

JULIA DONALDSON LYDIA MONKS

The What the Ladybird Heard Story Play

The Characters



Narrator



All animals



Cow



Hen



Horse



Hog



Goose



Duck



Sheep



Dog



Cat 1



Cat 2



Ladybird



Farmer



Hefty Hugh



Lanky Len










Policeman 1



Policeman 2

Bringing the Story to Life








There are lots of ways you can enjoy this story play, whether you are reading it on your own, sharing it with a friend or acting it out in a group.

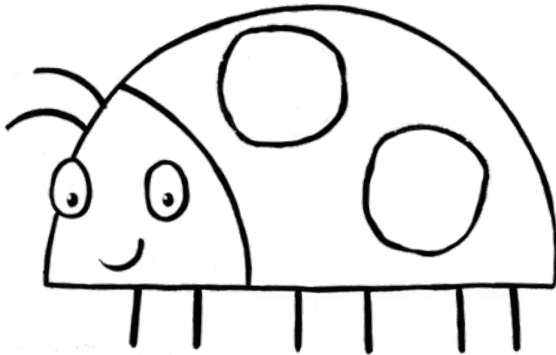
-  If you are reading on your own, why not try doing different voices for the characters? Can you whisper like the quiet little ladybird or miaow like the cats?
-  Read the story play aloud with someone else – maybe one of you could be the narrator and one could be the other characters.
-  Have fun sharing the story with a group of family or friends, dividing the parts between you. You might need to do a couple each if there aren't enough of you.
-  Try some acting, too. Think about how each animal moves – do they get around on two legs, or four? Do they have wings? Do they move fast or slowly?
-  You can even put on a play at home or in your classroom. You'll find extra instructions in grey that will give you ideas about how to act out the story.
-  Have a rehearsal with your fellow actors before the big performance. Learn your lines and practise as much as you can!
-  Try and find some props. How about hats for the policemen, a phone for the farmer and a torch and a key for Len and Hugh? You could even make your own map.



How to Draw a Ladybird



-  Start by drawing a big semi-circle.
-  Divide your semi-circle in two with a curvy line. The part to the left of the line will be the ladybird's face and should be a bit smaller than the other part, which will be her body.
-  Draw two round eyes to the left of your line.
-  Now add a big smile underneath the eyes.
-  Draw two bendy antennae on top of the ladybird's head.
-  The ladybird needs six straight little legs. Draw them along the bottom of your semi-circle.
-  Finish off by adding two big spots on her body.



You can use black and red pens or pencils to colour in your ladybird. Why not cut her out and use sticky tape to attach her to a stick? That way you can use her as a puppet if you put on a play!

*Animals take up their places in the farmyard,
herded in by the farmer.*



Once upon a farm lived a fat red hen,
A duck in a pond and a goose in a pen,
A woolly sheep, a hairy hog,
A handsome horse and a dainty dog,
A cat that miaowed and a cat that purred,
A fine prize cow...
And a ladybird.



And the cow said



MOO!



and the hen said



CLUCK!



HISS!



said the goose and



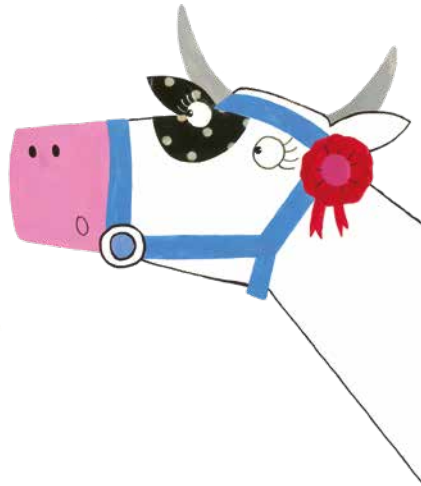
QUACK!



said the duck.



NEIGH!





said the horse.



OINK!



said the hog.



BAA!



said the sheep.



