

Julia Donaldson

Oxford
Reading
Tree



Where
Were You,
Bert?

Songbirds



Phonics

Remember children learn best when reading is relaxed and enjoyable so give lots of praise.

- Encourage your child to try to read any words they don't recognize by saying the sounds of each letter pattern separately (e.g. B – er – t), then running the sounds together quickly. If they find it difficult to say the sounds, say the sounds for them first and then see if they can hear the word.
- Explain that it is important when running the sounds in a word together to check to see if it sounds like a real word as some words are less regular (e.g. was). Read these words to your child if they don't recognize them. Point out the letters that make the usual sound in each word (e.g. the w in was). This will help your child to remember these words.

Reading the story

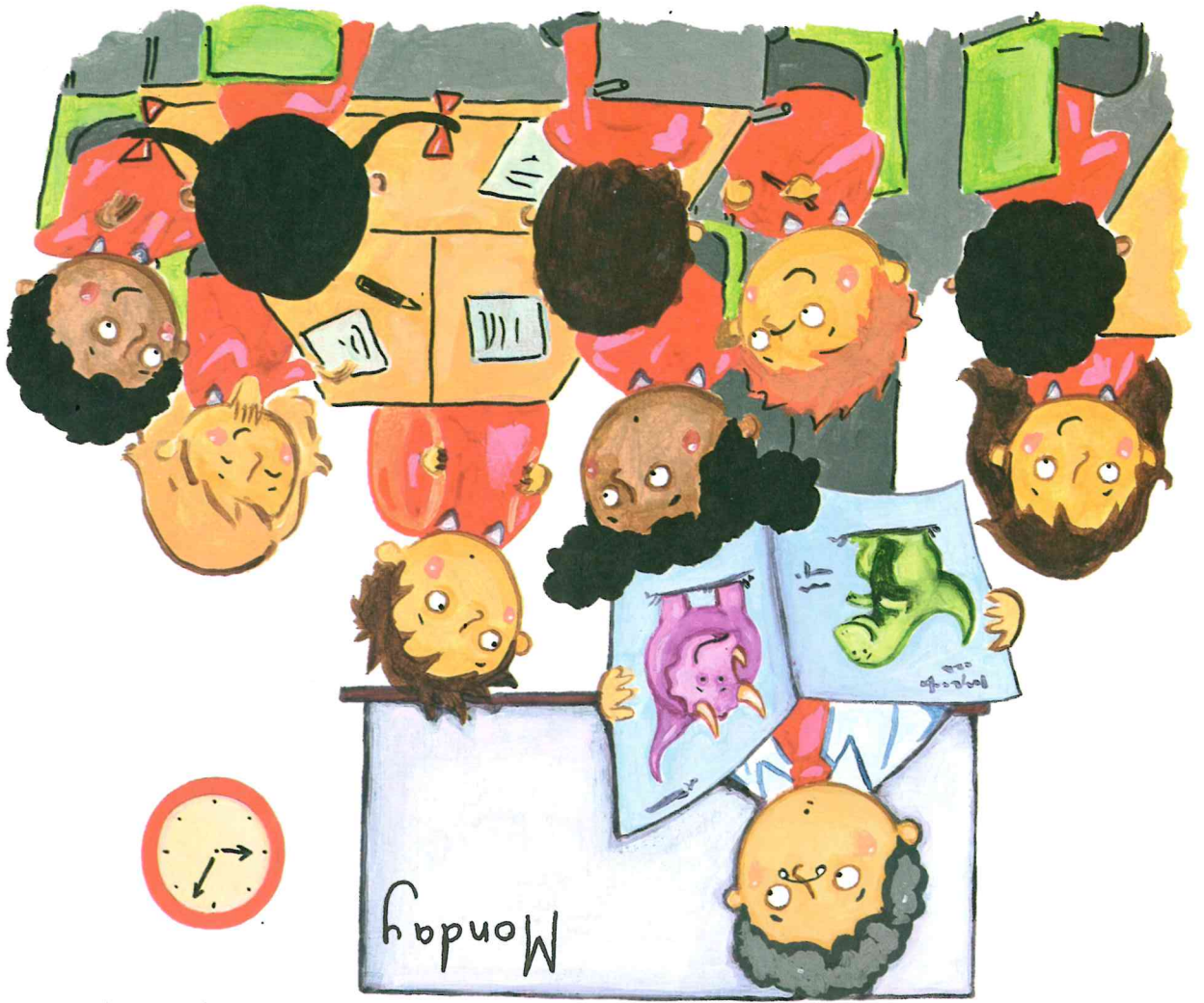
Ask your child to

- Point to each letter pattern in the box on the back cover and say the sound that it makes in words. Tell your child that each of these letter patterns can make the same sound.
- Look out for these letter patterns in the story and try and remember the sound they make.

