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## Level 6

# A third of kids get no bedtime story

15th September, 2013

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

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**Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).**

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# THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

It seems the age-old tradition of children getting a bedtime story before sleeping is on the wane in Britain. A new study reveals that around a third of parents do not read bedtime stories to their children. The study, from British online retailer Littlewoods.com, also found that up to 50 per cent of children would prefer to watch TV or play computer games than be read a story. Researchers further discovered that a paltry five per cent of British under-sevens do not even own a book. Parents came up with a myriad of reasons why they did not read to their little ones. Thirteen per cent of parents blamed a lack of time, nine per cent said they are just "too stressed", while others said their children were simply not interested.

Littlewoods has teamed up with British pop star Natasha Hamilton to try and reverse this trend. They have launched a bedtime story writing competition for children under seven. Ms Hamilton, 31, told reporters: "I'm really excited to see all the different story ideas and can't wait to see what the kids come up with. Choosing a winner's not going to be easy." She spoke about her own joy as a mother in reading bedtime stories, saying: "As a mum of three, I know just how enjoyable reading bedtime stories to my kids is." A spokesman from Littlewoods.com said: "We appreciate how important it is for parents and kids to spend quality time together, and bedtime stories are a great way to do just this."

Sources: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2418076/Third-parents-longer-read-bedtime-story-children.html#ixzz2eLLyr8oq>

<http://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/lifestyle/atomic-kittens-natasha-hamilton-ready-5906829>

# WARM-UPS

**1. BEDTIME STORIES:** Students walk around the class and talk to other students about bedtime stories. Change partners often and share your findings.

**2. CHAT:** In pairs / groups, decide which of these topics or words from the article are most interesting and which are most boring.

*tradition / bedtime stories / computer games / under-sevens / stress / lack of time / trend / competition / choosing a winner / joy from reading / parents / quality time*

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

**3. QUALITY TIME:** How useful is it to do these things with kids?

10 = "Essential; 1 = "A waste of time".

Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How useful (1 – 10)?	Why?
Bedtime stories		
Play video games		
Go to the park		
Teach them English		
Cook with them		
Watch movies		

**4. ESSENTIAL:** Students A **strongly** believe it is essential to read kids bedtime stories; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

**5. BOOKS:** Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best for 7-year-olds at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- Fairy tales
- Harry Potter
- A holy book
- Science fiction
- Fables
- About modern life
- Biographies
- Superhero stories

**6. READING:** Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "reading". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

# BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

**1. TRUE / FALSE:** Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| a. Reading bedtime stories to kids is relatively new in Britain.          | T / F |
| b. The article is based on a study from a major publisher.                | T / F |
| c. Around 5% of British kids do not own a book.                           | T / F |
| d. Just under 10% of parents said they were too stressed to read to kids. | T / F |
| e. A pop star is helping to encourage kids' interest in bedtime stories.  | T / F |
| f. There is a writing competition for children over the age of seven.     | T / F |
| g. The pop star has two children of her own.                              | T / F |
| h. A website said bedtime stories mean quality time for parents and kids. | T / F |

**2. SYNONYM MATCH:** Match the following synonyms from the article.

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. age-old      | a. collaborated     |
| 2. on the wane  | b. shows            |
| 3. reveals      | c. delight          |
| 4. paltry       | d. put it down to   |
| 5. blamed       | e. direction        |
| 6. teamed up    | f. declining        |
| 7. trend        | g. produce          |
| 8. come up with | h. well-established |
| 9. joy          | i. know             |
| 10. appreciate  | j. insignificant    |

**3. PHRASE MATCH:** (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- |                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. the age-                   | a. wane            |
| 2. on the                     | b. retailer        |
| 3. online                     | c. important it is |
| 4. parents blamed a lack      | d. not interested  |
| 5. their children were simply | e. time together   |
| 6. try and reverse            | f. just this       |
| 7. see what the kids come     | g. old tradition   |
| 8. We appreciate how          | h. up with         |
| 9. spend quality              | i. of time         |
| 10. a great way to do         | j. this trend      |

# GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

It seems the age-old (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of children getting a bedtime story before sleeping is on the wane in Britain. A new study (2) \_\_\_\_\_ that around a third of parents do not read bedtime stories to their children. The study, from British (3) \_\_\_\_\_ retailer Littlewoods.com, also found that up to 50 per cent of children would (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to watch TV or play computer games than be read a story. Researchers further discovered that a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ five per cent of British under-sevens do not even own a book. Parents came up with a myriad of reasons why they did not read to their (6) \_\_\_\_\_ ones. Thirteen per cent of parents blamed a (7) \_\_\_\_\_ of time, nine per cent said they are just "too stressed", while others said their children were (8) \_\_\_\_\_ not interested.

