



Oxford
Reading
Tree

Dad's Grand Plan



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What's this story about?

Dad's Grand Plan is to make sure everything goes smoothly when they go on holiday. Things go well until they discover they have left Floppy behind, which wasn't in Dad's plan.

Talk together

Talk with the children about going on holiday or out for the day. Talk about the things they had to take, and anything they forgot.

Read the story

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

- C** Read the title on the cover and the back cover blurb. Ask, "What do you think a Grand Plan might be?" "What do you think will happen?"
- C** Page 2, ask, "Why do you think Floppy was excited?"
- W** Page 3, look together at the word 'sigh'. Notice how the three letters 'igh' make one sound.
- C** Page 9, notice 'whispered', and read what Chip said in a whisper.
- C** Page 11, ask, "Who do you think they might have forgotten?"
- C** Page 18, ask, "Why were Dad's clothes in the road?"
- C** Page 24, ask, "Why are they cleaning the cottage?"



Everyone was excited. It was holiday time. Kipper couldn't wait.

“Only two days to go!” he said.



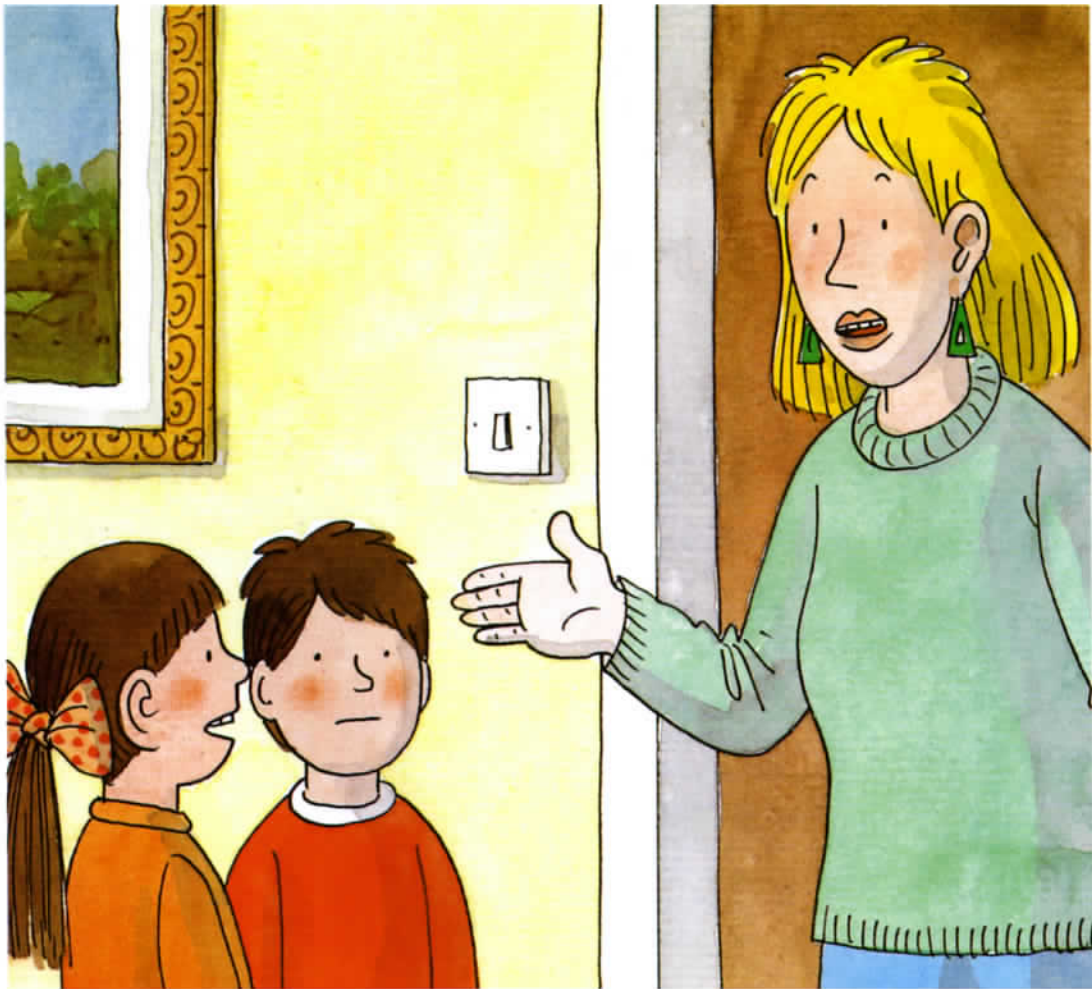
Chip looked at Floppy. He was running round and round. They all laughed at him.

“See! Even Floppy is excited,” said Chip.



Mum came in. She gave a big sigh.
“Dad wants a family meeting,” she
said.

“What’s that?” asked Kipper.



“Dad has a Grand Plan.”

