

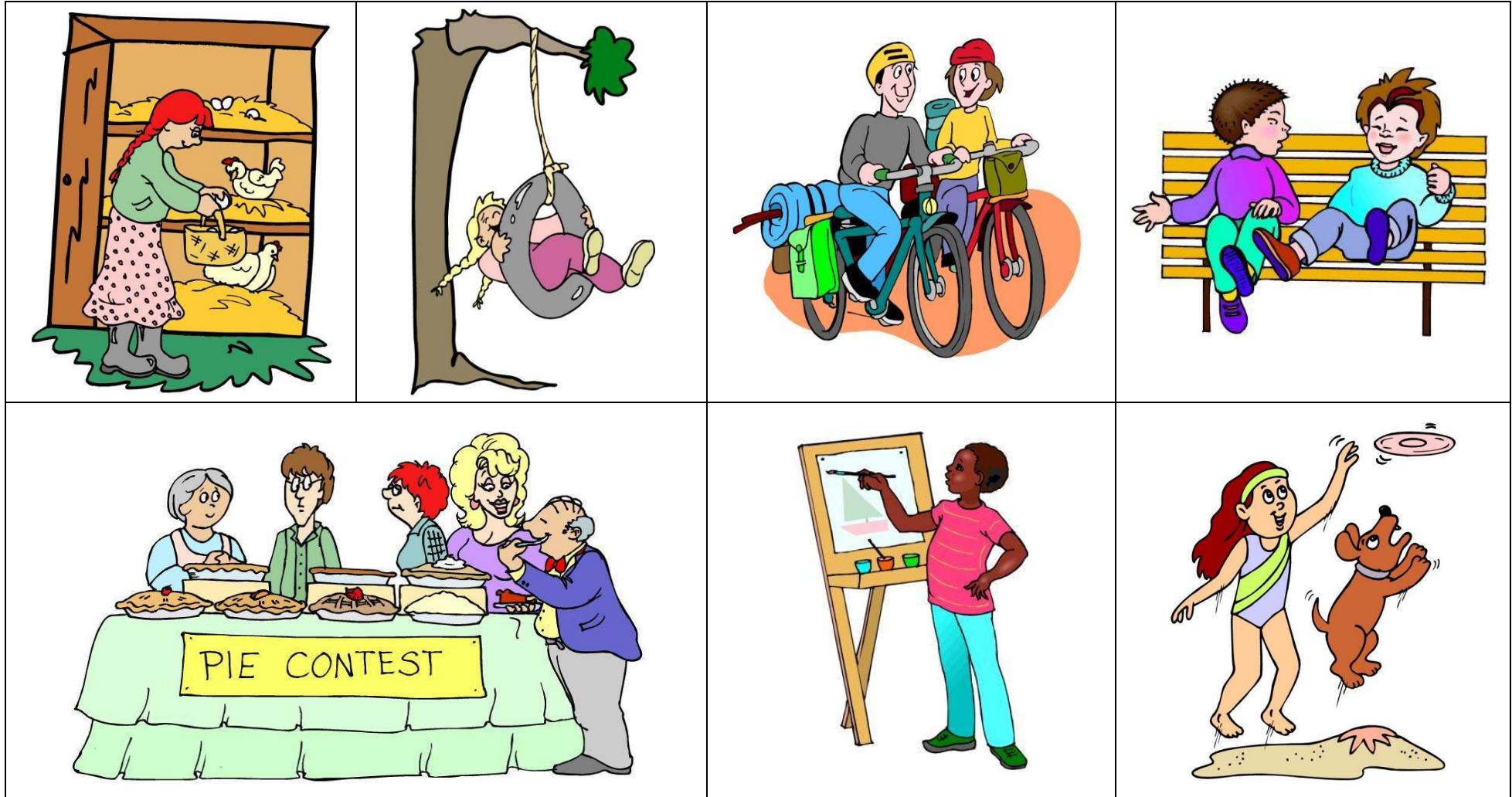
*Oral Language in Action*  
*for*  
*Budding Actors*

An effective and language-rich learning environment is  
the key that unlocks the door to greatness.