*lack*  
*online*  
*paltry*  
*reveals*  
*simply*  
*tradition*  
*little*  
*prefer*

Littlewoods has (9) \_\_\_\_\_ up with British pop star Natasha Hamilton to try and reverse this trend. They have (10) \_\_\_\_\_ a bedtime story writing competition for children under seven. Ms Hamilton, 31, told reporters: "I'm really excited to see all the different story (11) \_\_\_\_\_ and can't wait to see what the kids come (12) \_\_\_\_\_ with. Choosing a winner's not going to be easy." She spoke about her own (13) \_\_\_\_\_ as a mother in reading bedtime stories, saying: "As a mum of three, I know just how enjoyable reading bedtime stories to my kids is." A spokesman from Littlewoods.com said: "We (14) \_\_\_\_\_ how important it is for parents and kids to spend (15) \_\_\_\_\_ time together, and bedtime stories are a great (16) \_\_\_\_\_ to do just this."

*appreciate*  
*joy*  
*launched*  
*way*  
*teamed*  
*up*  
*quality*  
*ideas*

# LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

- 1) children getting a bedtime story before sleeping is \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. on the vane
  - b. on the way in
  - c. on the wane
  - d. on the weigh-in
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ per cent of British under-sevens do not even own a book
  - a. apple tree five
  - b. a pull tree five
  - c. a paltry five
  - d. up all tree five
- 3) Parents came up with a \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. myriad of reasons
  - b. mirrored of reasons
  - c. me Riyadh of reasons
  - d. mirror add of reasons
- 4) parents blamed a lack of time, nine per cent said they are \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. just "two stresses"
  - b. just "too stressed"
  - c. just "too stress"
  - d. just "two stressed"
- 5) others said their children were simply \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. not interested
  - b. not interesting
  - c. not interest it
  - d. not interests
- 6) teamed up with British pop star Natasha Hamilton to try and \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. reversal this trend
  - b. rivers this trend
  - c. revise this trend
  - d. reverse this trend
- 7) the different story ideas and can't wait to see what the kids \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. come up with
  - b. come mop with
  - c. come map with
  - d. come app with
- 8) I know just how enjoyable reading bedtime stories \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. to my kids are
  - b. to my kids is
  - c. to my kid is
  - d. to my kiddies is
- 9) We appreciate how important it is for parents and kids to spend \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. quality time together
  - b. quality times together
  - c. quality thyme together
  - d. quality timed together
- 10) bedtime stories are a great way to \_\_\_\_\_
  - a. do justice
  - b. do just this
  - c. do dust this
  - d. do dust his

# LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

It seems the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ of children getting a bedtime story before sleeping is on the wane in Britain. A new (2) \_\_\_\_\_ around a third of parents do not read bedtime stories to their children. The study, from British online retailer Littlewoods.com, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to 50 per cent of children would prefer to watch TV or play computer games than be read a story. Researchers further discovered (4) \_\_\_\_\_ per cent of British under-sevens do not even own a book. Parents came up with a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ why they did not read to their little ones. Thirteen per cent of parents blamed a lack of time, nine per cent said they are just "too stressed", while others said their children (6) \_\_\_\_\_ interested.

Littlewoods (7) \_\_\_\_\_ British pop star Natasha Hamilton to try and reverse this trend. They (8) \_\_\_\_\_ bedtime story writing competition for children under seven. Ms Hamilton, 31, told reporters: "I'm really excited to see all the different story ideas and can't wait to see what the (9) \_\_\_\_\_. Choosing a winner's not going to be easy." She spoke (10) \_\_\_\_\_ as a mother in reading bedtime stories, saying: "As a mum of three, I know just how enjoyable reading bedtime stories to my kids is." A spokesman from Littlewoods.com said: "We (11) \_\_\_\_\_ it is for parents and kids to (12) \_\_\_\_\_ together, and bedtime stories are a great way to do just this."

# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

1. What expression did the writer use to say bedtime stories are declining?

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2. What kind of organisation conducted the study?

