

Language Legends @Home



My name is

.....

.....

Date

.....



How this works

Language Legends is all about **Talking, Listening and Understanding**.

The activities help with these skills, which are really important for children to learn and make friends. Each activity has a short explanation of how it helps.

This is not about reading or writing, so it is fine for adults to help with reading and writing elements.

The most important thing is to **have a conversation**, to talk together to work things out, to help your child understand and to explain what they know.

Top Tips for the workbook

1. Take it slowly – you don't have to do all the activities at once. Maybe do about 15-20 minutes (or less) and leave the rest for another day.
2. It is not about quickly going through activities – the main point is talking and listening to each other. Follow your child's lead.
3. Do a quick reminder each day of work you have done already – ask your child what they can remember and help fill in any gaps.
4. Encourage your child to ask if they don't understand. This is a really important skill.
5. This workbook belongs to your child. They can use it to draw, doodle, write about the story.

Top Tips for encouraging communication

1. Put aside a little time each day for talking together. Share family stories and experiences, encourage your child to share their thoughts and feelings.
2. Encourage your child to ask questions if they are unsure of something – this really helps with understanding.
3. Talk about words – what they look and sound like and what they mean.
4. Try to get rid of distractions, like the TV or phones. Listening to your child helps them learn how to listen in return.
5. Ask your child to expand on what they say – talk and listen to find out more.

Each week we will look at a news article or short story in our Language Legends workbook.

This week is a short story about a wishing stone.

Answers can be found on the back page



Story in a nutshell

This task helps children to remember the main points of a story.

10th July 2020 // 0012

Short Story

The Wishing Stone

My name is Jo. I live in a **tiny** fishing village in England. The weather is **unpredictable** with the **harsh** north wind biting at our clothes. **Gigantic** waves crash onto the beach, **threatening** the sea wall and the fishing cottages **teetering** on the side of the hill. But, when the sky is blue and the sun is out, nowhere in the world is better.

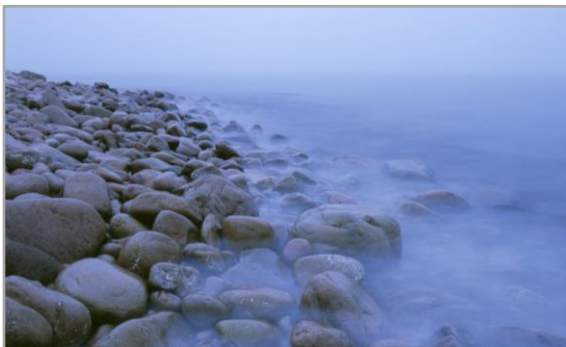
One **freezing** November day, I was kicking stones along the beach, watching my breath **swirl** in the **mist** when I spotted a light **shining** in the sand. As I bent to pick it up, I **realised** it wasn't a light but a stone, **sparkling** like a **gem** and warm in my hand. I looked out over the sea and **imagined** sitting by the fire in the **local** café, a cup of hot chocolate in my hand, watching tiny marshmallows **bobbing** around on the **surface**, like fishing boats on the sea.

I felt the stone get hot and when I blinked, I found myself **exactly** where I had pictured, with my Dad beside me. What was happening? I was so **confused** I jumped up, knocking the hot chocolate so splashes **escaped** from the cup. **Droplets** of the hot **liquid seeping** into my jeans told me this wasn't a dream!

My Dad **chuckled**. "So, you found it then?"

"Wh...what are you talking about?" I stammered.

"You found the stone!" he **exclaimed**.



Great Imagination

My Dad **explained** that this wishing stone had been in our family for **ages**. The stone hid on the beach and if it wanted to be found it would glow so the next child could find it. If not, it would stay hidden for the next **generation**.

"But, what's it for?" I asked my Dad, "and how did I end up here in the cafe?"

My Dad smiled **secretively**, "If you have a good **imagination** and can picture a place really clearly, the wishing stone will take you there."

"Does it bring you back too?" I asked **nervously**. I had **visions** of myself being stuck **forever** in Africa or Antarctica!

"Yes, it brings you back too" he said, "you can spend a few hours, then it glows to **remind** you it's time to go home. I **suppose** you could stay," added my Dad "but I always wanted to come back here, to our little **cove**."

My mind was **spinning** as my Dad told me of the places he'd been and **adventures** he'd had with the wishing stone. Now it was my turn! I could go anywhere in the world, as long as I could picture it in my **imagination**. Luckily for me, I have a brilliant imagination...



Week Twelve

Summarise the story

Read and talk through the questions with your child. Your child can write in the answers if they want to, or you can write what they say.

- **Who** was the story about?

- **Where** did the story happen?

- **When** did the story happen?

- **Why** did Jo find the wishing stone?

- **How** does the wishing stone work?

