

## TRAVELLERS: Billy's Boy, Weather Girl

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### Level 4

One to two lines of predictable text without repetition or one to four lines of repeated text per page. The length of each story is between 100 and 130 words.

### Literacy links

By working through the discussion points, pair work and worksheets, you will cover the following areas with your pupils:

- Role play that extends understanding of the story
- Writing sentences of increasing complexity that describe weather
- Understand onomatopoeia.

### Story summaries

#### *Billy's Boy* by Melanie Joyce

Billy lives on a traveller site. He wants his own horse. He goes to a horse fair and sees a cob he likes but someone else bids for him. He is sad and doesn't feel like celebrating his birthday but the horse, Boy, is waiting outside his trailer as a surprise.

NB The make of trailer in this story is a 'Tabbart'.

#### *Weather Girl* by Melanie Joyce

Farah is from Iran where the weather is usually predictable. She finds British weather hard to understand and it changes constantly. She hates the weather – until the day it snows! Then she loves the changing weather.

### Group discussion points

#### *Billy's Boy*

- Why does Billy want a horse?
- Where does he get it from?
- Where will he keep it?

#### *Weather Girl*

- What is the weather like in Iran, where Farah is from?
- What does she think of the weather in Britain?
- Why does she think this?

**Pair work**

How did Billy's Dad manage to buy Boy? Did he persuade the buyer to let him have Boy? Had he arranged in advance for a friend to buy Boy so it would be a surprise for Billy?

With your partner, role play a conversation between Billy's Dad and one other person, depending on what you think happened.

**Topic work****Literacy activity**

- Write the names of the four seasons at the top of a table.
- List the different types of weather you might get in each season.

Spring	Summer	Autumn	Winter

- Which is your favourite season?
- Write a sentence explaining why.

**Cross curricular activity**

1. Go to the BBC's weather forecasting website

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/weather>.

Find out what the weather is going to be like today and tomorrow in your area.

2. See what you can find out about BBC weather forecaster Daniel Corbett.

# 3

## Billy's Boy (A)

Crash! Bang! Boom! Splash! Crack!

All these words represent different noises. When a word tries to sound like a noise it is called **onomatopoeia**.

Billy's horse, Boy, makes a sound called a 'whinny'. It is a word that tries to sound like the noise a horse makes. It is **onomatopoeia**.

What other sounds that animals make can you think of that are **onomatopoeia**? Follow the examples below and see how many you can come up with.

Animal	Onomatopoeia sound
Horse	Whinny or neigh
Cat	Meow
Bird	
Dog	
Lion	
Mouse	
Snake	
Pig	
Duck	
Sheep	

Now try and match the **onomatopoeia** sounds to these nouns.

Noun	Onomatopoeia sound
	Vroom
	Honk
	Pop
	Buzz
	Bang

Bee Balloon Car horn Gunshot Car



# 3

## Weather Girl (B)

What weather have you had this week?  
Choose a word to complete these sentences.



Monday

The sky was .....

clear, cloudy, dark, bright

The wind was .....

strong, light, roaring

The sun was .....

bright, warm, hidden

The temperature was ..... freezing, cold, mild, warm, hot

The day was ..... dry, damp, wet

Write a sentence that describes the weather you had on other days of the week.

Tuesday .....

Wednesday .....

Thursday .....

Friday .....

Saturday .....

Sunday .....

What is your favourite type of weather? Do you like it hot? Do you like to build snowmen? Do you like splashing in puddles?

I like .....

