.

‘No. You boring,’ said Miranda bluntly.

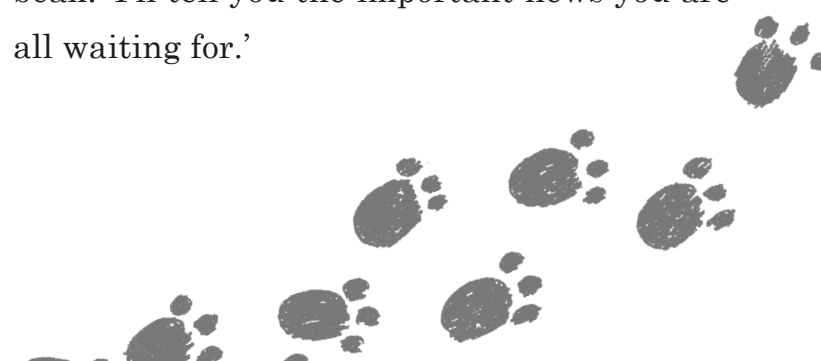
‘I do apologise.’ Hector ruffled his feathers. ‘When I’m on these long flights I pass the time by reciting as many facts as I can remember from the encyclopaedia.’

‘Why you no watch filmy?’ asked Miranda.

‘I’m the one doing the flying,’ said Hector. ‘I’m not on an aeroplane. There’s no in-flight service!’

‘Ohhhhh!’ said Miranda. ‘Me understandy now. No wonder you so boring.’

‘I’ll do as you ask,’ said Hector, pursing his beak. ‘I’ll tell you the important news you are all waiting for.’



Try to make 2019 the year you and your family use less plastic

By National Geographic, adapted by Newsela staff on 01.08.19

Word Count **431**

Level **580L**



A beach in Naples, Italy, is covered with plastic waste and debris. What can you do to fight plastic pollution in 2019? Photo by Salvatore Laporta/Getty Images

Making a list of New Year's resolutions is popular with many people. It is a set of goals people make. The hope is to do some things better in the new year.

Usually, these resolutions are about improving themselves. Some people want to exercise more. Others want to save money. Some want to learn new skills.

This year, ask your family or friends to try a group resolution. Consider reducing your waste of plastic products you only use once. This might mean using fewer plastic bags. It might mean thinking twice before getting foods packed in plastic.

Much plastic is used just once and quickly becomes trash. Some plastic goes into the ocean. Scientists estimate that 18 billion pounds of plastic trash flows into the oceans every year.

Here are two ways to use less plastic in 2019 as a family.

Decorate With Paper

Planning a birthday party or holiday celebration? Pledge to have a plastic-free party.

Get creative when decorating. Try not to use balloons. Undersea animals can mistake balloons for food.

Replace balloons with cut-out paper decorations. This could include banners or confetti.

Maybe you were planning to celebrate with glitter. Most glitter is actually just tiny pieces of plastic. Instead, consider buying a natural kind. This will be less wasteful.

Bring A Reusable Bag To The Store

Promise to shop smarter. It is healthier for you and the planet.

Try to avoid snacks that come wrapped in individual plastic. Instead, go to the bulk section of the store. You can usually grab popcorn kernels and banana chips here. Shop with reusable bags for whole fruits and vegetables. Grab some canned beans. Fill a bring-your-own container with grains from the bulk section. Brown rice is an example.

Families can cook a meal free from single-use plastic. Maybe fish is on the menu. If so, read an online guide like Seafood Watch. It shows the practices used to catch that type of fish. Often, fishers leave behind their gear. It falls in the ocean. Knowing the kind of gear used to catch fish can help cut down on harm.

We all want to spend less money. Plastic is a great place to start. Instead of buying new toys, host a toy trade. Swap with your friends.

Do not forget about the plastic packaging. It covers almost all items that you buy online. Consider your plastic resolution when shopping anywhere.

Get creative! Think of ways to give old pieces of plastic a new job. Avoid buying a new item. Use newspaper sleeves to pick up pet poo, for example.

Quiz

- 1 What does the section "Decorate With Paper" show the reader?
- (A) the kinds of snacks to buy when shopping in a store
 - (B) some ways to spend less money by buying fewer new toys
 - (C) some ways to have a party without using plastic decorations
 - (D) the number of pounds of plastic trash that flows into the oceans
- 2 What information will the reader find in the section "Bring a Reusable Bag To The Store"?
- (A) Most glitter is made of tiny pieces of plastic.
 - (B) Undersea animals sometimes think balloons are food.
 - (C) New Year's resolutions are goals that people make.
 - (D) Seafood Watch gives information about how fish are caught.
- 3 The author thinks that people should bring reusable bags to the store when shopping. Why does the author think this?
- (A) because using reusable bags is a lot of fun to do
 - (B) because using reusable bags is good for the planet
 - (C) because reusable bags can hold foods wrapped in plastic
 - (D) because reusable bags can be thrown away in the trash
- 4 The author writes that "we all want to spend less money. Plastic is a great place to start. Instead of buying new toys, host a toy trade. Swap with your friends." How does the author feel about buying new plastic toys?
- (A) It is great to buy new plastic toys for friends.
 - (B) Buying new plastic toys is good if you give them to your friends.
 - (C) Trading toys with friends is better than buying new plastic toys.
 - (D) It is great to buy new plastic toys for a toy trade.