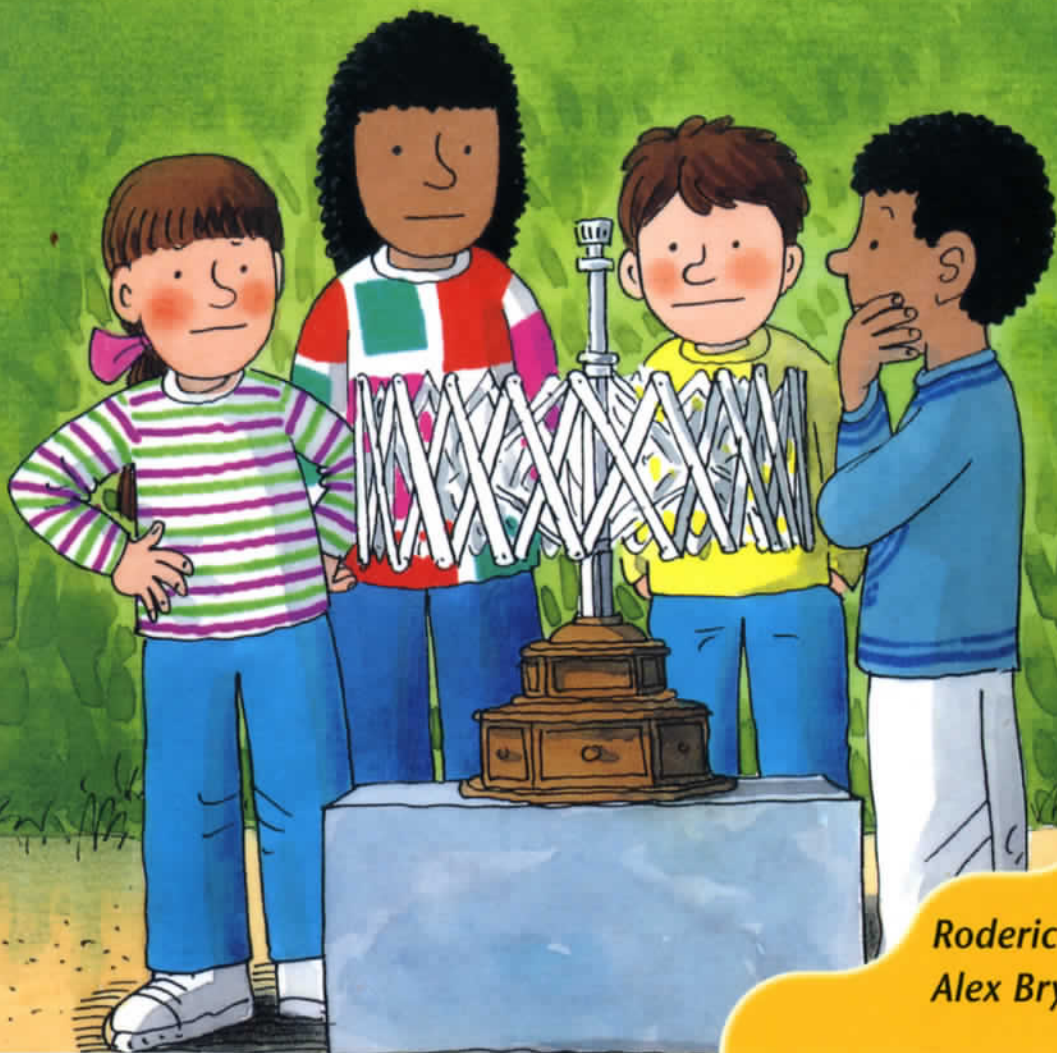




Oxford  
Reading  
Tree

# The Whatsit



Roderick Hunt  
Alex Brychta

### **What's this story about?**

The family discovers a strange thing that they call a 'whatsit'.

### **Talk together**

Look at the word 'Whatsit' and work out that it comes from 'What is it?'

