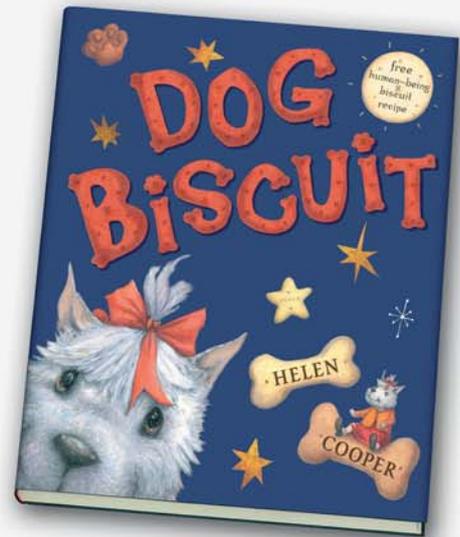


Dog Biscuit

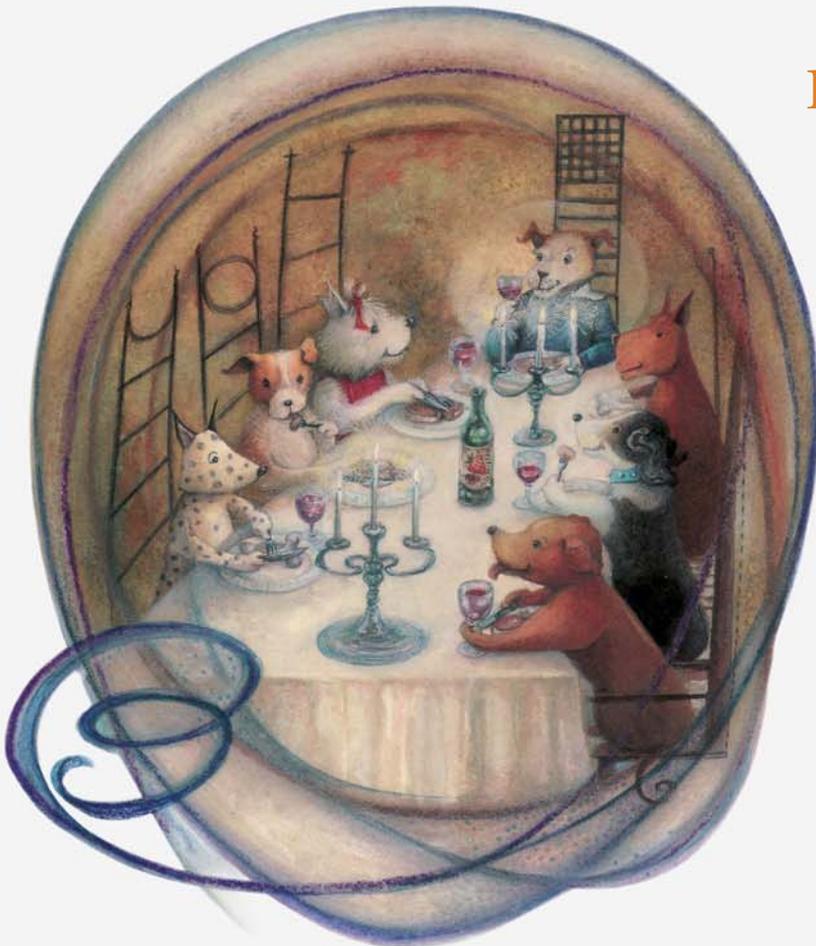
Main theme: childhood misunderstandings, how some worries can become overwhelming and how feeling anxious can make you behave badly.

Look out for: the results of Bridget taking Mrs Blair's teasing words literally.



Suggestions for initial discussion

- Invite the children to say what they think about Bridget eating a dog biscuit. Have any of them eaten something they knew they shouldn't?
- Discuss how easy it is to let your imagination run away with you. Did Bridget use her 'being a dog' as an excuse to behave badly?
- Might Bridget be more worried about her mum being cross than eating the dog biscuit? Reassure the children that there is always an adult who they can talk to if they are anxious or unhappy.
- Bridget's baby brother, who is dressed like a puppy, needs a lot of attention. Do you think Bridget feels a little bit neglected because Mum and Dad have not got time to notice her?



Response activities

Look at all the pictures of different sorts of dogs. There are dogs of different sizes, different colours and different shapes. Which dog is your favourite? Do you think it would be fun to turn into a little dog?



Look closely at the pictures that show what happens at bedtime. Which words on the following list would describe Bridget's behaviour:

- wild
- noisy
- peaceful
- naughty
- bouncy
- lively
- quiet
- mischievous

Yum Yum Yum!