Talk together

CROSSH



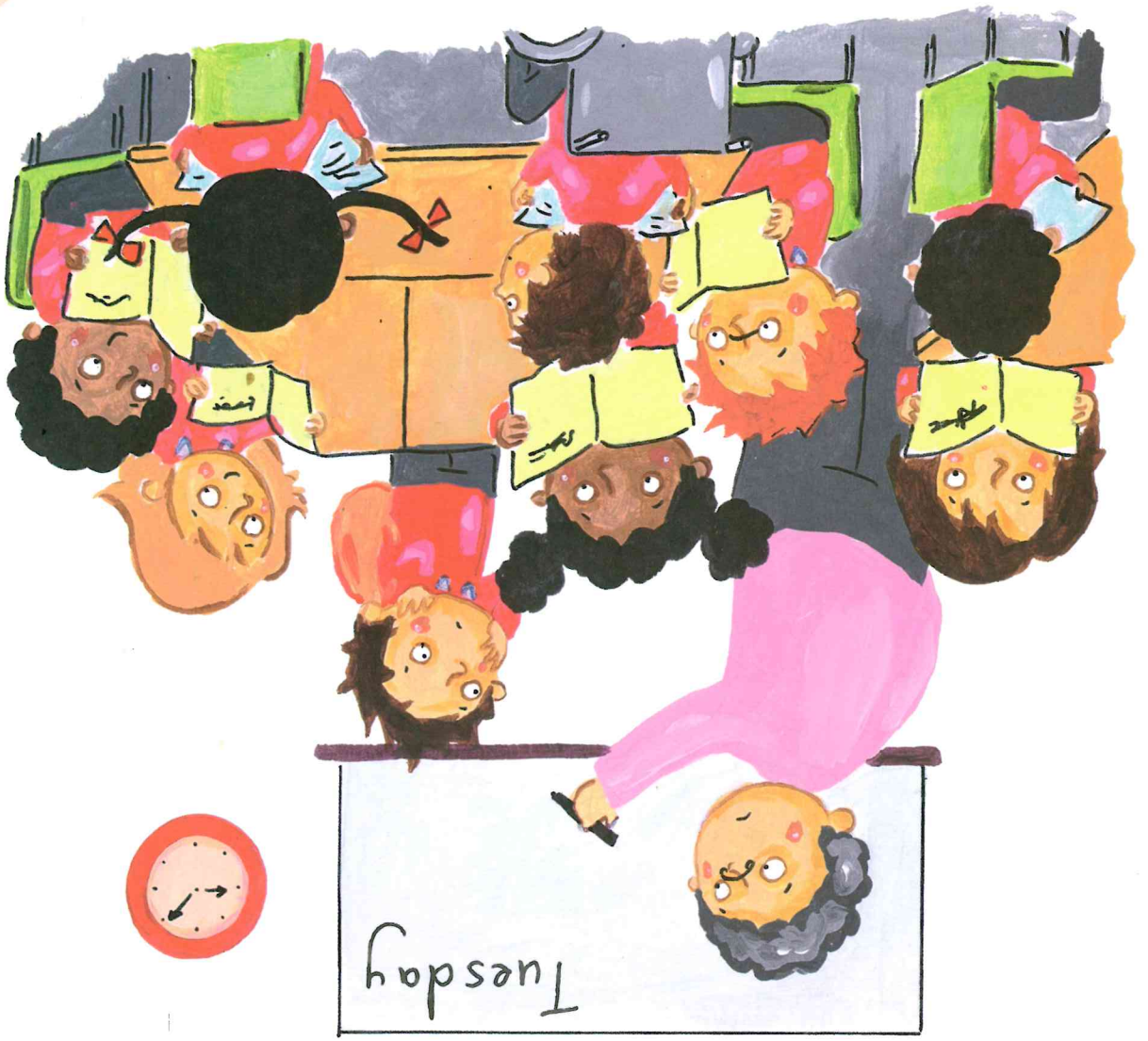


"You're late, Bert!"
"Sorry, sir."
"Where were you, Bert?"

