My Pet Lamb

alphakids

Written by Jack Hastings

Photography by Michael Curtain

How to use this book

Before reading: Talkthrough

Talk through the book with the children. Encourage them to predict the text from the cover and pictures, and to think about the information they provide. Direct the children's attention to aspects of the text that may challenge them. Support the children to deal with these challenges by asking the Talkthrough questions on each page.

During reading: Observe and support

Observe the children as they read. Encourage them to monitor their own reading as they comprehend the text. As needed, support children by assisting them to discover and use reading strategies and cues to solve problems and respond to 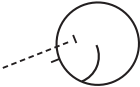reading challenges that arise in the text. Interruptions to the child's reading should be minimal and focused on a specified learning need.

After reading: Comprehension, returning to the text, responding and writing links

To further develop children's understanding of the text, select from activities found on page 12 and the inside back cover. These whole text, sentence and word level activities reinforce the teaching focus of this book. Assessment ideas are provided to assist with planning for further teaching.

Text highlights

- Displays all the features of a recount
- Written as a temporal sequence

Vocabulary

fence, wrapped, hours, knows

Setting the context

Ask: *Have you ever had to look after a baby animal? What things did you need to do? How often did you need to do these things? What happened when the animal grew bigger? Why do baby animals sometimes need to be looked after by people?*

Background information

Young animals normally recognise and attach themselves to members of the same species. This is called imprinting. In this book a lamb imprints itself on a little boy. The book recounts how the little boy cares for the lamb.

Introducing the book

This book is about a boy who lives on a farm. He finds a lamb whose mother has died and he looks after the lamb. This story tells us what he does to care for the lamb.
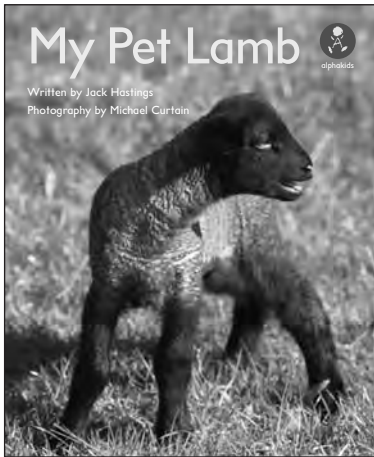
Front cover

The title of this book is 'My Pet Lamb'. Who do you think looks after the lamb? Do you think that it would be easy to look after a pet lamb? What do you think that you would need to do to look after a baby lamb?
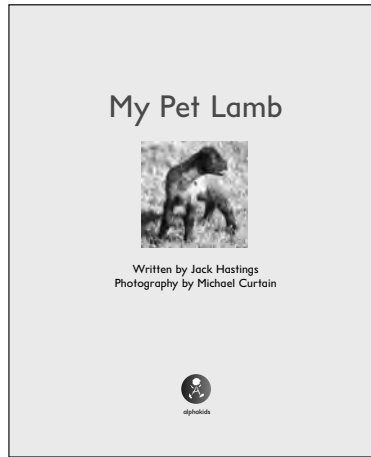
Title page

This is the title page. It tells us the name of the book, and the name of the author and photographer.
Read the title together.

Talkthrough

Read the text on page 2.

On this page the boy introduces us to the story. He tells us that he lives on a farm with his family.
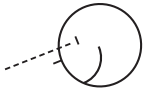
Observe and support

Does the child re-read the text to confirm the correct message?

I like the way that you re-read the text to check that you understood the message.

I live on a farm with my family.
We have cows, goats and sheep.

In winter the sheep have lambs.
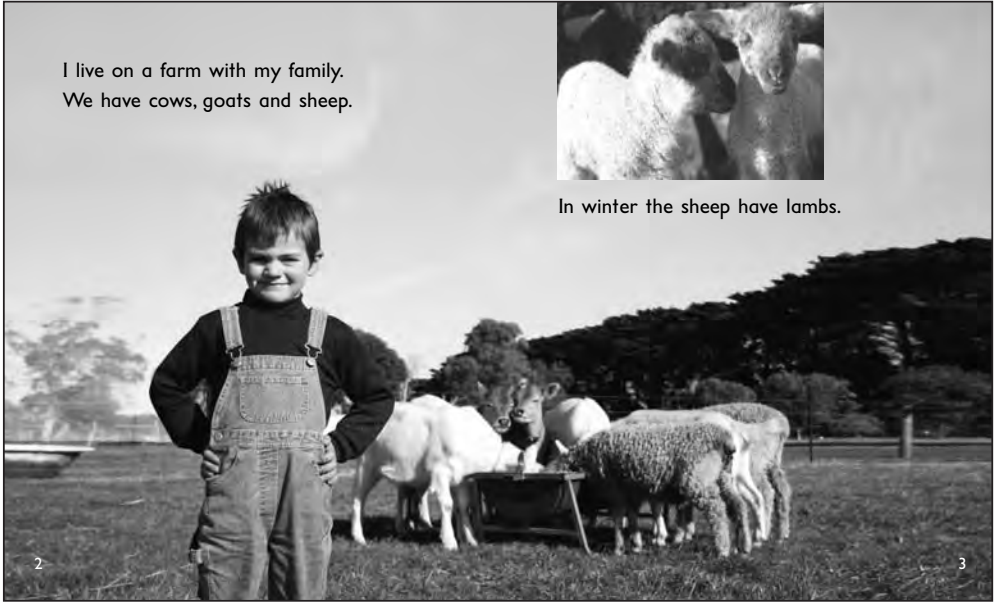
Talkthrough