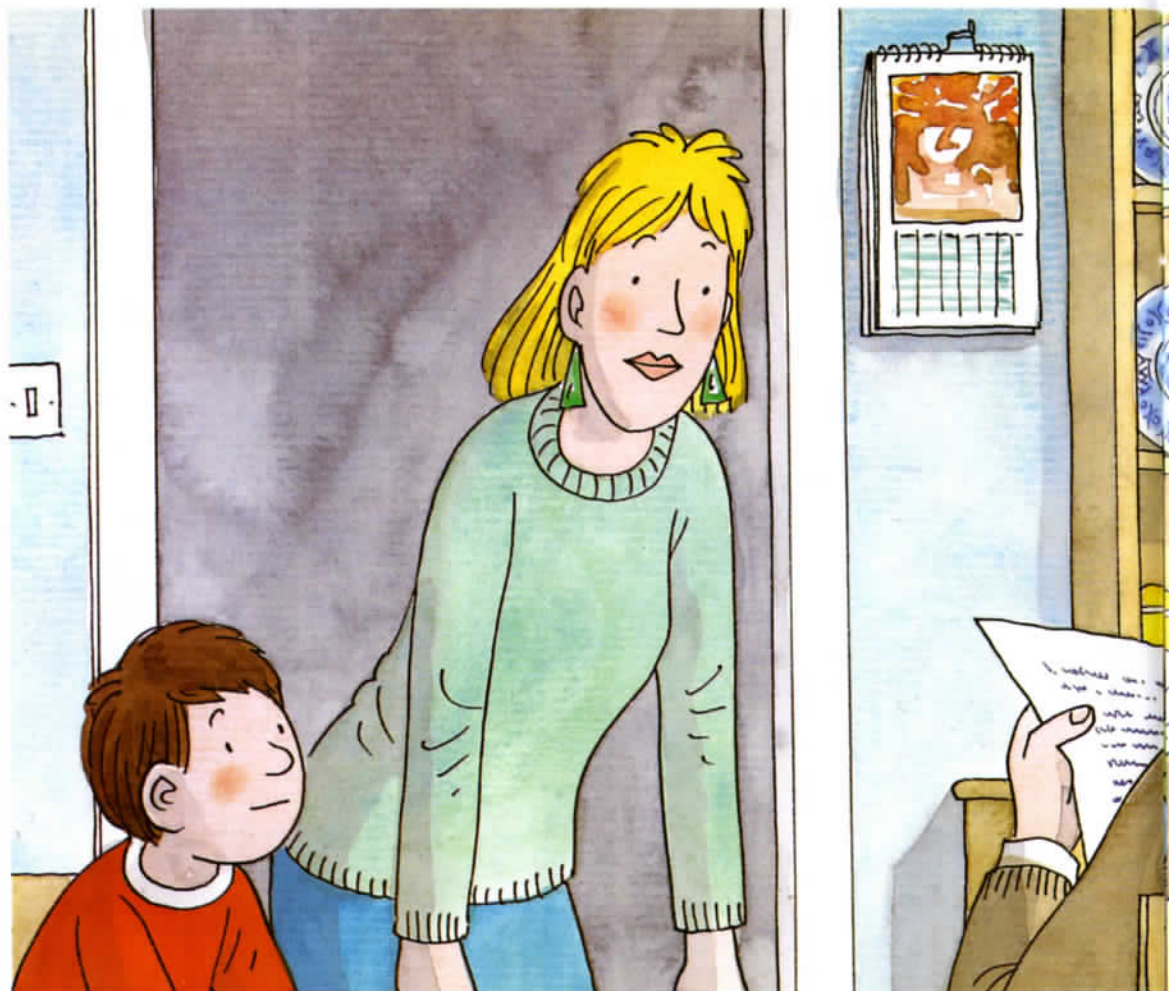
“A Grand Plan?” said Chip. “What’s a Grand Plan?”

“I don’t like the sound of it,” said Biff.



Everyone sat at the table. Dad had made a long list of jobs.

“I want everyone to help, then nobody gets cross,” he said.



Everyone looked at the list. They all had jobs to do. Mum liked Dad's Grand Plan. Chip was not so sure!

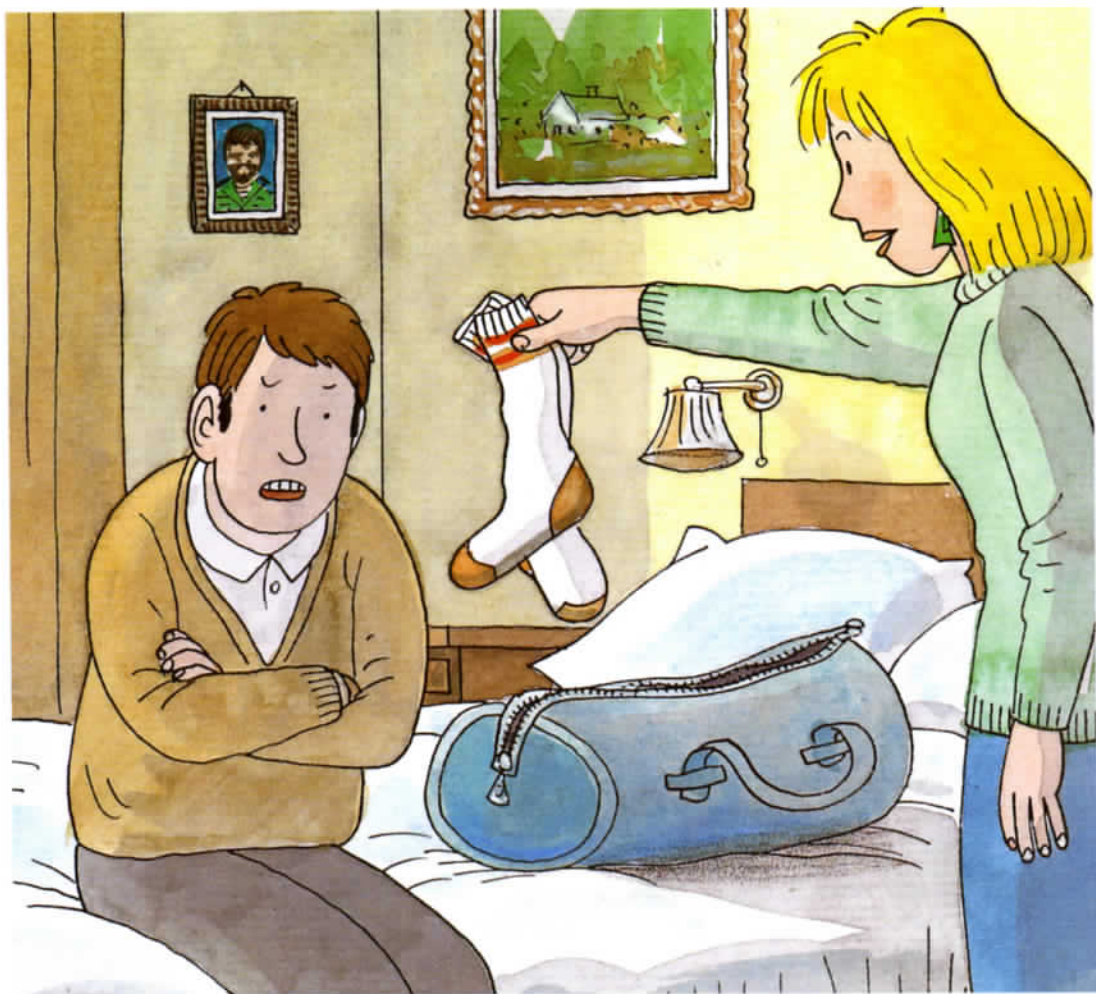


“I’ve packed my bag,” said Biff.

