



Oxford
Reading
Tree

The Baby-sitter



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Story written by Roderick Hunt
Illustrations by Alex Brychta



What's this story about?

Mum and Dad are going out to a party, so a baby-sitter comes to be with the children. But the children can't sleep and they all have a good time – including the baby-sitter!

Talk together

Talk about who baby-sitters are and what they do. Has the child ever had a baby-sitter? If so, was the baby-sitter kind?

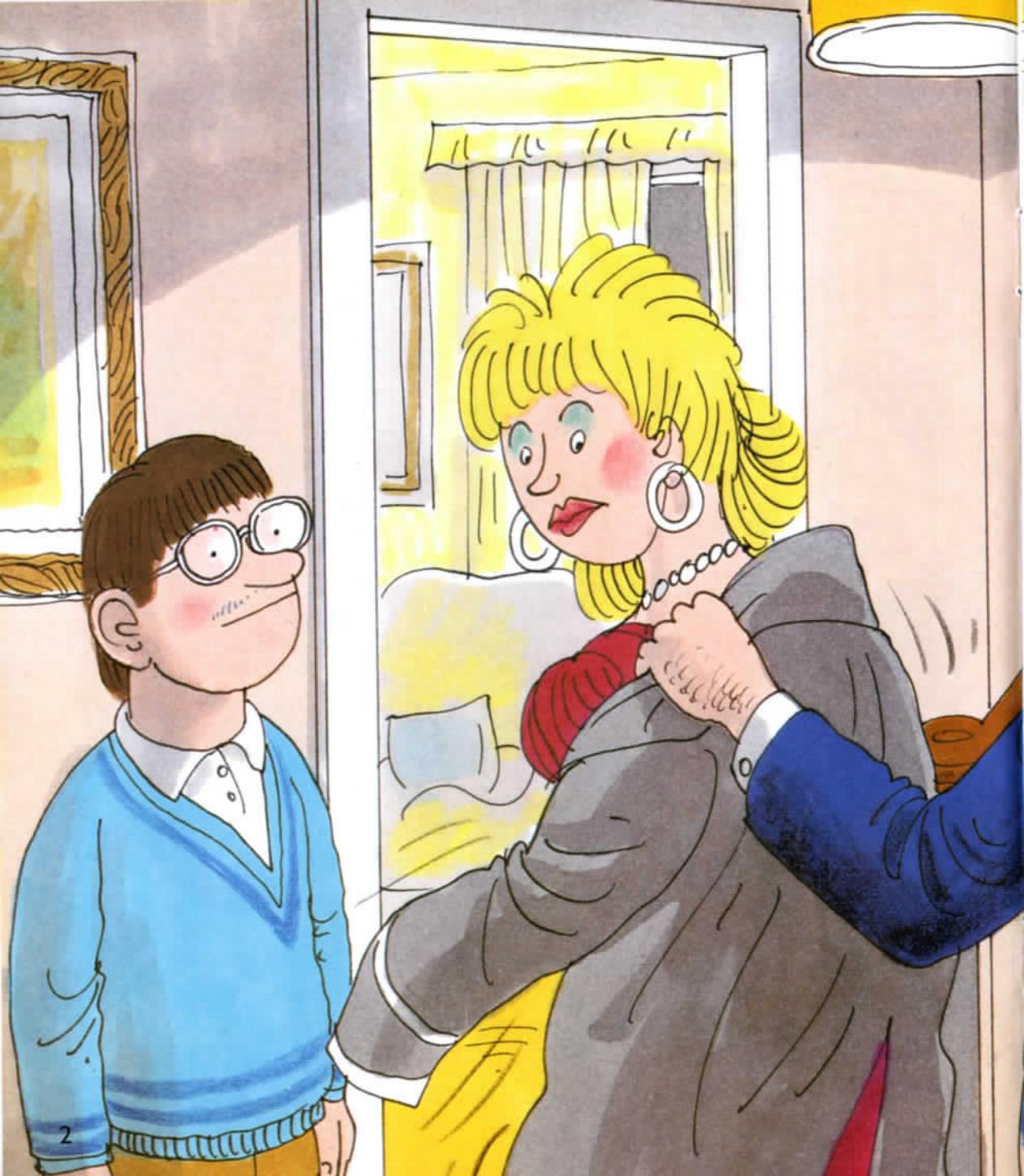
Read the story

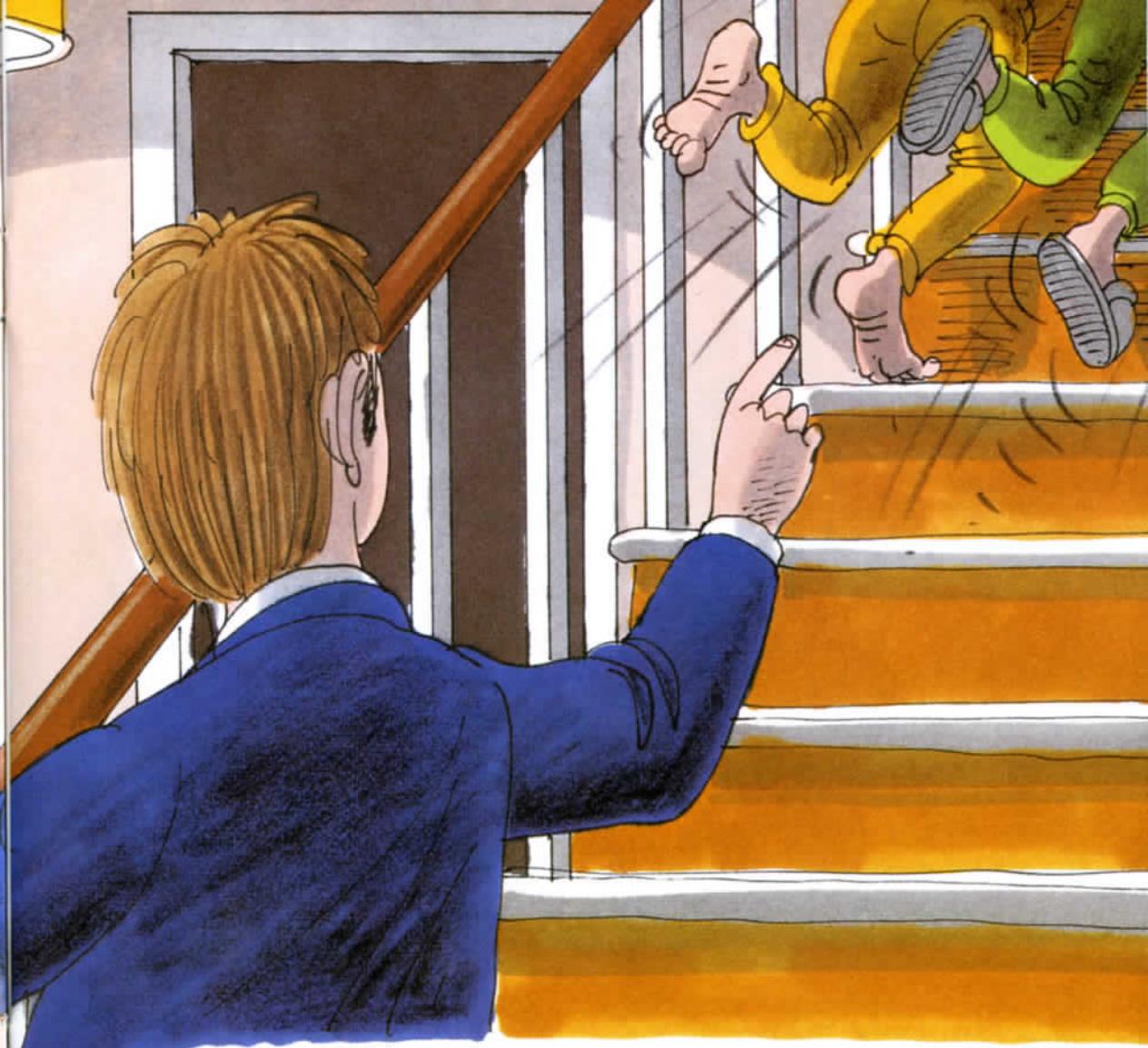
W = Word recognition C = Language comprehension