WOOF!



said the dog.

One cat miaowed



MIAOW!



while the other one purred,



PRRRRRRR!



And the ladybird said never a word.

But the ladybird saw,

And the ladybird heard ...



STAGE LIGHTS DIM

Enter Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len. They mime driving a van, then stop and look at a map. One of them holds a big key (the key to the cow's shed).



She saw two men in a big black van,
With a map and a key and a cunning plan.
And she heard them whisper,



This is how
We're going to steal the fine prize cow:



Open the gate at dead of night.



Pass the horse and then turn right.



Round the duck pond, past the hog.



Be careful not to wake the dog.



Left past the sheep,

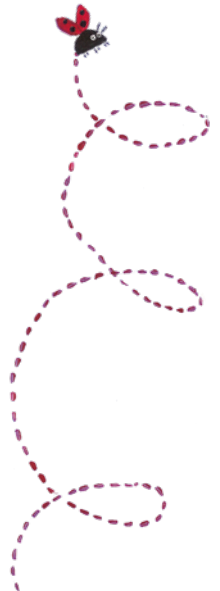


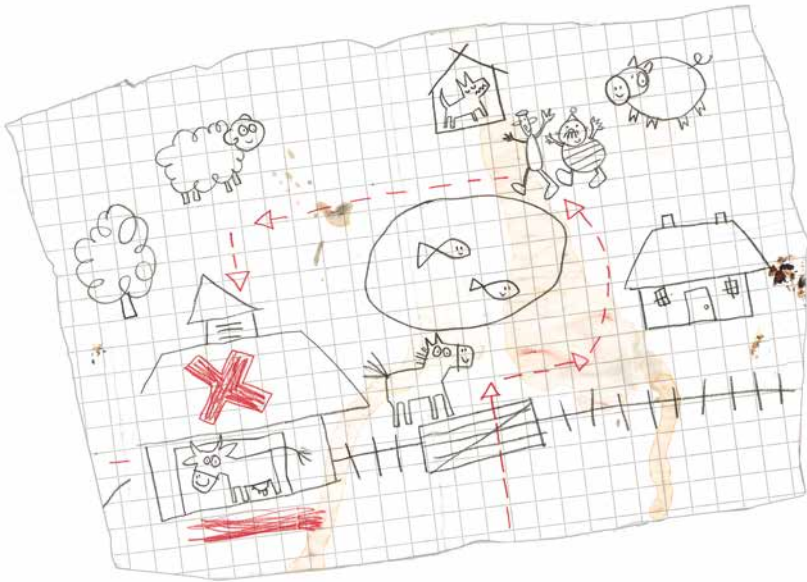
Then straight ahead



And in through the door of the prize cow's shed!

Hugh and Len mime driving away.





STAGE LIGHTS UP



And the little spotty ladybird
(Who never before had said a word)
Told the animals,



This is how
Two thieves are planning to steal the cow:
They'll open the gate at dead of night.
Pass the horse and then turn right.
Round the duck pond, past the hog
(Being careful not to wake the dog).
Left past the sheep, then straight ahead
And in through the door of the prize cow's shed!

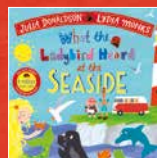
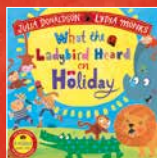
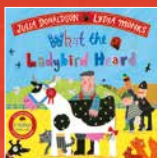
One clever ladybird, two bungling burglars ...
and a whole farmyard of fun!

Hefty Hugh and Lanky Len are planning to steal the farmer's fine prize cow. When the little ladybird overhears their dastardly plan, it's up to her, the smallest, quietest creature on the farm, to think of a good idea to stop the thieves ...

Perfect for sharing, reading aloud and even putting on your very own play – so you can join in the adventure!



The What the Ladybird Heard adventures ... have you read them all?



www.whattheladybirdheard.com

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