

say the
sounds
s se ce, l, y
a
t
i(y ey)
p
n
c k ck
e ea
h
r
m
d
g
o
u
l ll le
f ff
b
j ge
y
ai ay
w wh
oa ow
igh ie y
ee ea
or
z zz
ng
nk
v ve
oo-oo
x
ch
sh
th-th
qu
ou ow
oi oy
ue-ue
er schwa
ar
air
eer

Cinderella decides

One night in mid - December, Cinderella decided that her circumstances must change. She was certain that her step - mother and two step - sisters would never mend their ways so Cinderella herself needed to change.

From now on, Cinderella decided that she would not do anything that she was told to do unless she was asked in a civil manner. She must stop the cycle of events whereby her step - relatives bossed her around unmercifully with never a thanks.

Cinderella also decided to exercise her right for more freedom. She skipped down to the cellar and took some juice of her own choice. "Good - bye everyone. I am off to the city to visit a friend."

With her heart uplifted, Cinderella noticed how the frost made delicate lacy patterns on the leaves as she raced into the icy garden to find the mice...

I can read.

say the
sounds
s se ce,i,y
a
t
i(y ey)
p
n
c k ck
e ea
h
r
m
d
g
o
u
l ll le
f ff
b
j ge ge,i,y
y
ai ay
w wh
oa ow
igh ie y
ee ea
or
z zz
ng
nk
v ve
oo-oo
x
ch
sh
th-th
qu
ou ow
oi oy
ue-ue
er schwa
ar
air
eer

Gentle giant

Gilly, the giraffe, was a gem of a creature. George, her keeper, said she was a ‘gentle giant’.

In the mornings, however, when her energy levels were high, she would circle around the compound leaping and loping and gyrating around the trees.

“She’s just like a gymnast,” said George’s son, Greg, “and this place is like her gym!”

“Yes but hold out these leaves for Gilly and she’ll ease them so gently from your fingers and generously share them with her calf.”

Now, Gilly’s calf, Josie, was a different story. She was so shy that she had never so much as taken a little ‘run’ away from her mother’s side.

Then, one day, George and Greg could hardly believe their eyes as young Josie, all by herself, leaped and loped and gyrated around the trees!

I can read.

Joe

say the
sounds

s se ce,i,y

a
t

i(y ey)

p
n

c k ck
e ea

h
r

m
d

g
o

u

l ll le
f ff

b

j ge ge,i,y

y

ai ay

w wh

oa ow o oe

igh ie y

ee ea

or

z zz

ng

nk

v ve

oo-oo

x

ch

sh

th-th

qu

ou ow

oi oy

ue-ue

er schwa

ar

air

eer

“Oh - oh - oh - oh!” squealed Joe.

“I’ve stubbed my little toe.”

“Serves you right,” chuntered his mum.

“I told you to go and get your shoes on.
What did you do?”

“The radio was playing some funky music
and so I was disco - dancing.”

“And what were you *supposed* to be
doing?”

“Getting my shoes on and practising my
oboe.”

“So... go! And when you have done that,
we’ll play dominoes and then we can have
some cheese and tomato on crackers with
mango and pineapple smoothie for supper.”

“Good - o!”

I can read.

say the
sounds

s se ce,i,y

a

t

i(y ey)

p

n

c k ck

e ea

h

r

m

d

g

o

u

l ll le

f ff

b

j ge ge,i,y

y

ai ay

w wh

oa ow o oe

igh y ie i-e

ee ea

or

z zz

ng

nk

v ve

oo-oo

x

ch

sh

th-th

qu

ou ow

oi oy

ue-ue

er schwa

ar

air

eer

The 'pipes

Wee Angus finished his granny's apple - pie
and tied up his tie.

He wore his 'Sunday - best' kilt and shined
his boots.

He glanced outside at the Scots Pine which
seemed to Angus to be a mile - high.

Yet again, he checked the time and stopped
at the mirror to check his tie.

Without a lie, he had never felt so nervous
and so shy.

Wee Angus grabbed his bagpipes and headed
for the village hall. He barely dare look to
note all the faces there.

Time and again, the pipes' lament rose high
as the Scots Pine.

Without a lie, in this one short night, the
boy grew into a man as his confidence
soared to the skies.

