

USBORNE VERY FIRST READING: BOOK 4



# Dog Diary



Mairi Mackinnon  
Illustrated by Fred Blunt



Usborne Very First Reading has been developed in consultation with literacy specialists Alison Kelly and Anne Washtell of Roehampton University, London.

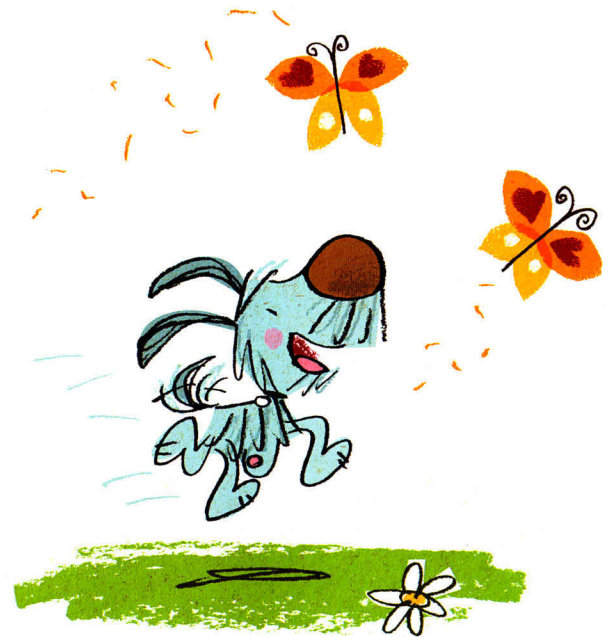
Each book contains:

- a **story** that children will love to read
- fun **puzzles** to reinforce new skills
- **guidance notes** on reading with your child.

Further help and support for parents and teachers can be found on the Very First Reading website,  
[www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading](http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading)



# Dog Diary



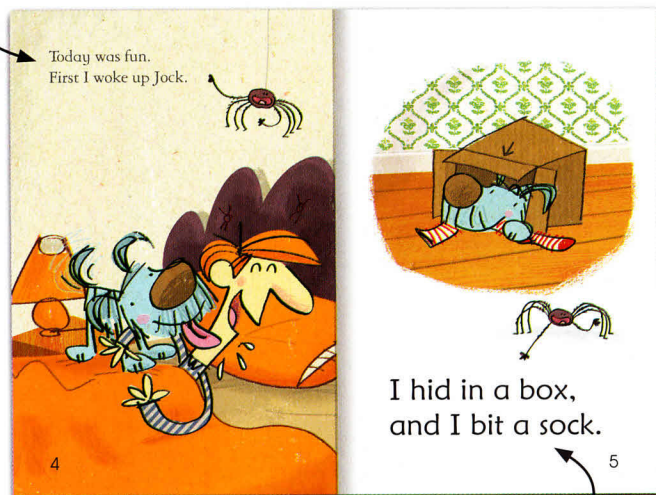
Written by Mairi Mackinnon

Illustrated by Fred Blunt

## How this book works

The story of **Dog Diary** has been written for you to read with your child. You take turns to read:

You read these words.



Your child reads these words.

You don't have to finish the story in one session. If your child is getting tired, put a marker in the page and come back to it later.

You can find out more about helping your child with this book, and with reading in general, on pages 30-31.

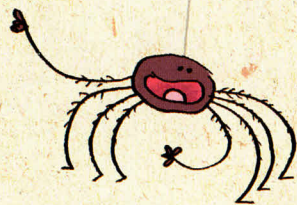
# Dog Diary



Turn the page to start the story.