“And I’ve packed *my* bag,” said Kipper.

“I have not packed yet,” said Dad.

“Why not?” asked Mum.



“I can’t find my socks,” said Dad, crossly.

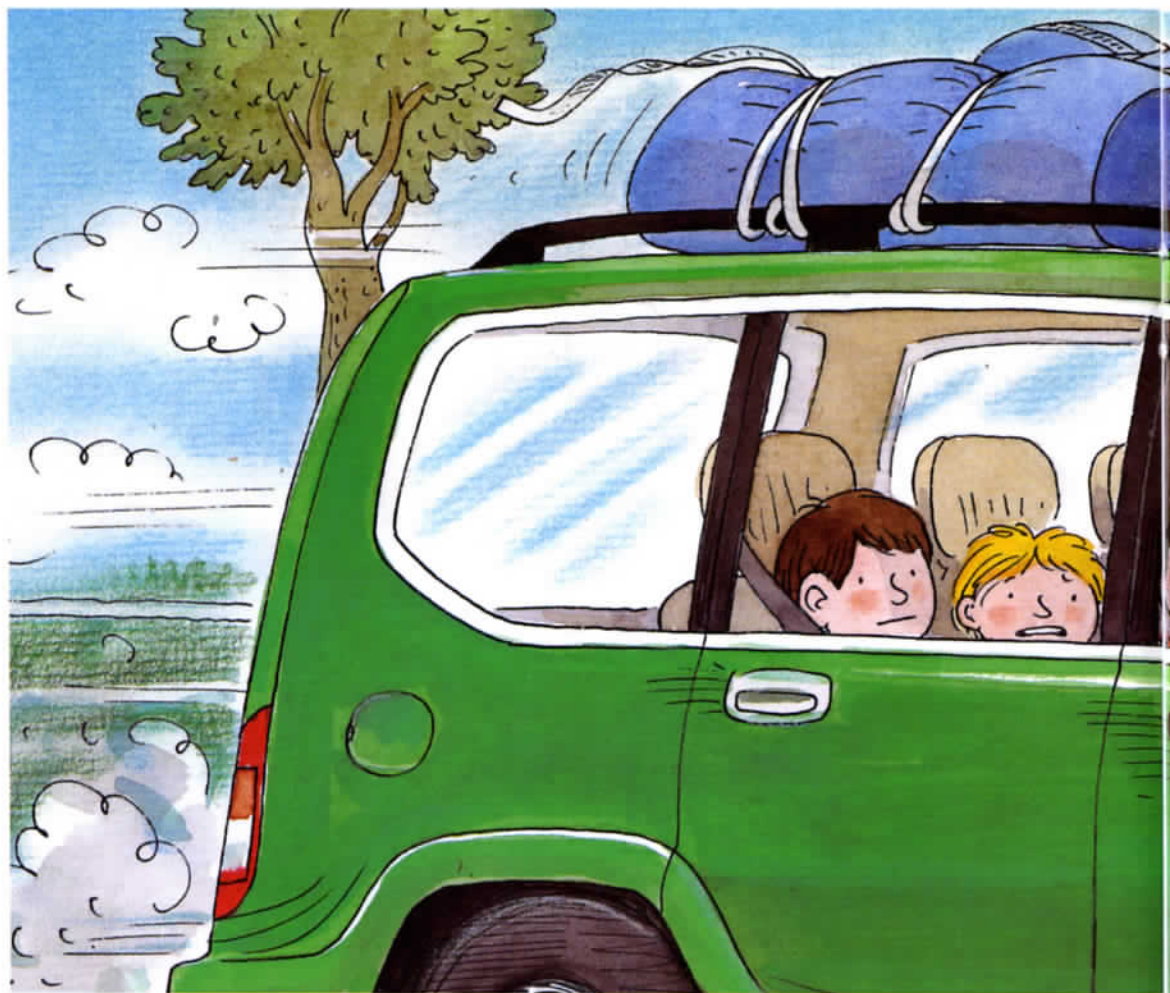
The socks were in the washing machine.

“Why were they in there?” asked Dad.