Look at the photographs and read the text on pages 4–5
and pages 6–7.
*The boy and his mother go around and check on the lambs
when they are born. They find a lamb that is cold and
hungry. What do you think that they will do with the lamb?*
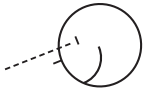
Observe and support

Can the child explain the literal meaning of the text?
Why do they sometimes have to look after a lamb?

When the lambs are born, Mum and I
go around and check on them.

Sometimes we have to look after a lamb.

Last year we found a lamb
whose mother had died.

I could hear the lamb calling
when I woke up.

I found her by the fence, all by herself.

She was cold and hungry.
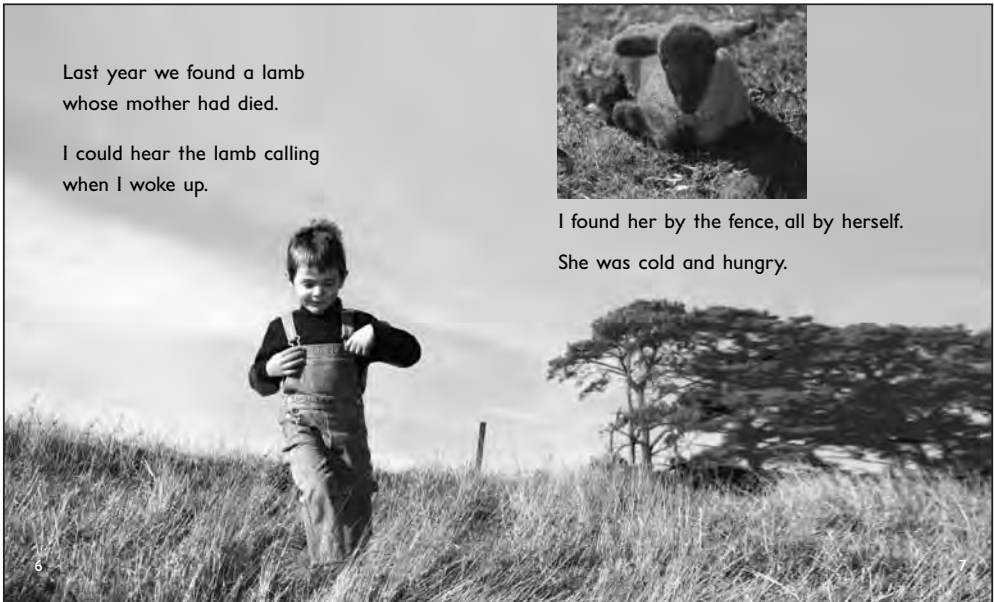
Talkthrough

Look at the photographs on pages 8–9 and then read the text.

Now they have to feed and look after the lamb. What do they feed the lamb? How do you think that the boy feels about looking after the lamb?
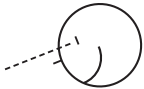
Observe and support

Can the child locate words that indicate past tense in the text? Ask the child to find words that show that these events have already happened. (fed, wrapped)

We fed her milk from a bottle
and wrapped her in a blanket
to keep her warm.

We fed her every four hours
for the first week and then
three times a day after that.

Talkthrough

Look at the photographs on pages 10–11.
*Why does the lamb follow the boy everywhere? How do you
think that the boy would feel about this?*
Look at pages 12–13.
*When the lamb grew bigger she ate grass and then stayed
with the other sheep. Why do you think that the publisher
included two smaller photographs on page 13?*
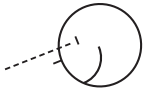
Observe and support

Can the child read with expression?
*Can you make the text sound interesting when you read it?
This makes the text really interesting for others to listen to.*

She got bigger and stronger every day.

Whenever I went outside
she followed me around.