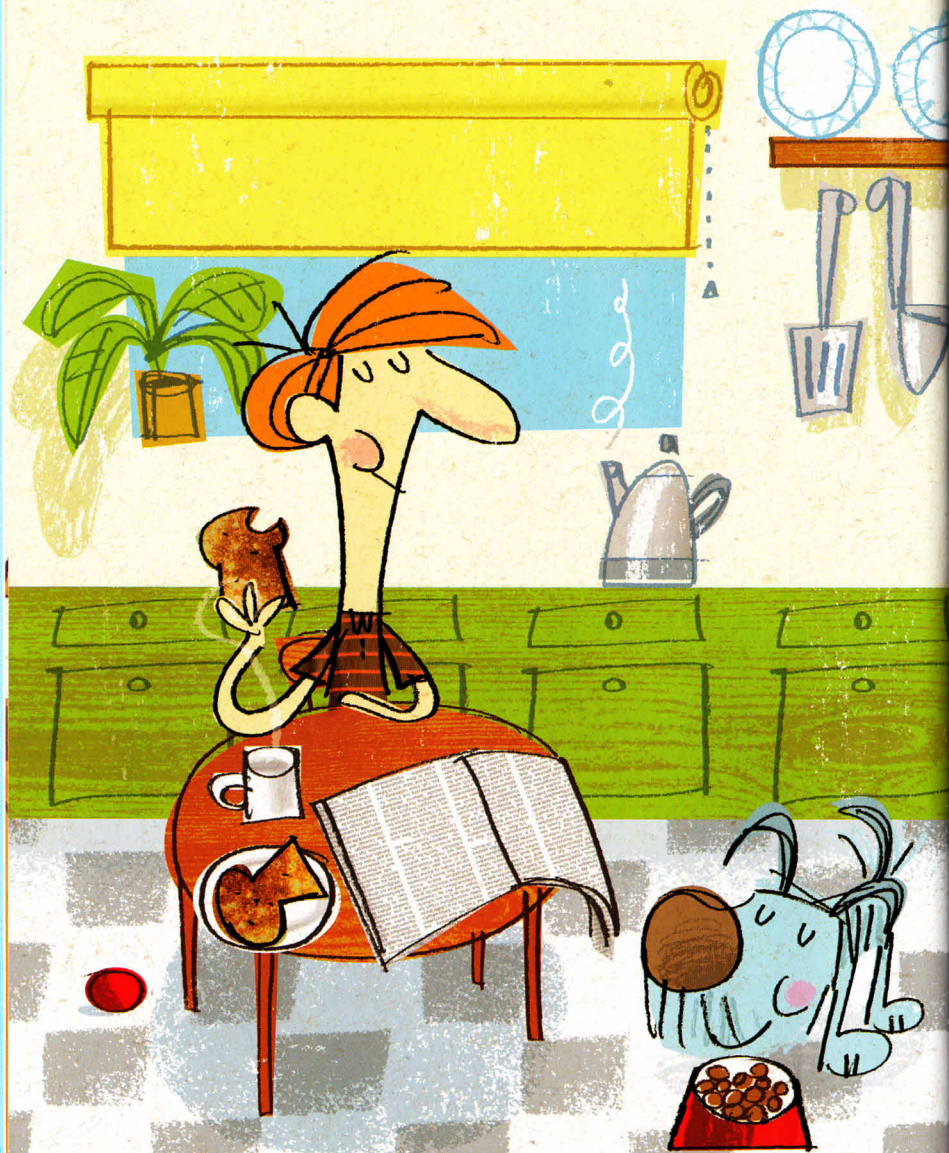
Today was fun.  
First I woke up Jock.



I hid in a box,  
and I bit a sock.



We had our breakfast  
and went to work.