I can read.

say the sounds

s se ce,i,y

a

t

i(y ey)

p

n

c k ck

e ea

h

r

m

d

g

o

u

l ll le

f ff

b

j ge ge,i,y

y

ai ay

w wh

oa ow o oe

igh y ie i-e

ee e-e ea

or

z zz

ng

nk

v ve

oo-oo

x

ch

sh

th-th

qu

ou ow

oi oy

ue-ue

er schwa

ar

air

eer

The Chinese scene

Mrs. Greaves described the Chinese theme for the last scene of the village play.

Shen Si and Chang Jun were really pleased. This would give them a chance to offer their knowledge and expertise.

Between them, they had many Chinese items and clothes to lend and cultural stories to recite.

Everyone was very nervous as all the children had to compete for their parts by reading some lines from the playscripts.

Needless to say, the evening felt complete when Mrs. Greaves announced that Shen Si and Chang Jun were, of course, perfect for the Chinese scene.

Weeks later, in the actual performances, Shen Si and Chang Jun ended up 'stealing the show'!

I can read.

say the
sounds
s se ce,i,y
a
t
i(y ey)
p
n
ck ck
e ea
h
r
m
d
g
o
u
ll le
ff
b
j ge ge,i,y
y
ai ay
w wh
oe ow o
oa o-e
igh y ie i-e
ee e-e ea
or
z zz
ng
nk
v ve
oo-oo
x
ch
sh
th-th
qu
ou ow
oi oy
ue-ue
er schwa
ar
air are
eer

The precious load

Moan, moan, moan. According to Hannah, the dress was too tight, the socks were too bright, the hairstyle was not right and the wood fire filled the air with choking smoke!

Mother truly despaired.

“I hope you manage a smile when they all arrive home,” said Mother. Hannah did not seem to care as she flounced in an armchair.

At long last, the remaining family members arrived home. Coats were piled high, boots were lined up in pairs and gloves were scattered far and wide.

Father described the drive home.

“The road was bone - dry but there were patches of black ice everywhere. With such a precious load, I drove very slowly and carefully indeed. Now, dare I ask what’s for supper?”

“Poached egg on home - baked bread and I don’t want to hear any moans!”

I can read.

say the
sounds
s se ce,i,y
a
t
i(y ey)
p
n
ck ck
e ea
h
r
m
d
g
o
u
l ll le
f ff
b
j ge ge,i,y
y
ai ay a-e
w wh
oe ow o
oa o-e
igh y ie i-e
ee e-e ea
or
z zz
ng
nk
v ve
oo-oo
x
ch
sh
th-th
qu
ou ow
oi oy
ue u-e
er schwa
ar
air are
eer

The date cake

“You are so cruel to be amused by my mistake! I tried hard to bake you this cake.

Okay, so it’s as hard as stone. Maybe I should model it into a statue?

It’s a fluke that I made it with salt instead of sugar. I think an apology is overdue from you - you have made me feel so blue.

I accept that I haven’t a clue about making a cake - but how about ‘making a date’?

Your place or mine?”

I can read.

Cheerful chatter

say the
sounds
s se ce, l, y
a
t
i(y ey)
p
n
c k ck
e ea
h
r
m
d
g
o
u
l ll le
f ff
b
j ge ge, i, y
y
ai ay a-e
w wh
oe ow o
oa o-e
igh y ie i-e
ee e-e ea
or
z zz
ng
nk
v ve
oo-oo
x
ch
sh
th-th
qu
ou ow
oi oy
ue u-e
er schwa
ar
air are
eer ear

It was the end of the school year and there was a ‘buzz’ in the air. The atmosphere was thick with excitement as the students chatted cheerfully about their holiday plans and their goals for the forthcoming year.

“I hear your mum wants to steer you towards the arts.”

“Yes, but my dad wants me to steer clear of arty subjects as he wants me to do maths.”

“No fear! You wouldn’t find me doing maths. I don’t care for numbers.”

“My gran gives me earache telling me not to ‘follow my peers’. It appears that *she* always did her ‘own thing’!”

“Don’t sneer, but I want to be an air hostess.”

“There’s nothing bad about that as long as you like flying.”

“Ha! Ha! Then I’d be a ‘high - flyer’!”

