

Unit 1

Children's stories

A Speaking and listening

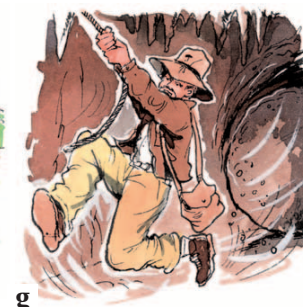


- 1 Look at the pictures below and with your partner match each one with an appropriate word from the box.



Useful tip

You can always use a dictionary to look up any words you are not sure of.



horror • romance • adventure • science fiction • legend
 myth • fairy tale • comedy • crime • fantasy

2 Match the genres (types) in the left-hand column to their definitions in the right-hand column.

horror	an idea or story that many people believe, but which is not true
romance	an old well-known story, often about brave people, adventures, or magical events
adventure	a story that is based on imagination and not facts
science fiction	stories based around illegal activities
legend	stories in the future that are affected by imaginary developments in science
myth	stories about an exciting experience in which dangerous or exciting things happen
fairy tale	stories written to frighten or shock
comedy	story in which magical things happen
crime	stories intended to make people laugh
fantasy	a story about the love between two people



3 Now match each of the extracts below to the words from exercise 1. Which genre best describes each?

- a And yet she did not look around as much as she might, for she could hardly bear to look away from the face of the Prince.
- b ‘Ramona is wearing a worm for a ring!’ everybody shouted. ‘It’s a pink worm,’ said Ramona, thrusting out her hand. ‘Not an old dead white worm.’
- c ‘Who has awaked me? Who has broken the spell?’ she asked.
- d Only a little light filtered in through the tunnel, but the three investigators could see they were in a large cave with a high ceiling.
- e One scooped the yellow sunshine from the tops of pools at sunrise. Another begged the brimstone butterfly for some of the yellow dust on his wings.
- f However, rummaging around in the ashes, the boy came upon a small bottle that Owuo had kept hidden in the very hair that had been his undoing.
- g The house had a faintly disturbed feeling, as though it was waiting for something to happen.

- h ‘I come from another world’, began Ransom. ‘I know, I know,’ said the creature...
- i I told you that divers had been down and explored the ship...
- j The fourth great Pharaoh of Egypt was called Osiris. He was a god, the great grandson of Ra who, according to the Word, created the world.

Useful tip

Use the pair-share-square technique: first discuss with your partner, then join another pair to share your discussion points.

Useful tip

The charts will help you lay out your work clearly in your exercise books.

4 Work with your partner.

Think of an author, book, or story that best fits into each of the genres below. Then talk about what sort of books and stories you like to read. Copy the chart below into your exercise book, but put the genres in order of your preference.

Genre	Author/Book/Story title	Preference
horror		
romance		
adventure		
science fiction		
legend		
myth		
fairy tale		
comedy		
crime		
fantasy		

5 You are going to listen to part of a story called *Bounce mih, nah*.

The story will be read to you once. At the end of the story, try to answer the following questions:

- ▶ In what genre would you place the story?
- ▶ Did the introduction catch your interest and make you want to hear more of the story? Why/why not?
- ▶ Who is the main character in the story? What have you learnt about him from the first paragraph?

6 Now answer the following questions based on the text.

- a What **two** reasons are given for Henry’s bad mood?
- b What expression tells us what sort of a day it was?
- c On whom did Henry vent his bad mood? What was that person doing?

- d** In what way were the other children acting irresponsibly?
- e** What was the reaction of the other children to Henry honking his horn?
- f** Find **two** examples of West Indian dialect in the passage. What effect does using dialect have?
- g** What was Henry's reaction to the accident?
- h** Why can we say that Henry did the right thing after the accident?
- i** What did the parents of the children decide to do as a result of the accident?
- j** Why do you think Henry feels it is 'his duty' to visit the boy in hospital?
- k** Find words in the text similar in meaning to the following:
 - i group
 - ii bothered
 - iii oblivious
 - iv called
 - v kept
 - vi demand



Useful tip

Start a logbook to keep
a record of all the books
you read this year.