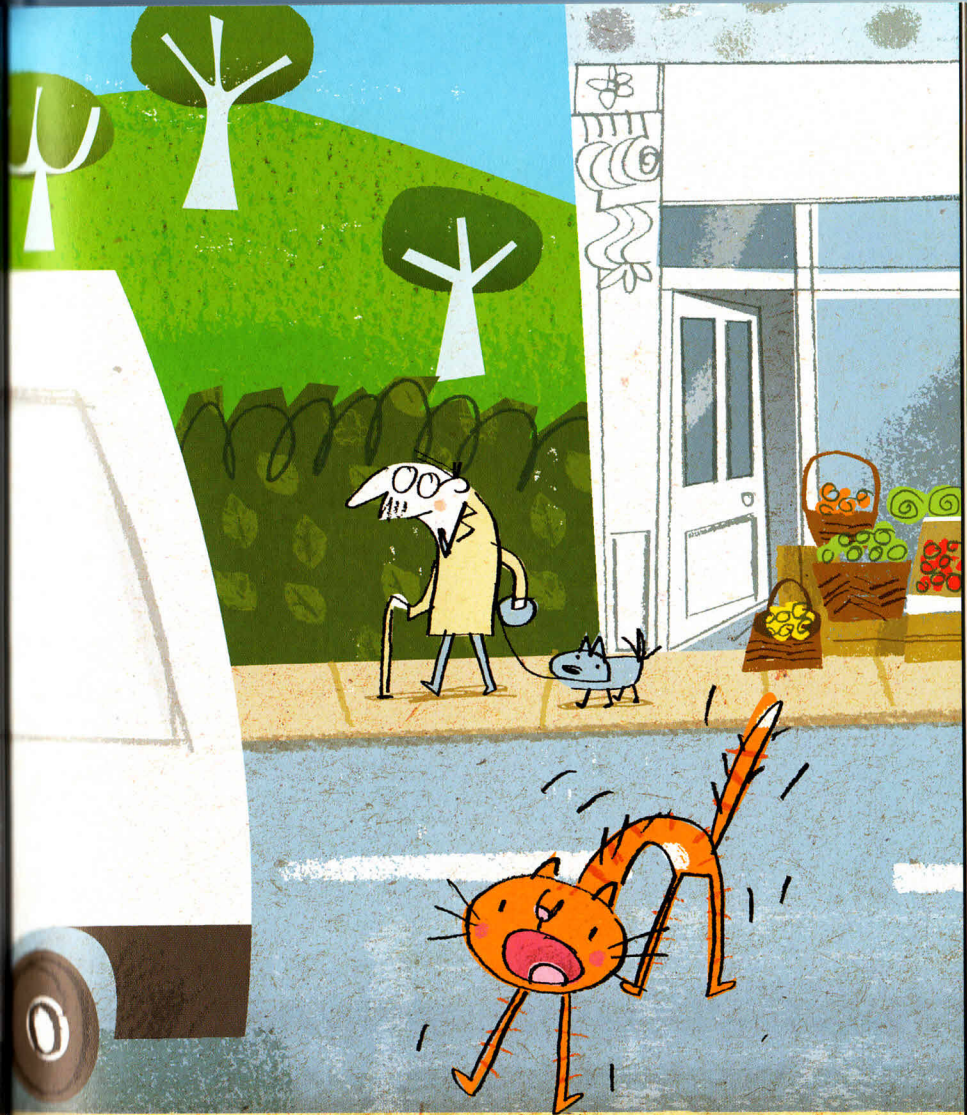


I sat in a van,  
and I did not yap.



