Read like a writer: answers and notes

What your child practised: reading a story like the one they will write, spotting its five parts and borrowing good words and sentence patterns without copying (Years 3–4 English).

Page 1 · Warm up

Opening → **Build-up** → Problem → **Resolution** → Ending

Page 2 · Try it together

Answers will vary. Check the problem is where something goes wrong and the resolution is how it gets fixed.

Page 2 · A. The Runaway Hat

At last… **R** · On a windy Saturday… **O** · That night… **E** · Suddenly… **P** · He skipped… **B**

Page 3 · B. Ring the clearer word

crept · towering · glittering · whispered

Page 3 · C. Borrow the pattern

Answers will vary, e.g. *One rainy afternoon, Ava and her dad took a boat to the stream. · Suddenly, a huge dog grabbed the ball and dashed across the field!*

Page 3 · D. Borrow or copy?

Leo: **copy** · Ava: **borrow** · Sam: **borrow**

Challenge: No. Walking home holding the string is the **ending**. The problem is when the wind snatches the lantern over the hedge: the top of the mountain, where something goes wrong.

Watch out for

- **Mixing up the problem and the ending.** Ask "Where does something go wrong?" (problem), "How is it fixed?" (resolution) and "How are things at the very end?" (ending).
- **Copying sentences word for word.** Magpieing keeps a good word or the shape of a sentence, then changes the people, place and things. Say: "Keep the pattern, change the words."

Going further (5 minutes, no paper)

- **Bedtime mountain:** pause a bedtime story and ask, "Which part of the mountain are we on now?"
- **Word of the day:** collect one great word from a book and both try to use it before bedtime.
- **In the game:** next is Chapter 2, Describe a setting with your senses and carefully chosen words.