B Literature and reading



- 7 Below is a list of adult and children’s novels.
Each novel shows the author and the year in which it was written. In small groups find out how many of these you are acquainted with:
- a *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* – J.K. Rowling (2000)
 - b *Little Dorrit* – Charles Dickens (1857)
 - c *The Hobbit* – J.R.R. Tolkien (1937)
 - d *Vanity Fair* – W.M. Thackeray (1847)
 - e *Chartbreak* – Gillian Cross (1986)
 - f *Rebecca* – Daphne Du Maurier (1932)
 - g *Wide Sargasso Sea* – Jean Rhys (1996)
- 8 Now read each extract below carefully.
Look at the style of language and do the following:
- a Find two extracts to match each novel.
 - b State whether the novel is an adult or a children’s book.
 - c Say what clues help you to identify the answers for (a) and (b) above.
 - d What kind of novel is each?
 - e Say which century each novel was written in.

A He went a beautiful strawberry pink and the words came tumbling out, ‘Come on. You must have guessed Christie was winding you up on purpose.’	B Deep down here by the dark water lived old Gollum, a small slimy creature. I don’t know where he came from, nor who or what he was.
C He never spoke to me. He never touched me. We stood beside one another, the host and the hostess, and we were not together. I watched his courtesy to his guests.	D But Harry wasn’t going to stand for this. Gone were the days when he had been forced to take every single one of the Dursleys’ stupid rules. He wasn’t following Dudley’s diet, and he wasn’t going to let Uncle Vernon stop him going to the Quidditch World Cup, not if he could help it.



<p>E The young gentleman, was standing in an easy attitude on the hearth, cocking his glass at the company, with his back to the blaze and his coat tucked under his arms, as if he were of the poultry species and were trussed for roasting.</p>	<p>F One young lady, in her fevered and nervous condition, could have had no more salutary medicine prescribed for her by any physician than that which chance put in her way.</p>
<p>G He heard Voldemort’s scream of fury at the same moment as he felt the jerk behind his navel that meant the Portkey had worked – it was speeding him away in a whirl of wind and colour, Cedric along with him – they were going back...</p>	<p>H When the demise took place, her husband was in London attending to some of his innumerable schemes, and busy with his endless lawyers. He had found time, nevertheless, to call often in Park Lane and to dispatch many notes to Rebecca.</p>
<p>I At the end of a fortnight Thorin began to think of departure. While the enthusiasm still lasted, in the town was the time to get help. It would not do to let everything cool down with delay.</p>	<p>J ‘It’ll be rough, all right’, Philip said. He was breathing harder and he ran a finger round inside the neck of his loose T-shirt as if it choked him.</p>
<p>K It appeared, before the breakfast was over, that everybody whom this Gowan knew was either more of less of an ass, or more or less of a knave.</p>	<p>L There was tea, in a great silver urn, and coffee, too, and on the heater, piping hot, dishes of scrambled eggs, of bacon, and another of fish. There was a little clutch of boiled eggs as well.</p>
<p>M ‘They call me Daniel’, he said, still not looking at me, ‘but my name is Esau. All I get is curses and get-outs from that damn devil my father.’</p>	<p>N Underneath the tree ferns, tall as forest tree ferns, the light was green, orchids flourished out of reach or for some reason not to be touched.</p>

- 9 You are now going to read an extract from a children's story called *A Little Princess*. It is a moving story about a little girl who loses her father.

Read the first paragraph only, and answer the following:

- a Which words in the first paragraph suggest to us that it was not written in the present day?
b What genre would you say the story was?

Now read the rest of the extract and enjoy!



Chapter 1 – Sara

Once on a dark winter's day, when the yellow fog hung so thick and heavy in the streets of London that the lamps were lighted and the shop windows blazed with gas as they do at night, an odd-looking little girl sat in a cab with her father, and was driven rather slowly through the big thoroughfares.

She sat with her feet tucked under her, and leaned against her father, who held her in his arms, as she stared out of the window at the passing people with a queer old-fashioned thoughtfulness in her big eyes.

She was such a little girl that one did not expect to see such a look on her small face. It would have been an odd look for a child of twelve, and Sara Crewe was only seven. The fact was, however, that she was always dreaming and thinking odd things, and could not herself remember any time when she had not been thinking things about grown-up people and the world they belonged to. She felt as if she had lived a long, long time.

At this moment she was remembering the voyage she had just made from Bombay with her father, Captain Crewe. She was thinking of the big ship, of the Lascars passing silently to and

fro on it, of the children playing about on the hot deck, and of some young officers' wives who used to try to make her talk to them and laugh at the things she said.