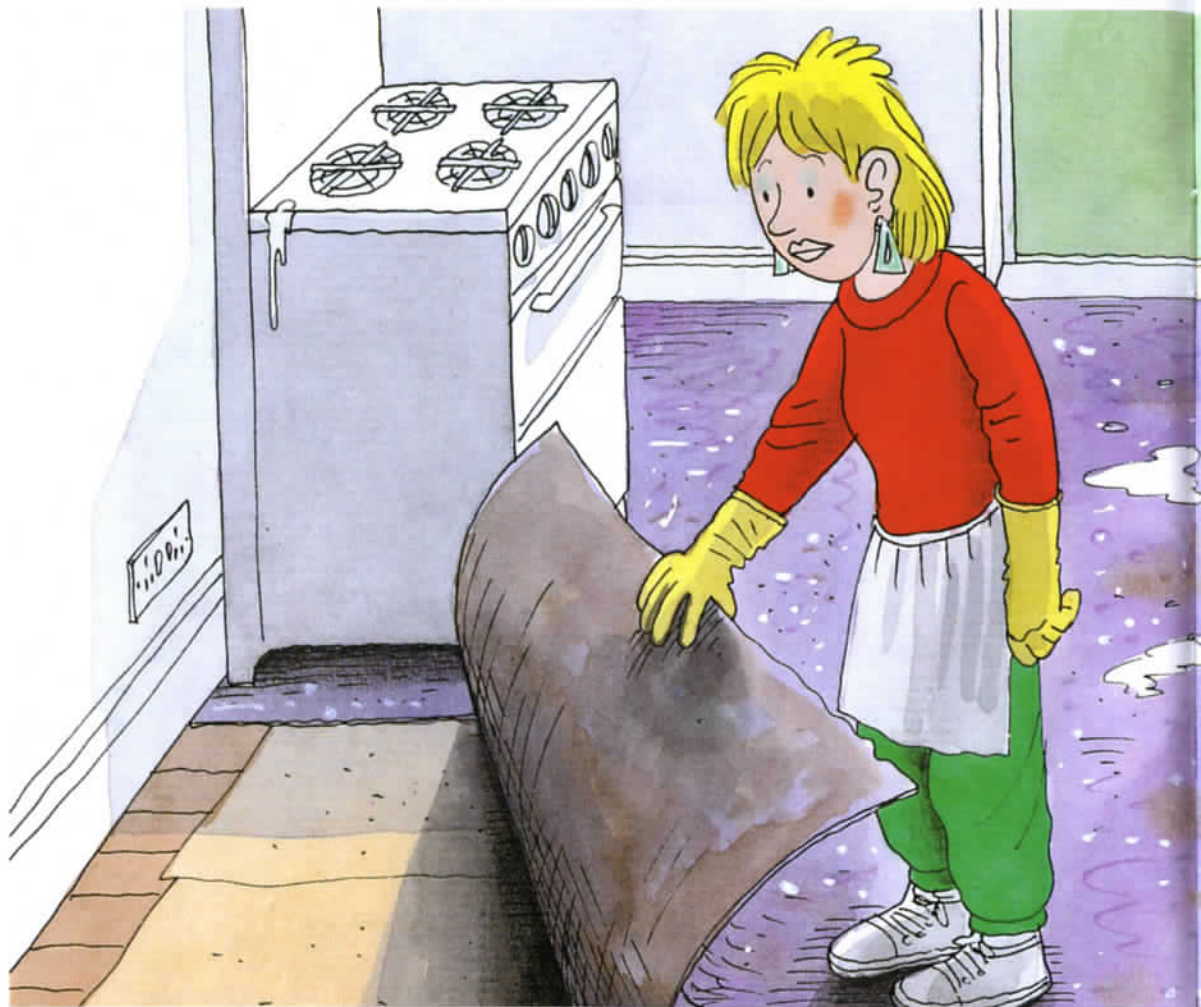
### **Read the story**

**W** = Word recognition    **C** = Language comprehension

- W** Page 1, notice that 'ceiling' begins with 'c' but it has an 's' sound because it is followed by 'e'.
- W** Page 5, notice that the 'c' in cellar is followed by 'e' and also has an 's' sound.
- W** Page 7, use letter sounds to work out 'spooky', 's-p-oo-k-y'.
- C** Pages 8–9, ask, "What sort of things would you find in a cellar?"
- W** Page 18, show the child how to read 'museum' by breaking it into three parts, mu-se-um.
- C** Page 18, ask, "Can you explain what the whatsit was used for?"
- C** Pages 20–21, ask, "What sort of things would you find in a museum?"
- C** Page 23, ask, "What do you think this whatsit might be?"



Mum and Dad painted the kitchen.  
Dad painted the ceiling. Mum  
painted the walls.



Mum pulled up the old carpet.  
“The walls look good,” she said. “But  
this looks a mess.”



Dad looked at the floor. "We need a new carpet," said Biff.



Mum found a trap door. She pulled it up.



Everyone looked.  
“It’s a cellar,” said Dad.



Mum went into the cellar.  
“It looks big,” she said.





The children looked in.

“It looks dark,” said Biff.

