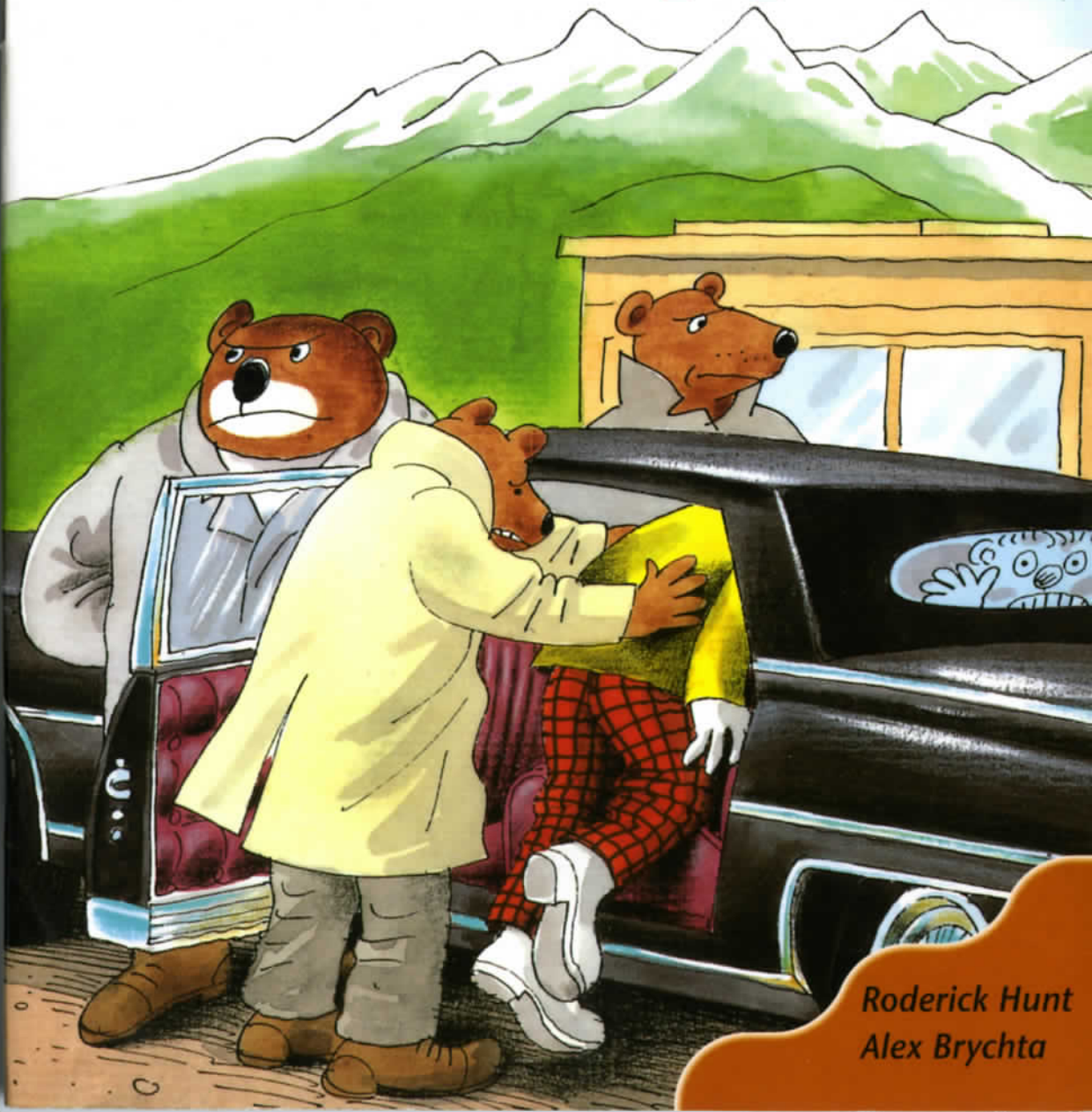
Oxford Reading Tree

The Kidnappers



Roderick Hunt
Alex Brychta

Story written by Roderick Hunt
Illustrations by Alex Brychta



What's this story about?

The magic key glows and takes Kipper and his toys to the Teddy Bears' Picnic in Switzerland. He and the toys help some famous bears who have been kidnapped.

