

NUMBER 7 • BONUS STORY

Kelb żgħir f'dejn il-baħar

A rainy Saturday in spring. Ella and her best friend Emma wanted to ride their bikes to the park, and her mother Rita is working again. So Ella spends the day at her grandmother's, talking about the summers by the sea in Gozo, a little dog, and what she wants to be.

ANSWER KEY

LISTENING & UNDERSTANDING

L1) WHO SAYS IT?: 1b, 2c, 3a

L2) TRUE OR FALSE?: 1a, 2b, 3a, 4b, 5b

L3) PUT THE STORY IN ORDER: 1: 13524

L4) ANSWER THE QUESTIONS: 1b, 2b, 3c

Translation

A Saturday morning in spring at Marija's. Rain runs down the living-room window.

It's Saturday. It's raining outside, and it's cold.

Ella is sitting by the window. She's ten. Today she's not happy.

- Grandma, why is it raining again? Today Emma and I want to ride our bikes to the park!

Emma is Ella's best friend from school. She has a little dog.

- By bike? Not today, Ella. It's too cold, and it's windy outside.
- But I've got a raincoat! I don't need the sun!
- You've got a raincoat. But the bike hasn't.
- Today you can draw, or help your grandma. I'm cooking.

The landlady's phone rings. It is Rita, Ella's mother, calling from work.

- ▲ Hi, Ella. I'm sorry, I'm working again today. Until this evening.
- Again? Mum, you're always working! Even on Saturday!
- ▲ I know. But I have to help people. Are you and Grandma cooking?
- Yes. Mum, come this evening! Grandma's cooking lots.

In the kitchen, Ella draws the sea, the sun and sand.

- Look, Grandma! Every summer the whole family goes to the sea in Gozo.
- It's hot there, and Mum doesn't work. She's with us all day!
- In the morning we swim. The sea is colder than you think, but I'm not afraid.
- I can swim better than Mum!

○ And your brother?

■ He's still too little. He can't swim. He just eats sand!

■ In the afternoon we build a sandcastle. A bigger one every summer!

■ In the evening it's windy by the sea, so Mum always says: 'Ella, your hat! And your jacket!'

○ Your mum is right. In the evening by the sea you need warm clothes.

■ But I'm never cold by the sea!

○ Never? Last year you were as blue as the sea!

■ I wasn't! Well... only a little.

Ella turns the page and draws a little brown dog with big ears.

■ Grandma, look: a little dog! Like Emma's. I really want a little dog!

○ A dog? And Ċikku? Ċikku doesn't like dogs.

■ Ċikku lives here. And the dog can live in our flat!

○ And who looks after him? Your parents work, and you're at school.

■ I know how to look after a dog! I look after Ċikku every day!

○ No, Ella. Ċikku looks after you.

On the windowsill the grey tomcat opens one eye, looks at the drawing of the dog, and turns his back on it.

■ Mum says: 'A dog needs a lot of time, and I don't have time.'

○ That's true. Your mum works a lot, that's why she's tired.

■ That's why I want to be a painter. A painter works at home and can look after a dog!

○ A painter? Not a teacher, like your grandma?

■ No! Teachers always say 'later'.

○ I never say 'later'. I say: 'Now!'

Afternoon. The rain stops, and the sun comes out over the wet roofs.

■ Grandma, the sun! Can I go on my bike now?

○ You can. But with a hat and warm clothes, because it's still cold outside.

■ Emma! The sun's out! Come to the park with the dog!

Evening. Rita comes into the kitchen, tired, with a wet umbrella.

■ Mum! In the morning there was rain, then sun. And Emma's dog is my friend now!

▲ And you want a dog again, don't you?

■ Yes. But in summer, by the sea! For a dog, it is better there than in town.

▲ Maybe, Ella. Maybe.

Ċikku sees the dog in Ella's sketchbook. He doesn't like it at all.