The Bear on the Stairs

By Kathryn Harper
Illustrated by Paul Meisel

OXFORD
The Bear on the Stairs

By Kathryn Harper
Illustrated by Paul Meisel
Before you read, write the colours.

1 _______ door
2 _______ bath
3 _______ boat
4 _______ stairs
GERRY comes home from school
At five past four.
Grandpa always waits
By the big blue door.

He says:
‘Tell me what you have to say.
Tell me what is new today.’
On Monday Gerry says:
‘There’s a giraffe
Having a bath
On the path.’

Grandpa says:
‘A giraffe on the path?
That’s not true,
That cannot be.
There’s no giraffe,
You’re fooling me.’

It’s a little joke,
It’s so funny!
There’s no giraffe,
Hee hee hee!

There’s a giraffe having a bath
on the path.
A giraffe on the path?
On Tuesday Gerry says:
‘There’s a snake
Eating cake
In the lake.’

Grandpa says:
‘A snake in the lake?
That’s not true,
That cannot be.
There’s no snake,
You’re fooling me.’

It’s a little joke,
It’s so funny!
There’s no snake,
Hee hee hee!

There’s a snake eating cake in the lake.
A snake in the lake?
Find the words and write.

a. cake
b. school

c.
d. giraffe

e. grandfather
f. funny
g. house
h. door
Match the rhyming words.

4

snake

four

bath

lake

door

path
On Wednesday Gerry says:
‘There’s a goat
In a coat
In a boat!’

Grandpa says:
‘A goat in a boat?
That’s not true,
That cannot be.
There’s no goat,
You’re fooling me.’

It’s a little joke,
It’s so funny!
There’s no goat,
Hee hee hee!

There’s a goat in a coat in a boat!
A goat in a boat?
On Thursday Gerry says:
‘There’s a fox
Selling socks
On the rocks!’

Grandpa says:
‘A fox on the rocks?
That’s not true,
That cannot be.
There’s no fox,
You’re fooling me.’

It’s a little joke,
It’s so funny!
There’s no fox,
Hee hee hee!
A fox on the rocks?
What’s missing in the pictures? Write.

cake  socks  bath  coat

socks

socks
Circle the odd-one-out and write the words.

1. dog, fox, goat, snake, door
   - door

2. door, bathtub, dog, table

3. giraffe, shirt, sock, pants

4. cake, boat, sandwich, bread
   - cake
On Friday Gerry says:
‘There’s a bear
With dirty hair
On the stairs!’

Grandpa says:
‘A bear on the stairs?
That’s not true,
That cannot be.
There’s no bear,
You’re fooling me.’

Gerry says:
‘No, listen to me!
I’m not fooling you.
There’s a bear on the stairs,
It’s true, it’s true!’
A bear on the stairs?
Grandpa says:
‘I’m old,
But I know a lot.
I know what’s true
And what is not.’

‘On Monday
A giraffe on the path.
On Tuesday
A snake in the lake.
On Wednesday
A goat in a boat.
On Thursday
A fox on the rocks.
And now, on Friday
A bear on the stairs.
Hee hee hee, you can’t fool me.
That’s what I call make believe.’
Gerry says:
'I'm not fooling.
Not this time.
I'm scared of that bear
And I'm really not lying.'
Write the days of the week.

1. Thursday
2. 
3. 
4. 
5. 
What colour are the things in the story?

1. Gerry’s T-shirt is _____________.
   ![Gerry's T-shirt]
   - red

2. The bear is ________________.
   ![Bear]

3. The snake is ________________
   and ________________.
   ![Snake]

4. The door is ________________.
   ![Door]

5. The giraffe is ________________
   and ________________.
   ![Giraffe]
Grandpa says:
‘Do you hear that great big roar?
Is that Miss McKay from the second floor?’

Gerry says:
‘No. That isn’t a woman
Or even a man.
It’s a bear on the stairs.
Let’s get out if we can.’
Then there’s a knock on the door.

It’s Mr Smith from the seventh floor:

‘Pardon me, don’t be upset.

