

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February

### The Owl who was afraid of the dark

High up in a leafy canopy, Plop the owl was sharing his worries with his Mum. "I don't want to be a night bird," said Plop.

"The dark is nasty," he whispered.

"You don't know that," replied Mum.

"You need to find out more about the dark before you make up your mind."

"Go and ask that little boy down there," added Mum. Nervously, Plop took a deep breath and flew down. "How do you feel about the dark?" asked Plop.

"The dark is exciting because we can watch dazzling fireworks. Will you come to the display tonight?" Arriving back at the nest, Plop asked his parents to take him to the show.

Before long, the darkness had stubbed out the last remaining embers of daylight. Plop was feeling intrigued as the family sauntered down to the display. Whizz! Crash! Crackle! The brightly-coloured fireworks lit up the pitch black sky.

Plop snuggled beneath his Mum's wing and drifted off to sleep. The next evening, as the stars began to sparkle, Plop heard a happy shout. "How do you feel about the dark?" asked Plop as he swooped down next to a boy.

"The dark is fun because I can drink hot chocolate around this cosy campfire," replied the boy. Plop was nervous but he decided to stay.

Plop watched while the boys sang happy songs, sipped hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows. Landing back on a sturdy branch, Plop told Mum all about his adventure with the crackling campfire and the singing boys and the tasty snacks. Plop was tired from his escapade and slept through the whole day like a real night bird. When he woke up, instead of feeling anxious he felt excited about the night.

Gently, Plop floated down to the ground and landed like a soft white feather. Under the enormous tree, he saw a big, black cat. Its eyes were bright like sparkling diamonds. "What do you think of the dark?" asked Plop.

"Dark is beautiful," replied the cat.

"Come with me and I will show you the night time world of owls, cats and bats."

The cat took Plop up to the rooftops and they looked down over the sleeping town. All was quiet. All was calm. All was still. In that moment, Plop thought the darkness was absolutely wonderful. Excitedly, he flew back over the rooftops, above the fields and through the canopy to his parents.

Plop thought about what he had been told about the dark. "The first boy said it was exciting. The second boy said it was fun. The cat said it was beautiful," Plop explained.

"And what do you think, Plop?" asked his Mum. Plop looked up with twinkling eyes.

"I think it is super." For the first time, Plop flew off happily into the moonlight to go hunting with his parents

Shared Reading w/c 24/2/25

Monday Task LO: To use an image as a stimulus



Ask a question about what you think the text is about

Write a title for the book

Tuesday Task LO: To clarify meaning

1. Find the word **stuffed** replace it with a synonym (same meaning).
2. Find the word in the text that means the same as **cuddled**.
3. Highlight the word **watched** replace it with a synonym?
4. Find the word **sturdy** replace it with an antonym (the opposite).
5. Find the word **enormous** replace it with an antonym.

Wednesday Task LO: To retrieve information

1. In paragraph 2, What did Plop want to see?
2. In paragraph 3, What time of day is it? How do you know?
3. Write 3 things the boys did around the campfire.
4. In paragraph 6, what is the adverb that shows how Plop flew?
5. How does Plop feel about the dark at the end of the story?

### Thursday Task LO: To retrieve information

1. In paragraph 1, Where is Plop?
2. In paragraph 2, Plop was feeling intrigued... what does this mean?  
a) Plop is interested b) Plop was nervous c) Plop was silent
3. In paragraph 6, the author describes the cats eyes as bright like sparkly diamonds. What do they mean?

Statements	True	False
1. Plop was afraid of the dark		
2. Plop cuddled up to his dad		
3. Plop watches some cub scouts		
4. Fireworks were set off		
5. Plop was curious		

### Friday Task LO: To make connections

Look at the second story

1. What is the same in the 2 stories?
2. What is different in the 2 stories?
3. Do you know of another story where a character is afraid?