**Developing Reading Skills**

*Here are some suggestions for questions to prompt children to read the illustrations for extra story details. They are then encouraged to share their ideas linked both to the story and to their own life experiences. These questions should not all be asked during one reading, but over several readings, once children are familiar with the story.*

Share ‘The Meadow Farm Band’ [Kindle Edition](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5COwner%5CDesktop%5CLiz%5CLesson%20Plans%20for%20Meadow%20Farm%20Band%5Cthe%20meadow%20farm%20band) with the children on the interactive whiteboard or [paperback copy](https://www.silverwoodbooks.co.uk/product/9781781328736/the-meadow-farm-band) with small group of children. Encourage the children to read the illustrations for extra story detail e.g. What do they see that is unusual on the farm on the first double page spread? Do they recognise any instruments? Which farm animals can they identify?

Who is watching Chuck Chick behind the tree? What do you think the fox is thinking? How do you think Chuck Chick is feeling? Who else can we spot in the story? Why do you think the robin is wearing a tartan cap?

Why do you think Carlene Cow closes her curtains first before she practises her singing and dancing? Who is looking in through the window? How does the fox manage to get up to the high window in the barn? What do you think Robin is thinking? Have you ever pretended to have a microphone when you are singing? How do you feel when you sing in front of an audience? Link with the value of Confidence.

Peter Pig has found learning to play the banjo really difficult and at first, he made a terrible noise. His friends begged him to give up. Peter keeps going though and never gives up. Gradually he is getting better. Are any of the children learning a new skill? Do they ever feel like giving up? Encourage the children to keep practising and look back on the progress they have already made. Link this with the value of Determination.

Who is watching Felix Fox play the violin? What do you think Felix’s wife and children are thinking as they listen to his wonderful music? What do you like about Felix’s home? Who is also listening to Felix Fox playing the violin? Talk about how good Felix Fox is on the violin. What do the children like about their own home? Do they have a favourite room?

Robbie Robin wants the animals to form a band. What can we tell about this meeting by looking at the picture? Why do you think Felix Fox is looking sad? Explain that the animals are visiting Bluebell Wood, but they do not smile at Felix and they do not say hello. They stay in their own friendship group and do not include Felix. Felix Fox feels awkward, left out and alone. Does anyone here ever feel left out at school? At home?

Carlene Cow, Chuck Chick and Peter Pig are happy to form a band, but they don’t want Felix Fox in the band. Why do you think the animals do not want Felix Fox in the band? How do you think Robbie Robin is feeling as he looks down form the tree?

Why does Felix Fox feel so sad? Who wants to help Felix Fox? What do you think Robbie Robin should do? What should Felix Fox do? Have you ever felt left out like this? Do you know anyone that sometimes looks as if they are left out?

Sometimes we need someone to tell us that we are doing the wrong thing. Everyone makes mistakes. Carlene Cow, Peter Pig and Chuck Chick thought the fox would be mean and they didn’t try to get to know him first. What can we do if we make a mistake? We can say sorry and start again.

How do you think Felix Fox feels when the animals say sorry to him? How do his children feel when they see their dad performing in front of others? Saying sorry can make such a difference. Is there anyone you need to say sorry to?

The animals soon became trusted friends. What does the word Trust mean? Who do you trust? Why do you trust them?

Ask the children to name all the characters in the final scene. What are the musical instruments called? What have you learned from the story?

Front end paper-example questions

Whose yellow hat is this? Who wears the bow tie? What is this flower called? Where can you find bluebells in the story?

Back end paper-example questions

What is this musical instrument called? Who plays the guitar in the story? Why do you think Robbie Robin is winking?