Week Twelve



Deeper Dive

Looking at one section of the story helps with understanding and using language. Work through the questions together. Encourage children to pick out any words they don't understand. Help them by explaining what they mean. We have highlighted a few words that might be tricky.

I live in a **tiny** fishing village in England. The weather is **unpredictable** with the **harsh** north wind biting at our clothes and **gigantic** waves crashing onto the beach, **threatening** the sea wall and the fishing cottages **teetering** on the side of the hill. But, when the sky is blue and the sun is out, nowhere in the world is better.

Questions

Read and talk through the questions together. Either you or your child can write in the answers.

- What kind of place did Jo live in?

- Did the wind actually bite their clothes?

- What does it mean when it says the waves threatened the sea wall and the houses?

Week Twelve

- What do they mean when they say *nowhere in the world is better*?

- Can you think of another word for teetering?

Where would you go?

With the wishing stone, Jo could go anywhere she wanted as long as she could picture it in her imagination. Talk about where you would go if you could go anywhere in the world. We've made some suggestions below, but use your imagination – where would you like to see?

1. The Great wall of China.
2. Visiting a friend or relative you haven't seen in a while.
3. Watching your favourite football team live.
4. A trip to London to see Buckingham Palace.
5. Machu Picchu in Peru, South America.
6. The Great Barrier reef in Australia.

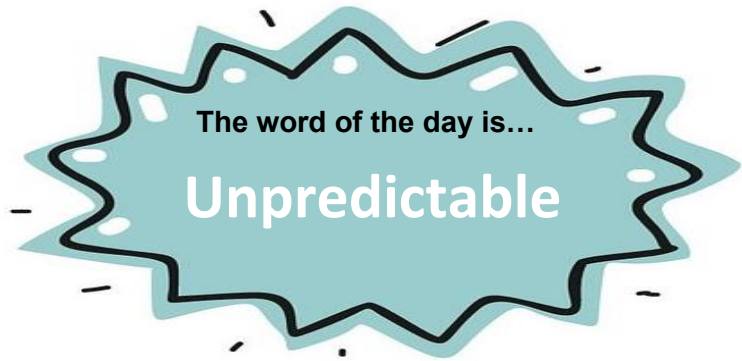
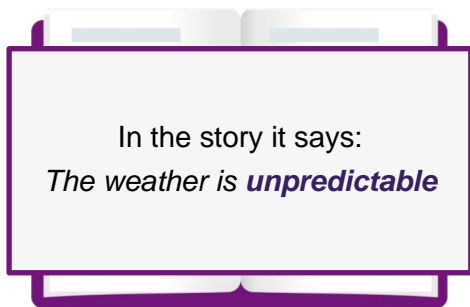


Week Twelve



Word of the day

Knowing and understanding lots of words can really help children to understand things better, to read, learn and to use their talking to get by in the world. This section focuses on teaching one word in depth.



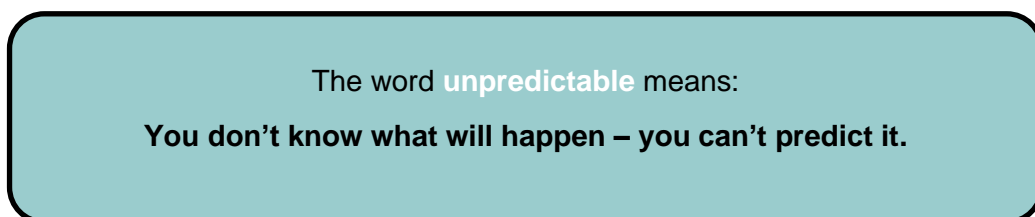
How well do you know this word?

Write the word in the section below where it fits the best with your child's understanding.

Never saw or heard it before.	Heard it but not sure what it means.	Know this word and can use it in a sentence.
Write the word here if you don't know it:	Write the word here if you have some idea:	Write the word here if you know this word:

Write your sentence here if you know this word:

What does this word mean, what is the definition?





Week Twelve

What does this word sound like?

- What sound is at the beginning? _____
- What sound is at the end? _____
- How many syllables does it have? _____
- Write down as many words as you can using the letters in the word **unpredictable**.

- Write a sentence using the word *unpredictable*.

For example: "My new puppy is very unpredictable, you never know what he is going to do next."

- Draw a picture to help you remember the word.

Week Twelve

Word activity

This activity helps with understanding the word of the day. Use the pictures to talk about the word and think about what it means. Sometimes things are more predictable than others. Have a look at the pictures and talk about how predictable or unpredictable these things are. Think of your own ideas too.



How easily can you predict what someone is going to say?

Do you think conversations are unpredictable?

Does it depend who you are speaking to?

Sometimes the weather can be dangerously unpredictable with damaging storms or floods.

Can you think of any examples?