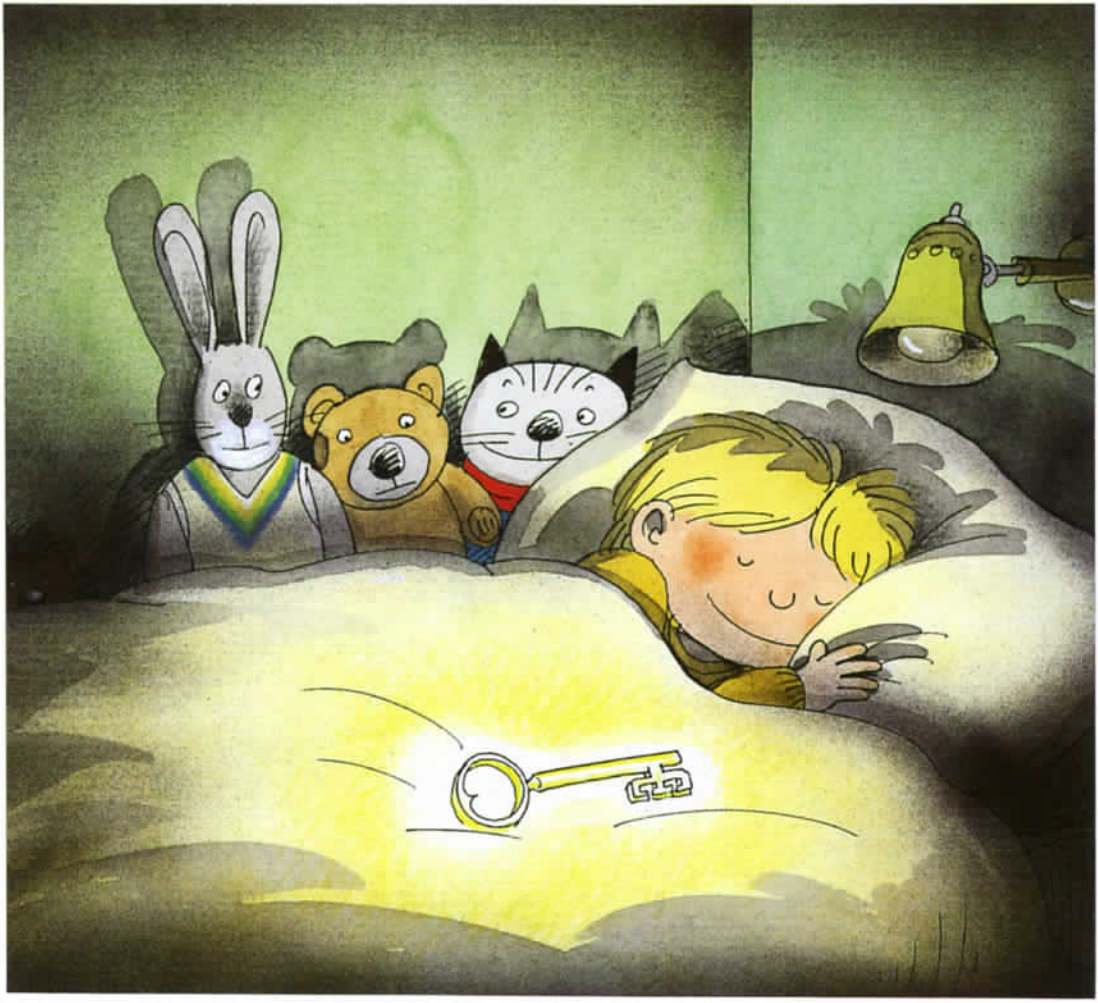
Talk together

Read the title and talk about the picture on the cover. Look through some of the pictures and ask, "What do you think happens in the story?" and "Where do you think this story takes place?" Read the blurb on the back cover and ask, "Why do you think the magic has turned Kipper into a bear?"

Read the story

W = Word recognition C = Language comprehension

- C Listen as the child reads aloud. Praise him/her for reading fluently and for using expression to make the story sound interesting.
- W Page 3, help the child read 'Catsimir'. Show him/her how to break it down into syllables, 'Cat–sim–ir'.
- C Page 12, ask, "What can we find out about Switzerland from the picture?" (e.g. there are mountains, chalets). Then ask, "Which parts of the picture are made up for the story?" (e.g. goats are dressed as people).
- W Page 21, ask the child to find 'fast' and 'faster'. Ask, "What do we do to 'fast' if we want to write 'faster'?"
- C Page 23, ask, "What do you think the plan might be for rescuing the kidnapped bears?"
- C Page 32, ask, "How can Kipper make the others believe him?"