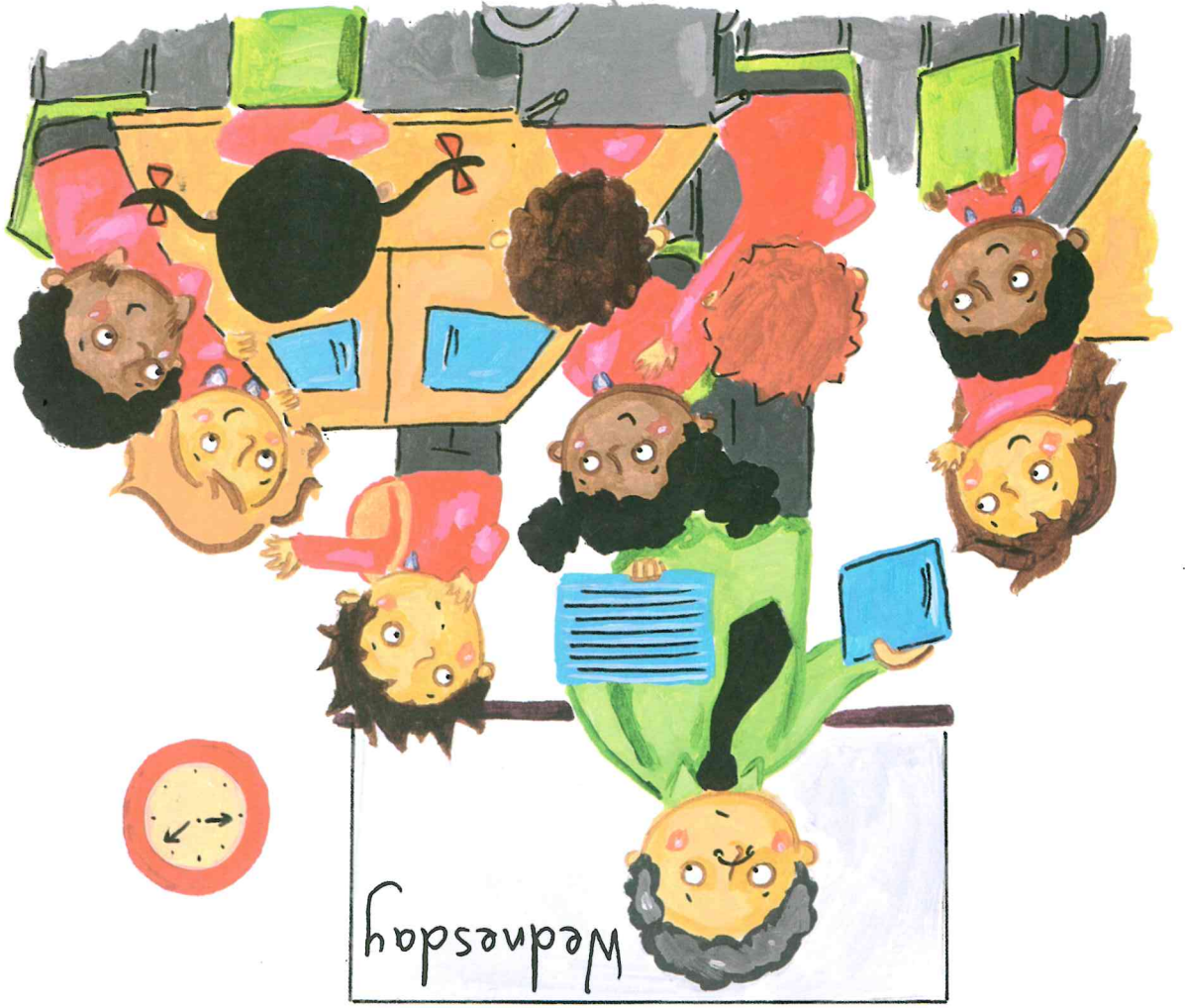


“Er.. I was helping a little girl to find her mummy.”

"You're late again, Bert!"
"Sorry, Sir."
"Where were you, Bert?"



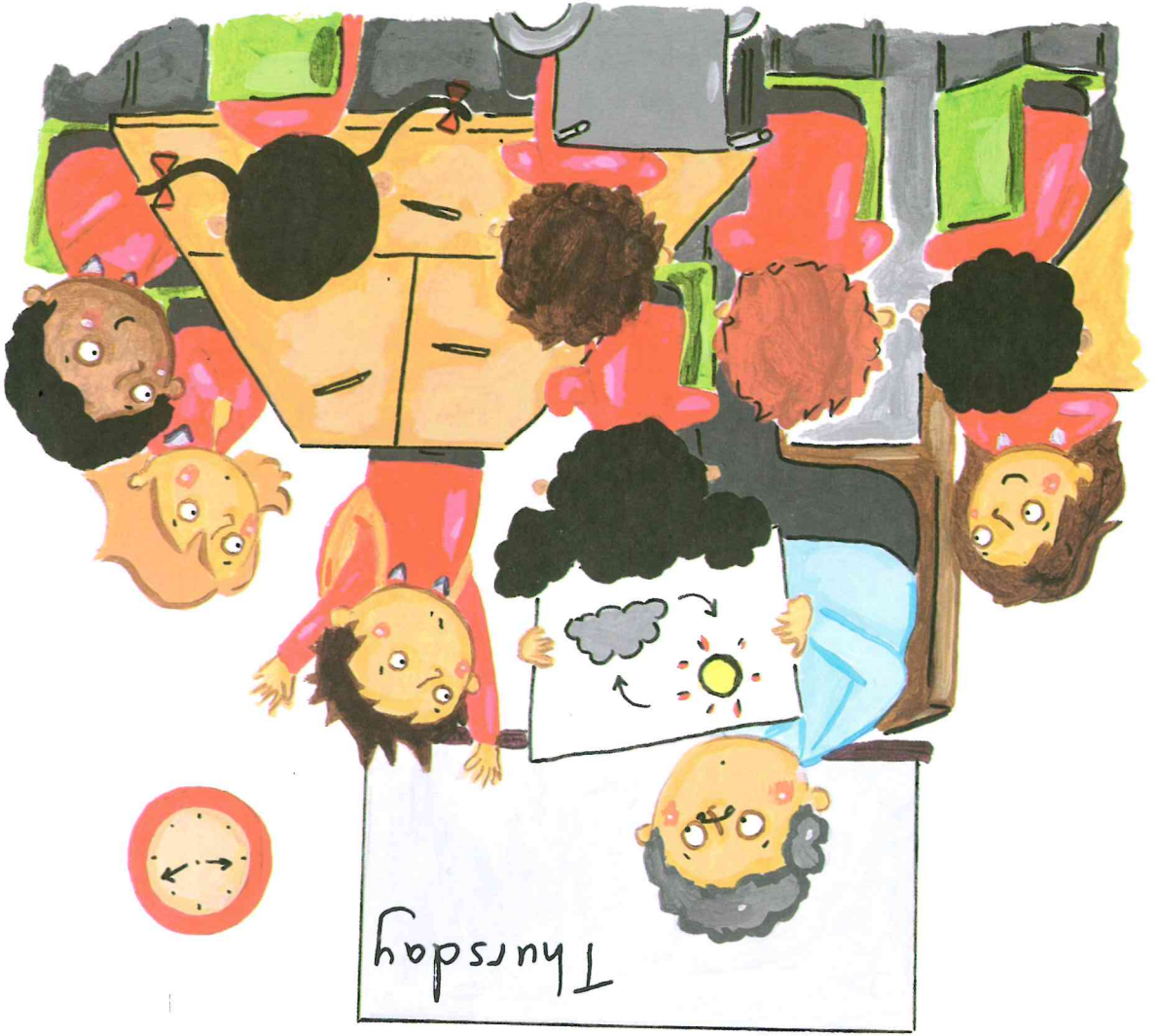
"You're late again, Berti!"
"Sorry, sir!"
"Where were you, Bert?"





"Er... I was helping a furry caterpillar to find a leaf."

"You're late again, Bert!"
"Sorry, sir."
"Where were you, Bert?"





"Er... I was helping a thirsty dog to find a drink."