Principally, she was thinking of what a queer thing it was that at one time one was in India in the blazing sun, and then in the middle of the ocean, and then driving in a strange vehicle through strange streets where the day was as dark as the night. She found this so puzzling that she moved closer to her father.

'Papa', she said in a low, mysterious little voice which was almost a whisper, 'Papa.'

'What is it, darling?' Captain Crewe answered, holding her closer and looking down into her face. 'What is Sara thinking of?'

'Is this the place?' Sara whispered, cuddling still closer to him. 'Is it, Papa?'

'Yes, little Sara, it is. We have reached it at last.' And though she was only seven years old, she knew that he felt sad when he said it.

It seemed to her many years since he had begun to prepare her mind for 'the place', as she always called it. Her mother had died when she was born, so she had never known or missed her. Her young, handsome, rich, petting father seemed to be the only relation she had in the world. They had always played together and been fond of each other. She only knew he was rich because she had heard people say so when they thought she was not listening, and she had also heard them say that when she grew up she would be rich too.

(Taken from Frances Hodgson Burnett, *A Little Princess*, Puffin Books UK, 2003, p.1.)

10 Now answer these questions based on the text.

- a** How does the atmosphere of the first paragraph influence the mood to the introduction of the story?

Did you know?

Frances Hodgson Burnett, who wrote ‘A Little Princess’, started writing and selling her stories in her early twenties to support her four younger siblings after their parents died.

- b From the second paragraph what would you say is the relationship between the little girl and her father? Explain your answer.
- c What do you understand by the expression ‘...with a queer old-fashioned thoughtfulness in her big eyes’?
- d In the third paragraph Sara is portrayed as a ‘mature’ child. Explain how.
- e Name **three** things that she was remembering about the voyage.
- f What contrast is made in paragraph five?
- g What feeling do you get about it? Why? What do you think ‘the place’ is?
- h What sort of childhood has Sara had up till now?
- i How did Sara know her father was rich?
- j What **four** adjectives are used to describe her father?
- k Find words in the text similar in meaning to the following:
 - i mist
 - ii taxi
 - iii roads
 - iv East Indian sailor
 - v mainly
 - vi very hot

C Vocabulary



- 11 The following expressions are important in the study and understanding of narrative.
With your teacher’s help and/or the use of a dictionary, match the words to their definitions.

colloquial	the writer’s voice or atmosphere or feeling that pervades the text
dialect	sometimes called ‘register’ and is the author’s choice of language
dialogue	the version of language spoken by particular people in a particular area
hyperbole	the humorous or sarcastic use of words or ideas, implying the opposite of what they mean

imagery	conversation between two people
irony	language that is used in speech with an informal meaning
tone	exaggerating something for literary purposes, which is not meant to be taken literally
word choice	similes, metaphors, and personification: they all compare something 'real' with something 'imagined'



- 12** Now match the words learnt from exercise 11 with the examples given below.
- a** Bounce mih, nah, wanga – gut, dutty.
 - b** mate, limin, chill out.
 - c** ‘A fine thing indeed!’, he muttered to himself.
 - d** The beauty of the morning / a smiling moon.
 - e** I nearly died laughing, I tried a thousand times.
 - f** ‘Please, ladies and gentlemen, please, silence.’
 - g** Once on a dark, winter’s day.
 - h** ‘Would you like a drink?’ ‘No, thank you. I’ve just had one.’

D Oral communication skills

- 13** How much do you know about books and children’s books? With your partner, see how many of the following you can match with the information listed in the chart that follows.
- a** The author of *The Wooing of Beppo Tate*.
 - b** Homer the Greek poet lived about how many years ago?
 - c** Even a short novel has more than how many words?
 - d** A manuscript is what?
 - e** Name a major publisher.
 - f** *Canterbury Tales* was written by Chaucer when?
 - g** The author of *The Caribbean Bunch*.
 - h** The man who wrote *Oliver Twist* and *A Christmas Carol* was who?
 - i** What is the first book in the series by J.K. Rowling?
 - j** The title of the first science fiction book to be written.
 - k** The author of these books: *The Great Snakeskin*, *Oriki* and *the Monster Who Hated Balloons*.