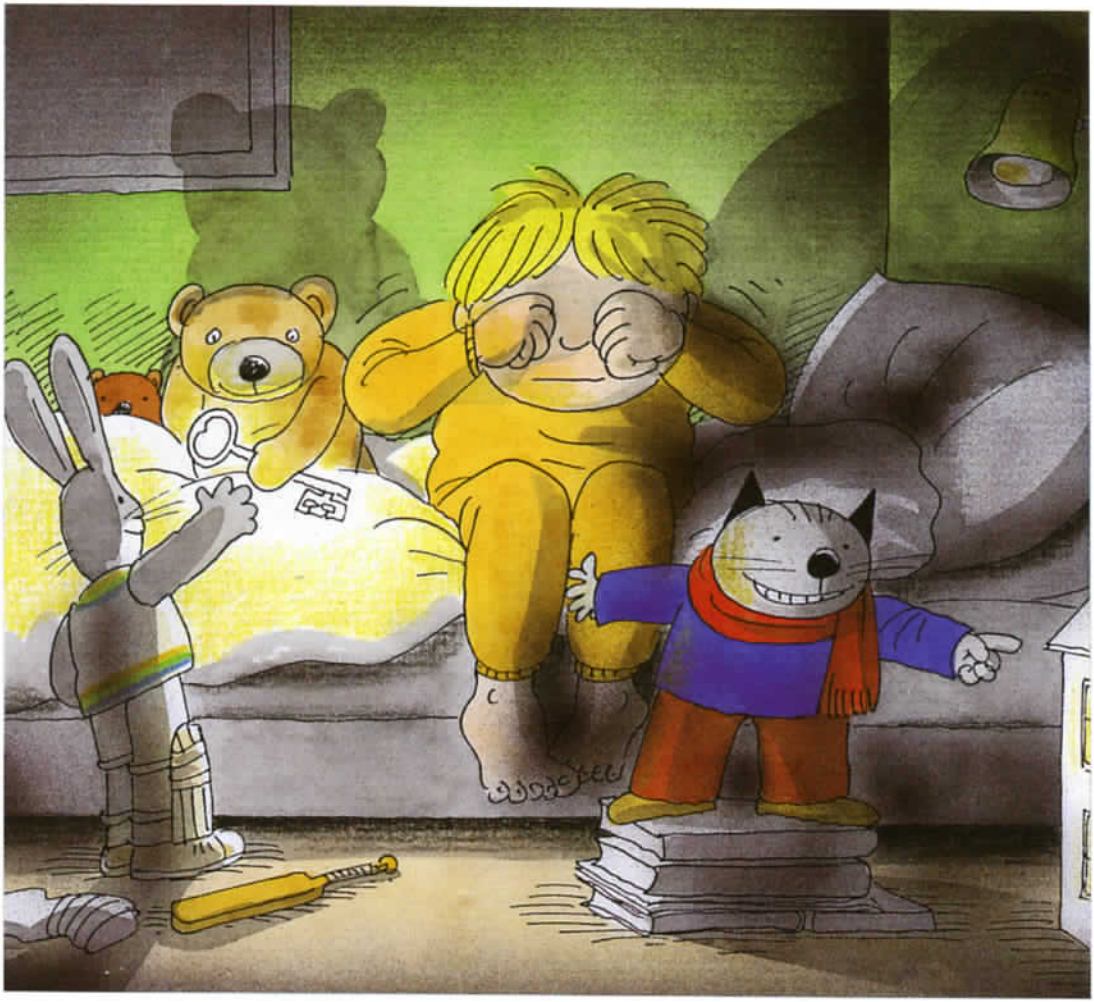


Kipper was sad because the magic key would not glow. He looked at the key for a long time. At last he fell asleep. Suddenly, the key glowed and the magic began to work.



Kipper's toys were coming to life. Teddy gave Kipper a shake.

"Wake up," he said. "The magic key is glowing. The magic is working."



Kipper sat up and rubbed his eyes. He looked at his toys.

"Come on, Kipper," said Catsimir. "Hurry up! It's time for a magic adventure."



The toys ran to the little house.

"Hurry up, Kipper," called Teddy. "Be quick, or it will be too late."

Kipper could feel the magic working. It pulled him inside the magic house.



The magic whizzed Kipper round and round.
"Oh help," called Kipper. "I feel different.
This is a different sort of magic."



The magic took them to an airport. It was a very busy airport. Catsimir was excited.

"Maybe we can catch a plane," he said. "Maybe we can have an exciting adventure!"



There were bears everywhere. They were going to Switzerland.

"They're going to the Teddy Bears' Picnic," said Teddy. "They have one every year."



"Maybe we can go too," said Bunbury.

Kipper was not so sure.

"How can we?" he asked.

"Of course we can go," said Teddy. "This is a magic adventure."



Kipper and his friends went on the aeroplane to Switzerland. They flew over lakes and mountains.

"What a beautiful place for a picnic!" said Kipper.



When the plane landed everyone got off. There were lots and lots of bears. Kipper had never seen so many. They had come from all over the world.

"It's going to be a big picnic," said Kipper.