



'I have some sad news, son. We need to sell our donkey at the local market today.'

'Sell our donkey? Why must we do that, Dad? She is almost a member of our family?'

'Come over here so that I can explain to you quietly, son.'

'I can't believe that you want to ...'

'Sh! I want to, well, buy a horse.'

'A horse?' But horses are very big and they eat a lot more and ...'

'**Sh!** Keep your voice down, son.

I don't want our donkey to hear what we are saying!'

'But what's wrong with our donkey, Dad? Why must we sell her?'

'She can be very, very stubborn, and she is often moody.'

'She is only stubborn and moody when her load is too heavy ...'

'Yes yes, I know I overload her sometimes. But, but, well, the real reason to sell her is - I think she is too smart for her own good.'

'She is clever enough to tell the time, Dad. She brays at six o'clock every day to wake me for school.'

'The discussion is over, son. We need to get ready to walk to town.'

'Walk to town, Dad? That'll take hours! And the road is dusty ...'

'I want to be at the market in town in time for the early afternoon buyers.'

'Why is that good, Dad?'

Ways to read this story

This story is suitable for school and home. Some 'how to read' ideas are below.

- With a partner or small group, take it in turns to read the rows.
- Don't rush! This helps you to say each word clearly.
- Think of yourselves as actors by adding lots of facial and vocal expression. Small gaps of silence also create dramatic energy. These techniques will bring the story to life.
- If you meet a new word, give it a go and then move on.
- Don't be scared of unusual words. They will become your new best friends.
(New words strengthen your general knowledge and enable you to become vocabulary-rich in your day-to-day life.)

Performance note on the ellipsis ...

The ellipsis (three dots ...) in this story shows where the beginning of one speech is said on top of the end of the previous one. And yes — this means two people are speaking at the same time, but it happens in real life.