



## MELINDA'S DIARY

### EPISODE 3: 'Can 'old' Nick learn a new trick?'

## Comprehension & literacy activities

### A quick comprehension quiz

1. How old will Nick, the family Golden Retriever, be next Christmas?
2. What was the first new trick that Eggle tried to teach Nick?
3. What was the second new trick that Eggle tried to teach Nick?
4. What happened while Nick was being taught his first new trick?
5. What happened while Nick was being taught his second new trick?
6. Why was Melinda thinking of creative ways to earn extra money?
7. What did Mum suggest Eggle do rather than trying to teach Nick new tricks?
8. What were the three ideas that Melinda thought she could do to earn extra money?
9. What did Eggle insist not go into the garage sale?
10. What did Eggle jokingly suggest would be a good idea to put in the garage sale?

### 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.

manners	perched	desperately	disgusting
announced	creative	presents	Christmas
bananas	attempting	treading	chanted
petunias	happened	neighbours	relatives
everywhere	blaming	flattening	business
ventures	suggested	flower	owner
mistake	middle	dining	impossible



Lower  
Primary



Primary



Middle  
Years



## MELINDA'S DIARY

### EPISODE 3: 'Can 'old' Nick learn a new trick?'

#### For discussion

1. What do you think about the level of patience and tolerance that Mum had with Eggle trying to teach Nick new tricks? Do you think there would have been a better way of handling the situations so that the dining area didn't end up in a huge mess and Mum's flowers didn't get flattened? What do you suggest?
2. What do you think about Melinda's ideas for earning extra money? Can you think of any other ideas for earning extra money? It's always good to think things through before getting started on new ventures. What do you think could be some advantages and disadvantages of Melinda's three money-making ideas?
3. Melinda thinks she needs lots of money to buy lots of gifts at Christmas? What other alternatives to 'buying lots of gifts' might Melinda think about for her family and friends?

#### Quick comprehension quiz solutions

1. Nick will be seven years old.
2. Eggle tried to teach Nick table manners at the dining table.
3. Eggle tried to teach Nick to carefully walk through a flower bed without treading on the flowers.
4. Nick made a huge mess while scoffing down his food at the dining table.
5. Nick flattened a lot of Mum's petunias in the garden.
6. Melinda wanted to earn more money so she could buy lots of presents at Christmas.
7. Mum suggested to Eggle that he might like to teach himself a new trick.
8. Melinda thought she could wash cars, walk dogs and have a garage sale to earn extra money.
9. Eggle insisted that none of his toys be sold in the garage sale.
10. Eggle was unhappy with Nick for flattening the petunias, so he jokingly suggested putting Nick in the garage sale.



Lower  
Primary



Primary



Middle  
Years