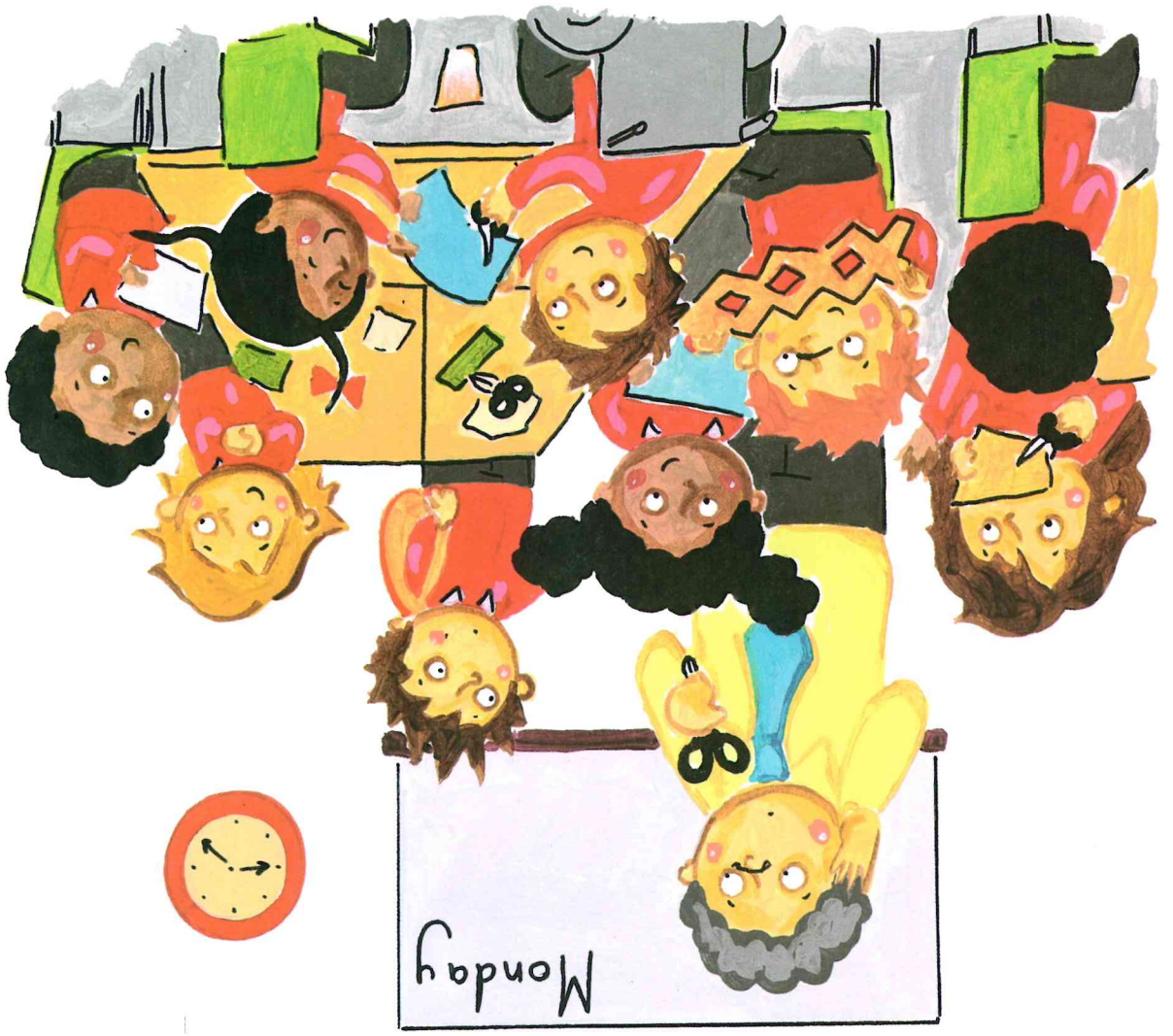


"You're late again, Bert!"
"Sorry, Sir."
"Where were you, Bert?"

"Er... I was helping a little boy to find a birthday party."



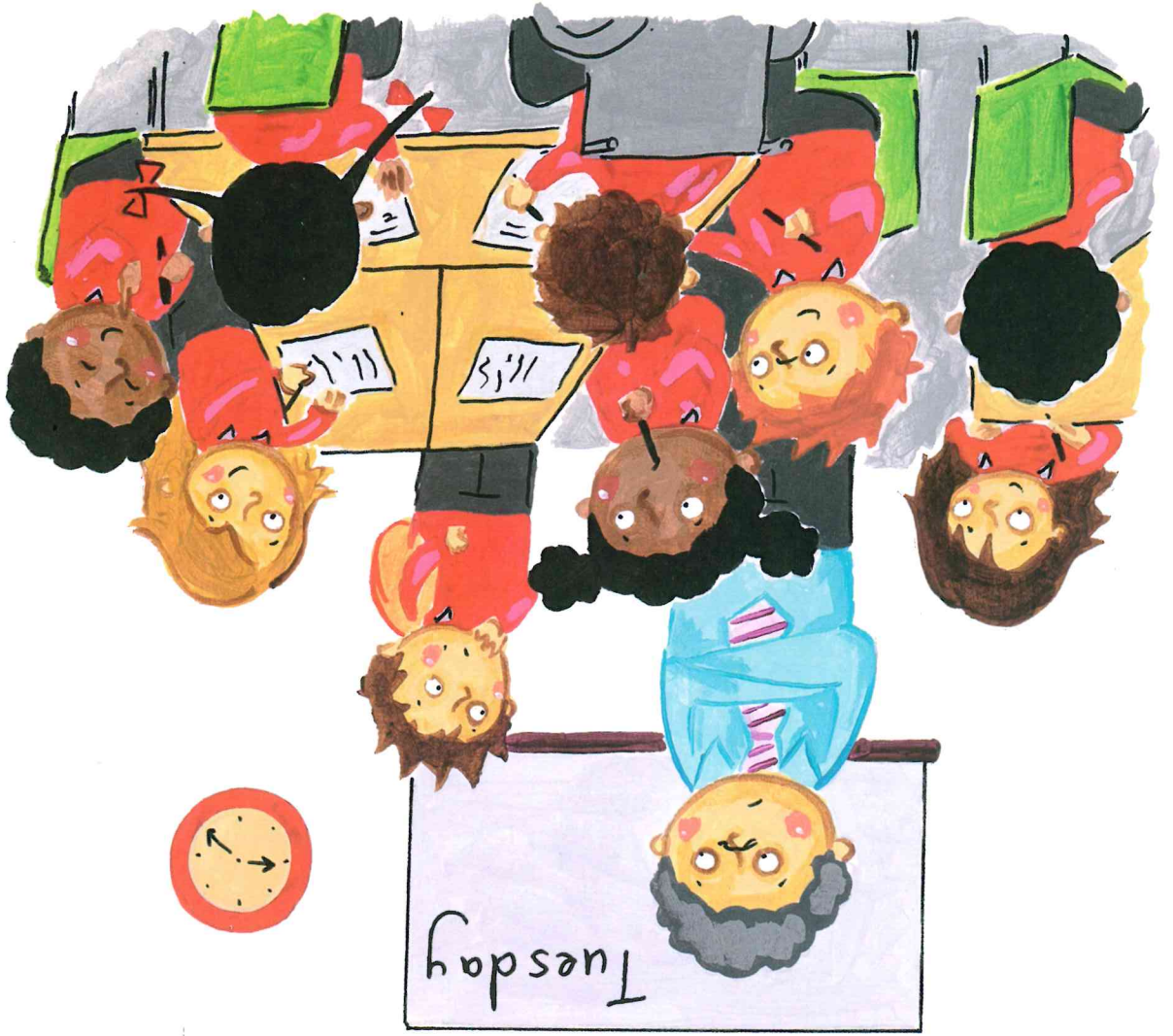
"You're late again, Bert!"
"Sorry, Sir."
"Where were you, Bert?"



