



# A Hedgehog at Home

Author **Gérard Moncomble** / Illustrations **Frédéric Pillot** / 32 pages / Book Series **Coco the Cat**

## Objectives

- To demonstrate understanding of a variety of expressions used throughout the story.
- To be able to understand and relate to the personalities of the characters by observing the context of the dialogue.
- To be able to write short, simple conversations to demonstrate understanding of the story.

## Word bank

### Key vocabulary

Nouns: surprise, home, snow, cushions, sofas, blankets, central heating, fridge, pole, plants, cactus, hedgehog, basket, slugs, worms, spiders, pram, doll's clothes, bird.

Verbs: to clean, to brush, to hate, to pick up, to kiss, to push, to sing, to wash, to hide, to escape.

Adjectives: cold, wet, white, freezing, round, spiky, pretty, naughty, brave, dizzy, crazy.

### Expressions

Let's find out!

I hope!

What about me?

See you again soon!

## Tips and ideas

### Before reading

Write the title "Where do you live?" and divide the board into four sections. Write a list of animals in the first column (cats, birds, cows, hedgehogs, rabbits) then elicit words to put into the other columns.

Name of animal			Place
Birds	live	in	cages
Cows	live	in	fields
Hedgehogs	live	In	the woods

Have students get into groups of three. They should write sentences from the information on the board. E.g. Hedgehogs live in the woods. Tell them to try to think of some different animals and to make more sentences. After 10 minutes, write the new sentences on the board.

### During reading

- **Talking about daily routines.** Tell your students that Susan is one of the characters in the book. She is the same age as them and she lives with her Mum and Dad and her cat Coco. Write some of the activities that Susan might do in an ordinary day. For example: go to school, do homework, feed Coco, set the table, etc. Ask the students to tell you some more activities. Write each activity on a piece of paper or a strip of card. On another piece of paper, write out times, for example: 9 o'clock.

Divide the students into pairs and give each pair a set of sentences and a set of times. They match each activity with a time, and then put them in order. When finished, they can read the sentences and times to the rest of the class. Do the same for Dad, Mum and Coco.

### After reading

- **Poster for Lost Hedgehog.** Tell the students to imagine that Susan wants to find the hedgehog. Have them make a poster that describes the lost hedgehog.

# Teacher support activities

## Great games: "Make a Mini-book"

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### Instructions:

(from <http://blogs.shrewsbury.ac.th/ey2/files/2013/09/zip-zag-book-2.pdf>)

- Fold a piece of A3 paper in half lengthways and then unfold it.
- Fold the same piece of A3 paper in half widthways and leave it folded.
- Fold it in half again in the same direction, and then unfold the last fold.
- Cut along the centre crease until you reach the middle of the paper.
- Unfold the paper completely. There should be a slit through the middle of the paper.
- Fold the paper in half lengthways again and then push the two ends inwards towards each other to create a star shape with four arms. The four arms are the pages of the book.
- Fold all of the arms around to face the same direction and the book is complete.

Students should look through the story and choose one scene to write as a dialogue in their mini-book. After writing some simple sentences on the pages, they can illustrate and colour the book.

Give an example of the dialogue:

**Susan:** Oh, look, how cute! It's pretty!

**Coco:** What is it?

**Susan:** It's a hedgehog! I love him!

**Coco:** No, no, no! You love me.

## CLIL link: Arts and Crafts

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Make a hedgehog with a paper plate.

### Materials:

- paper plate
- black marker
- brown cardboard
- scissors
- glue

### Instructions:

- Cut a paper plate in half and then trim off the edge, leaving the curve of the plate.
- Draw a simple happy face in one corner.
- Cut brown cardboard into strips or "quills".
- Starting at the tail of the hedgehog glue the quills on.

## English theatre: "My... Hedgehog?"

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**Susan:** How do you look after a hedgehog at home?

**Dad:** I don't know. Let's look on the Internet.

**Susan:** Good idea!

(Dad turns on the computer)

**Dad:** It says here, "Hedgehogs love places to hide and they love to be warm.

**Susan:** No problem. Here's a basket. Here's a blanket and here's a cushion.

**Coco:** My basket! My cushion! My blanket!

**Dad:** It says here, "Hedgehogs eat slugs, worms and spiders."

**Susan:** That's disgusting! Let's give him cat biscuits.

**Coco:** My cat biscuits! Not cool!