Boxing up a plan: answers and notes

What your child practised: planning a beginning, a middle and an end, and using time words to show the order (Year 3 writing: planning and organising, expressing time).

Page 1 · Warm up

Finally **3** · First **1** · Then **2**

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. The steps should start with First, Next, After that, Finally, in an order the grown-up can follow.

Page 2 · A. The seed

Shoot **3** · Seed dropped in **1** · Flower **4** · Watering **2**

Page 3 · B. Beginning, middle or end?

Park keeper with a pole **E** · One windy morning **B**
Stuck in a tree **M** · Tugged and tugged **M**

Page 3 · C. How to plant a bean

First, fill a pot… **Next**, push the bean… **After that**, water… **Finally**, put the pot on a windowsill. (*Next* and *After that* can swap.)

Page 3 · D. The lost teddy

Answers will vary. Check that the middle has a problem and the end sorts it out.

Challenge: No. The events are jumbled, so *First* and *Finally* are in the wrong places. A sensible order: **"First, we got on the bus. Next, we saw the sea. Finally, we went home."**

Watch out for

- **Events in an order that doesn't make sense.** Ask your child to act it out or picture it: "Could that happen before this?"
- **Time words in the wrong place,** such as *Finally* in the middle. *First* starts, *Finally* ends, and the rest go between.
- **Mixing up the boxes.** The beginning sets the scene (who, where, when), the middle has the problem, the end sorts it out.

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Today's story:** retell your day using first, next, after that and finally.
- **Three-box story:** make up a story out loud: one sentence for the beginning, one for the problem, one for the ending.
- **In the game:** Chapter 4, Say It, Write It, turns a plan into correct sentences.