She thought I was her mother.
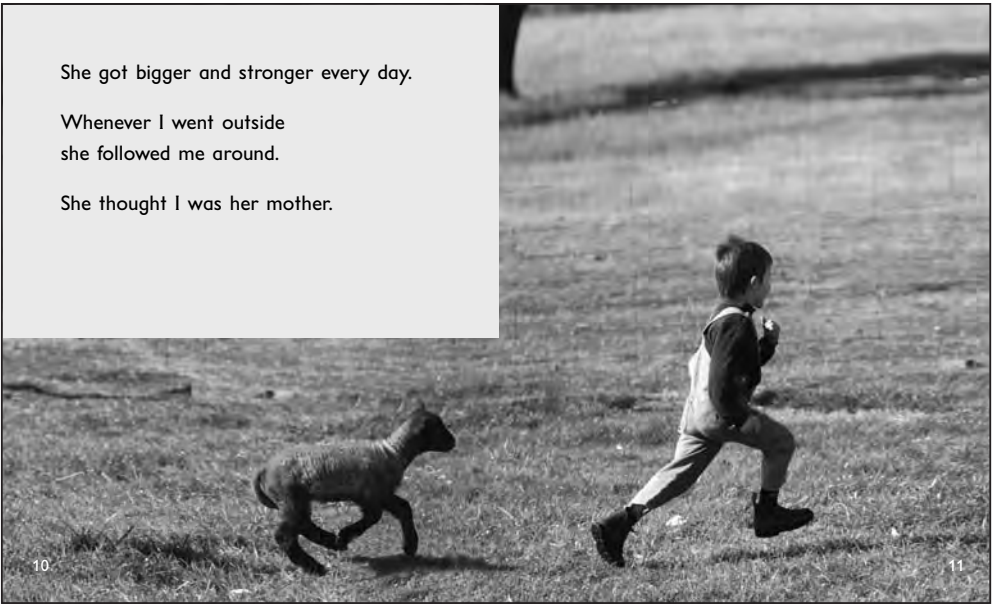
Soon she started to eat grass,
so we stopped feeding her milk.

Then we put her back
with the other sheep.

Talkthrough

Look at pages 14–16.
The lamb has grown into a sheep and has a lamb of her own. Do you think that she will still know the boy?
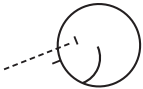
Observe and support

Refer to page 15. Can the child recognise the silent letter at the end of the word 'lamb'?
What word has a silent letter at the end? Do you know any other words that have silent letters in them?

Now she is as big as the other sheep and she has a lamb of her own.

14

15

But she still knows me.

16

11

Being a meaning maker

Encourage the children to support their answers with evidence from the book as they discuss these questions:

What did the boy do to look after the lamb?

Why did the lamb think that the boy was her mother?

Why did the boy put the lamb back into the paddock with the other sheep?

What other ways might this boy look after animals on the farm?

Being a code breaker

Explore the following language features:

• Spelling pattern used to represent the sound /m/ as in la<u>mb</u>: bo<u>mb</u>, co<u>mb</u>, du<u>mb</u>, to<u>mb</u>, thu<u>mb</u>.

Being a text user

What kind of book is this? Fiction or information? How do you know? What could you learn about looking after lambs by reading this book?

Being a text critic

What did the author need to know about to write this book? Do all children get to raise pet lambs?

Responding to text

▤ Borrow other fiction books such as 'Sebastian Lives In a Hat' by Thelma Catterwell, and information books about raising baby animals for children to learn more about this topic.

⁃⁃⁃ Draw story maps of 'My Pet Lamb' showing the main sequence of events. Include statements about each of the main events.

‑ Investigate how spelling relates to tense: found, died, hear, fed, wrapped, followed, thought, started, stopped.

Writing links
Modelled writing
Ask children to recall the sequence of events in the story. As children share each segment, list this information in point form, so children can see the importance of planning their writing.

Shared/guided writing
Using the above planning idea, children work with a partner to plan and write about a time that they raised a baby animal. Stress to children that they are writing a recount like 'My Pet Lamb' and that the events occur in order (temporal sequence). Children could make this into a picture story book just like 'My Pet Lamb'.

Assessment
Can the child:
- Identify that the book is factual and is a recount?
- Retell the events in the book in the correct order?
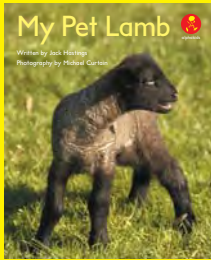- Identify words that indicate an event happened in the past?

▤ whole text activity   ⁃⁃⁃ sentence activity   ‑ word activity

My Pet Lamb

Written by Jack Hastings
Photography by Michael Curtain

Teacher Edition

Topic: Living things
Curriculum link: Science
Text type: Recount
Reading level: 12
Word count: 175
Vocabulary: fence, wrapped, hours, knows

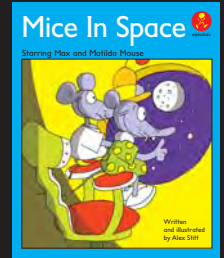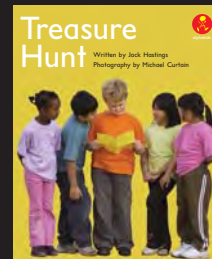## Possible literacy focus

Exploring the features of a recount.
Retelling a temporal sequence.
Investigating words that indicate past tense.

Summary

This book is a recount about how a young boy raises an orphaned lamb on his farm. The book provides information about what he does to care for the lamb.

Other books at this level

Looking Like Plants

Written by Hannah Reed
Photography by Gary Lewis

Treasure Hunt

Written by Jack Hastings
Photography by Michael Curtain

Let's Make Pancakes

Written by Emma Rossi
Photography by Michael Curtain

Don't Worry!

Written by Christopher Stitt   Illustrated by Steve Axelsen

Mice In Space

Starring Max and Matilda Mouse

Written and illustrated by Alex Stitt

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