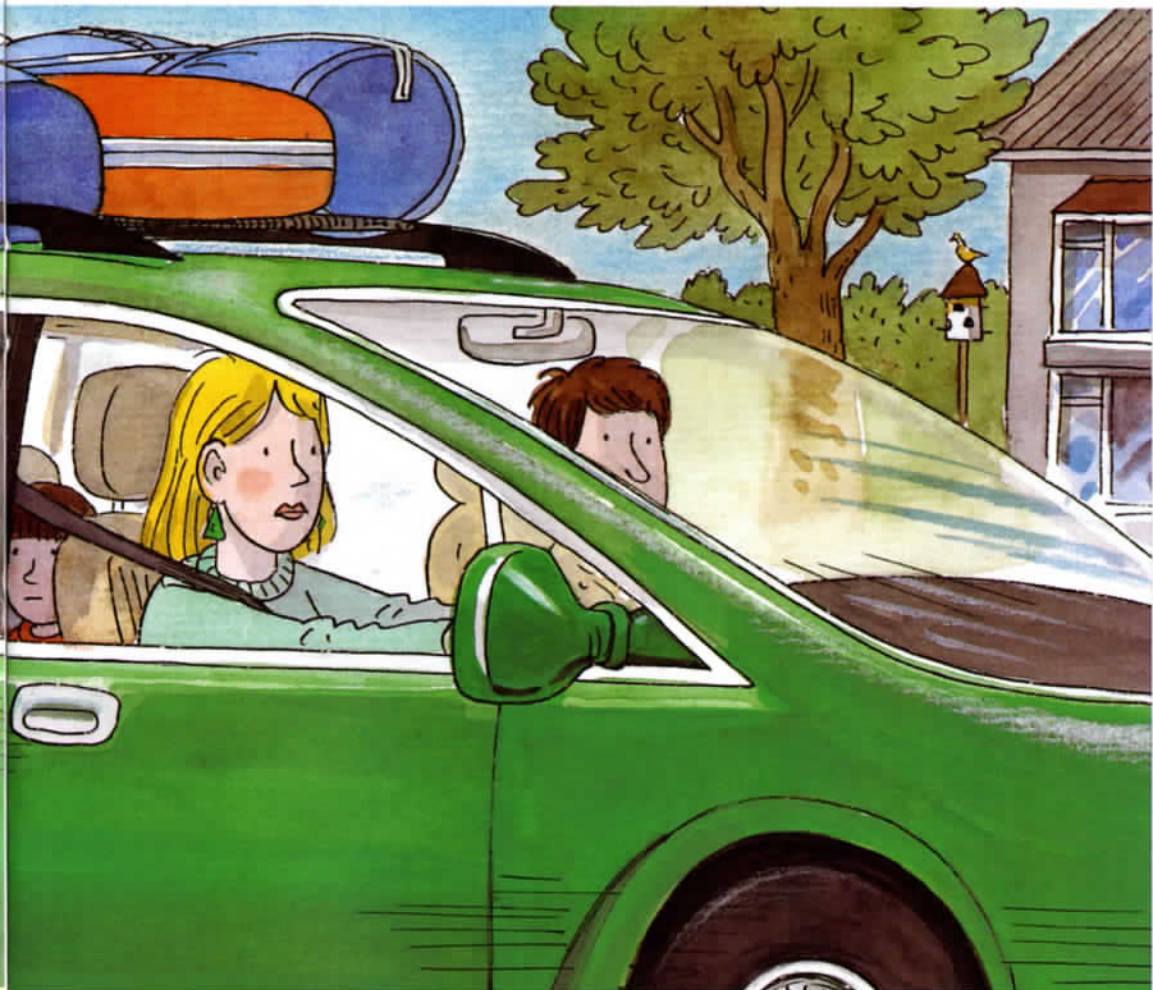
“That was where you put them,” said Mum.



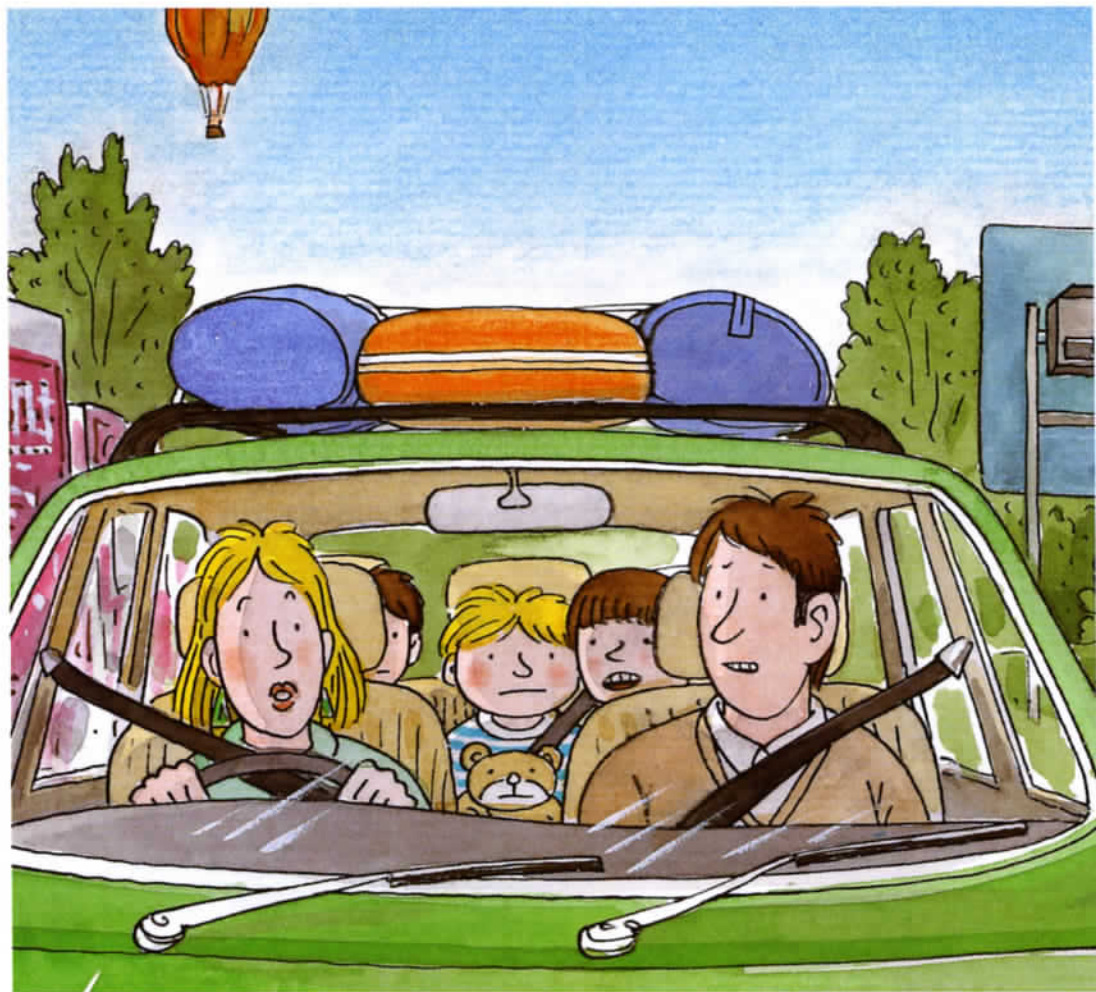
It was time to go. Dad's Grand Plan had worked. Nothing had gone wrong. "There's still time," whispered Chip.