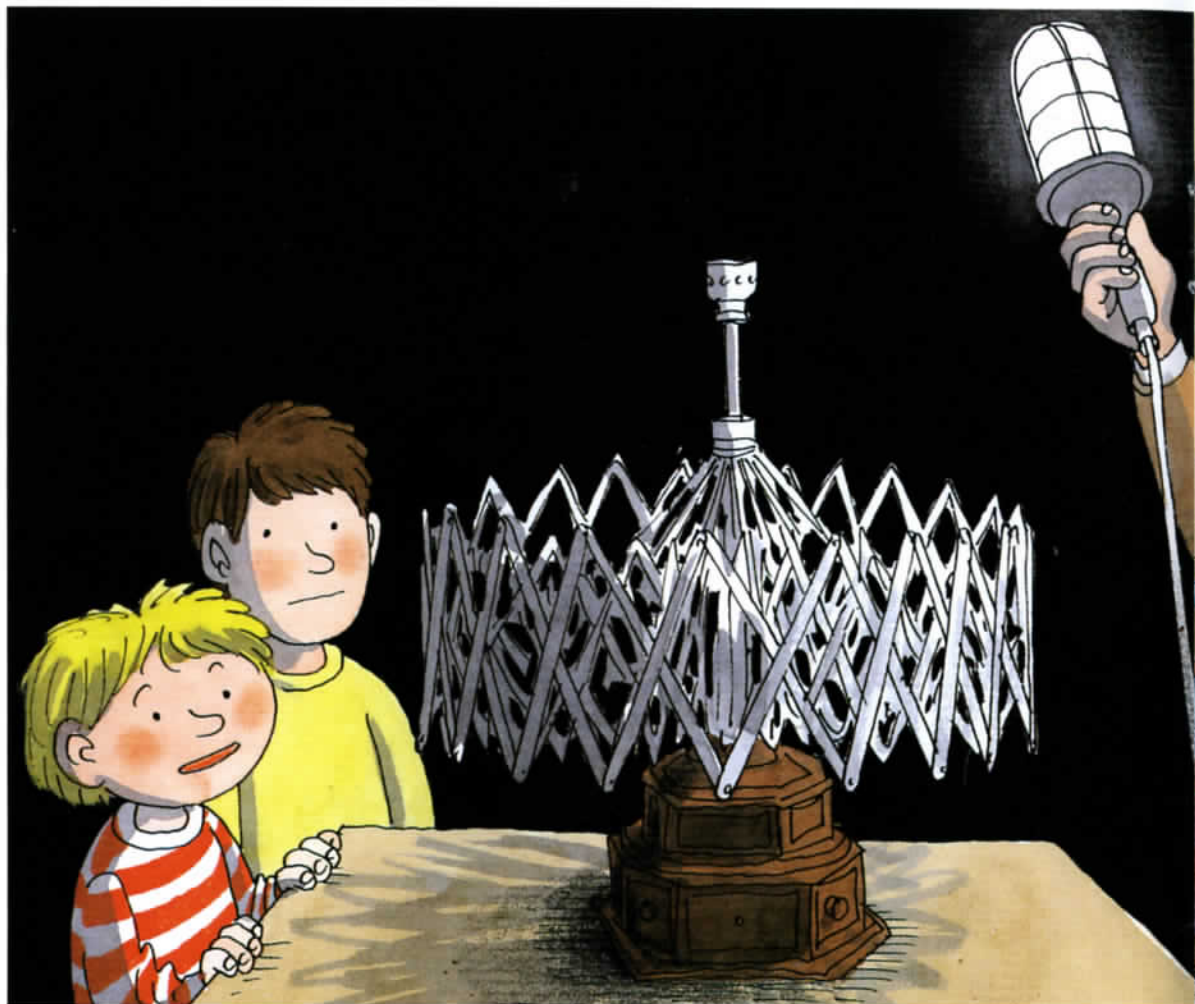
“It looks spooky,” said Chip.



Dad got a light. They went into the cellar.



Kipper found an old sheet.  
“I’m a ghost,” he said.  
“Whoooooooooooooooooa...!”



“Look at this,” said Kipper.  
“What is it?” asked Chip.



