

Notes for parents and other helpers

Enjoying and talking about the story

CLL 1 listening and responding to stories; **CLL 2** using talk to organise thinking;

CLL 4 understanding of stories; **NLS** T9

- 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.
- Discuss the title and the cover. Ask, **'I wonder what the toys are laughing at?'** Build a sense of anticipation.
- Discuss what is happening in the pictures, including those details not mentioned in the text: Sweep tidying up (page 3), the mess made by the toys (page 6 onwards), and Max the monster's jelly (page 3 onwards). All these are important later.
- Show the child how to talk about stories, encouraging him or her to join in. Ask, **'Why is the monster smiling?'** (page 4 onwards), **'Why doesn't Boris tell the joke to Tilda?'** (page 10).
- Have fun reading the words with interesting sounds (pages 6, 8, 9 and 11).
- Encourage the child to predict what will happen after page 11: **'What will Sweep say?'**, **'What will the toys do?'**
- Discuss the ending: **'I thought Sweep was going to tell the toys off ... Did you think that?'** Or talk about the funniest part of the story.
- Link the story to the child's experience and to his or her sense of humour. Ask, **'What do you think the jelly joke was?'** (page 3). Suggest **'What lies in a pram and wobbles?'** (a jelly baby) or **'What do you call a helicopter with a plate of jelly in it?'** (a jellycopter) – or make up jokes of your own!

Playing with sounds – letter sounds

CLL 3 hear and say initial sounds; **CLL 4** exploring sounds; **NLS** W2; W4

- Read the story aloud, exaggerating words that begin with the same sound:
He wibbled and wobbled and wiggled and waggled. He wobbled about with glee!
(page 6).
- On each page, ask the child if he or she notices words beginning with the same sound. For example (page 3), **"Joke" starts with a "j" sound. Is there another word with that sound?'**
- Play 'I-Spy', asking, **'Can you spot something else in this picture that starts with the sound "___"?''**
- Invent more 'jolly jokes' – about a **'bear and a bumble bee'** or a **'caterpillar on a cabbage'**, for example.