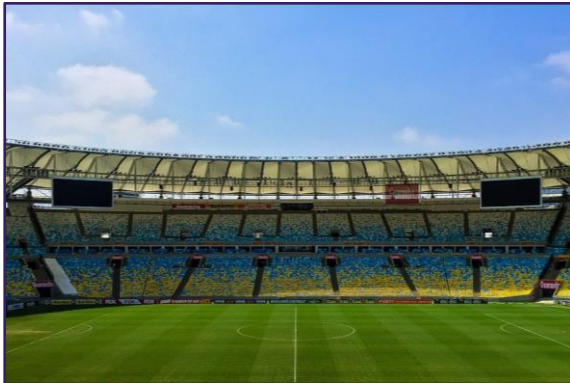
What are these boys going to do next?

How predictable do you think their behaviour is?

Week Twelve

How unpredictable is the behaviour of wild animals?

Does it depend on the animal?



Sometimes the results of a sports game can be unpredictable.

Can you think of any examples?

Small children can be unpredictable – what do you think this child is going to do next?





Week Twelve



Understanding

This quick quiz helps with the understanding of the story. Talk about the statements and have your child say whether they are True or False. Encourage them to explain how they know, with examples from the story.

Quiz

- The story was set in a large fishing port.

- The main character of the story liked living in the village.

- The main character imagined herself to be in the cafe.

- The wishing stone was a new thing for this family.

- There will be lots of adventures to come after this part of the story ends.

Week Twelve



Talking, explaining & story telling

Giving children the opportunity to explain, tell stories or predict what might happen next is a really good way to build their language – it is like a communication workout!

The Wishing Stone

Encourage your child to make up their own story about finding something that gave them a specific wish – maybe to be able to do something, like fly or be invisible or to go anywhere, like the wishing stone. Go through the questions to help structure the story.

Make up your own story finding something that gives you a specific wish, like the wishing stone. Think about the following questions when making up your story

- Who would be the main character?
- Where and When would your story happen?
- What would you find, what wish could you have – would there be a main event, maybe becoming invisible ... or something else?
- What would the main character do – what would happen because of the wish? What would they do about it?
- What would happen next – what would happen as a result of their actions?
- How will your story end?

Week Twelve



What do we think?

When children think and reflect on their learning, it can really help them to remember and make sense of the activities. Have your child tell you / fill in the details below.

- My favourite activity was:

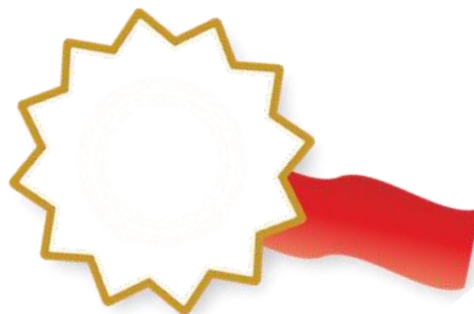
- Because:

- One thing I learned was:

- The person who helped me was:

You're a star!

Don't forget to colour in your medal for a job well done.



Week Twelve

Workbook answers

Story in a nutshell

- *Who was the story about?* **Jo.**
- *Where did the story happen?* **In the fishing village in England.**
- *When did the story happen?* **On a freezing November day.**
- *Why did Jo find the wishing stone?* **It was something that had been in the family, passed from generation to generation.**
- *How does the wishing stone work?* **They have to use their imagination to picture a place and the wishing stone will take them there.**

Deeper dive

- *What kind of place did Jo live in?* **A tiny fishing village, which would maybe just have a couple of shops and cafes, maybe a pub.**
- *Did the wind actually bite their clothes?* **No, it means the wind was really cold and they could feel it through their clothes.**
- *What does it mean when it says the waves threatened the sea wall and the houses?* **It means the waves were big and could cause some damage.**
- *What do they mean when they say nowhere in the world is better?* **They like living in the village, even though the weather can be cold and harsh.**
- *Can you think of another word for teetering?* **Balancing, tottering, dangling, trembling.**

Word of the day

- *What sound is at the beginning?* **u**
- *What sound is at the end?* **l**
- *How many syllables does it have?* **5**
- *Write down as many words as you can using the letters in the word unpredictable.* **Predict, table, cable, dice, price, nice, red, bed, led, bat, pat, cat, bun, run, pride, bride, tribe, tried.**

Understanding

- *The story was set in a large fishing port.* **FALSE – it was a small fishing village.**
- *The main character of the story liked living in the village.* **TRUE – they said it was the best place in the world, especially when the sun was shining.**
- *The main character imagined herself to be in the cafe.* **TRUE – then they ended up there because of the wishing stone.**
- *The wishing stone was a new thing for this family.* **FALSE – it had been passed down generations of the family, so Jo's dad, his parents, their parents – right back as far as they can remember.**
- *There will be lots of adventures to come after this part of the story ends.* **TRUE – Jo said she has a good imagination, which probably means more adventures**