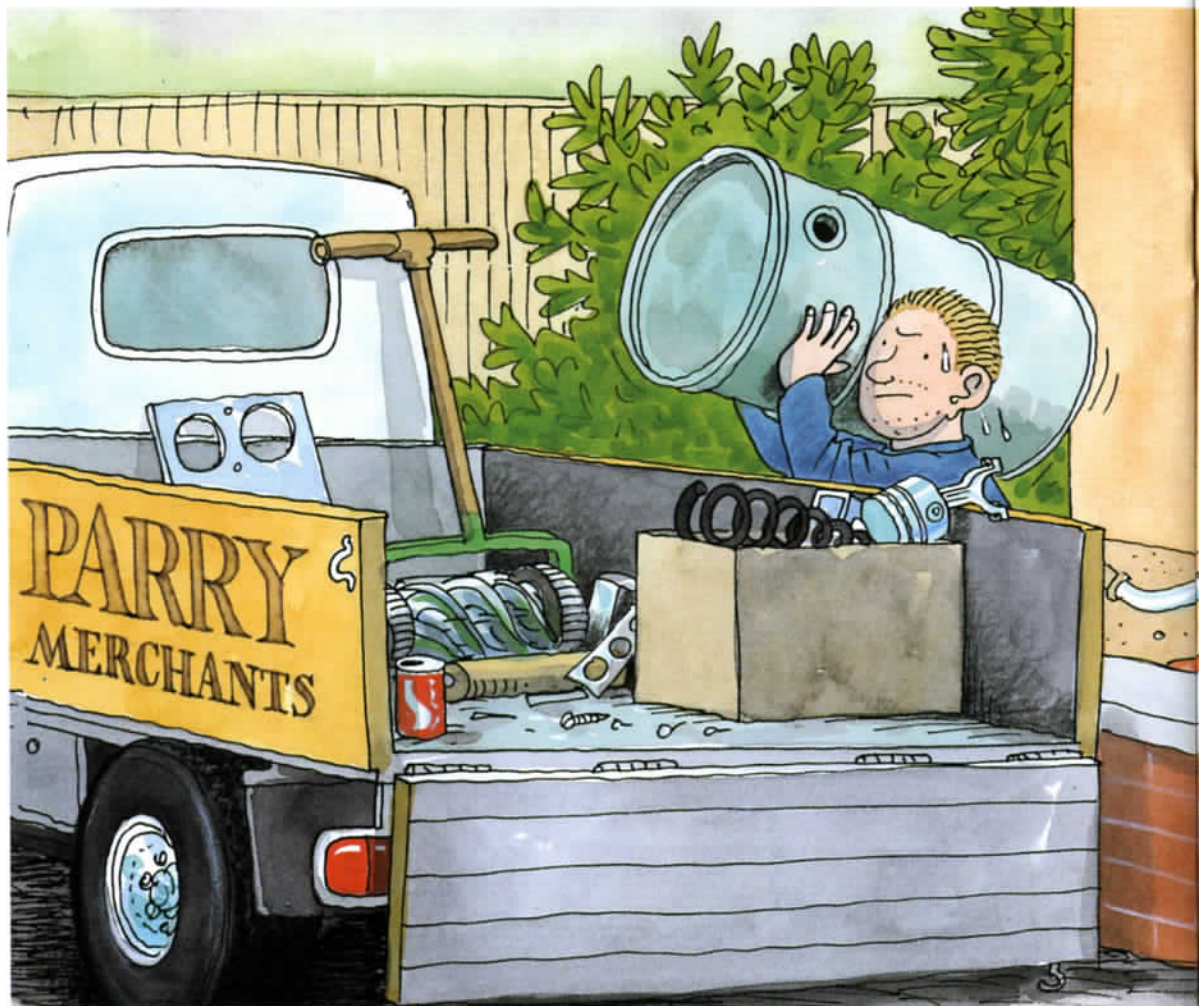
“I don’t know,” said Mum.  
“It’s a whatsit,” said Dad.



Wilf and Wilma came to play. They looked at the whatsit.  
“What is it?” asked Wilma.



“It’s a whatsit,” said Chip.  
“We found it in the cellar.”