W

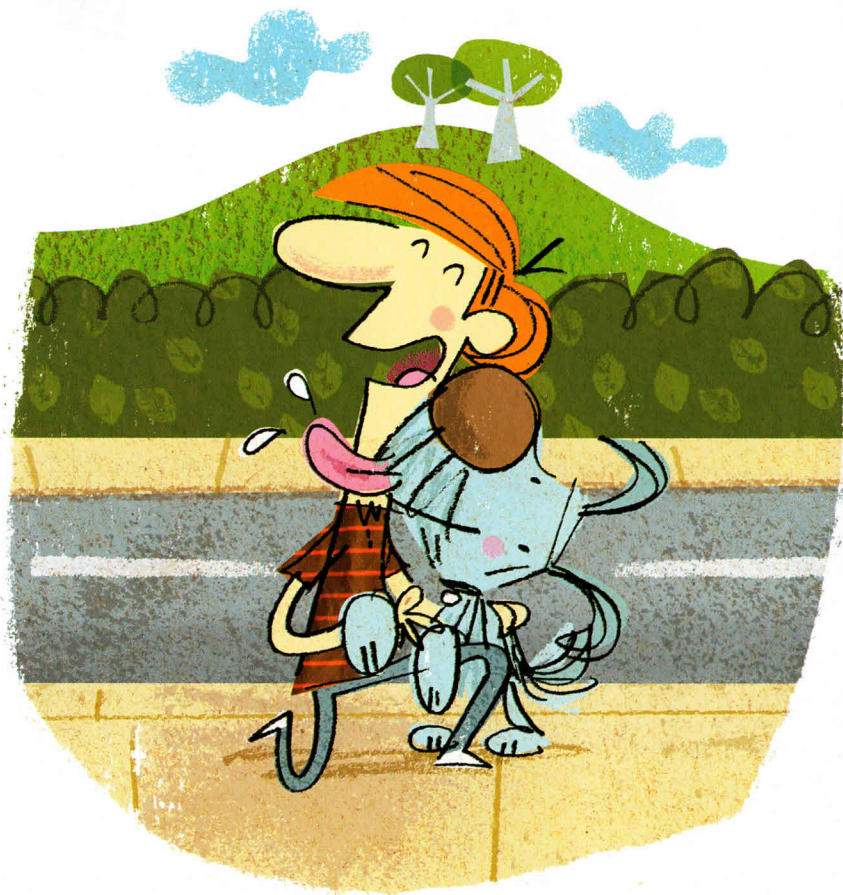
"All right, Pip,  
now down you hop."



I met a cat, and  
I did not nip.



“Good boy, Pip,  
let’s go to the park.”



I ran and ran  
in a big zig zag...



An open gate!  
And what's that smell?



I ran up a hill, and  
Jock had to yell.





"Stop, Pip, that will  
make you sick!"

A can of fizz?  
I had a quick lick...

Yuck!



Time to go home,  
or so I thought –



I got on a bus,  
but Jock did not.





Ah yes, the van –  
oh help, now what?




“No, Pip!  
Quick, Pip!”



Off I got.



A cartoon illustration of a boy with a long nose, wearing an orange cap and a striped shirt, pointing towards a small blue dog with a brown patch on its back. The dog is standing on a sidewalk next to a large, dark puddle. In the background, a red building and a person walking are visible.

"Watch the puddle, Pip,  
don't jump yet."

I fell in,  
and I got wet!





"Bathtime and suppertime,  
boy," Jock said.



I am back,  
I am fed.



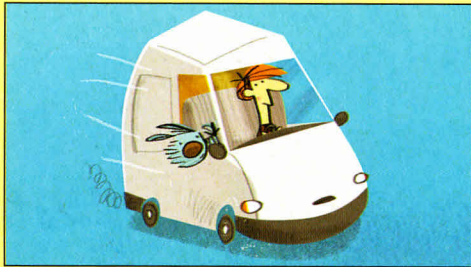
I let Jock  
get to bed.



## Puzzle 1

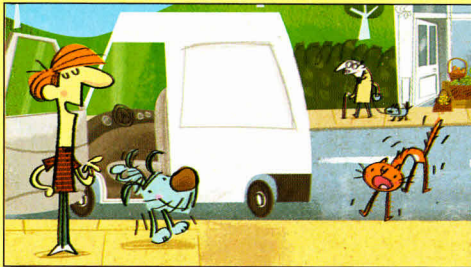
Read the sentences. Do you think Pip is being a good dog or a bad dog?

1.



I sat in a van,  
and I did not yap.

2.



I met a cat,  
and I did not nip.

3.



I ran up a hill,  
and Jock had to yell.

4.



I let Jock  
get to bed.

Why don't you talk about what Pip  
dreams about when he is asleep?



## Puzzle 2

Choose the right sentence for each picture.

1.

I ran  
and ran.

2.

I had a  
quick lick.

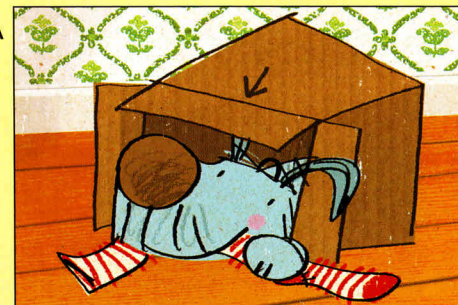
3.