I can read.

say the
sounds
s se ce,i,y
a
t
i(y ey)
P
n
c k ck
e ea
h
r
m
d
g
o
u
l ll le
f ff
b
j ge ge,i,y
y
ai ay a-e
w wh
oe ow o
oa o-e
igh y ie i-e
ee e-e ea
or
z zz
ng
nk
v ve
oo-oo
x
ch
sh
th-th
qu
ou ow
oi oy
ue u-e
er ir ur
ar
air are
eer ear

Roberto's third birthday

"Happy birthday to you..." It was Roberto's third birthday on 3rd June. The party was being held in the garden. Roberto's sister, Shirley, was thirteen and she was as excited as her younger brother about the event.

The family had a wonderful garden next to a small wooded area of thirty fir trees. Flocks of birds would gather in the bordering fields undisturbed by modern-day traffic.

Roberto enjoyed several hours of fun with his family and his friends from the local nursery. By the end of the day, his T-shirt and knees were really dirty and Roberto was very thirsty.

Shirley decided to have some extra fun and grabbed one of Roberto's birthday presents - a water squirter. She ran past her brother squirting him from head to foot.

"This will clean you up and quench your thirst," she squealed with mirth.

In the nearby field, a flock of birds took flight overhead...

I can read.

say the
sounds
s se ce,i,y
a
t
i(y ey)
p
n
c k ck
e ea
h
r
m
d
g
o
u
l ll le
f ff
b
j ge ge,i,y
y
ai ay a-e
w wh
oe ow o
oa o-e
igh y ie i-e
ee e-e ea
or
z zz
ng
nk
v ve
oo-oo
x
ch
sh
th-th
qu
ou ow
oi oy
ue u-e
er ir ur
ar
air are
eer ear

Murky Thursday

‘Murky Thursday’, the 13th February 1999, is the date that will go down in the history books in the hamlet of Bunsburg.

That particular day Kurt Grogan followed his usual habits. He was a burly fellow - perhaps as a consequence of his twice - daily visit to the local burger bar.

Kurt was always served by an equally strange person - Lucy Turps. Lucy would be happy and funny one day but then miserable and surly the next. It was your good fortune if you went for a burger on Lucy’s ‘good day’!

One Saturday night, as Lucy was cleaning up after the last customer, she noticed that Kurt had been scribbling all over his paper napkin. The scribbles looked interesting so Lucy put the napkin in her purse to look at more closely later on.

The scribbles turned out to be a street plan of the neighbouring hamlet and a more detailed floor plan of a jewellery store...

I can read.

Toby's pearls

say the
sounds
s se ce,i,y
a
t
i(y ey)
p
n
c k ck
e ea
h
r
m
d
g
o
u
l ll le
f ff
b
j ge ge,i,y
y
ai ay a-e
w wh
oe ow o
oa o-e
igh y ie i-e
ee e-e ea
or
z zz
ng
nk
v ve
oo-oo
x
ch
sh
th-th
qu
ou ow
oi oy
ue u-e
er ir ur
ear (w)or
ar
air are
eer ear

Could you get excited about an earthworm?

When Toby burst into the house, we heard all about his search for them in the earth.

Of all the things in the world, Toby's favourite pastime was to learn. He loved to research his projects in his granddad's dusty books or in his dad's workshop or on the 'World Wide Web'.

When Toby was a teenager, he worked hard in a local bookstore at weekends. For Toby this was a worthwhile job in every respect - not just for earning some spending money. Inevitably, he would spend his earnings on his latest interest.

As Toby matured, he sold all his worldly goods to travel around the world. We described life without him as 'our worst times'.

At long last he returned with a worthy bride on his arm - our worries were over.

Over the years, our Toby became world-famous for his many pearls of wisdom.

I can read.

say the
sounds
s se ce,i,y
a
t
i(y ey)
p
n
c k ck
e ea
h
r
m
d
g
o
u
l ll le
f ff
b
j ge ge,i,y
y
ai ay a-e
w wh
oe ow o
oa o-e
igh y ie i-e
ee e-e ea
or
z zz
ng
nk
v ve
oo-oo
x
ch
sh
th-th
qu
ou ow
oi oy
ue u-e
er ir ur
ear (w)or
schwa our
ar
air are
eer ear

Fashion

Did you hear that navy blue is back in favour?

Rumour has it that navy blue will be this season's 'in' colour.

Some describe it as 'the new black'.

If you have a good sense of humour, raid your grandmother's wardrobe.

She might be honoured that you consider her clothes to be the height of glamour.

Gran better savour the moment as next year 'the new black' might well be forest green!

I can read.