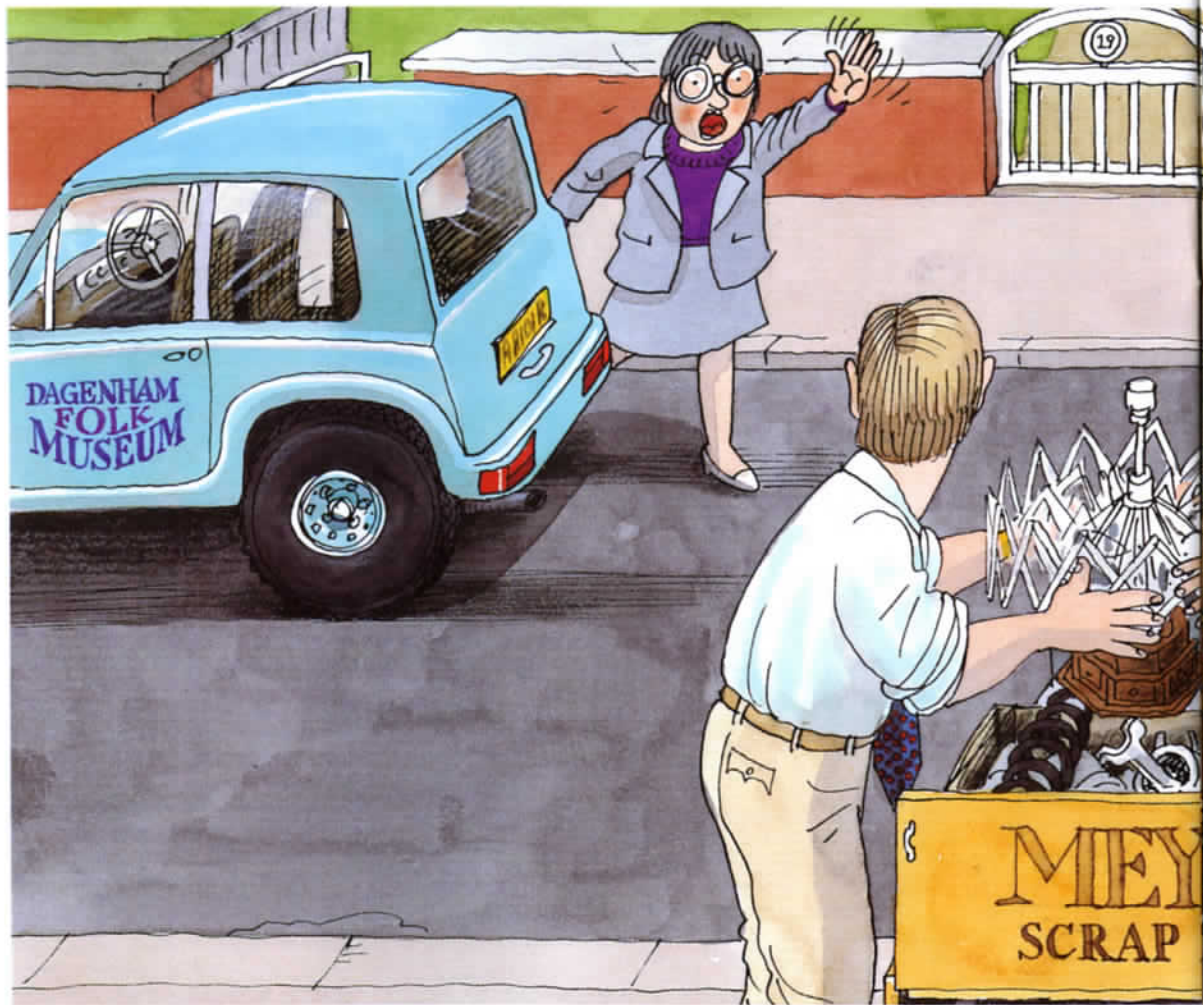


Two men came to the house. They came in a lorry. They took away the old things.