Mum drove the car. Kipper was fed up. He didn't want to sit in the middle.
"You can take turns," said Mum.



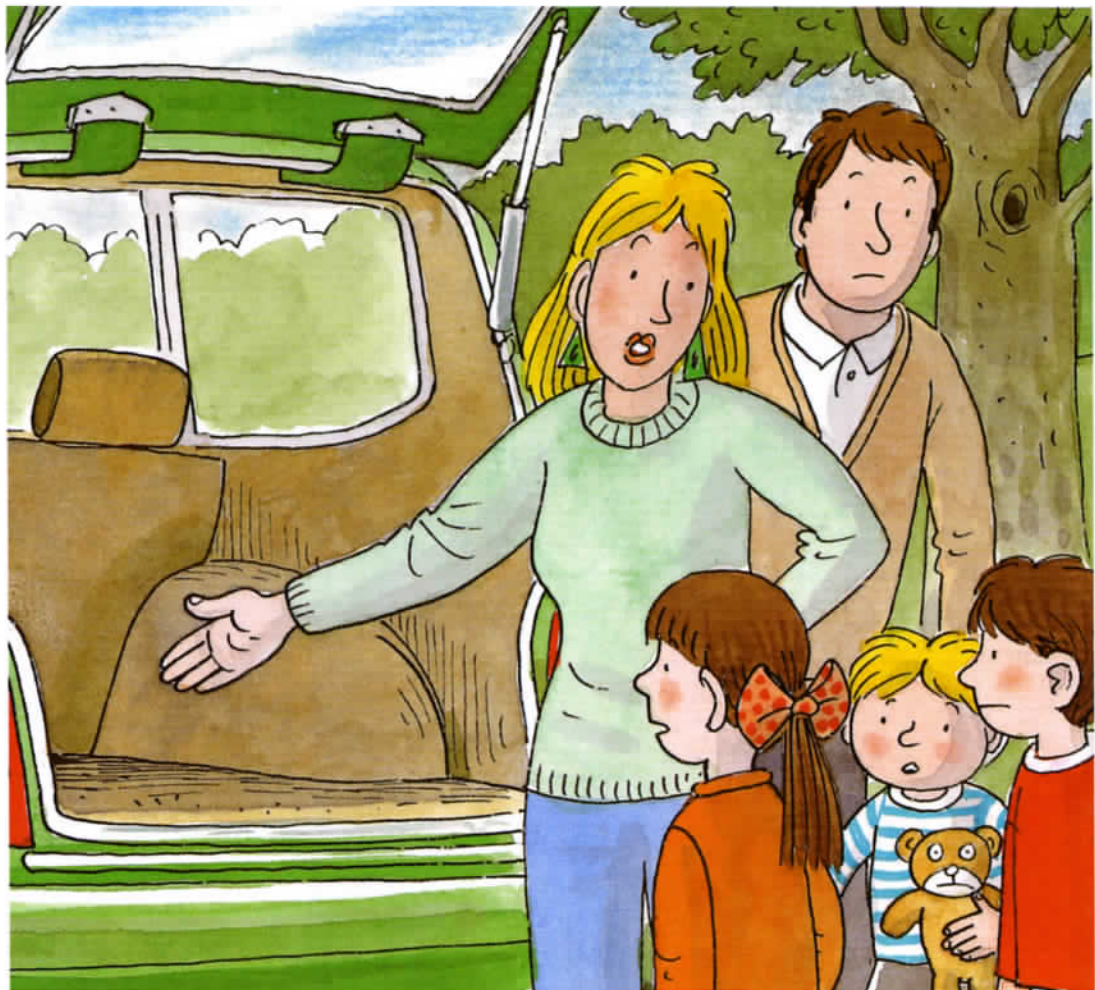
Kipper was hot. He began to moan.
“Can we stop for a drink?” said Chip.
“No,” said Dad. “It will make us
late.”



Kipper wanted to change seats, but Dad didn't want to stop.

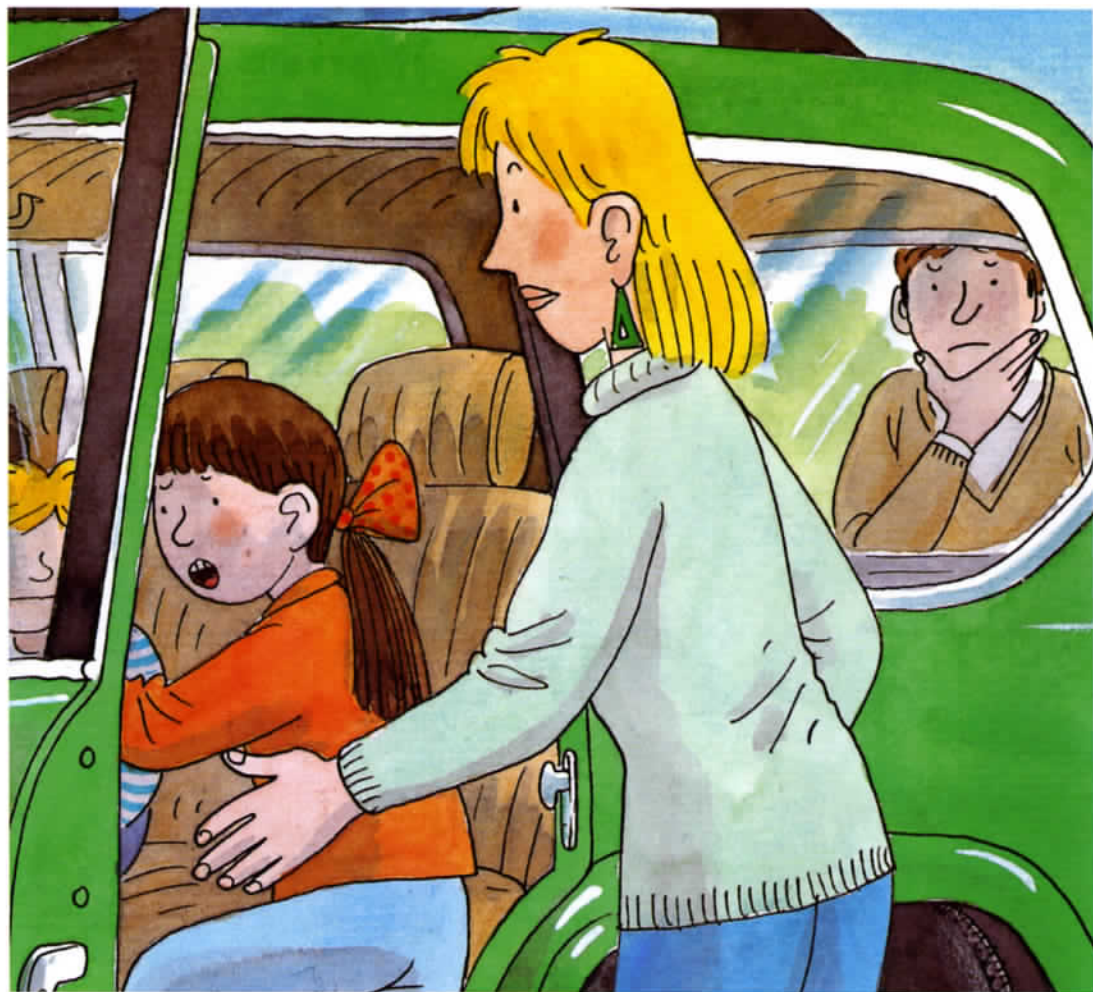
"Maybe we should," said Mum.

