

USBORNE VERY FIRST READING: BOOK 15



Mr. Mystery



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

Mr. Mystery



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How this book works

The story of **Mr. Mystery** has been written for your child to read with your help. Encourage your child to read as much as they can, helping to sound out the words and explaining any meanings if they get stuck.



There are puzzles after the story, and for these you may need to read the instructions to your child.

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

Mr. Mystery



Turn the page to start the story.

Mr. Mystery came
from a faraway land.

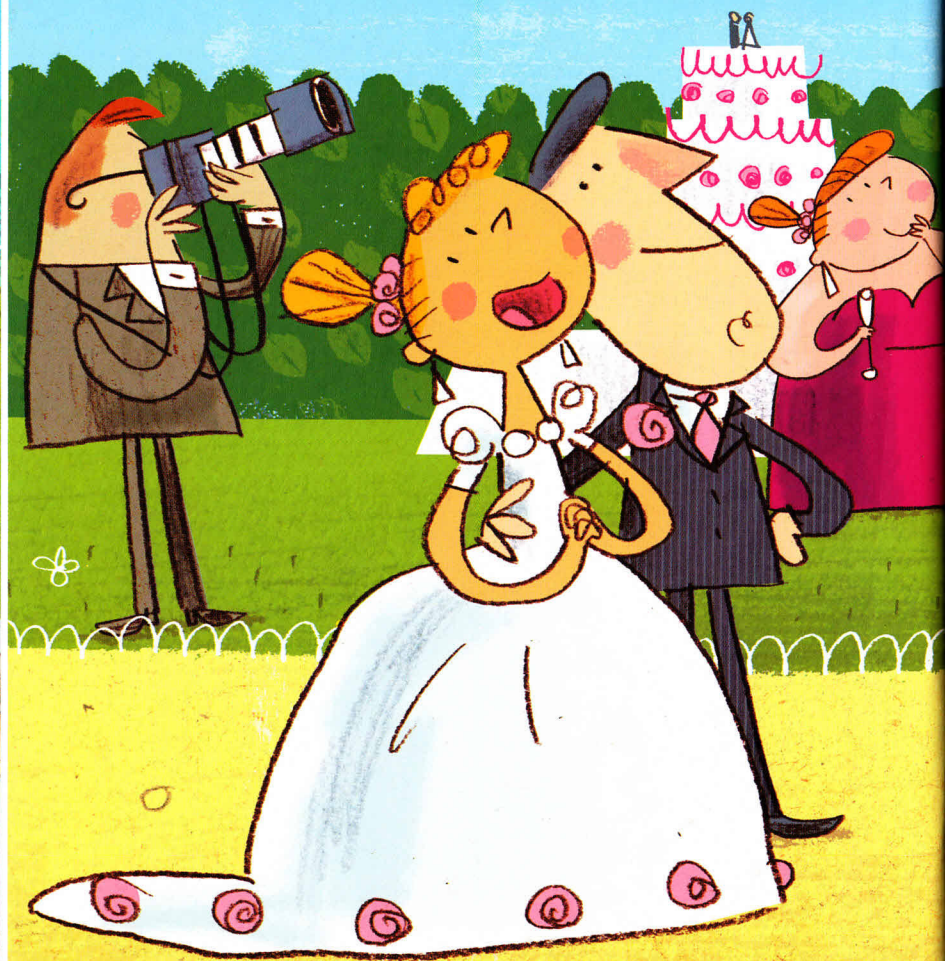


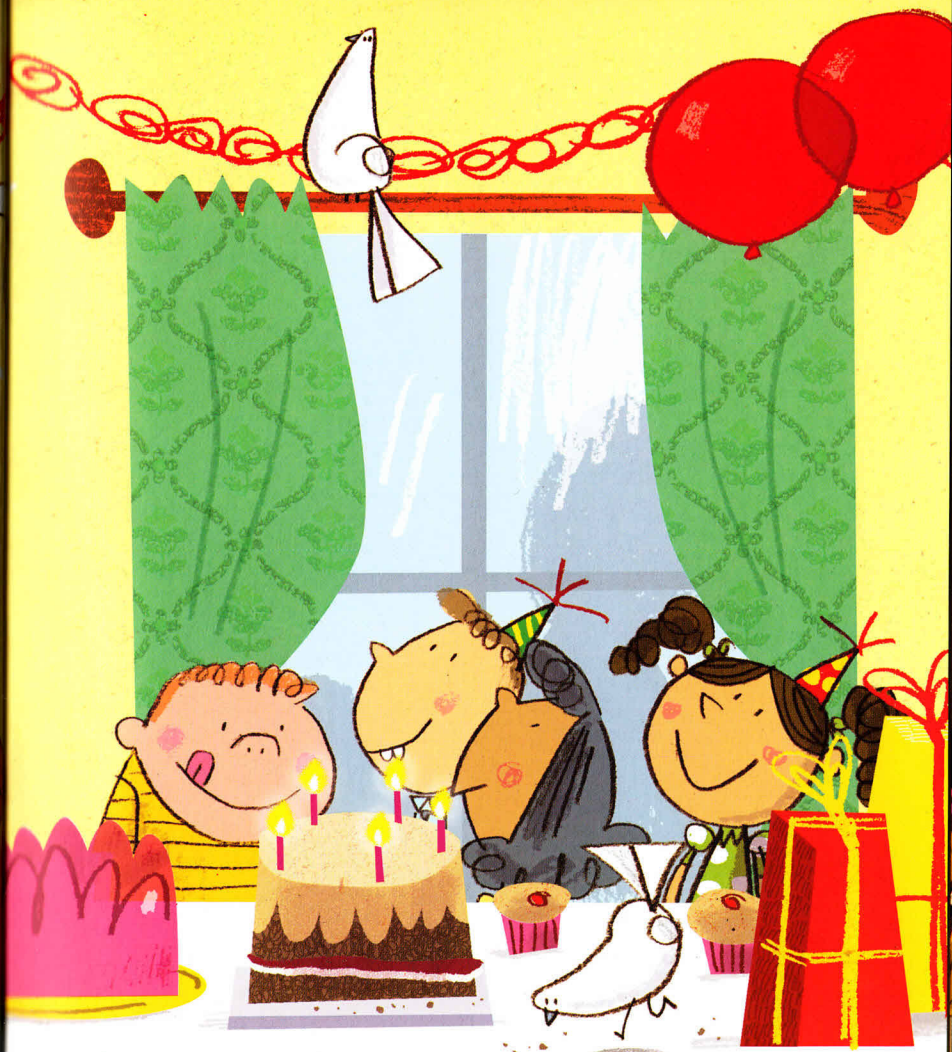
He could juggle with fire,



and walk on his hands.

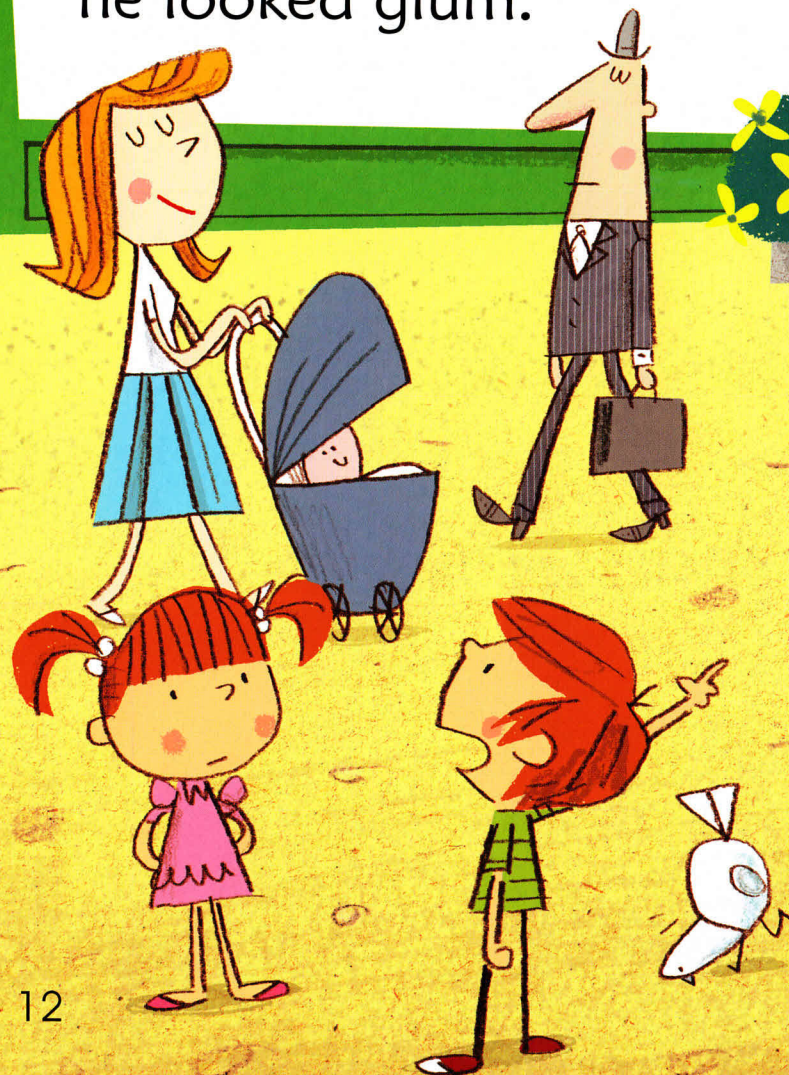
He could conjure a flock
of doves out of thin air.





For a special occasion,
he had to be there.

