Beginning, middle, end: answers and notes

What your child practised: saying what happens at the beginning (who and where), the middle (the problem) and the end (how it is fixed) of a story, as part of Year 2 reading.

Page 1 · Warm up

Ava finds Ted… **E**
Ava has a teddy bear… **B**
One morning, Ted is lost! **M**

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check the beginning shows who and where, the middle shows a problem, and the end shows the problem being fixed.

Page 2 · A. Muddled pictures

Snug in his kennel: **E**
Plays in the sunny garden: **B**
Rain pours down: **M**

Page 3 · B. Match the jobs

Beginning: **we meet who is in the story and where they are**.
Middle: **something goes wrong**.
End: **the problem gets fixed**.

Page 3 · C. Ring and underline

Ring: **They kick the ball so high that it lands on the roof of the hut!**
Underline: **A kind park keeper fetches a ladder and gets the ball down.**

Page 3 · D. Draw an end

Answers will vary, as long as the hat problem is fixed. For example: a duck pushes the hat back to the cat, or the wind blows it back to the bank.

Challenge: No, Leo isn't right. The **beginning** tells us who is in the story and where they are. The problem usually comes in the **middle**. If your child agrees with Leo, retell Mia and the kite from page 1 and ask, "Did the kite get stuck straight away?"

Watch out for

- **Putting the problem at the beginning.** Some children call the first exciting thing "the beginning". Ask, "What did we find out before anything went wrong?" That is the beginning.
- **Putting the fix in the middle.** If the problem is solved, the story is ending. Ask, "Is anything still wrong now?" If not, it's the end.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Bedtime questions:** after a story, ask: Who was in it and where were they? What went wrong? How was it fixed?
- **Three-finger retell:** hold up one finger for the beginning, two for the middle and three for the end as your child retells a favourite story.
- **In the game:** Chapter 2 puts story events in order with first, next, then and finally.