- W Look at the cover and read the title.
- W Look through the story and point out any tricky words, e.g. 'couldn't' (page 5), 'fight' (page 10).
- W Read the story together.
- W To help the child read longer words, break them down into syllables, e.g. 'down/stairs' (page 4), 'sand/wich' (page 9), 'every/one' (page 11).
- C Page 9, ask, "Why does the baby-sitter look worried?"
- C Page 11, ask, "How has his expression changed? Why?"
- C Page 14, ask, "Why is the baby-sitter holding a vacuum cleaner?"
- C Page 16, ask, "Why is Dad holding the vacuum cleaner? What is he thinking?"
- C At the end of the story, ask, "Do you think the baby-sitter would baby-sit again? Why?" "Do you think he is a good baby-sitter?"



The baby-sitter came.

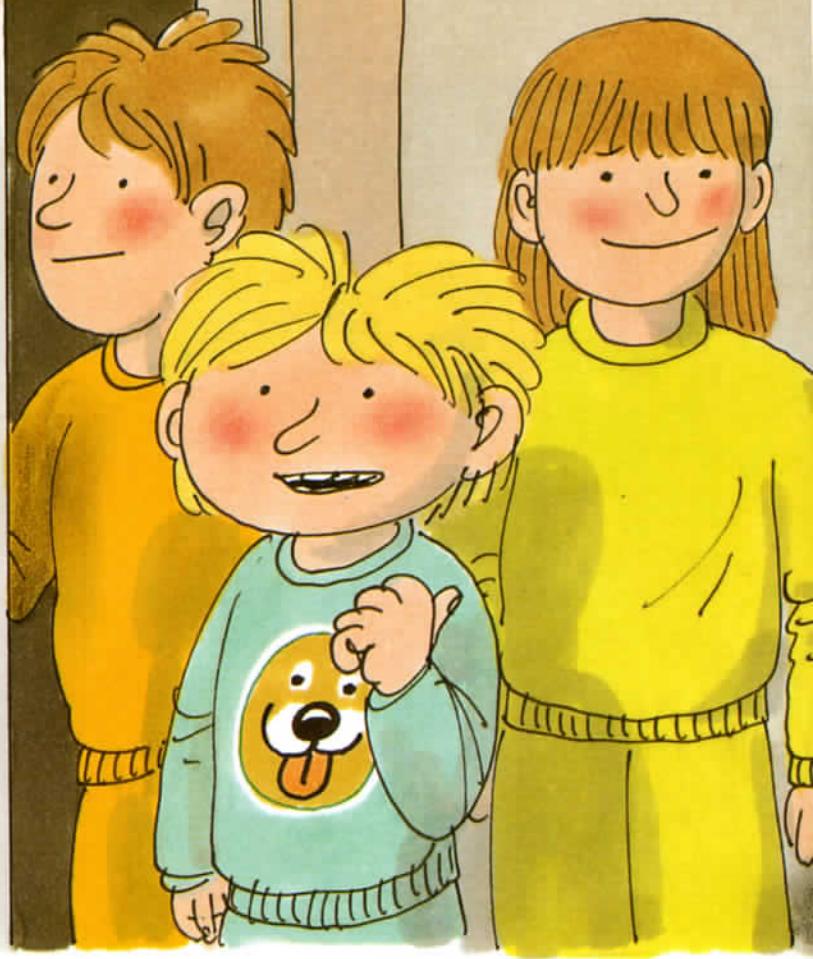




“Go back to bed,” said Dad.

The children came downstairs.





“We couldn’t sleep,” they said.

Kipper got his books.





He wanted a story.

Biff was hungry.