"Yes, we are all thirsty," said Biff.



Mum saw a place and stopped. She looked in the back of the car.

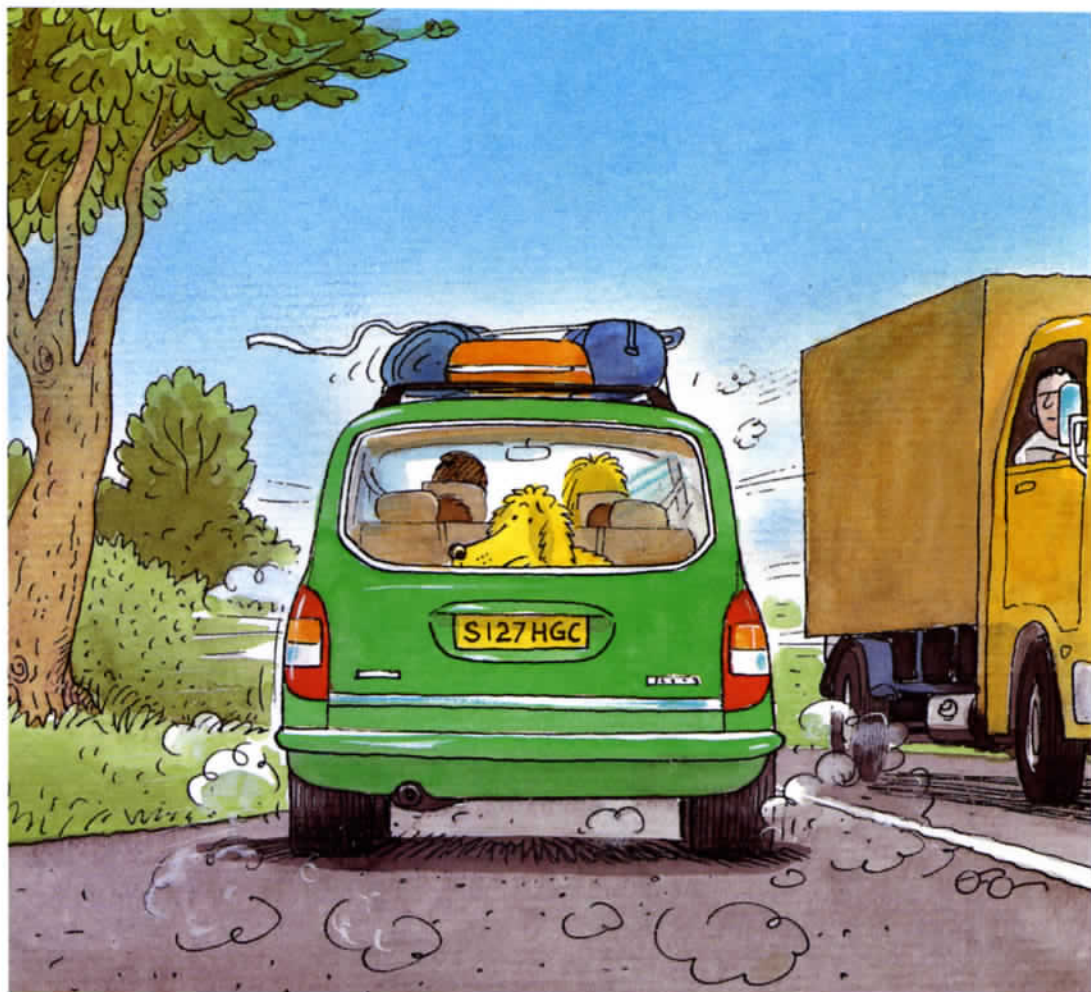
“Where’s Floppy?” gasped Mum. “We can’t have forgotten him!”



But it was true. They had forgotten Floppy.

“We’ll have to go back for him,”
said Mum.

“So much for Dad’s Grand Plan,”
said Biff.