---

3. How many children prefer watching TV?

---

4. What percentage of British kids do not own a book?

---

5. What did 13% of British parents say?

---

6. What did Littlewoods and a pop star launch?

---

7. Who can enter the competition?

---

8. What is a pop star excited about?

---

9. How many children does the pop star have?

---

10. What did Littlewoods say is important for parents and kids?

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# MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

1. What expression did the writer use to say bedtime stories are declining?
  - a) wand
  - b) wax and wane
  - c) on the wane
  - d) waned
2. What kind of organisation conducted the study?
  - a) an Internet store
  - b) a publisher
  - c) a children's charity
  - d) a literary guild
3. How many children prefer watching TV?
  - a) nearly 50%
  - b) 50%
  - c) just over 50%
  - d) 50% of under-tens
4. What percentage of British kids do not own a book?
  - a) 0.5
  - b) 5
  - c) 15
  - d) 35
5. What did 13% of British parents say?
  - a) children learn to read at school
  - b) they will try harder
  - c) the iPad is more important
  - d) they have no time to read stories
6. What did Littlewoods and a pop star launch?
  - a) a new song about bedtime stories
  - b) a writing competition
  - c) a new book
  - d) a site to help parents
7. Who can enter the competition?
  - a) under-sevens
  - b) seven-year-olds
  - c) kids aged seven plus
  - d) kids with a reading age of 7
8. What is a pop star excited about?
  - a) her new song
  - b) reading to her children
  - c) reading kids' stories
  - d) Littlewoods.com
9. How many children does the pop star have?
  - a) 0
  - b) 1
  - c) 2
  - d) 3
10. What did Littlewoods say is important for parents and kids?
  - a) spending quality time together
  - b) going to bookshops
  - c) reading on iPads
  - d) to buy books from its website

# ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

## **Role A – Harry Potter**

You think Harry Potter is best for bedtime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their stories. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Superhero stories, biographies or fairy tales.

## **Role B – Superhero stories**

You think Superhero stories are best for bedtime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their stories. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Harry Potter, biographies or fairy tales.

## **Role C – Biographies**

You think biographies are best for bedtime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their stories. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Superhero stories, Harry Potter or fairy tales.

## **Role D – Fairy tales**

You think fairy tales are best for bedtime. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their stories. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Superhero stories, biographies or Harry Potter.

# AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

**1. WORD SEARCH:** Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'bedtime' and 'story'.

<b>bedtime</b>	<b>story</b>
----------------	--------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS:** Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

**3. GAP FILL:** In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

**4. VOCABULARY:** Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

**5. TEST EACH OTHER:** Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• age</li><li>• reveals</li><li>• up to</li><li>• own</li><li>• 13</li><li>• simply</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• try</li><li>• really</li><li>• see</li><li>• joy</li><li>• three</li><li>• great</li></ul>
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# BEDTIME STORIES SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

Write five GOOD questions about bedtime stories in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

## **BEDTIME STORIES DISCUSSION**

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- a) What did you think when you read the headline?
- b) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'story'?
- c) What do you think about what you read?
- d) How important are bedtime stories?
- e) Is it a problem if kids are not read bedtime stories?
- f) What can society do to encourage more reading at bedtime?
- g) From what age should parents start reading to their kids?
- h) Should kids watch TV instead of having a story read to them, if that's what they prefer?
- i) Is "being stressed" a good enough reason not to read a bedtime story?
- j) Why are children not interested in bedtime stories?

*A third of kids get no bedtime story – 15th September, 2013*  
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## **BEDTIME STORIES DISCUSSION**

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- a) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- b) Did you have a bedtime story when you were little?
- c) What are the advantages of bedtime stories?
- d) How much effect will the story-writing competition have?
- e) Should kids read books or stories on iPads?
- f) What are the advantages of bedtime stories?
- g) What do you think of cultures with no tradition of bedtime stories?
- h) What are the best stories for parents to read to their children?
- i) To what degree is a bedtime story "quality time"?
- j) What questions would you like to ask Ms Hamilton?

# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

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# DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

# LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

It seems the age-old tradition of children getting a bedtime story before sleeping is on the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ in Britain. A new study reveals that around a third of parents do not read bedtime stories to their children. The study, from British online (2) \_\_\_\_\_ Littlewoods.com, also found that (3) \_\_\_\_\_ to 50 per cent of children would prefer to watch TV or play computer games than (4) \_\_\_\_\_ read a story. Researchers further discovered that a paltry five per cent of British under-sevens do not even own a book. Parents came up with a (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of reasons why they did not read to their little ones. Thirteen per cent of parents blamed a lack of time, nine per cent said they are just "too stressed", while others said their children were (6) \_\_\_\_\_ not interested.