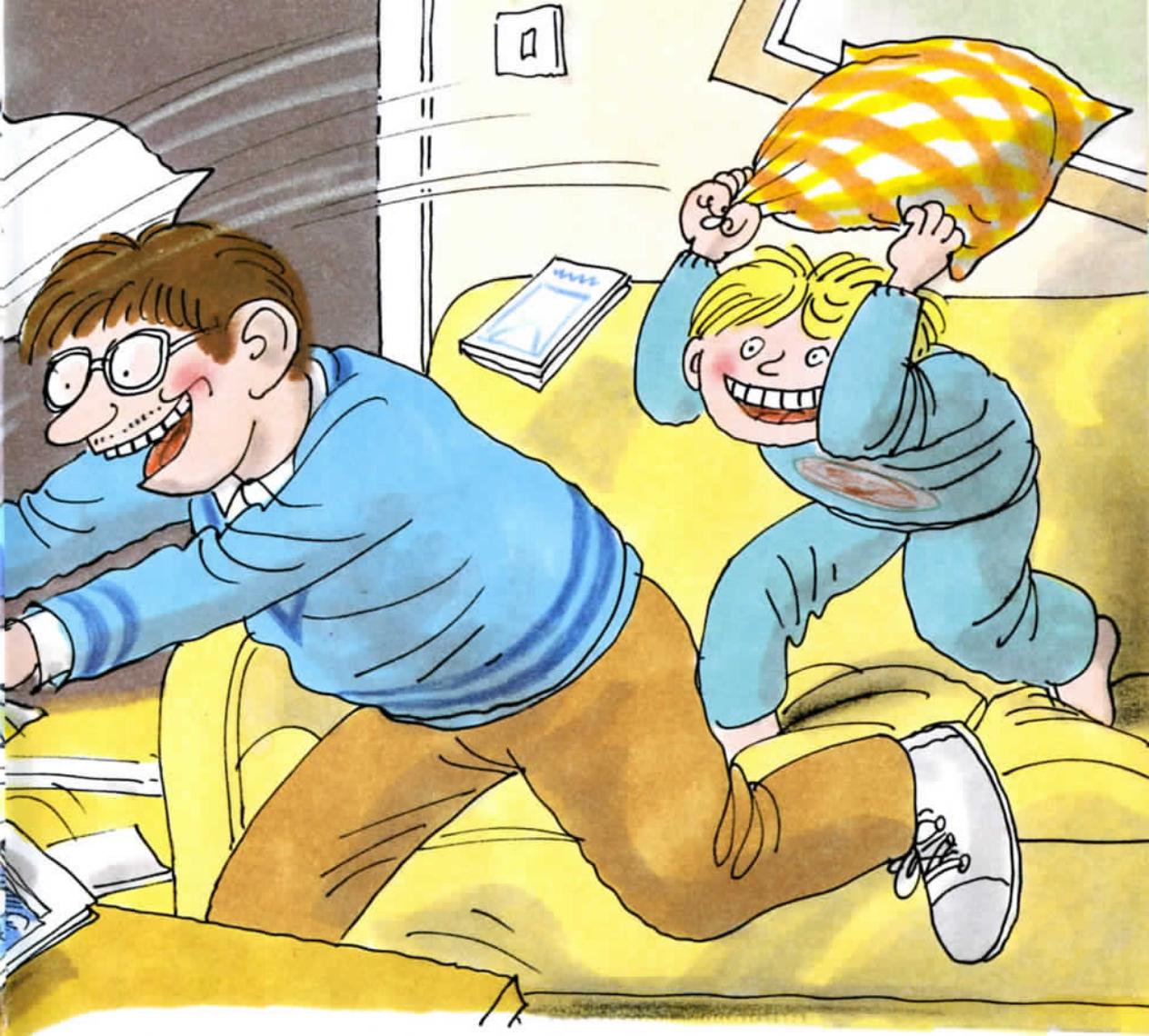




They made a sandwich.

Chip wanted a pillow fight.