There’s an animal on the stairs – it isn’t a pet.’
The firemen come and then the police. There’s Mrs Baker and her nosey niece. They want to look and have a stare at the bear on the stairs with dirty hair.

Now there’s a zookeeper on his bike, And there’s another – called Mike. He’s got a bag on a large brown trolley. He takes out an enormous pink lolly!
The bear on the stairs sees the sweet,
And in one second she’s on her feet.
She jumps into the trolley – weeee!
And eats the lolly – one, two, three!

‘Sorry, sorry,’ the zookeepers say.
‘It’s bath time at the zoo today.
This bear sees soap and she runs away,
But come and visit another day.’
Gerry says:
‘You see, Grandpa,
I know it’s a surprise,
But I can tell the truth
And I don’t always lie.’

I can tell the truth and I don’t always lie.

Grandpa says:
‘But it’s not good if you say
One or two lies every day.
Here’s an idea – take a good look –
When you talk, tell the truth
And write your stories in this book.’
Number the pictures in order and tell the story.

Gerry comes home from school.
Write the words. Find the animal in the puzzle.

1. Bear
2. Bear
3. Snakes
4. Man
5. Woman
6. Giraffe
7. Snake
8. Goat

Crossword:

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Elephant
Act the play.

Scene 1

Narrator: On Monday Gerry comes home from school.
At five past four.
Grandpa always waits
By the big blue door.

Grandpa: Tell me what you have to say.
Tell me what is new today.

Gerry: There’s a giraffe having a bath
On the path.

Grandpa: A giraffe on the path?
That’s not true, that cannot be.

Gerry: You’re right. It’s not true.
There’s no giraffe. I’m fooling you.

Narrator: On Tuesday Gerry comes home from school.

Grandpa: Tell me what you have to say.
Tell me what is new today.

Gerry: There’s a snake eating cake
In the lake.

Grandpa: A snake in the lake?
That’s not true, that cannot be.

Gerry: You’re right. It’s not true.
There’s no snake. I’m fooling you.

Narrator: On Wednesday Gerry comes home from school.

Grandpa: Tell me what you have to say.
Tell me what is new today.
Gerry  There’s a goat in a boat
      Wearing a coat.
Grandpa A goat in a boat?
      That’s not true, that cannot be.
Gerry  You’re right. It’s not true.
      There’s no goat. I’m fooling you.
Narrator On Thursday Gerry comes home from school.
Grandpa Tell me what you have to say.
      Tell me what is new today.
Gerry  There’s a fox selling socks
      On the rocks!
Grandpa A fox on the rocks?
      That’s not true, that cannot be.
Gerry  You’re right. It’s not true.
      There’s no fox. I’m fooling you.’
Narrator On Friday Gerry comes home from school.
Grandpa Tell me what you have to say.
      Tell me what is new today.
Gerry  There’s a bear with dirty hair
      On the stairs!
Grandpa A bear on the stairs?
      That’s not true, that cannot be.
Gerry  No, listen to me! I’m not fooling you.
      There’s a bear on the stairs,
      It’s true, it’s true.
Scene 2

Bear  ROAR!

Grandpa  Do you hear that great big roar?
          Is that Miss McKay from the second floor?

Gerry  No. That isn’t a woman or even a man.
       It’s a bear on the stairs, let’s get out if we can.

Narrator  Then there’s a knock on the door.
          It’s Mr Smith from the seventh floor.

Mr Smith  Pardon me, don’t be upset.
          There’s an animal on the stairs – it isn’t a pet.

Bear  ROAR!

Narrator  The firemen come and then the police.
          There’s Mrs Baker and her nosey niece.
          They want to look and have a stare
          At the bear on the stairs with dirty hair.

Zookeepers  Sorry, sorry,
            It’s washing time at the zoo today.
            The bear sees soap and she runs away!

Scene 3

Gerry  You see, Grandpa, I know it’s a surprise,
        But I can tell the truth, I don’t always lie.’

Grandpa  Here’s an idea – take a good look –
          When you talk, tell the truth
          And write your stories in this book.
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