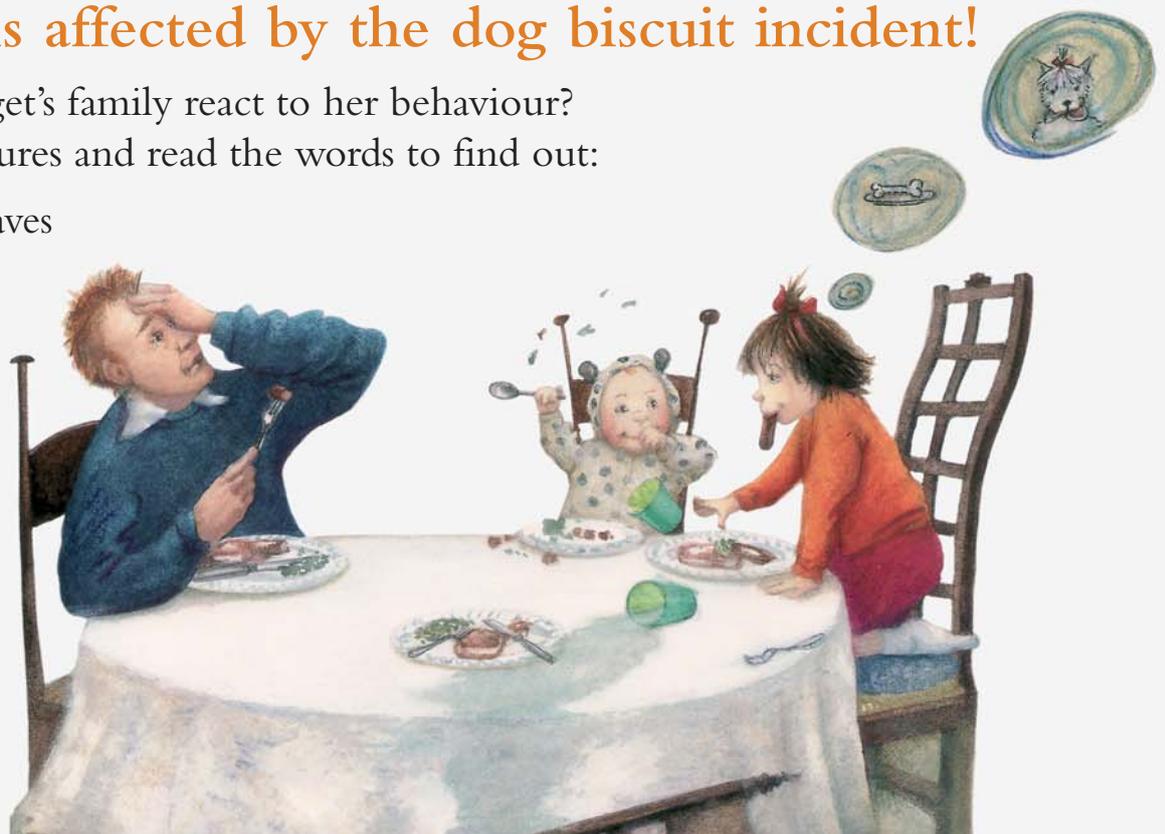
Look at the pictures around the recipe at the back of the book. Have we seen the little boy before? Perhaps he knows better than anyone how Bridget had been feeling. Use the recipe to cook some biscuits. Share them with friends and family.



Everyone is affected by the dog biscuit incident!

How does Bridget's family react to her behaviour? Look at the pictures and read the words to find out:

- how Baby behaves
- what Dad does and says
- the ways that Mum helps Bridget to feel better about everything in the end.



Spend some time thinking and talking about Deep in the Night

Ask the children what dreams are and when they happen. Talk about the pages that show what happens to Bridget “deep in the night”. Do you think it really happens or is it all a dream?

“And was swept on the night wind.”

The pages are black with bright coloured writing on them. How do the swirls, stars, ribbons and mists of colour make you feel about the scene?

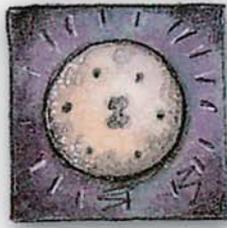
“Then the wild hunt sped up the hill . . .”

Look closely at the park. Are there some strange creatures hiding in the trees? Who is sitting on the bench? ★

“... a great meat pie and heavenly sausages . . .”

Now the dogs are being greedy eating too many sausages. On the next page they are get worn out because they have eaten too much. Can you see the pink milkshake? Can you see ice-cream? Can you see biscuits?

Dog biscuits are coming back into Bridget’s mind but so are Mum, Dad and the baby. How will she get back to her family?



Mum, Mrs Blair and some “human being biscuits” all help Bridget to get over her upset and behave like a little girl again. Perhaps she will make some biscuits to share with her friends.

★*You may like to find out about Herne the Hunter who looks after the park at night.*

