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## Before you read the story

### 1 Look at the cover. What's the story about?

I think it's about ...

1. ... a crazy party game or a picnic in the dark.
2. ... ghosts, monsters and cats in an attic.
3. ... an adventure with Ben and his friends.
4. ... Ben's terrible dream.
5. ... how Ben and his friends find a burglar.
6. ... a dangerous pirate on a ship.
7. Any other ideas?

### 2 Talk about the animals.

a) Choose an animal.



owl



pigeon



bat

b) What do you know about the animal? The ideas in the box can help you.

flies ... • sleeps ... • ... at night / in the day time •  
 eats plants / insects / fish / bats / ... • lives ... •  
 has / doesn't have feathers • a good pet? • ...



c) Tell your partner about your animal.

What's ... about? [wɒts ... ə'baʊt] – Worum geht es in ...? • **ghost** [gəʊst] – Gespenst • **dangerous** ['deɪndʒərəs] – gefährlich • **feathers** ['fiðəz] – Gefieder

## 1 Ben and his friends

1 Ben the bat has a really good life. He lives in the attic of  
an old house and he loves his room. It's a place where he  
can be all alone. But he also has friends: Toby, the pigeon,  
and Izzy, the owl. They love to play hide-and-seek in the  
5 attic because there are lots of good places to hide there.  
Ben often wins.

Toby is a funny pigeon. He loves food. He eats all the time  
and makes a big mess. So it's easy to find him in his hiding  
place. It is also easy for an owl and a bat to play all night,  
10 but not for a pigeon. Ben hears Toby snore and the noise  
helps him to find his friend.

Izzy is very self-confident and thinks he's the best.  
He likes to clean his lovely, bright feathers and he hates  
to hide in small places where it's dark and maybe dirty.  
15 This makes it very easy for Ben to find Izzy. Izzy is posh  
and thinks he's a star.



**hide-and-seek** ['haɪd ənd 'si:k] – Versteckspiel • **snore** [snɔ:] – schnarchen •  
**self-confident** [selfkɒnfɪdənt] – selbstbewusst • **bright** [braɪt] – hell •  
**maybe** ['meɪbi] – vielleicht • **posh** [pɒʃ] – vornehm



## 2 A light in the dark

1 One night they were in the middle of a game. Suddenly a very bright light came out of the drain cover on the road near their house. The light sent sparks out into the night. There was a scary crackling noise too.

5 “We must find out what it is,” decided Ben.

He found Toby under a box. “You can’t sleep now. Come on!”

They found Izzy high up on the other side of the attic. He was busy with his feathers, of course.

10 “There’s something out there, Izzy,” said Ben. “Let’s go!”

The three friends 1  
went to the window  
slowly and looked out. As  
they watched the light, its  
colour started to go from white 5  
to red, from red to blue, from blue  
to green ... The noise, the sparks and  
the colourful lights suddenly made Ben  
feel terrible. He shook all over. Toby was the  
first to speak. 10

### WHAT IS THAT?

“I don’t know,” Izzy answered. “And I don’t want to find out!” He wanted to go but Ben stopped him.

“Ouch, my feathers!” Izzy shouted. “Ben, let go!”

But Ben didn’t answer. He looked out into the light.

middle [ˈmɪdl] – Mitte • suddenly [ˈsʌdənlɪ] – plötzlich • light [laɪt] – Licht • drain cover [ˈdraɪn kʌvə] – Gullydeckel • spark [spɑ:k] – Funke • crackling [ˈkrækəlɪŋ] – knisternd • up [ʌp] – oben

slowly [ˈsləʊli] – langsam • as [æz] – als • feel/felt [fi:l/felt] – fühlen/fühlte sich • shake/shook [ʃeɪk/ʃʊk] – zittern/zitterte



### 3 An adventure

1 The light suddenly flashed very fast. The drain cover opened a little and the three friends saw ... a pink claw!

Then a car went over the drain cover.

“Did you see that!? Did you see the claw?” cried Toby.

5 “Where is that thing now?”