Littlewoods has teamed (7) \_\_\_\_\_ with British pop star Natasha Hamilton to try and (8) \_\_\_\_\_ this trend. They have launched a bedtime story writing competition for children under seven. Ms Hamilton, 31, told reporters: "I'm really excited to see all the different story ideas and can't wait to see what the kids come (9) \_\_\_\_\_ with. Choosing a winner's not going to be easy." She spoke about her own joy as a mother in reading bedtime stories, saying: "As a mum of (10) \_\_\_\_\_, I know just how enjoyable reading bedtime stories to my kids is." A spokesman from Littlewoods.com said: "We (11) \_\_\_\_\_ how important it is for parents and kids to spend quality time together, and bedtime stories are a great way to do (12) \_\_\_\_\_ this."

## Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- |     |               |                |                |                |
|-----|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1.  | (a) waned     | (b) wand       | (c) wane       | (d) waning     |
| 2.  | (a) retailer  | (b) trailer    | (c) re-teller  | (d) trialist   |
| 3.  | (a) over      | (b) up         | (c) as         | (d) down       |
| 4.  | (a) was       | (b) were       | (c) are        | (d) be         |
| 5.  | (a) triad     | (b) pyramid    | (c) myriad     | (d) trick      |
| 6.  | (a) simple    | (b) simply     | (c) simpletons | (d) simplify   |
| 7.  | (a) up        | (b) down       | (c) in         | (d) on         |
| 8.  | (a) adverse   | (b) verse      | (c) converse   | (d) reverse    |
| 9.  | (a) down      | (b) on         | (c) up         | (d) in         |
| 10. | (a) threesome | (b) triple     | (c) trio       | (d) three      |
| 11. | (a) deprecate | (b) appreciate | (c) appetite   | (d) depreciate |
| 12. | (a) just      | (b) justice    | (c) justify    | (d) justly     |

# SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

## Paragraph 1

1. age-old oinaritdt
2. A new study vrelsae that around a third...
3. online eitaerlr
4. a lartyp five per cent
5. a drayim of reasons
6. simply not eetetsnrid

## Paragraph 2

7. vserree this trend
8. ehalundc a bedtime story writing competition
9. just how aeebolyjn
10. A makessopn from Littlewoods.com
11. We aatpeipecr how important it is
12. ilqatyu time



# PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

**Number these lines in the correct order.**

- ( ) reading bedtime stories, saying: "As a mum of three, I know just how enjoyable reading bedtime stories to my kids
- ( ) of time, nine per cent said they are just "too stressed", while others said their children were simply not interested.
- ( ) from British online retailer Littlewoods.com, also found that up to 50 per cent of children would
- ( ) prefer to watch TV or play computer games than be read a story. Researchers further discovered that a paltry
- ( ) reasons why they did not read to their little ones. Thirteen per cent of parents blamed a lack
- ( ) for parents and kids to spend quality time together, and bedtime stories are a great way to do just this."
- ( ) five per cent of British under-sevens do not even own a book. Parents came up with a myriad of
- ( ) is." A spokesman from Littlewoods.com said: "We appreciate how important it is
- ( ) excited to see all the different story ideas and can't wait to see what the kids come
- ( ) Littlewoods has teamed up with British pop star Natasha Hamilton to try and reverse this trend. They have launched
- ( ) up with. Choosing a winner's not going to be easy." She spoke about her own joy as a mother in
- ( ) wane in Britain. A new study reveals that around a third of parents do not read bedtime stories to their children. The study,
- ( **1** ) It seems the age-old tradition of children getting a bedtime story before sleeping is on the
- ( ) a bedtime story writing competition for children under seven. Ms Hamilton, 31, told reporters: "I'm really

# PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

of tradition old - age The story bedtime a getting children.

---

bedtime stories Around a third of parents do not read.

---

TV watch to prefer would children of 50% to Up.

---

per cent of British under - sevens A paltry five.

---

a Parents myriad came of up reasons with.

---

to see what the kids come up with Can't wait.

---

be winner's easy not going Choosing to a.

---

spoke own a She her as about joy mother.

---

it We is appreciate for how parents important.

---

just this Bedtime stories are a great way to do.

---

# CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1309/130915-bedtime-stories.html>

It seems the age-old tradition *for / of* children getting a bedtime story before sleeping is on the *wane / waned* in Britain. A new study *revels / reveals* that around a third of parents do not read bedtime stories to their children. The study, from British online *trailer / retailer* Littlewoods.com, also found that up to 50 per cent of children would prefer to watch TV or play computer games than *be / are* read a story. Researchers further discovered that a *paltry / sultry* five per cent of British under-sevens do not even own a book. Parents came up with a *pyramid / myriad* of reasons why they did not read to their little ones. Thirteen per cent of parents *blaming / blamed* a lack of time, nine per cent said they are *justify / just* "too stressed", while others said their children were simply not *interested / interesting*.