"Er.. I was helping a bird to find its nest."



"You're late again, Bert!"
"Sorry, Sir."
"Where were you, Bert?"

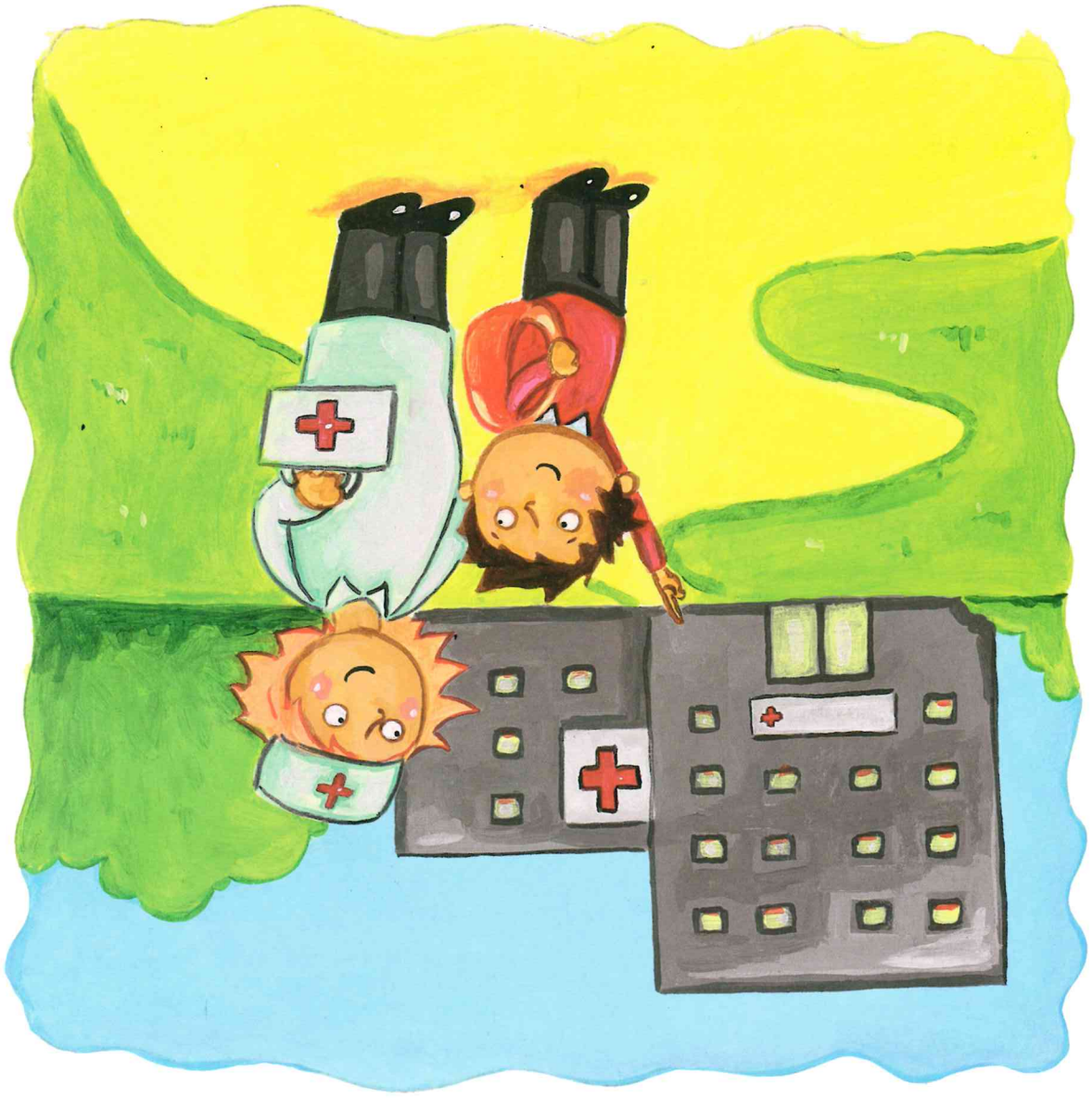




“Er... I was helping a worm to find some earth.”

