

The School Trip

'How was school today, Marigold,' asked Mum

'Terrible. Miss Tompkins said she was sorry to disappoint us but we're not going to the zoo any longer, the outing is now to the local nature reserve to examine insects. I wasn't disappointed, I was furious!!' complained Marigold.

'Hopefully we'll get a refund. A nature reserve should be free.'

'Free because it's boring. Insects aren't proper animals. They're creepy and I'll get nightmares if I examine them! I was really looking forward to seeing elephants.'

'It's the same for everyone.'

'So? She looked baffled. 'How does that make it better?'

'At least, you're all in the same boat.'

'There's no boat, she says we're paddling.'

'Well you're *all* paddling. You're together.'

'Some people don't mind at all. I think I was the most annoyed. When she tried to make spiders sound exciting, I nearly cried.'

'I'm sure everyone felt a bit disappointed. but they probably made themselves feel better by thinking about the paddling and...the insects'

'Don't, its making me feel itchy. When they get there, they'll realise how boring it is. It will be double disappointment And double disappointment equals Anger!'

'Not necessarily. It's not like maths.'

'Much worse. Oh, and she said we'll have to wear wellies.'

'Could you look in the cupboard for yours, check you have some?'

Marigold rooted around in the cupboard and brought out some wellies. 'These are mine.' She tried to push her feet in.

'Mum, they're too tight, I can't wear them...I won't be able to go!'

'I'll have to buy you some new boots.'

'Oh dear...' Marigold's face broke into a big cheeky grin.

'You're looking happier,' smiled back Mum.

'Let's look online, so I can choose a pair'. They sat on the settee looking at wellies. 'Look, Mum,' Marigold gasped, 'boots with elephants on them, aren't they lovely? Pleeease Mum, please?' she looked up with her big hopeful eyes.

'If I order them, can that be the end of your disappointment?' asked Mum.

'That's a deal,' beamed Marigold. She couldn't believe her luck and her eyes sparkled with the excitement of the school trip now and wearing her brand-new wellies.

Then Marigold suddenly jumped up and went rummaging through her school bag, pulling out a piece of paper. She ran back to Mum on the settee and together they read it. 'Look, it says I need to wear

a waterproof coat too. Have I got one?' Mum nodded. Marigold went and put it on. 'It's too small. I'm going to need a new one.'

'No, you're not. It's fine.'

'Please can I have a matching elephant raincoat?' whined marigold.

'No, wellies will have to do.'

'Oh pleeeese!'

'No.' Marigold started scowling angrily. 'A minute ago you were overjoyed at the prospect of new wellies. So don't start sulking now,' said Mum.

'I'm feeling disappointed.'

'Well don't! Better to look forward to your school trip.'

'Or to when it's time for me to get a new raincoat!' Marigold said grinning.