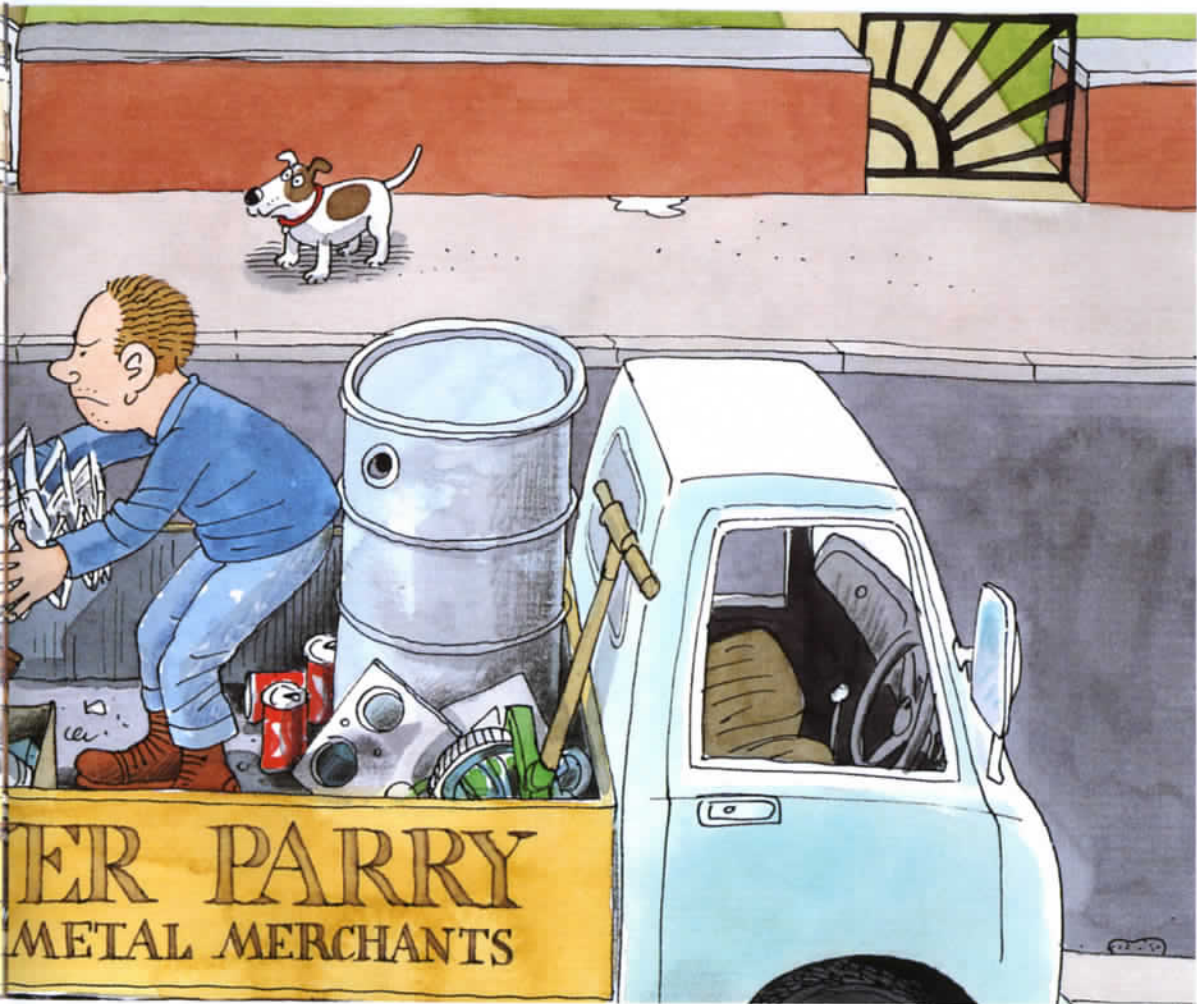




One man looked at the whatsit.  
“What is it?” he asked.  
“It’s a whatsit,” said Dad.

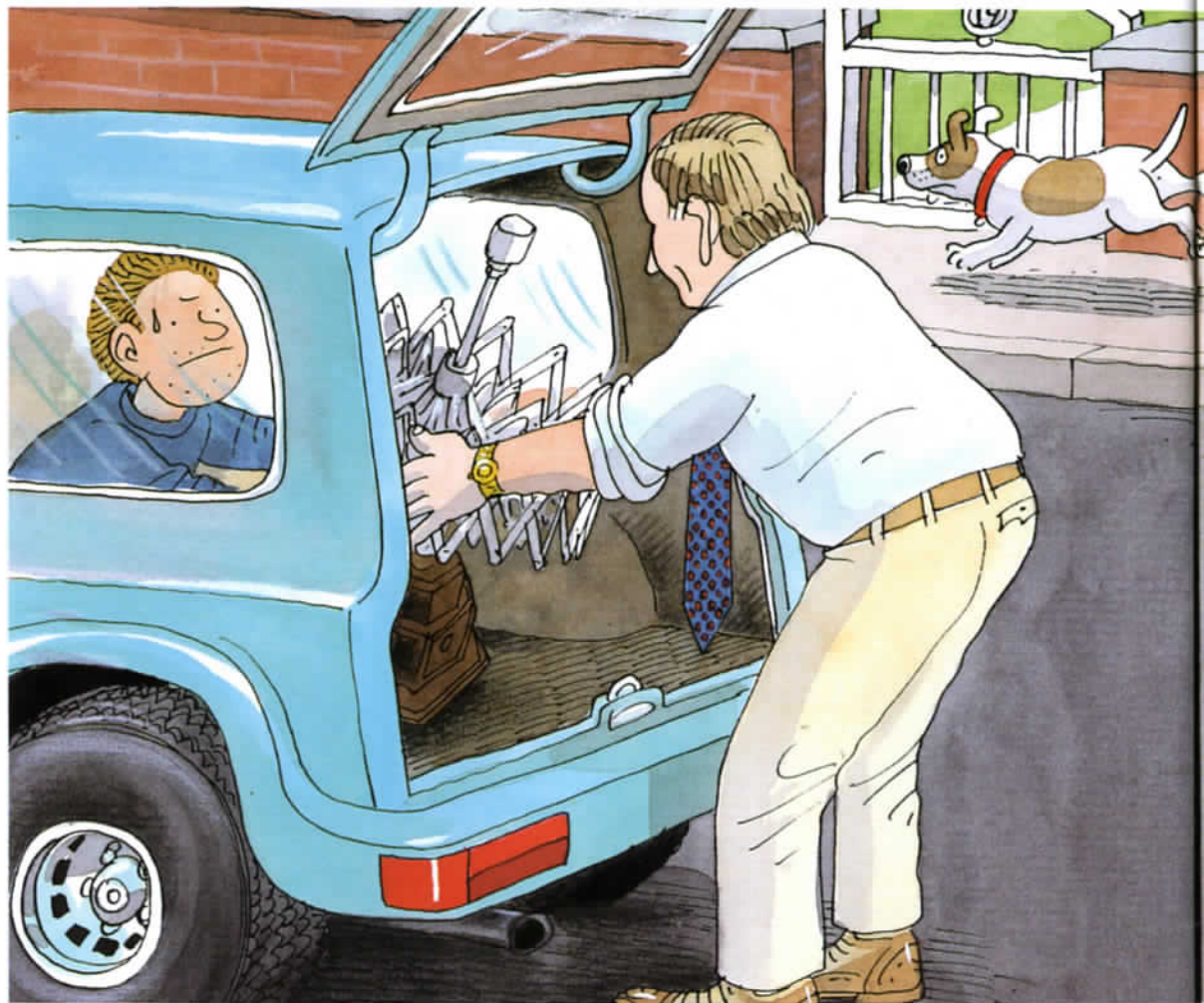


The men took the whatsit. They put it in a lorry. A car stopped.