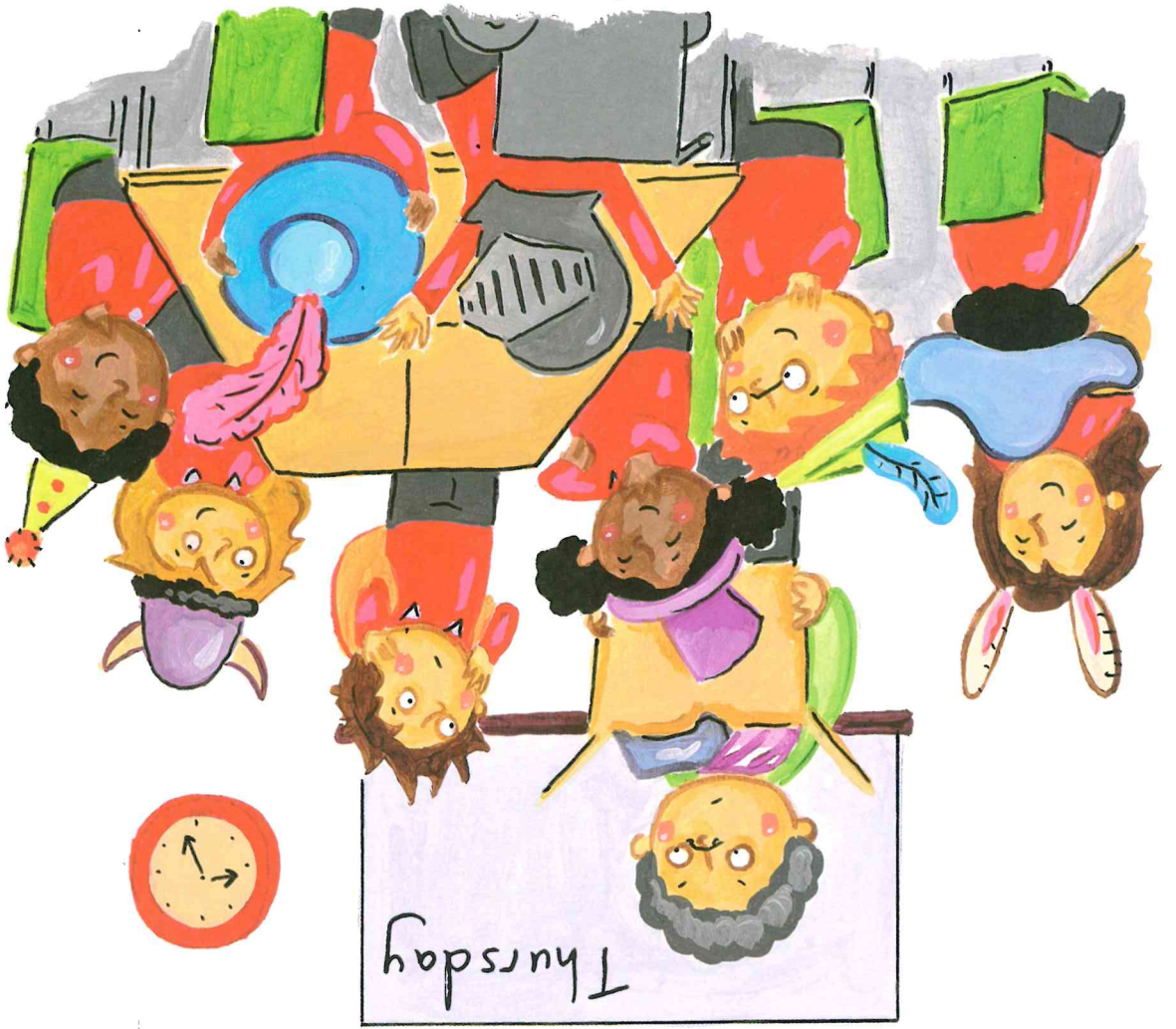


"You're late again, Bert!"
"Sorry, Sir."
"Where were you, Bert?"



"Er... I was helping a nurse to find her hospital."

"You're late again, Bert!"
"Sorry, Sir."
"Where were you, Bert?"

