



## MELINDA'S DIARY

### EPISODE 1: 'I've wanted a diary for ages!'

## Comprehension & literacy activities

### A quick comprehension quiz

1. What is Eggle's name short for, and how did he get his name?
2. Why did Melinda's Mum think Melinda would like to keep a diary?
3. What breed of dog was Nick?
4. What jumped out of Melinda's clothes draw and into her shoe?
5. Why did Eggle start crying in Melinda's room?
6. What is the shortened version of Melinda's name?
7. What did Eggle keep teasing Melinda about?
8. What was something that Melinda's Mum always said to her Dad?
9. Why didn't Melinda like the idea of Nick being in her room?
10. In what 'safe' spot did Melinda finally hide her diary?

### Word use

Following is a list of words that appear in this issue of Melinda's Diary that could be useful for adding to spelling lists, for dictionary meanings and for placing in alphabetical order. Other uses for the words could include literacy activities such as adding 's', 'ing', 'ed', 'ly', identifying compound words and synonym/antonym exercises, etc.

diary	pesky	cool	secret
bookshop	snoop	share	exceptionally
suspicious	blurt	weird	honest
essential	mattress	guinea pig	repeating
basketball	impossible	announced	grasshopper
pellets	rodent	wardrobe	desperate
nuisance	Golden Retriever	problem	solution



Lower  
Primary



Primary



Middle  
Years



## MELINDA'S DIARY

### EPISODE 1: 'I've wanted a diary for ages!'

#### For discussion

1. Why might someone like to write in a diary each day? What do you think are the advantages and disadvantages of writing all about your life in a diary?
2. Melinda doesn't seem to be very tolerant of her little brother, Eggle. Do you agree with that? Why or why not? Is there one member of your family that you think 'gets away with everything' and how do you feel about that? In the end, why do you think families are important?
3. Melinda knew that Eggle sometimes went into her room and 'snooped' while she was at school. Melinda didn't like it but she doesn't seem 'outraged'. Should Eggle be respecting Melinda's privacy, even though he is only young? Why or why not? What strategies could Melinda try to prevent this from happening, while at the same time showing tolerance?

#### Quick comprehension quiz solutions

1. Eggle is short for Eggleston, named after a town in England of the same name, where his grandparents used to live.
2. Melinda's Mum kept a diary when she was young.
3. Nick was a Golden Retriever.
4. A grasshopper jumped out of Melinda's sock draw and into her shoe.
5. Melinda locked Myrtle, Eggle's guinea pig, in her wardrobe.
6. Melinda is shortened to 'Mel'.
7. Eggle kept teasing Melinda that she had a secret.
8. Melinda's Mum always says to Dad, "Nothing to worry about dear."
9. Melinda thought Nick would slobber over everything in her room.
10. Melinda finally hid her diary at the top of her wardrobe, behind her jumpers.



Lower  
Primary



Primary



Middle  
Years