A lady jumped out and called to  
the men.

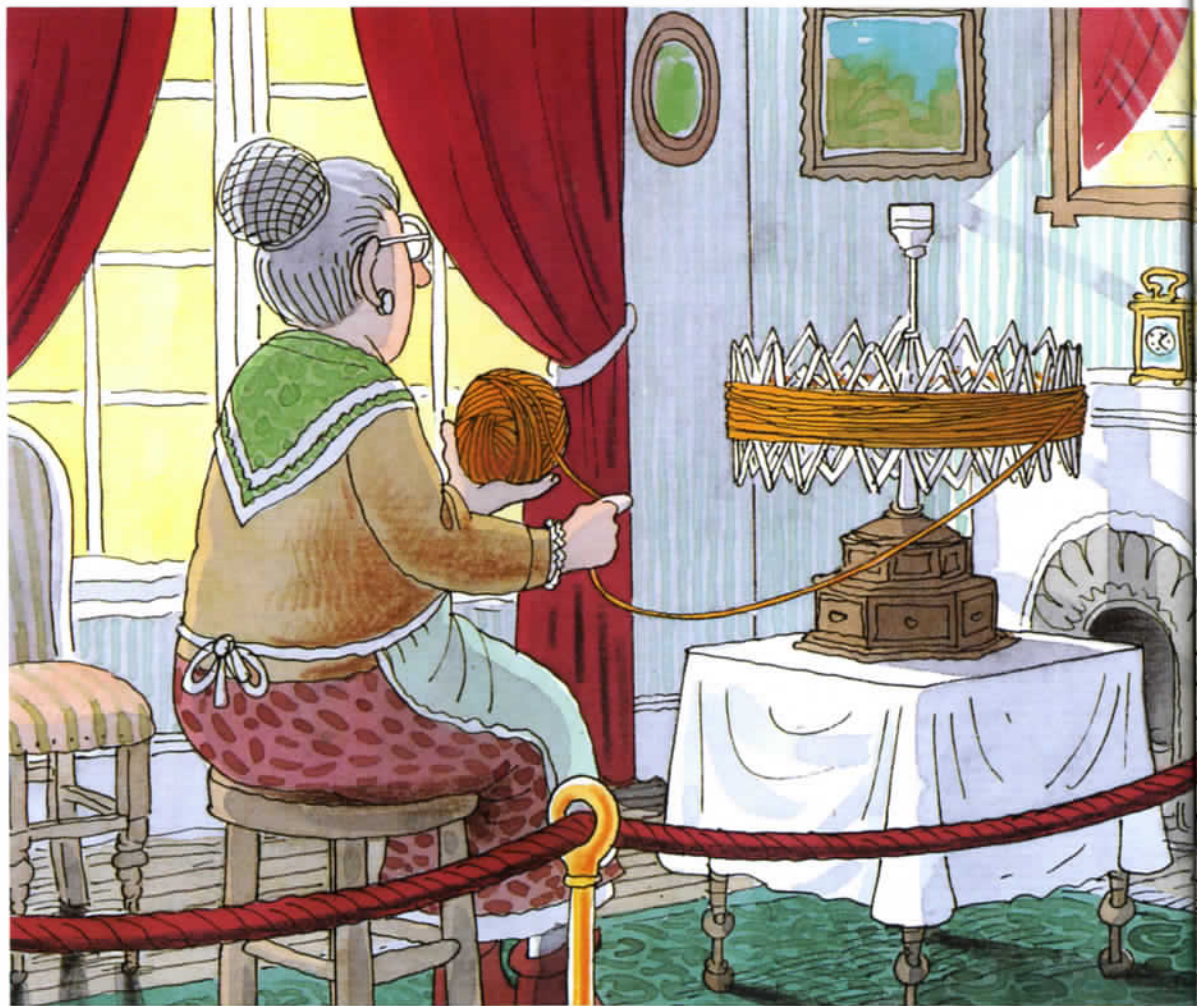
“Stop!” she said.



The lady wanted the whatsit. She wanted it for a museum. The men put it in the car.



The lady gave Dad some money.  
“Come to the museum,” she said, “and  
bring the children.”



The whatsit was in the museum. Mum and Dad went to see it.



