

Contemporary tale: 'Tom's Sausage Lion'

From 'Tom's Sausage Lion' by Michael Morpurgo

It was Christmas Eve when Tom first saw the lion. His mother had sent him out to fetch the logs, and there was a lion padding through the orchard with a string of sausages hanging from its mouth. Tom ran back inside the house to tell them, but his father just laughed and his mother said he must have been imagining things. He told them and he told them, but they wouldn't even come out to look.

'But it's true,' Tom shouted. 'It was a real lion, I know it was.'

'Perhaps it just looked like a lion,' said his mother. 'After all, it is getting dark outside, isn't it, dear?'



Get started

Copy the sentences and complete them using words from the story.

1. It was Christmas Eve when _____ first saw the _____.
2. His mother had sent him _____ to fetch the _____.
3. There was lion padding through the _____ with a string of _____ hanging from its mouth.

Try these

Ask a teacher for help with any words in the story you do not know. Write a sentence to answer each question.

1. What day was it?
2. Why had Tom gone out?
3. Why do you think his father and mother wouldn't go and look?
4. Why do you think Tom shouted?



Now try these

1. Do you think there really was a lion? Why do you think this? Write one or two sentences.
2. Draw a picture of the moment Tom first sees the lion. Add a sentence to show what he is thinking.