High quality education takes place when a knowledgeable and  
meaningful person leads the way.

## Improvisations i

Look at each picture and talk about it with a friend. Try to mention every single detail that you can see. Give people a name and create conversations to suit the scene. Come back to these pictures every week or so, changing your story each time you visit. (Energetic teacher demonstrations recommended first.)



Example: The local branch of the Glee Club Singers decided to have a pie-baking contest to raise much-needed funds to buy music for their up-coming concert called 'Sing along with us'. The judge, Mr Bill Small, told reporters covering the event that he had a difficult task picking the best entry in the Dessert Pie section. He eventually found the winner- a Miss Jenny Jingles - for her Tasty Flaky Pastry Flurry. A copy of the recipe is available on our website. Bon appétit!

## Pet adventures i

Make up an interesting story to go with this picture. (See an example below.) Tell it to a partner. (See more ideas for this page at the end of the book.)



### Naughty Cat, Gingersnap *A story in prose*

Stories generally have five main parts: i) The introduction to the scene and the main character; ii) The action begins; iii) The action becomes more dramatic; iv) The 'big bang' or climax part of the action happens; v) A coda rounds off the story to perhaps add a small surprise - and provide closure.

- i) Once upon a time there was a cat called Gingersnap who loved sharpened her claws every morning on a tree at the bottom of the garden.
- ii) One day as she was sharpening her claws as usual, Gingersnap heard a tweet-tweet-tweet sort of sound. Looking up, she saw a small grey bird on a branch singing happily to itself.
- iii) Gingersnap decided that she was very hungry, even though she had just had a big breakfast. She started climbing up the tree so slowly and stealthily that anyone watching would have thought she was perfectly still.
- iv) However, the little grey bird wasn't tricked. Away it flew, tweet-tweeting loudly to warn all its feathered friends that danger was nearby.
- v) Gingersnap then had the tricky job of climbing down the tree backwards. Meow! *OOPS.* Oh dear!



## Pet adventures ii

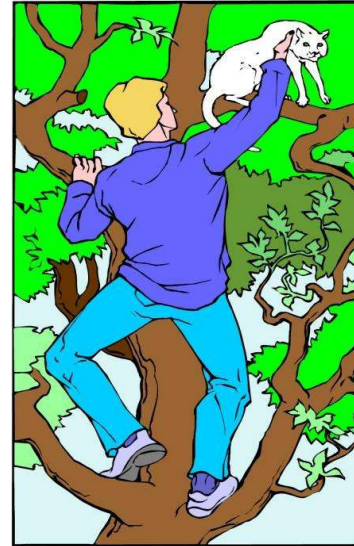
Each of these pictures has many story possibilities. Think up one to start your creative ideas flowing. A beginning phrase for each picture has been suggested.



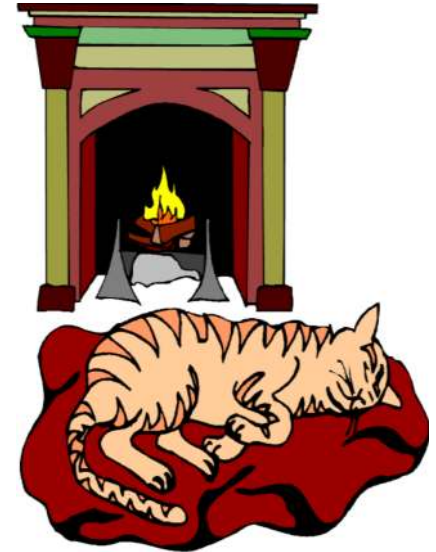
One starry night ...



Rover the dog hated cats, but



Katy the cat ...



One cold winter's night ...



Last Friday, ...



'Stop tickling me!' yelled ...



