

# LEARNING SUPPORT WORKSHEETS THAT REQUIRE KNOWLEDGE OF THE STORY

## ANSWERS FOR TEACHERS

### PEOPLE STORIES

If a worksheet does not appear in the list below, it is 'generic' in its requirements, calling on children's general basic skills, without specific reference to the story. In other words, a teacher will know what the correct answer is without having read the story at all.

#### **JAMIE'S SECRET**

1. Jamie had a secret that felt like a cold damp creature hiding just below his rib cage. Jamie's parents were very proud of both their children Jamie and his younger sister Alexandra. Alex read all of the time, and all of Alex's friends could read easily. Jamie couldn't read at all but he had become very good at pretending he could. At home, he would sit staring at pages so his parents would think he was reading. Jamie loved to listen to Alex read aloud. His parents thought he was helping his sister with her reading. For the last two years, his teacher Mrs. Crankshaw was too easy to fool. Every time he was asked to read in class, he would fake a headache, earache or tummy ache so he'd be sent to sickbay. The teacher never noticed him copying off kids in tests. He also volunteered to take messages to other teachers to escape the classroom. His best trick was asking questions to distract Mrs Crankshaw. But today is the start of a new year and a new teacher. His young pretty teachers' name was Miss Cherry. The whole class stared at her. She started by going around the whole class, getting everyone to introduce themselves, and tell the class what they liked doing. When it came to Jamie, he blushed and stammered, and said that he'd like to read, then corrected himself by saying he liked to read. Miss Cherry noticed the correction. That was close. She had a way of looking inside you. After lunch, Miss Cherry held up a script for Peter Pan. She thought Jamie would be perfect for Peter. She placed the pages on his desk. Jamie stared at them. All of the letters jumbled and clumped together and made no sense at all. Beads of sweat trickled down his forehead and his secret wriggled downwards causing a sharp pain in his tummy. He told Miss Cherry that he didn't feel well. She told him to go out and get a drink of water and some fresh air; he could try out for the part tomorrow. That night he asked Alex to read the script to him and he memorised the part of Peter Pan as best he could. Next day he performed extremely well at school. The class laughed and clapped loudly. Miss cherry asked to see him at lunchtime. She said that he acted brilliantly but wondered why he didn't follow the script. Miss Cherry had discovered his secret. Tears welled in his eyes. Miss Cherry asked if he had ever had his eyes tested. Later that day Miss Cherry spoke to his parents. Mrs Arnold went pale; Jamie thought she might faint. His father said he had seen him reading all the time at home. Mrs Cherry explained that there are many reasons why a child cannot read; maybe he needed glasses. She suspected that he had missed the basics in phonics and decoding skills needed to understand reading. Jamie's secret sat frozen in his chest, listening. The next day the optometrist

tested his eyes. Glasses brought the letters and words into clear, sharp focus. After school, three times a week Miss Cherry taught Jamie to read, and he worked hard to learn words and letters at home. One year later Jamie Arnold could read. You could imagine his delight when that chilly, cramped secret could finally crawl out of its hiding place and vanish forever.

2. False, true, true, false, true, true

6. Jamie loved to listen to Alex read aloud. His parents thought he was helping his sister with her reading.

### **THE BIG SISTER**

1. Morgan was angry and trying not to cry. When her gran asked why she told her that her friend Katie didn't want to play, and that she only wanted to watch baby James. Everyone comes just to see him. Gran sat on the bed and Morgan leaned against her shoulder. "James is still very tiny, Morgan. But you're special because you are the big sister in the family. You two are just like your mum and Uncle Ian used to be." Morgan didn't answer. She remembered how much fun she had with mum and dad before James was born. Now she had to be quiet while she played because James was sleeping. Worst of all her best friend would rather look at James in his crib than play with her. She slid under the covers; Gran kissed her goodnight and turned out the light. Morgan awoke to hear her mum and dad talking quietly, and the sound of the front door closing. She sat up and heard the car drive off. It was still very dark outside. She was puzzled. She found Gran sitting in the hallway. Gran said that her mum and dad had taken James to the hospital as he'd had a very high temperature all night. Morgan could see that her Gran was worried. "Is James going to die?" Morgan could hardly say the word but needed to know. "Of course not. Babies often get high temperatures, and doctors can look after him so much better at the hospital. Morgan sobbed on her Gran's shoulder "It's all my fault because I didn't want James." She hiccupped as she tried to stop crying. Gran told her to that was just silly, and to stop crying. Gran smiled at her and told Morgan that her mother wanted to change her uncle Ian for a pet rabbit when he was born. She thought of her tall uncle and couldn't help smiling. Gran told her to come back to bed, and that her mum and dad would let them know when they had some news. Gran and Morgan were having breakfast when her mum and dad returned. James would have to spend a few days in hospital, but already his temperature was coming down. Morgan thought of James. Sometimes he cried a lot and made awful smells. But he was so small and helpless that he needed a big sister.

2. fair, sleeping, friend, woke, close, hospital

7. Morgan sobbed on her Gran's shoulder "It's all my fault because I didn't want James." She hiccupped as she tried to stop crying.