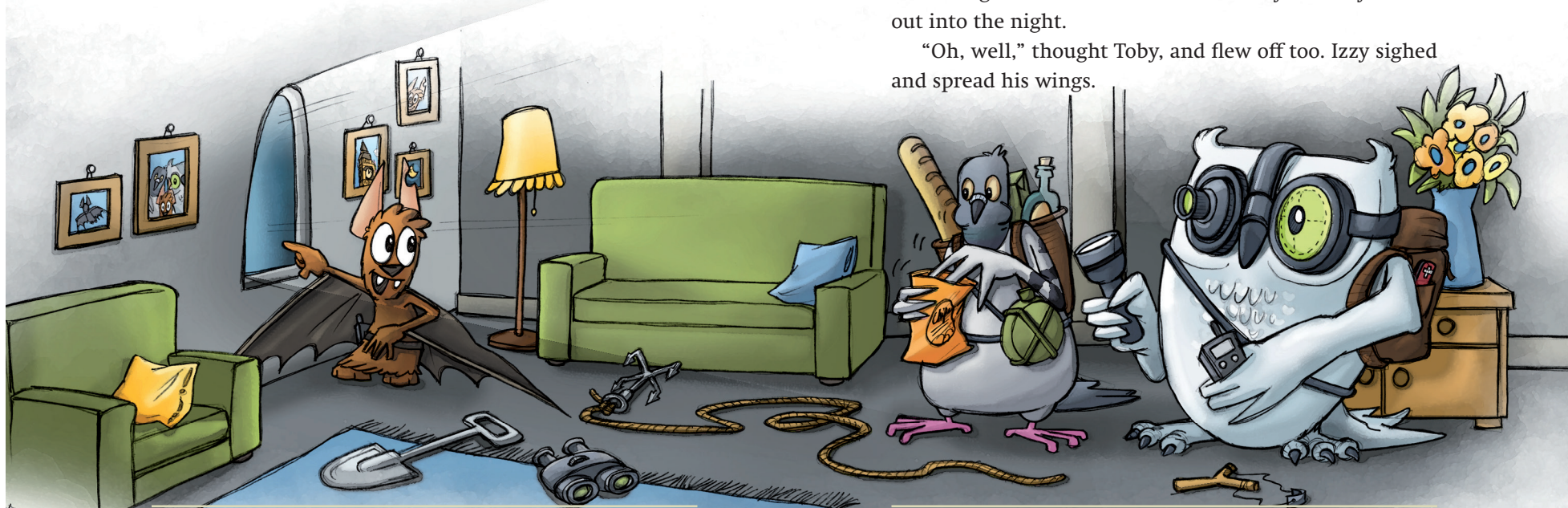
“No idea,” said Ben. “But it’s time to find out!”

“Are you crazy?” said Izzy. “We can’t go down there! It’s too dangerous. Toby, tell him!”

Toby didn’t like the idea: It was late and he was too tired for any more activity. He wasn’t sure what to say.

10 “Err ... I ... well ... uhm ... .”

“Listen, you two,” said Ben. “We can’t watch and wait until morning, we must go down now! Or are you both too scared for a little adventure?”



flash [flæʃ] – blinken • a little [a: 'lɪtl] – ein wenig/etwas • claw [klɔ:] – Klaue • cry/cried [kraɪ/kraɪd] – schreien/schrie • down [daʊn] – hinunter • too [tu:] – zu

1 The three friends quickly found what they needed: warm clothes, torches, ropes, food and water. Ben packed the things alone as Izzy wasn’t much help. He was busy with his clothes for the adventure.

5 “Hmm, this blue blazer, maybe?” he said. “What do you think?”

“Izzy!” said Ben. “It’s not a fashion show! Help me find Toby.”

They heard a crrrunch! crrrunch! And Ben went to look behind the sofa.

10 “Toby?” he said. “What ...?”

“Er ...,” said Toby, a big biscuit stuck in his mouth.

In the end Ben, Toby and Izzy were at the window, ready for their adventure.

15 “Let’s go,” Ben said as he flew off. Toby and Izzy looked out into the night.

“Oh, well,” thought Toby, and flew off too. Izzy sighed and spread his wings.

quickly ['kwɪkli] – schnell • mouth [maʊθ] – Mund • fly/flew [flaɪ/flu:] – fliegen/flog • off [ɒf] – los • sigh [saɪ] – seufzen • spread [sprɛd] – spreizen • wing [wɪŋ] – Flügel