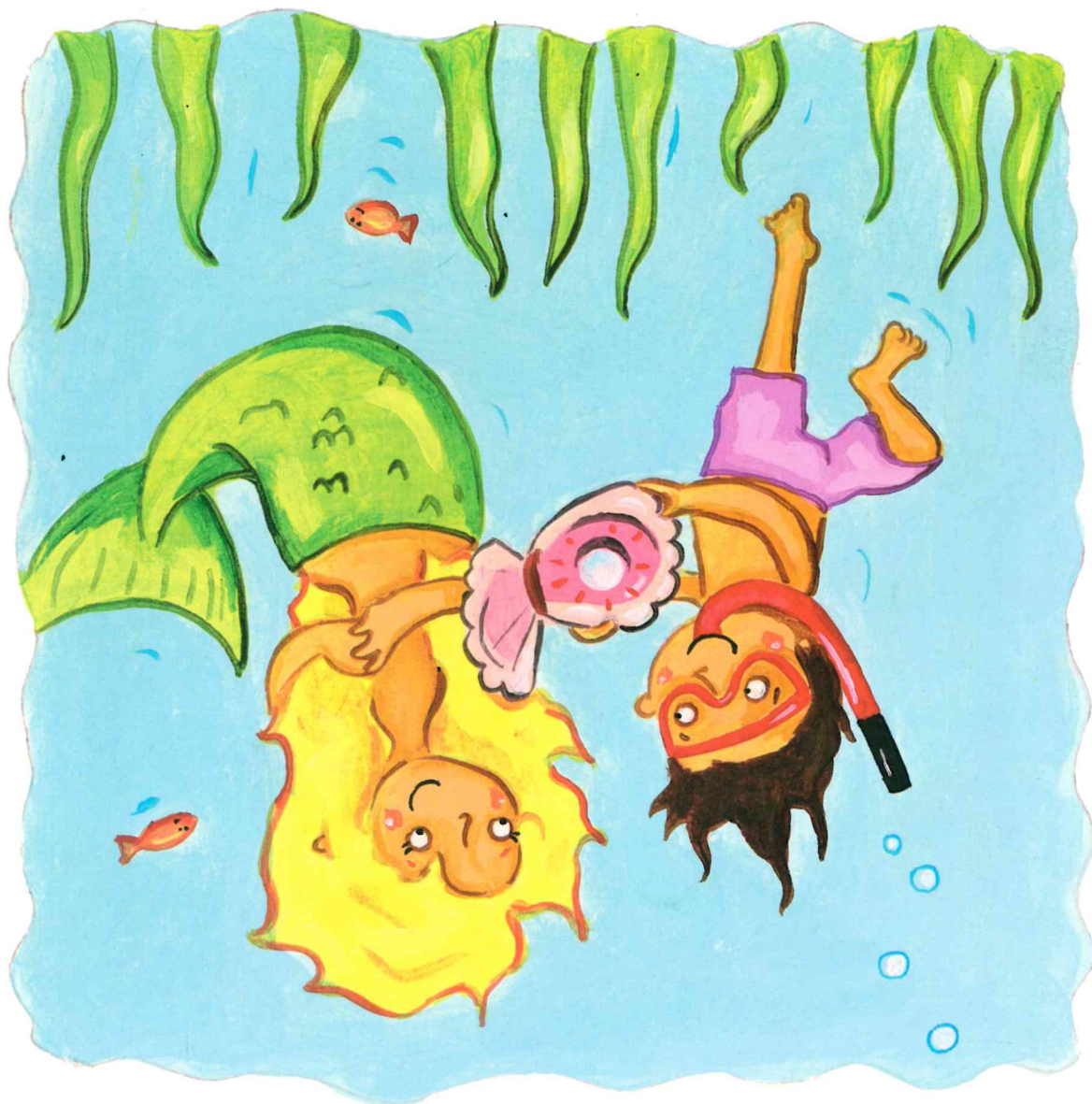




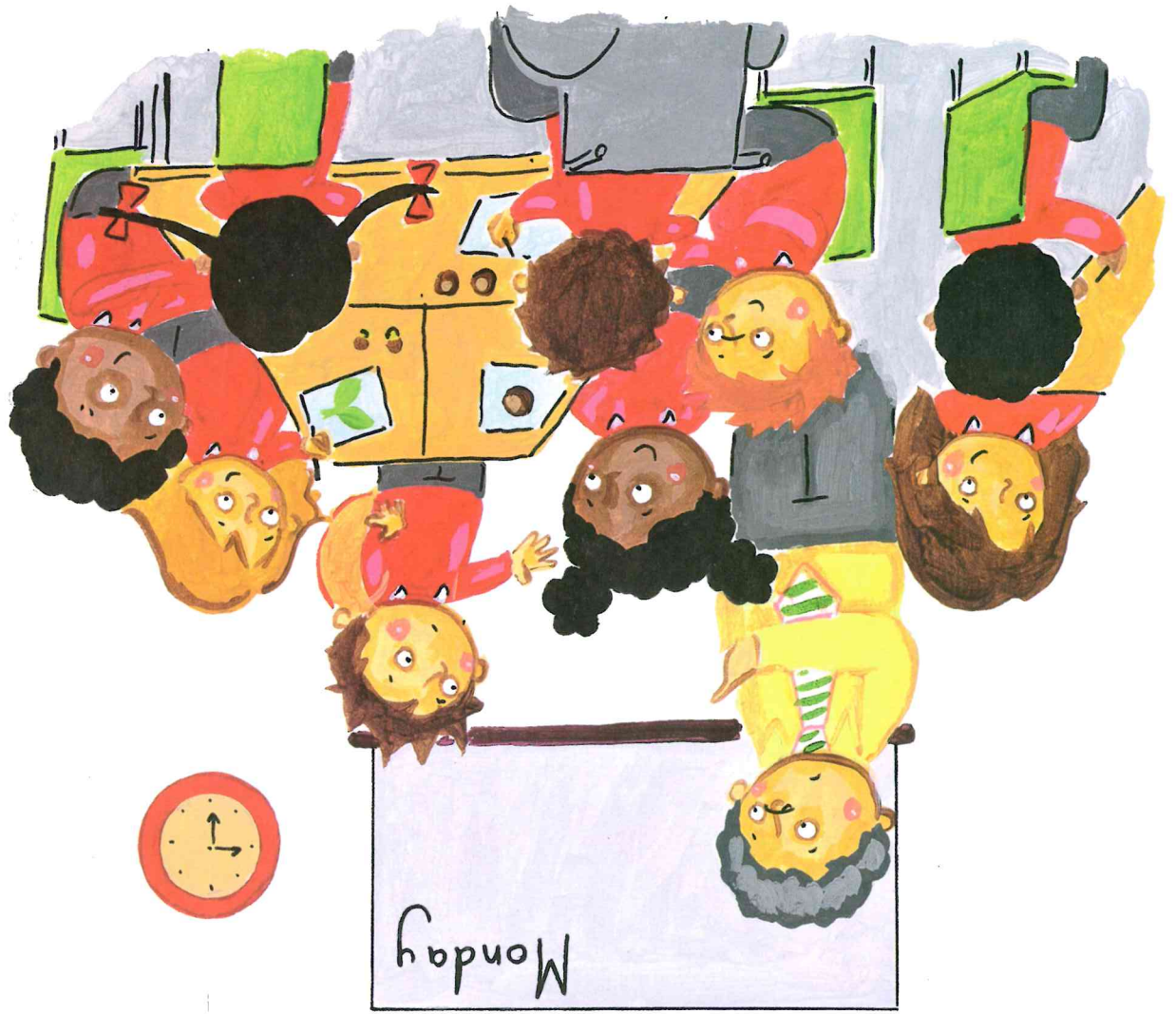
"Er... I was helping a turtle to find a pond."