I hid in  
a box.

4.

I am in  
bed.

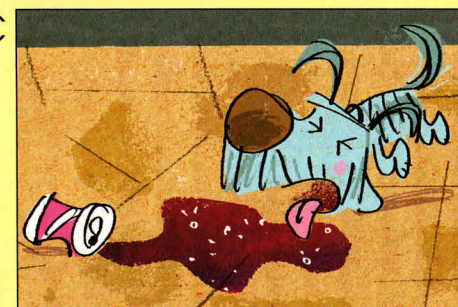
A



B



C



D





## Puzzle 3

Read the questions, and answer yes or no.

1.



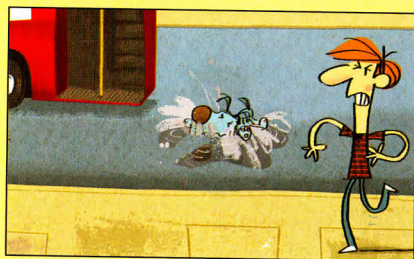
Can Pip run?  
Can Jock run?

2.



Is Pip on a bus?  
Is Jock on a bus?

3.



Did Pip get wet?  
Did Jock get wet?

## Answers to puzzles

Puzzle 1



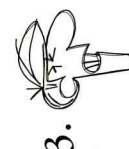
1.

1. I ran and ran. - B



2.

2. I had a quick lick. - C



3.

3. I hid in a box. - A



4.

4. I am in bed. - D

Puzzle 3

1. Yes, Pip can run.

Yes, Jock can run.

2. Yes, Pip is on a bus.

No, Jock is not on a bus.

3. Yes, Pip got wet.

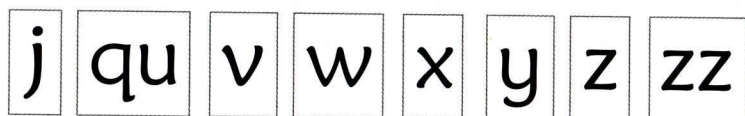
No, Jock did not get wet.



## Guidance notes

Usborne Very First Reading is a series of books, specially developed for children who are learning to read. In the early books in the series, you and your child take turns to read, and your child steadily builds the knowledge and confidence to read alone.

The words for your child to read in **Dog Diary** introduce these eight letters or letter-combinations:



Your child will now be familiar with all the letters of the alphabet – a major milestone in learning to read. Later books in the series gradually introduce more letter-combinations and spelling patterns, while reinforcing the ones your child already knows.

You'll find lots more information about the structure of the series, advice on helping your child with reading, extra practice activities and games on the Very First Reading website,\* [www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading](http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading)

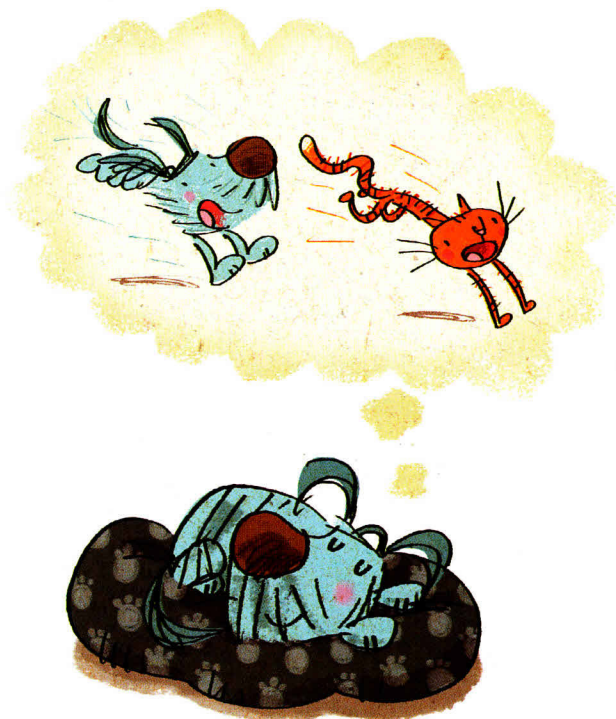
\*US readers go to [www.veryfirstreading.com](http://www.veryfirstreading.com)

