

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

### **Making Plans**

You can help develop planning skills by thinking through steps before you start an activity. Words like "think" and "need" are often used in books to show this. For example you could plan to have a friend over to play. Talk about:

- What you need to do,  
eg. *"Let's organise for you to play with a friend"*.
- Decide on a day,  
eg. *"I think we could play on Saturday"*.
- Decide on a time,  
eg. *"I think the afternoon would be best"*.
- Write an invitation or ask them.

### **Identifying Plans in Stories**

Some stories have plans that are easy to find. Words like "think, decided, wonder, know" can show the character has thought about what they need to do and are making a plan.

Others stories have plans that are shown only in the pictures. Adults will need to explain that the character is thinking about how to get what he wants. For example in "Waddle Giggle, Gargle", the characters needed to make a "magpie scarer."

- Talk about the problem,  
eg. *"The magpie is swooping and the people are not safe."*
- Explain the goal,  
eg. *"The people want to keep the magpie away."*
- Talk about a plan,  
eg. *"I **think** we need to make something to scare away the magpie."*

**The Plan:** Make the magpie scarer.

- Explain what you will do,  
eg. *"We **need** to blow up some balloons and get some paint to draw eyes on the balloons"*.
- Explain why,  
eg. *"Next we **need** some loud shakers and whistles to make lots of noise."*

Act out the story and show how the plan worked.

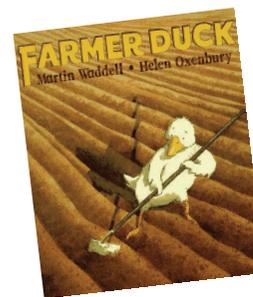
## Great Books for Language Learning No. 5



### Stories with Character Plans

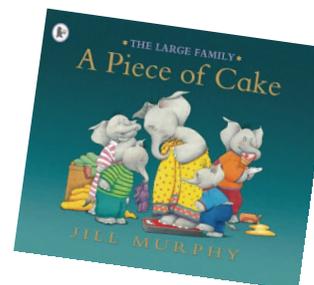
**These stories have a problem and the main character makes a plan - they think of a way to try to get what they want. This builds the understanding of story problems, character "wants" and makes it clear that if a character is to get what they "want" a plan is important. These stories promote thinking skills, problem solving and understanding of more complex stories.**

#### **Farmer Duck** Martin Waddell

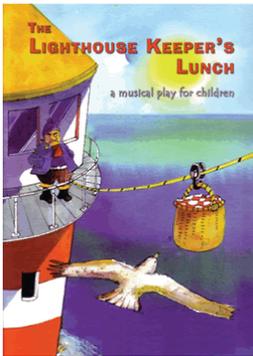


Farmer duck has it hard because his owner is lazy and does no work. While the duck is hoeing, collecting the eggs and doing the housework, the farmer does nothing, occasionally calling out, "How goes the work?" One day, the duck grows so exhausted that the other animals make a plan to oust the farmer. They chase him away and the animals take over the farm.

#### **A Piece of Cake** Jill Murphy



When Mrs Large decides she is too fat, she plans to put the whole family on a diet. Biscuits and chips are out; healthy meals and healthy jogs are in. But for hungry elephants, dieting is difficult and sometimes a piece of cake is just too irresistible!



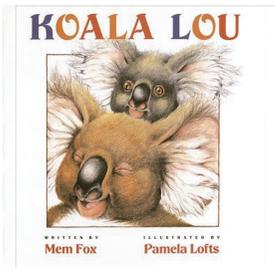
### **The Lighthouse Keeper's Lunch** Ronda & David Armitage

Mr Grinling, the lighthouse keeper, tends his lighthouse each day. Mrs Grinling makes him a delicious lunch and sends it across to the lighthouse from their home on the cliffs by a special cable system. However greedy seagulls keep stealing the food so the Grinlings' make some plans to keep the lunch safe from the birds.



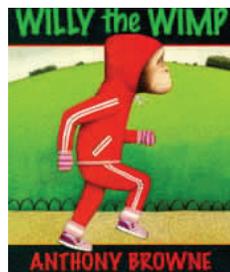
### **Arthur** Amanda Graham

Arthur was an ordinary dog who lived in Mrs Humber's Pet Shop. All the other animals found homes, but not Arthur, so he planned to make himself more appealing to customers. Each night he practised being another animal so someone would give him a home. Finally just the right person finds Arthur.



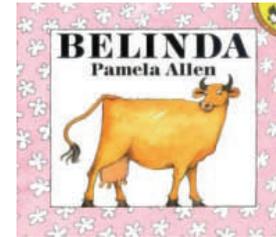
### **Koala Lou** Mem Fox

Koala Lou is loved by her mum but when her new brothers and sisters arrive Koala Lou feels rejected. Koala Lou decides to win back more attention and affection from her mother and plans to enter the Bush Olympics. Although she didn't win, her plan worked as her mother told Koala Lou "I do love you".



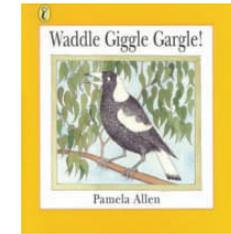
### **Willy the Wimp** Anthony Browne

Willy is called "Willy the Wimp" by the local gorilla gang. One day he sees an ad in a comic book on how to stop being a wimp. He starts exercising, eating healthily, and lifting weights to the point where the gorilla gang becomes afraid of Willy.



### **Belinda** Pamela Allen

When Bessie visits her daughter in the city, Old Tom must take over the job of milking the cow, Belinda. But the cow refuses to let Old Tom milk her so Tom thinks of a plan to get the job done. He puts on Bessie's clothes, and lo and behold, the cow thinks he's Bessie. The plan works and the final result is milk in abundance.



### **Waddle Giggle Gargle!** Pamela Allen

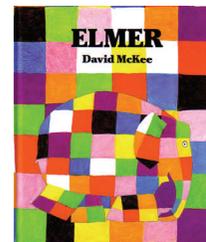
Sitting in a tree outside Jonathan's house is a black and white magpie. "Waddle Giggle Gargle!" the magpie shouts. She is determined to protect her nest and Jonathon's family must think of a plan to protect themselves from the swooping magpie.

### **The Paper Bag Princess** Robert Munsch



Princess Elizabeth is to marry Prince Ronald however a dragon attacks and burns their castle then kidnaps Ronald. Dressed in the only thing she could find, a paper bag, the brave princess finds the dragon's cave, then plans how to trick the dragon to help her find and rescue Ronald. Without a word of thanks, Ronald tells Elizabeth that she is a mess and to come back when she looks like a real princess! Elizabeth realises that Ronald is not her Prince Charming after all.

### **Elmer** David McKee



Elmer was an elephant who is very different because he was patchwork. He wanted to be the same as the other elephants so he decided to disguise himself by rolling in some berries that made him grey coloured. Then the rain fell and washed the berry juice away. The other elephants saw that it was Elmer and decided to have a special day when they would paint themselves different colours, so Elmer could look "normal".