

Opposites Stories

Suggested activities

As you read the story together, they can guess what is going to happen on the next day, specifically whether the next day will be stranger or if things will be back to normal. After you read the part of the next day that says the level of strangeness, they can brainstorm examples of things with that level of strangeness. Then as you introduce each specific topic (e.g. "cereal"), they can guess what might be wrong with that thing. On the very last page, they can guess how Tom feels about everything being back to normal, maybe with opposites pairs like "happy"/"sad" and "relieved"/"disappointed".

When they finish reading the story, they can be tested on the opposites, test each other on the opposites, draw (some) pictures for the story, write more examples of things on each day of this story, and/ or write similar stories.

When Everything is the Wrong Way Round

An opposites story by Alex Case

When Tom woke up
on Monday morning
everything seemed
slightly strange.

His door was shut and locked and his curtains were open. His bedroom was neat and tidy and his parents' bedroom was messy.

And when he went down for breakfast

the cornflakes were
hot and the coffee
was cold.

On the way to school

the bicycles were
noisy and the cars
were quiet.

In school

PE was hard to
understand but maths
was easy, and at
lunchtime

there were just a few pieces of spaghetti and many pieces of chicken.

Tom was happy to get back to bed on Monday evening, because at least in bed everything was normal, but

when Tom woke up
on Tuesday morning,
everything seemed
even stranger.

The carpet was on his
bed and the pillows
were under.

In the bathroom

the water came up out
of the plughole and
hot water went into
the blue tap and cold
water into the red tap.

At breakfast

his brother was taking
cereal out of his
mouth and putting it
into his bowl.

At school

the first year pupils
were tall, the year five
kids were short, and
the teachers were so
short they couldn't
write on the
whiteboard.

When Tom woke up
on Wednesday
morning

everything was
completely the wrong
way round.

But by the end of the
day it seemed normal
that



there were rough sheets and smooth carpets, huge ants and tiny buses, curtains behind the windows and a whiteboard in front of the teacher, and it even seemed normal that

the students gave
lunch and the school
cooks took it.

So on Thursday Tom
wasn't surprised
that

the table was soft and his food was hard, the ground was up and the sky was down, the sun was near but his front gate was far far away, and the corridors were wide but the classrooms were narrow.

But on Friday morning
everything seemed to
have changed again.
When he woke up

the bathroom was tidy
and his hair was
messy. His parents
were nice and his
brother was nasty.
The cornflakes were
soft and the toast was
hard and crunchy.

On the way to school

the kids looked tired
and sleepy, not
energetic like the little
old ladies.

At lunch

the food looked
disgusting but actually
was yummy. And it
was while Tom was
eating that revolting
looking but tasty meal
that he realised

that everything was
back to normal.

THE END

Opposites presentation

Without looking above, write opposites of the words below. Other words may be possible.

shut/ closed
neat/ tidy
hot
noisy
hard/ difficult
few/ a few
on/ above
out
tall
rough
huge
behind
give/ gave
soft
up
near/ close
wide
nice
tired/ sleepy
disgusting/ revolting

Use the words below to fold to help.

-----fold-----

cold
down
easy
energetic
far
hard
in
in front of
many
messy
narrow
nasty
open
quiet
short
smooth
take/ took
tiny
under/ below
yummy/ delicious/ tasty