## Some questions and answers



- **Why do I need to read with my child?**  
Sharing stories and taking turns makes reading an enjoyable and fun activity for children. It also helps them to develop confidence and reading stamina, and to take part in an exciting story using very few words.
- **When is a good time to read?**  
Choose a time when you are both relaxed, but not too tired, and there are no distractions. Only read for as long as your child wants to – you can always try again another day.
- **What if my child gets stuck?**  
Don't simply read the problem word yourself, but prompt your child and try to find the right answer together. Similarly, if your child makes a mistake, go back and look at the word together. Don't forget to give plenty of praise and encouragement.
- **We've finished, now what do we do?**  
It's a good idea to read the story several times to give your child more practice and more confidence. Then you can try reading **Bad Jack Fox** at the same level or, when your child is ready, go on to Book 5 in the series.



Edited by Jenny Tyler and Lesley Sims  
Designed by Caroline Spatz



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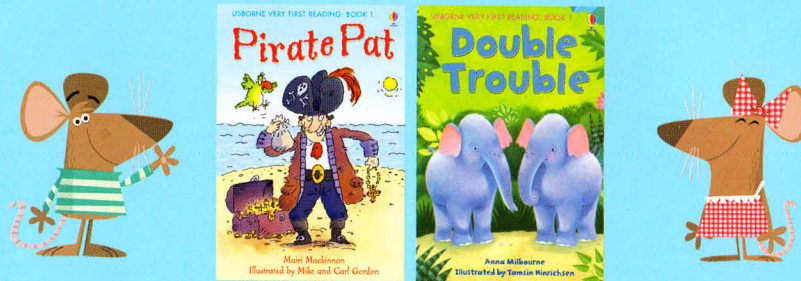
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## USBORNE VERY FIRST READING

There are over thirty titles in the Usborne Very First Reading series, which has been specially developed to help children learn to read. Here are some of them.

To find out more about the structure of the series, go to  
[www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading](http://www.usborne.com/veryfirstreading)



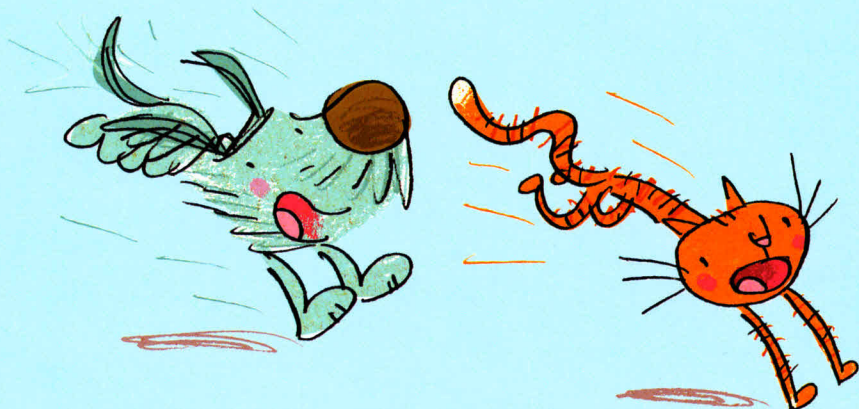




# Dog Diary

**Dog Diary** is part of the **Usborne Very First Reading** series which has been specially developed to help children learn to read. Each book in the series introduces new letters or reading patterns, and reinforces material from previous books.

Designed for an adult and child to read together, the series combines lively rhyming stories with inspiring illustrations in order to build the skills and confidence that will encourage a lifelong enjoyment of reading.



Find out about all the titles available at  
[www.usborne.com](http://www.usborne.com)

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