

Notes for parents and other helpers

Enjoying and talking about the story

CLL 1 listening and responding to stories; **CLL 4** understanding of stories

- Remember that the most important thing is to have fun and enjoy the story!
- Make sure that you are both in the mood for a story before you begin.
- Read the title and talk about the cover. **'Who is Max?' 'I wonder what a monster meal is?'** Build up a sense of anticipation.
- Talk about Max's unusual food combinations. Read these pages with horror and disgust on your face as well as in your voice!
- Show the child how to respond: **'Yuk! I don't want *gravy* on *my* grapefruit. I like *sugar* on *my* grapefruit.'** Encourage the child to join in.
- Discuss events shown in the pictures – how the monster prepares the food and the expressions on his face as he eats.
- Encourage the child to join you in making munching, crunching, slurping and slopping sounds.
- On page 11, point to Max's face. Encourage the child to predict what will happen next.
- Talk about how Max feels at the end (pages 12 and 13). **'Why does Max feel so bad?'**, **'What might the other toy be saying to him?'**
- This story gives opportunities for talking about the child's own food likes and dislikes: link it to his or her own experience.

Health and safety

Point out to the child that Max is standing on a chair (page 4). Explain that standing on a chair can be dangerous and discuss what the possible consequences might be.

Note that Max is using a rounded knife in the illustration on pages 2 and 10. Remind the child that using sharp knives can be dangerous.

Playing with sounds – letter sounds

CLL 3 hear and say initial sounds; **CLL 4** exploring sounds

- Read the story to the child, exaggerating the words that begin with the same sound:
Max the monster likes mushrooms on his marmalade
- On each page, ask the child if he or she notices words beginning with the same sound. For example, **'Max starts with an "mm" sound. Did you notice any other words with that sound?'**
- Play 'I-Spy' with the pictures on each page. Ask, **'Can you spot other things in the picture with**