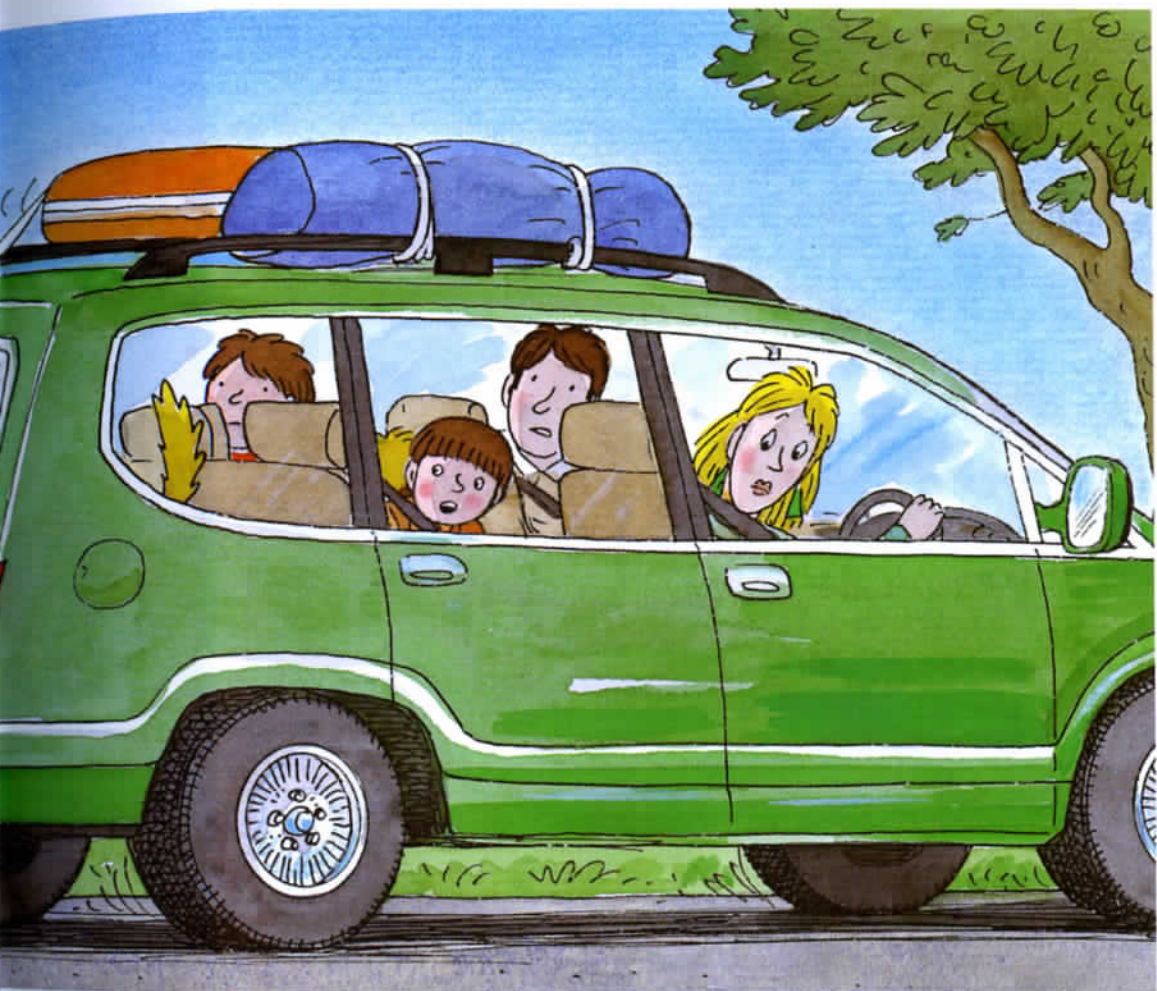


They went back and got Floppy. But now they were late. Mum drove fast.

“Slow down, Mum,” said Kipper. “I feel sick.”



There was a bump.
“What was that?” asked Dad.
A bag had fallen off the roof rack.
Mum stopped the car.



The bag was in the road. It had come open. There were clothes everywhere.

“They look like Dad’s clothes,” said Biff.