Littlewoods has *streamed / teamed* up with British pop star Natasha Hamilton to try and *verse / reverse* this trend. They have *lunched / launched* a bedtime story writing competition for children under seven. Ms Hamilton, 31, told reporters: "I'm really *excitedly / excited* to see all the different story ideas and can't wait to see what the kids come *down / up* with. Choosing a winner's not going to be easy." She spoke about her own *joyous / joy* as a mother *in / on* reading bedtime stories, saying: "As a mum of three, I know just how enjoyable reading bedtime stories to my kids *are / is*." A spokesman from Littlewoods.com said: "We appreciate *how / why* important it is for parents and kids to spend quality time together, and bedtime stories are a great way to do *justice / just* this."

**Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.**

# INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

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t s ms th g ld tr d t n f ch ldr n g tt ng  
b dt m st ry b fr sl p ng s n th w n n  
Br t n. n w st dy r v ls th t r nd th rd f  
p r nts d n t r d b dt m st r s t th r  
ch ldr n. Th st dy, fr m Br t sh n l n r t l r  
L ttl w ds.c m, ls f nd th t p t 50 p r c nt f  
ch ldr n w ld pr f r t w tch TV r pl y c mp t r  
g m s th n b r d st ry. R s rch rs fr th r  
d sc v r d th t p ltry f v p r c nt f Br t sh  
nd r s v ns d n t v n wn b k. P r nts c m  
p w th myr d fr s ns why th y d d n t r d t  
th r l ttl n s. Th r t n p r c nt f p r nts bl m d  
l ck f t m, n n p r c nt s d th y r j st "t  
str ss d", wh l th rs s d th r ch ldr n w r  
s mply n t nt r st d.

L ttl w ds h s t m d p w th Br t sh p p st r  
N t sh H m lt n t try nd r v rs th s tr nd. Th y  
h v l nch d b dt m st ry wr t ng c mp t t n  
fr ch ldr n nd r s v n. Ms H m lt n, 31, t ld  
r p rt rs: " 'm r lly xc t d t s ll th d ff r nt  
st ry d s nd c n't w t t s wh t th k ds c m  
p w th. Ch s ng w nn r's n t g ng t b sy."  
Sh sp k b t h r wn j y s m th r n r d ng  
b dt m st r s, s y ng: " s m m f thr, kn w  
j st h w nj y bl r d ng b dt m st r s t my  
k ds s." sp k sm n fr m L ttl w ds.c m s d:  
"W ppr c t h w mp rt nt t s fr p r nts nd  
k ds t sp nd q l ty t m t g th r, nd b dt m  
st r s r gr t w y t d j st th s."

# PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

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# PUT A SLASH ( / ) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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# HOMework

**1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION:** Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

**2. INTERNET:** Search the Internet and find out more about bedtime stories. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

**3. BEDTIME STORIES:** Make a poster about the importance and effect of bedtime stories. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

**4. TRADITION:** Write a magazine article about the demise of the age-old tradition of reading bedtime stories. Include imaginary interviews with people who think reading bedtime stories is essential and those who think it isn't.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

**5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?** Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

**6. LETTER:** Write a letter to a child literacy expert. Ask him/her three questions about bedtime stories. Give him/her three of your opinions. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

# ANSWERS

## TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F    b F    c T    d T    e T    f F    g F    h T

## SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- |                 |                     |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. age-old      | a. well-established |
| 2. on the wane  | b. declining        |
| 3. reveals      | c. shows            |
| 4. paltry       | d. insignificant    |
| 5. blamed       | e. put it down to   |
| 6. teamed up    | f. collaborated     |
| 7. trend        | g. direction        |
| 8. come up with | h. produce          |
| 9. joy          | i. delight          |
| 10. appreciate  | j. know             |

## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. On the wane
2. An online retailer
3. Up to 50%
4. 5
5. They didn't have time to read bedtime stories
6. A bedtime story writing competition
7. Under-sevens
8. Seeing different stories from kids
9. 3
10. Spending quality time together

## MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c    2. a    3. a    4. b    5. d    6. b    7. a    8. c    9. d    10. a

## ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.  
(It's good for your English ;-)