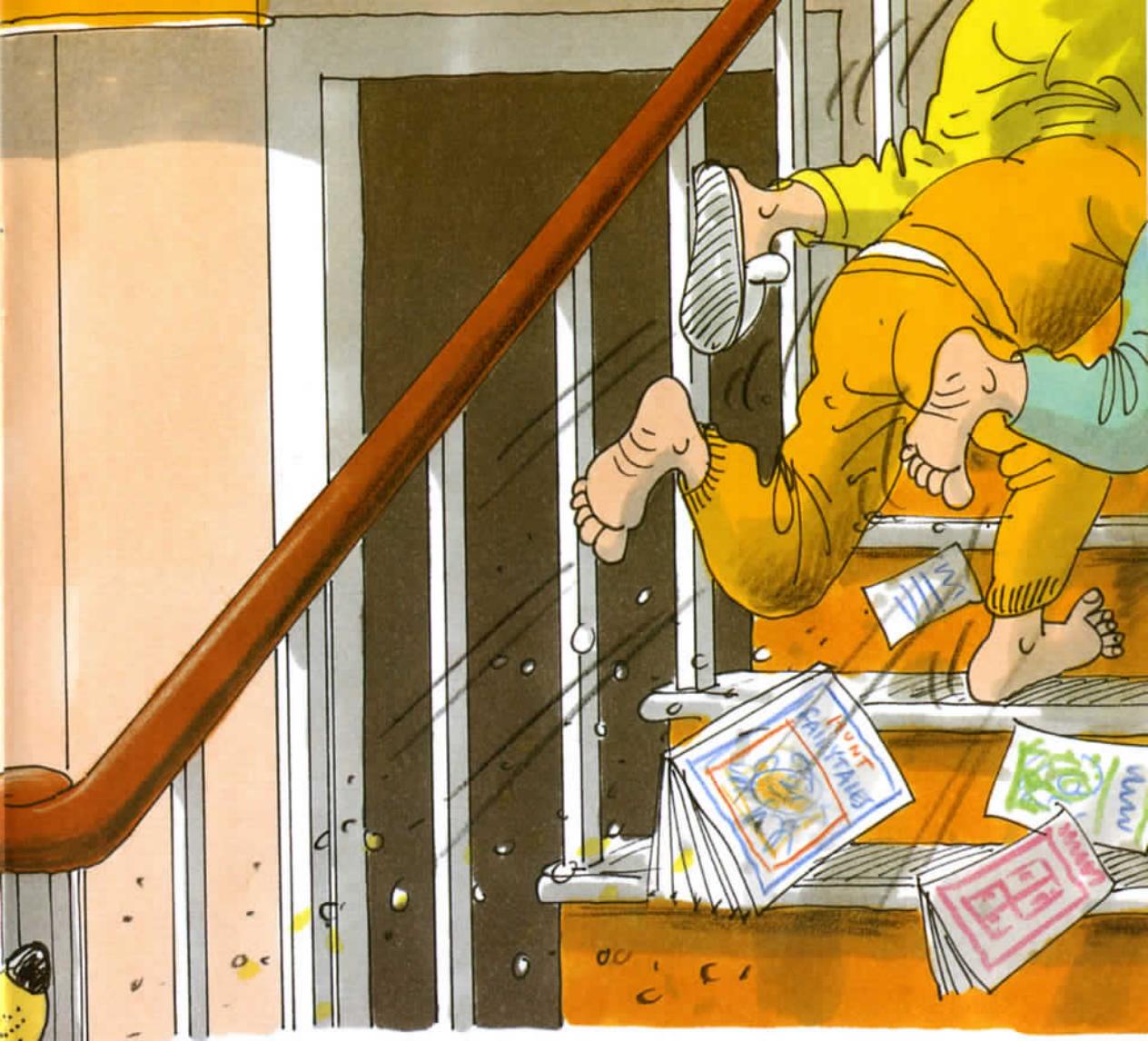




Everyone joined in.

The children went back to bed.