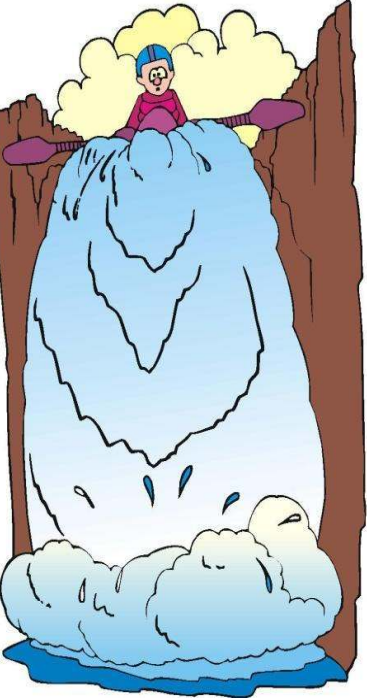




'Hey Dad!' called out Tom, ...

## The rip-roaring 18<sup>th</sup> letter of the alphabet i

Curl your tongue inside your mouth and then growl like bears and lions. **YOU HAVE JUST MADE THE R SOUND!** Make some long and some short growls in your throat to practise and to feel how this sound works.

Now look at your mouth in a mirror or at a friend's mouth while saying a very long *r* sound. Let's now get medical and learn some anatomy. That long stringy part under your tongue is called the *frenum* or *fraenum*. The salivary glands are also under the tongue. Saliva helps you to moisten food and stops your mouth becoming dry. Something to think about: Without your tongue you couldn't talk, taste or eat. THAT is too terrible to think about, even for a moment!

### The tongue-curling R/r sound

|   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
|  <p>Giant rapids ahead, Rory!</p> |  <p>Crocodile on riverbank, Rob!</p> <hr/>  <p>Rough ride on ramp, Ray!</p> |  <p>Protective crow in tree, Roy!</p> |  <p>Raging director on rampage, Riley!</p> |
|---|--|---|--|

Shout out these warnings as loudly as possible. Your teacher will give you a mark out of 10 for powerful acting, good breathing, correct punctuation and clear speech. Add extra *r* words if you can. Variations: Turn each into a full scenario improvisation. Teachers may like to demonstrate how effectively this can be done.

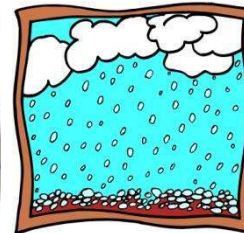
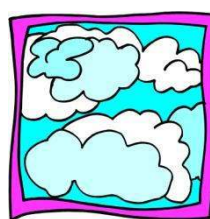


## Weather words

Solo, partner and group ideas: i) Work out the season and weather for each of these pictures. Ask two other people if they have the same result. ii) Choose a picture and copy it slowly and as accurately as you can. Make a group display. iii) Memorise a picture and describe it in words to a partner. Did you miss details?

### Vocabulary pot of gold

border, uneven, freehand, line, crescent moon, scalloped clouds, spiralled sun, wavy, radiating lines, parallel lines, jagged lightning, diagonal rain, spots, outlined, superimposed suns, curls, warm colours, foreground, technique, spikes, background, wedged shapes on umbrellas, stylised, abstract rainbow, patterned border, repeated motif, cool colours, dark, light, hatching, zigzag, crosshatching, superimposed, deciduous, starburst, spiky, smooth, teardrop, contrast



## Test your tongue on *th*

Rest your tongue lightly between your teeth. Now push out a strong puff of air to make the hard sound *th*. This hard *th* sound is unvoiced. In other words, it is all air, tongue and teeth. The soft *th* sound is voiced and needs your vocal cords. You can feel them vibrate in your throat by putting your fingers gently on your neck and saying *this, they, the, there, them*. Now say the soft *th* as a comparison. Do some soft and hard *th th th* warmups slowly while looking at your mouth in a mirror (or look at a friend's mouth) to see the different *th* tongue actions.

Thelma thought that those thick dandelions and thorny thistles thoroughly spoilt her otherwise perfect pathway.



Is it a myth that a moth has a mouthful of teeth?

Is it a myth that a sloth thinks about thunder and thumbs?

Is it a myth that a billygoat is partial to chrysanthemums?

Is it a myth (or the truth) that giraffes splay their legs?

Is it a myth that large ducks thread their way through thick hyacinths?

