



## Topsy and Tim Go to the Doctor

by  
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These STEM focussed questions are designed to use alongside the questions you would usually ask when reading a story.

### Before you start reading, you could ask:

- Why do you think people might need to go to the doctor?
- Look at the picture on the front of the book: what is Topsy doing? What is she using (stethoscope)?

### While reading the story, you could ask:

#### Page 1

- Why do you think Tim doesn't want any breakfast?
- Could Tim be ill? What could be wrong with him?
- Why isn't he hungry?
- Has there ever been a time when you were ill and you didn't want to eat?

#### Pages 2 and 3

- Where is your throat?
- Why do you think Tim's throat is red?
- What do you think *swollen* means?
- How do you think Tim feels?
- How do you think he got a sore throat?

#### Pages 4 and 5

- What is a Health Centre? What do you think happens there?
- What is an appointment? Why might you need one?
- Why does Tim want to keep his sore throat warm?

#### Pages 6 and 7

- Why does it hurt Kerry to swallow?
- Why isn't Tim speaking?
- Why do you think Kerry and Tim have the same thing wrong with them?

#### Pages 8 and 9

- What do you think will happen during Tim's appointment with Dr Sims?



## Pages 10 and 11

- Why do you think Dr Sims is holding a stick (tongue depressor) on Tim's tongue?
- What do you think he is using to look inside Tim's ear (otoscope)?
- What do you think the doctor can see?

## Pages 12 and 13

- Do you think chests and tummies can really talk?
- What sound does your heart make? What is it doing?
- Have you ever heard your tummy making a noise? What is it doing?

## Pages 14 and 15

- What is a prescription?
- What is a pharmacist? Do you know what they do?
- What is medicine? Are all medicines the same? How many different types can you think of (pills, liquid medicine, cream, injections, an inhalers...)?

## Pages 16 and 17

- Why does Topsy and Tim's Mummy need to keep the medicine safe?
- Why can't Tim carry it?
- Do you think Kerry and Tim have the same type of medicine? Why?
- Can Kerry and Tim share the same bottle of medicine? Why not?

## Pages 18 and 19

- What is a childproof top? Why does the medicine have this? Can you think of anything else in your home that has a childproof top?
- Why is Topsy and Tim's Mummy putting the medicine out of reach?
- How do we know how much medicine to take?
- What happens if we take too much or not enough of the medicine?
- Why does some medicine taste nice?
- Is Topsy allowed to try Tim's medicine?

## Pages 20 and 21

- How do you think Topsy got her sore throat?
- How many people in the story had a sore throat?
- Who do you think might get a sore throat next?
- What do you think the doctor will prescribe for them?

## Pages 22

- Do you always see the same doctor?

### After reading, you could ask:

- Can you think of a time lots of people in our class/group/nursery all had the same illness?
- What are the best things we can do to stop illnesses spreading to our friends and families? (wash hands, stay away from people who are ill, cover your nose and mouth when you cough and sneeze, don't touch your face)



**The pharmacist**  
creative curious observant