We met him one morning – we thought he looked glum.





He said, "Children,
I'm sorry, the
moment has come."





"I've made my decision –
it's time to retire."



"You may laugh,
but I've had enough
playing with fire."






His final performance
was something to see.



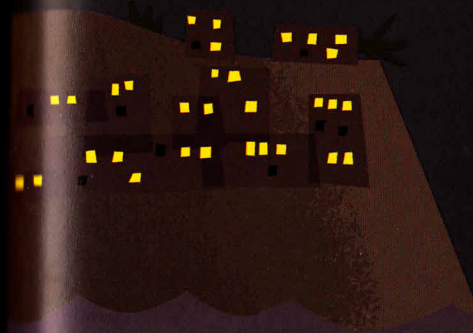
It ended with fireworks
at a quarter to three.



His little blue boat sailed
out on the ocean...



Though nobody saw it
in all the commotion.





A letter arrives from
a faraway land.

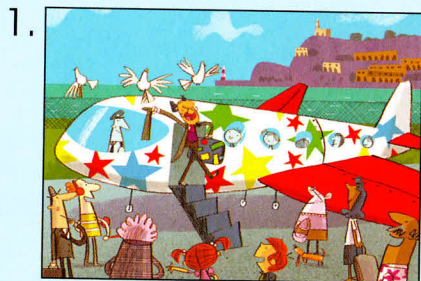


“Hope to visit you
some day. My new
life is grand!”

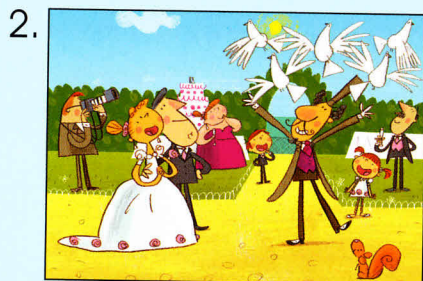
Mr.
Mystery

Puzzle 1

Are these sentences true? Look at the pictures and say what really happened.
(Look back at the story if you need help.)



Mr. Mystery came from our home town.



He used to scare the birds away at weddings.



He wanted to keep on working forever.



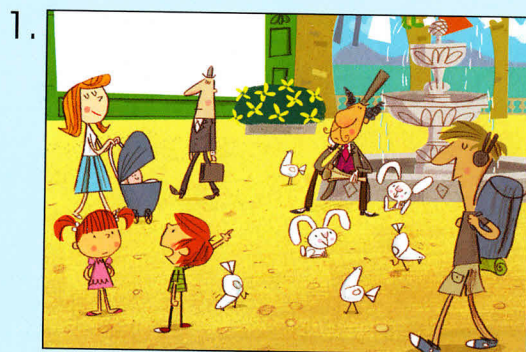
His final performance wasn't very good.



We never heard from him again.

Puzzle 2

Choose from the four words at the bottom of these pages to fill the gaps in the sentences.



We he looked glum.



“You may”

laugh

Though



“I’ve had
playing with fire.”



.....nobody saw it
in all the commotion.

enough

thought

Puzzle 3

For each word on the left, there is a shorter word on the right that means the same, or almost the same. Can you find it? The first pair has been linked as an example.

occasion	show
decision	event
performance	sea
ocean	fuss
commotion	choice

Answers to puzzles

Puzzle 1

(Your child doesn't have to use these exact words.)

1. No, he came from a faraway land.
2. No, he could conjure them out of thin air.
3. No, he made his decision to retire.
4. No, his final performance was something to see.
5. No, a letter arrived from a faraway land.

Puzzle 2

1. We thought he looked glum.
2. You may laugh.
3. I've had enough playing with fire.
4. Though nobody saw it in all the commotion.

Puzzle 3

- occasion → event
 decision → choice
 performance → show
 ocean → sea
 commotion → fuss

Guidance notes

Usborne Very First Reading is a series of books, specially developed for children who are learning to read. **Mr. Mystery** is the fifteenth book in the series, and by this stage your child should be able to read the story alone, with occasional help from you.

The story of **Mr. Mystery** introduces the following spelling and pronunciation patterns:

augh	ough	sion	tion
as in laugh	as in though, thought, enough	as in decision	as in commotion

It also gives your child practice in reading longer words (three or four syllables). If your child can read the story comfortably, they are well on the way to independent reading.

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

*US readers go to www.veryfirstreading.com



Some questions and answers

- **Why do I need to read with my child?**
Sharing stories makes reading an enjoyable and fun activity for children. It also helps them to develop confidence and stamina. Even if you are not taking an active part in reading, your listening and support are very important.
- **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. Once you are ready to move on, your child might enjoy choosing from the many titles in the **Usborne First Reading** series.

Edited by Jenny Tyler and Lesley Sims
Designed by Caroline Spatz



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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





Mr. Mystery

Mr. Mystery 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

£4.99

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