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## DANNY'S NEW GLASSES

1. Danny wore his new glasses to school for the first time. Bob the bully shouted at him and teased him, calling him four eyes. Danny's friend Mark told him not to take any notice, but Danny was scared of Bob. He bolted across the schoolyard, but Bob was faster. They were far away from everyone else He pulled Danny's glasses off. Danny tried to grab them. Bob pushed him away and sang, "Four eyes can't see me." The school bell rang. Bob tossed his glasses over the fence. Danny felt like crying. Suddenly a head appeared over the fence and shouted "Boy!" Danny saw an ugly old lady with a long nose and a pointed chin. Her hair was grey and dirty. Her eyes were small and black. She glared at Danny and gave his glasses back. "That bully broke them, but I fixed them. Keep them on. You'll see better." She said. He put the glasses on. Suddenly the ugly old lady was not ugly or old. She looked young and beautiful. Her hair was golden and her eyes were blue. She smiled sweetly at him. He took the glasses off. The lady looked ugly and old again. "Get going boy!" she snarled at him and disappeared. How strange. He didn't have time to wonder about it. "C'mon Danny" called his teacher Mr Brown. Danny's class was on a bus. They were going to visit a farm. Bob the bully sat down the back, so Danny sat near the front with his friend Mark. He put the glasses in his pocket. They helped him to see things better but he hated being called Four Eyes. The farmer showed them lots of animals. Then he handed out red apples. Danny loved apples and took a big shiny one. Mr Brown walked past and told him to put his glasses on. The apple looked differently now. He could see past its red skin, right into its middle. Oh no! He could see a horrible big worm inside. Suddenly a big hand grabbed the apple. It was Bob the bully. He bit into it and chewed. Danny saw the worm hanging out of his mouth. Bob began choking. He spat out bits of apple and worm "YUK! I'll get you for that." He shouted. Danny tried to run but he tripped and fell. He tried to force Danny to eat the apple. Danny could see through Bob. He saw a goat. It put its head down, ran at Bob and butted him hard. Bob sailed through the air and landed near a pile of fresh horse poo. He grabbed a handful. It was wet and slimy, but Bob was too angry to care. "You'll be sorry Four Eyes; this will taste worse than the apple." Danny tried to get up and run but his foot hurt too much. He looked around for help. He could see Mr Brown through the shed. He was coming around the corner. Bob couldn't see him. "Eat this Four Eyes." He threw the horse poo. Danny ducked and it hit Mr Brown right in the chest. The bully looked very scared. In fact, he did not look like a bully at all. Mr Brown was very angry. Bob had to sit on the bus for the rest of the day. "Go away Danny, you're bad luck. I'll never go near you again." "Good" Danny said. He looked out the window and saw the beautiful young lady with long golden hair again. She smiled at him. He took his glasses off and she looked ugly and old. She told him to keep them on, and disappeared. His mother was waiting at the school for him. "Good, you kept your glasses on." She said. "Yes, I can see much better with them on." Said Danny.

2. 2, 4, 1, 5, 6, 3

4. chewed, mouth, spat, shouted, tried, tripped

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### **A HUG FOR HARRIET**

2. yes, no, yes, no, no, yes, no

6. Bob was munching cereal at the breakfast table. She walked past him casually, so he didn't get suspicious and then pounced – giving him a huge hug and kiss on the tip of his nose. He coughed and spluttered, spilled a bit of milk on his pyjamas and said he didn't like it.

Harriet ran out of her room and into the backyard where she found Cleo the Collie toasting herself in the morning sun. She threw her arms around Cleo's big furry neck and gave her a big squishy hug. Cleo licked her nose as a way of saying "Thank you."

### **JACK LIKES JAM**

1. It was fun when mum brought our new baby home from the hospital. At first, Jack was a quiet good baby, but a few months later, he started to scream. Dad said he had a good set of lungs. He decided to go outside and wash the car. I decided to join him. The car was always very clean in those days. Mum tried everything to try to stop him from screaming - patting him on the back to try to bring up his wind; putting some gripe water in his water bottle; rocking him in his pram. She put the dummy into his mouth, but he spat it out and screamed at the top of his lungs. Nothing worked. Mrs Pratt the neighbour suggested putting vegemite on his dummy. We tried it but it only made a terrible mess. Mrs Von Trapp said that tomato sauce worked with her children. It only made an ugly stain on his jumper when he spat the dummy out. Mum started to look tired. Some days at school I could hardly keep my eyes open. Jack screamed all day, all night, and nobody knew what to do. On the rare occasion that he did fall asleep, mum and dad would have a sleep on the sofa, and I would keep dead quiet. One day while everyone was sleeping, I got so hungry; I crept into the kitchen and made a jam sandwich. Tons of jam squished out the sides of the sandwich and all over the bench. It also went up the handle of the knife, and all over my fingers. I licked my fingers and my mouth filled with a tingly feeling that only jam can give. I reached for the dishcloth and bumped the jam jar with my elbow. It fell to the floor with the loudest smashing, clattering noise you have ever heard. Glass and jam flew in every direction. Within seconds, Jack was screaming his lungs out. I looked down at the terrible mess, that's when a good idea struck me. I rushed to Jack's room to get his dummy, rubbed it in my

jam sandwich, and back to his room to put into his mouth. He pulled a funny face, then looked at me. The next thing I knew he gave me a funny smile around his dummy, and a gurgling kind of laugh. He sucked contentedly on his dummy and went back to sleep. When mum woke and saw the mess, she was mad, but then I explained how it gave me the good idea. Jack likes jam! Ever since then Jack has been a good, quiet baby again. The neighbours have started visiting us again, and the car gets really dirty before it gets washed. I'm really glad Jack likes jam.

2. quiet, scream, patting, rocking, dummy, tomato, worked

4. 4, 2, 1, 6, 5, 3

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