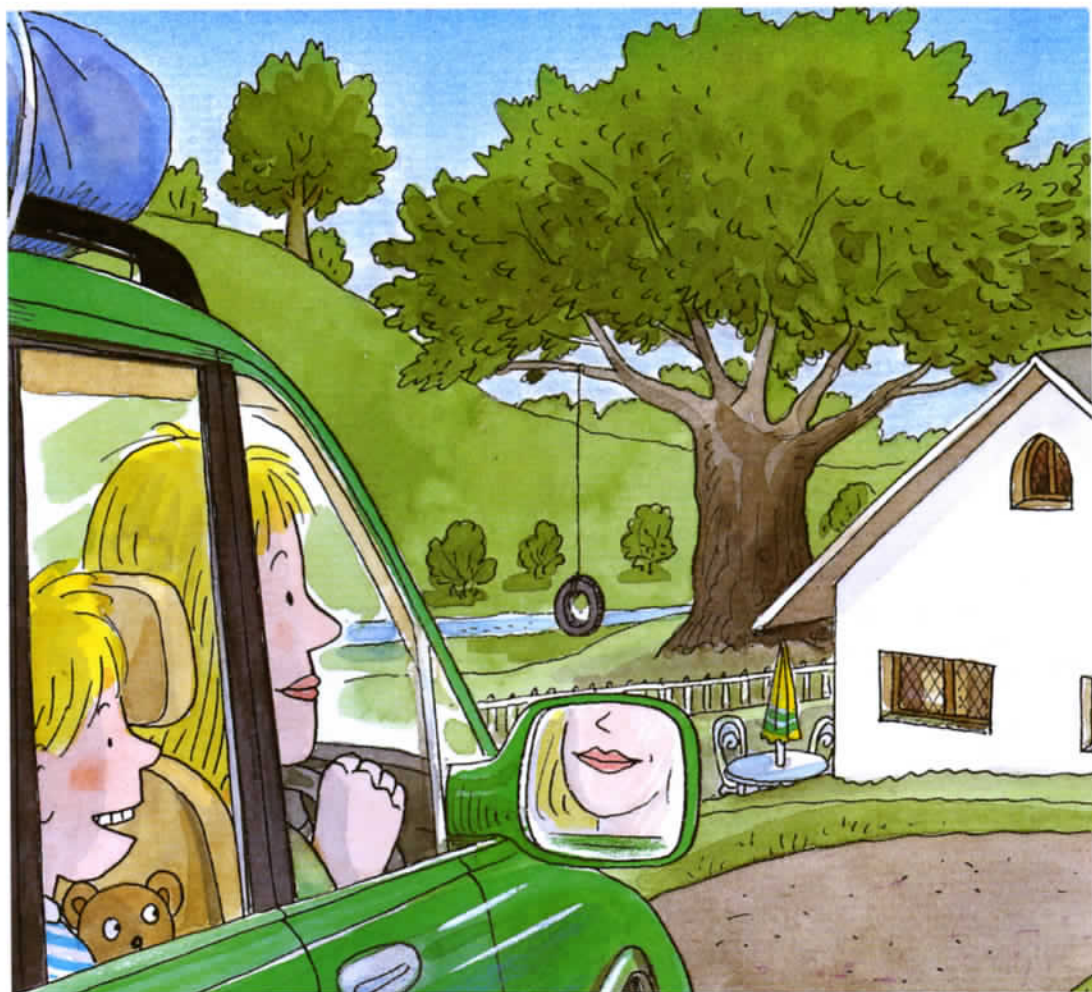


Dad's socks were in the road. His shirts were in the hedge. His pants were in a tree. The children couldn't help laughing.

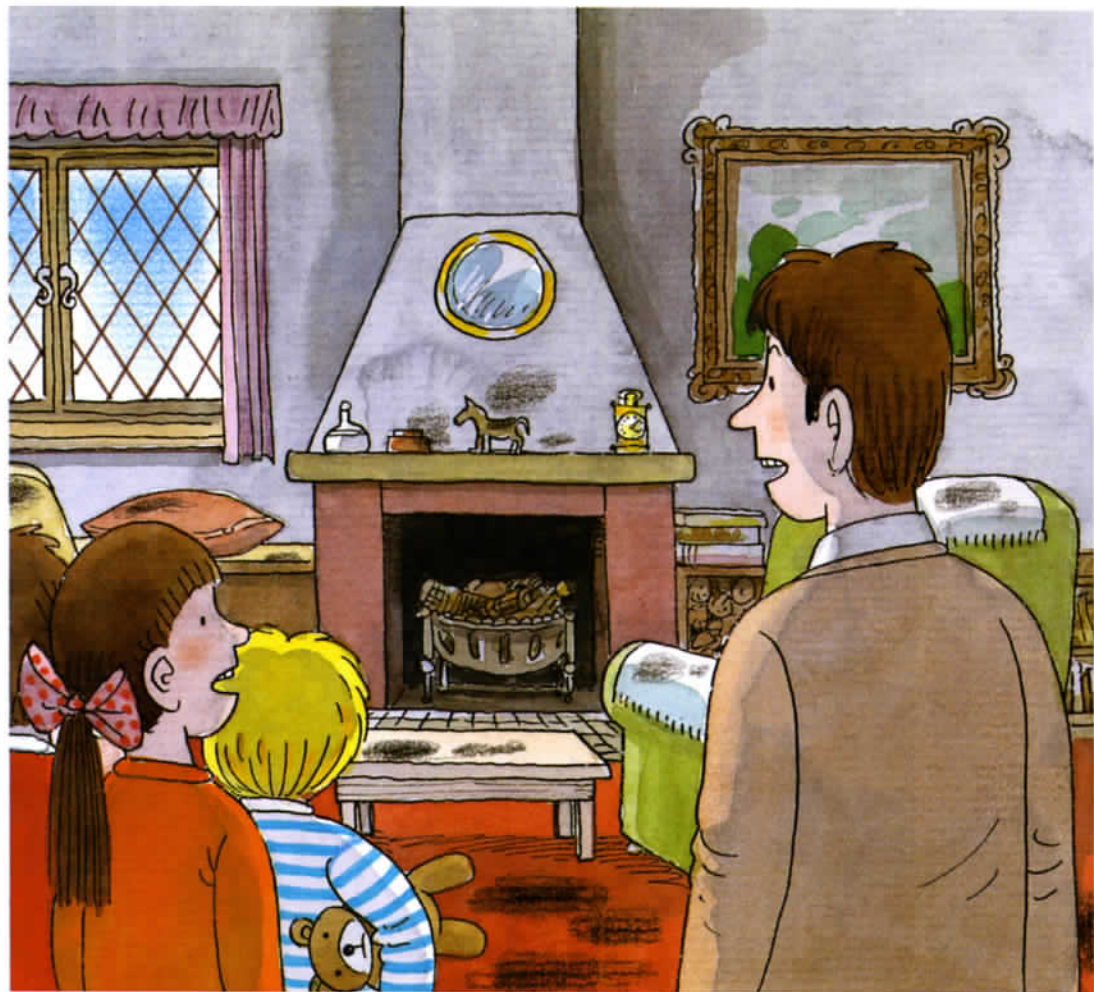


“Don’t stand there laughing,” said Dad. “Help me pick up my clothes.”

“This wasn’t in Dad’s Grand Plan,” said Mum.



At last they got to the holiday cottage. Next to it was a little stream. There was a rope swing on the tree.
“It looks great!” said Kipper.



Dad unlocked the door. Everyone went inside.

“There’s soot everywhere!” said Dad.
“It has come from the chimney.”



“What’s that?” said Mum.
A black bird was in the room.
“It’s a crow!” said Dad.
“It came down the chimney,” said
Mum.



Dad caught the crow and let it out.
Everyone was sorry for it.

“I’m glad it’s gone,” said Biff. “But
what a mess it’s made!”



“Cleaning up soot wasn’t in Dad’s Grand Plan,” said Biff.

“Nor was having my pants in a tree!” laughed Dad.

Play a game

Read with expression

To help the child notice the mood of the characters and to read with expression.

- Look through the book and find examples of speech. Read the page, using expression, e.g. on page 3, read what Mum says with a sigh.
- Let children choose a page where someone speaks. Praise them for using expression.
- Have two or three turns each.

Other ideas

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

- Imagine you are going on holiday. Together make a list of things you have to do and take. Call it 'Our Grand Plan'.
- Look at page 20 and talk about what the characters will enjoy doing on their holiday.

Dad's Grand Plan

It's holiday time and Dad has a great idea. Will it work?



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