They took Biff, Chip and Kipper.  
“So that’s what it is,” said Dad.



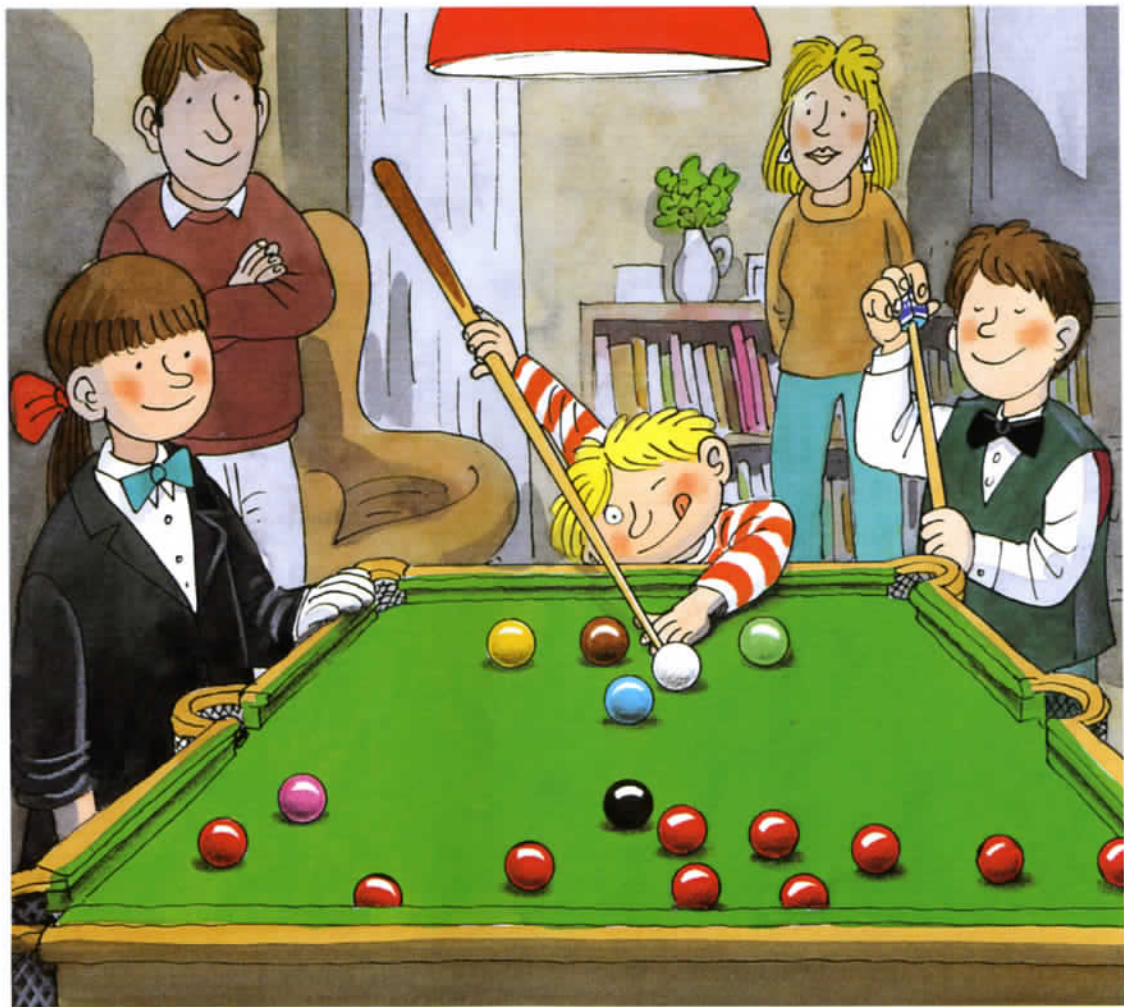
Mum and Dad had a surprise. It was for the children.

“What is it?” asked Biff.





“It’s a whatsit,” said Dad. He pulled off the sheet.



The whatsit was a snooker table.  
“It’s brilliant!” they said.

## **Play a game**

### ***It's a whatsit!***

*To help children get better at describing things.*

- Point to a picture and say two things about an object, e.g. page 4, "It helps keep your clothes clean. Mum has a white one." The child has to guess what it is (apron).
- When the child has guessed, he/she takes a turn at describing an object.

## **Other ideas**

*You can use these ideas straight away, or on another day.*

- Find 'it's' (page 5), 'I'm' (page 9), and 'don't' (page 11). Ask, "What are these words short for?"
- If possible, look at and discuss some unusual tools with the child.

# The Whatsit

The family find a strange object.

This story practises these words:

an but call(ed) came don't door good  
got had house jump(ed) man new off  
old one out pull(ed) put so some  
that took two want(ed) what



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