"You're late again, Berti!"
"Sorry, sir."
"Where were you, Berti?"



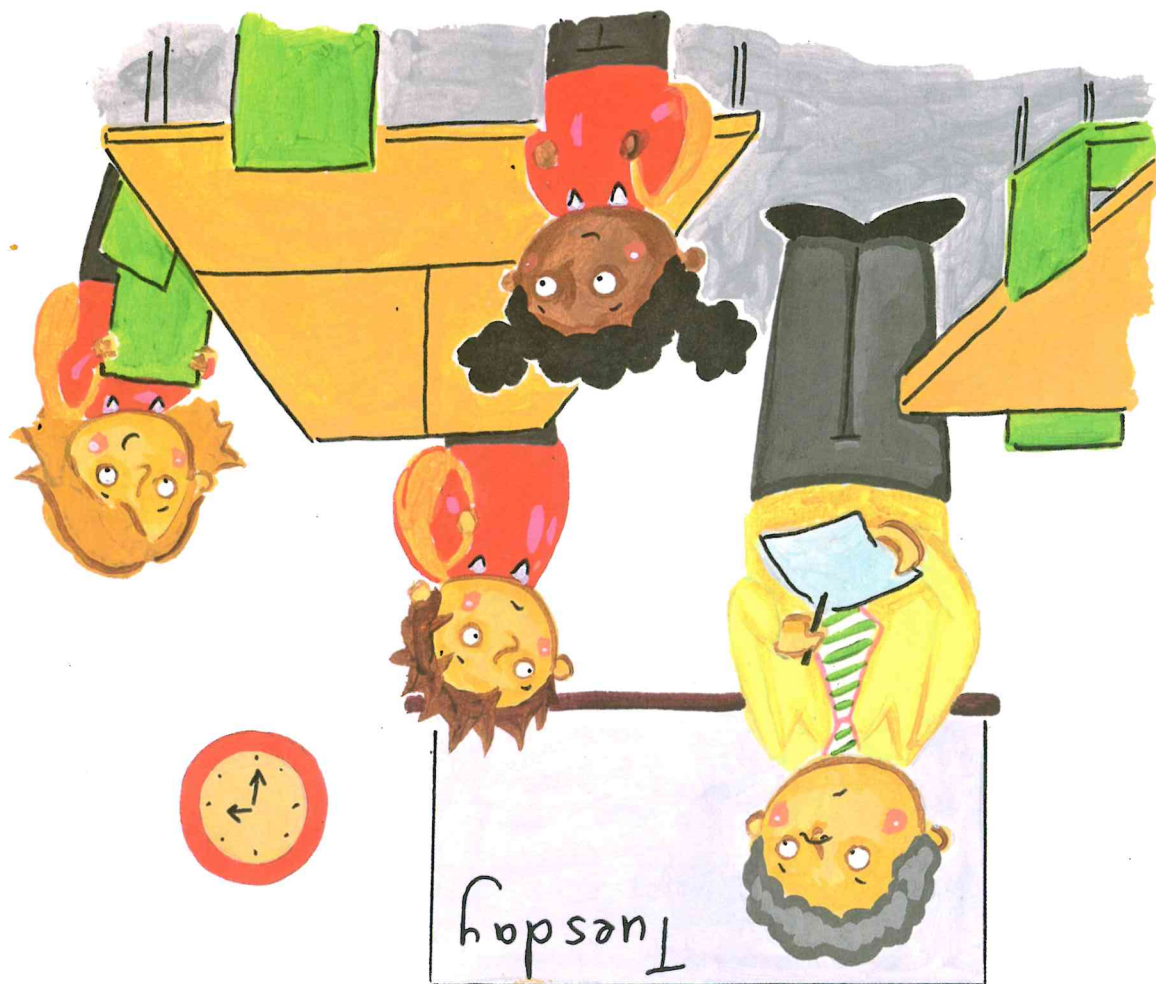
"Er... I was helping a mermaid to find a pearl."



"You're late again, Bert!"
"Sorry, sir."
"Where were you, Bert?"

"Er... I was helping a clown to find
the circus."





"Don't be late again, Berti!"
"No, Sir."
"If you're late again, Bert, I will help
you find a lot of extra work!"



Wednesday

"You're early, Bert!"

Check understanding

- Ask your child
- What did Bert say made him late? (He said he was helping people and animals e.g. a furry caterpillar to find a leaf.) Do you believe him?
 - Why was Bert early at the end of the story? (He didn't want to do lots of extra work.)

Check knowledge of letter-pattern sounds

- Ask your child to
- Read pages 3 and 4. Find some words which contain the long *ur* sound. (*Bert, Sir, were, Er, her, purse*)
 - Point to the letter pattern that makes the long *ur* sound in these words. (*er, ir, ere, ur*) Point out that *were* is a common word with an unusual spelling pattern for the *ur* sound.
 - Read page 16 and find a word which rhymes with *purse*. (*nurse*)

Example phonic words: Bert her caterpillar mermaid
Sir girl thirsty birthday bird circus purse furry nurse
turtle earth pearl early

Context words: some was Where you you're

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Available in packs
Stage 6 Songbirds Pack of 6 (one of each title)
Stage 6 Songbirds Class Pack (six of each title)
Guided Reading Cards also available

Focus Phonics
ur (as in fur)
Letter Pattern
er ir ur ear

Stage 6 Songbirds
Tara's Party
Paula the Vet
Where Were You, Bert?
Clare and the Fair
The Deer and the Earwig
Jack and the Giants



A bird, a nurse and a
mermaid make Bert
late for school. Can he
ever be early?

Story by Julia Donaldson • Pictures by Richard Watson
Series editor Clare Kirtley

Where Were You, Bert?



Stage 6 Songbirds
Phonics

