

Now we've read the book, what's next?

Re-read the book! Children understand more and more of the story with each reading. Re-reading provides opportunities to talk about the main ideas children need to grasp, which include:

- Finding the problem in the story
- Working out what the character “wants” - their goal. Characters usually want to fix the problem and this often happens through a chain of events.
- How the characters feel
- Why the characters feel this way.

You can help children develop understanding of “wants” and “feelings” by talking about stories and explaining the links between what happens, how characters feel and what they decided to do.

For example in ‘Rainbow Fish’:

- Talk about what started the problem,
eg. “The fish in the ocean wanted one of Rainbow Fish’s shiny scales.”
- The problem,
eg. “Rainbow fish is left out by all the fish because he won’t give away his scales.”
- Explain how the character feels:
eg. “Rainbow fish feels sad.”
Attach a post-it note to the character and draw a heart and a sad face inside the heart.
- Explain what the character wants:
eg. “He wants to have friends.”
Use post it notes and draw thought bubbles from the character to write or draw what they want.
- Talk about what happened,
eg. “Rainbow fish decided to give scales to the other fish.”
- Explain why,
eg. “Because he wanted to have friends.”

Acting out the story and taking photos of children engaged in this provides an opportunity for the children to get to know the story better. The photo’s can be used to retell and discuss the story again.

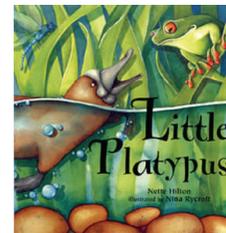
For further information contact your local DECS Speech Pathologist

Great Books for Language Learning No. 4



Stories with “want to”: Characters that have Goals to Solve Problems

These stories tell of a problem and show that the characters make a decision to do something about it. The character “wants” something, which leads them to take action. The feelings of characters are made clear and these feelings drive the character to take action to solve the problem.



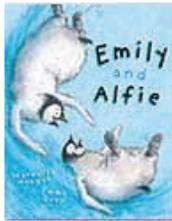
Little Platypus Nette Hilton

When a little platypus hatches from an egg beside a river, he feels lonely. He doesn't know where he belongs so he asks different animals until he at last finds another platypus. His problem is solved and he is no longer lonely.



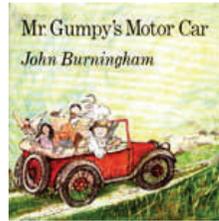
Mutt Dog Stephen Michael King

Mutt Dog belongs to no-one. He spends his days searching for food and a place to sleep, until one day he finds a refuge for homeless people. A lady working there tries to turn the dog away but when he sneaks back in she lets him stay the night. The next morning, she decides to offer the dog a home and soon Mutt Dog is settling in to life in a family.



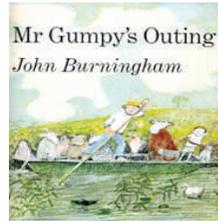
Emily and Alfie
Meredith Hooper

Emily and Alfie were told never to go in the nearby ice cave, but the two decided to do just that. Then suddenly the ice began to shake and tumble, trapping Emily and Alfie inside. They want to escape and the story describes their adventures as they find their way out of the cave.



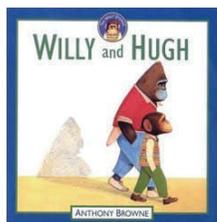
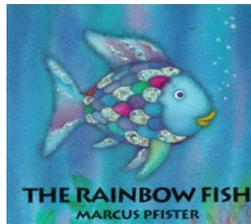
Mr Gumpy's Motor Car & Mr Gumpy's Outing
John Burningham

Mr Gumpy's adventures with two children and some bossy animals results in his car getting bogged in the mud and his boat tipping over in the water.



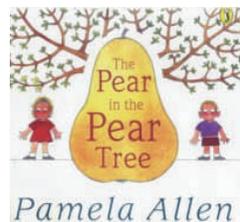
The Rainbow Fish
Marcus Pfister

The Rainbow Fish glitters and glides in the ocean's depths, ignoring the other fish. One day a little fish asks for one of his shiny scales. The Rainbow Fish refuses, and all the other fish turn against him. The Rainbow Fish is upset by this and decides to give away his shiny scales, to make friends.



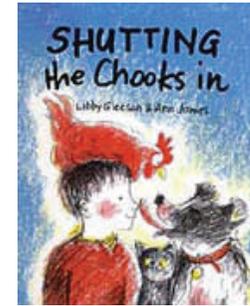
Willy and Hugh
Anthony Browne

Willy the chimpanzee is lonely until he meets Hugh Jape in the park and the two become friends. Hugh protects Willy from the bully who threatens him and Willy scares away the spider that frightens Hugh.



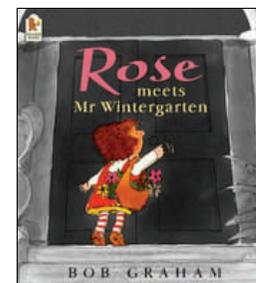
The Pear in the Pear Tree
Pamela Allen

John and Jane go out walking and spy a juicy pear in a pear tree. They decide they must have the pear and although they try, they can't reach it. Finally John and Jane find a way to pick and eat their pear.



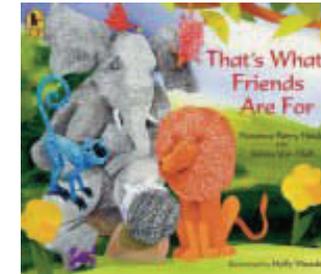
Shutting the Chooks in
Libby Gleeson & Ann James

One evening a boy must feed the chooks and shut them in their pen. He calls the chooks and they follow him to their yard where he feeds them and counts them. But one chook is missing and it is getting dark. The boy must conquer his fears and find the missing chook before the fox comes prowling.



Rose Meets Mr Wintergarten
Bob Graham

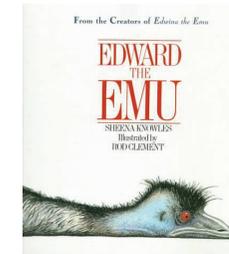
All the children are afraid of mean Mr Wintergarten. One day Rose's ball goes over the fence into Mr Wintergarten's garden. Rose visits her frosty next-door neighbour, bearing cakes and flowers and bringing warmth and friendship to Mr Wintergarten.



That's What Friends Are For
Florence Parry Heide

Theodore the elephant hurt his leg and can't walk.

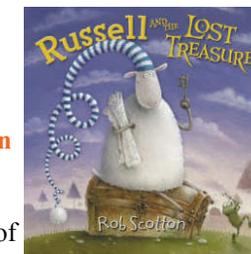
This is a problem as he wants to meet his cousin in the jungle. He decides to ask his friends for help however his friends have plenty of not so helpful ideas. Finally they decide to bring Theodore's cousin to him.



Edward the Emu
Sheena Knowles

Edward is tired of being an emu, so he decides to try being something else for a change. He spends

time swimming with the seals, lounging with the lions and even slithering with the snakes. Finally Edward decides he likes being himself.



Russell the Sheep and the Lost Treasure
Rob Scotton

Russell spies a tattered map that lures him on a treasure hunt. He invents the Super-

Duper Treasure Seeker to help find the treasure. Russell recovers a locked treasure chest from deep underground, however, the only "treasure" in the trunk is a flash camera. Russell then takes many photos to make his own treasured memories.