

## Familiar settings

### Extract from *It's not my fault* by Bel Mooney

Mum said that Kitty and Daniel had to look after Baby Tom while she popped next door. 'William's mum is so good at knitting, and I've really messed up this little jumper I was making for Tom,' she said. 'I need her to put me right.'

'Oh, Mum, William was coming to play with me,' moaned Kitty.

'All the better,' said Mum. 'That makes three of you to watch Tom. I want you all to stay in the sitting-room and play together. Dad's in bed with his cold, so I don't want you to make too much noise, either.'

'That's boring,' muttered Dan.

'The most boring thing in the world is children saying things are boring!' retorted Mum.

William arrived, his usual smile on his face. Kitty realised he was her happiest friend. Nothing seemed to put him in a bad mood. When she said they all had to look after the baby he said, 'That's OK.'

'No, it's not. I wanted to make a den at the bottom of the garden,' said Kitty.

'But it's raining!' said William.

'I suppose we could make one in the sitting-room – while we're looking after Tom,' said Kitty slowly.

Mum called that she wouldn't be long, and Daniel came into the sitting-room carrying the baby. When Kitty told her brother that they had decided to make a den, he grinned. Daniel always liked playing games he pretended were much too young for him, just like Kitty liked to re-read her first storybooks, with the very big print.

'Oh, all right,' sighed Dan. 'I suppose I'll have to help you.' He put Tom's little bouncy chair on the rug and fastened the baby in it. Tom waved his arms about and shouted excitedly, as if he knew something good was about to happen.

'I know what we could do,' said William. 'Make a little house for Tom by pulling out the sofa, and putting a tablecloth – or something over, and ...'

'No – chairs would be better,' said Daniel. 'You know, like we used to do, Kit?'

They looked round, and talked some more, and started to pull the sofa out ... and Baby Tom started to feel bored. As far as he was concerned, nothing was happening. So he started to wave his arms about like windmills and kick his legs – all of which made him hotter and hotter, and more and more uncomfortable ... And that made him start to whimper.

'Oh no,' said Kitty.

'What's the matter with him?' asked William.

'Maybe he's got a poeey nappy, in which case you'll have to change it, Kit!' grinned Daniel.

'Why me?'

'Cos you're a girl – and it's a girl's job!' shouted Dan.

'What a lot of old-fashioned rubbish!' shouted Kitty. 'In any case, Dad changes nappies – so there!' She threw a cushion at her brother, but he ducked and it went rolling over the rug and just touched Tom's legs. It was gentle – but the baby didn't like it one bit.

'Waaaaaaa!'

# Task

Read the text.

1. Which words did you find hard to read?

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2. Do you know why you found them hard?

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3. What can you do if you find something hard to read? Try to think of three things.

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4. Why did Mum want the children to keep quiet?

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5. What makes Kitty think that William is her happiest friend?

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6. Do you think Daniel is older or younger than Kitty? Explain your answer.

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7. Whose fault is it that the baby started to cry?

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8. Why would the children be worried when the baby started to cry?

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