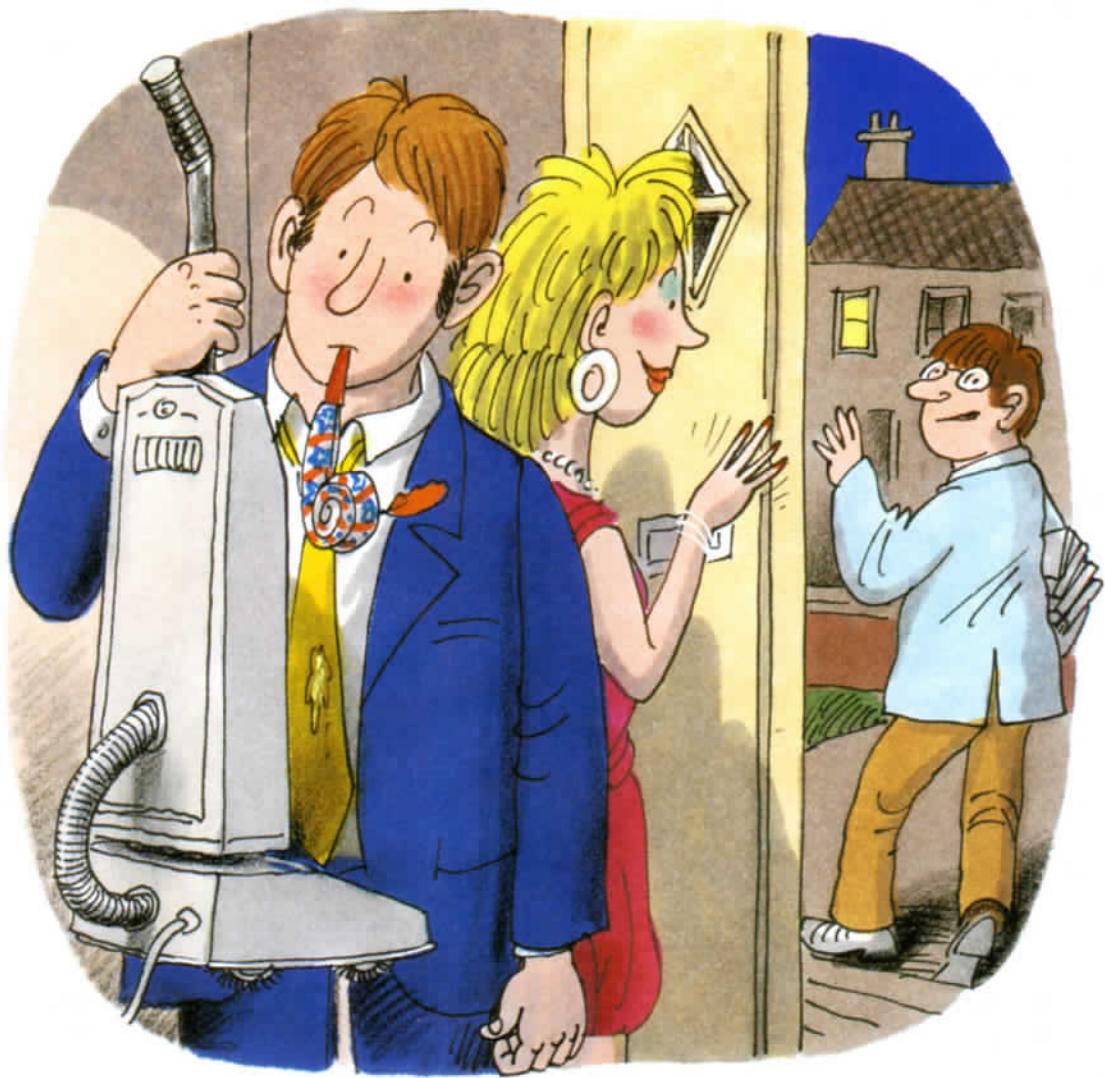
"What a mess!" said the
baby-sitter.

Mum and Dad came back.





“Was everyone good?”
said Mum.



“Yes and no,” said the
baby-sitter.

Play a game

'NO' spells no

To help the child to spell short words.

- Choose a two-letter word from the story: 'go', 'to', 'he', 'we', 'he', 'in', 'no'. Use the letter names to spell it, and ask the child to say the word.
- Then ask the child to spell out a word from the story for you to say.
- Have two or three turns each.

Other ideas

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

- Suppose Mum and Dad had come back early. Talk about what they might have said.
- On pages 8 and 9, read all the labels on the food. Notice which ones are written in capital letters.

The Baby-sitter

Mum and Dad go out.



This story practises these words:

a and dad go he in mum no said
the they to was we went yes

Stage 2 More Stories A

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