



Our best things

Level 3

Is there something that you're really good at? Practise your reading in English with this story.

Reading practice



Preparation



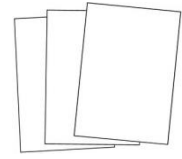
Match the words with the definitions.

- | | | |
|----------------|---|---|
| to daydream | → | a factual TV programme or film about a subject |
| a documentary | | a picture of a person |
| to tap | | to have nice thoughts, not connected with what you're doing |
| to sigh | | a long seat for two or more people |
| a championship | | to hit something lightly |
| a portrait | | to breathe out, making a noise |
| chess | | a competition to find the best player or team in a sport or game |
| a bench | | a game for two people, using a board with black and white squares |



Reading text

Read the story.

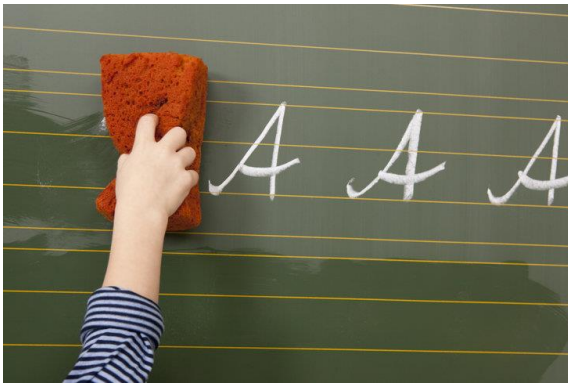


Our best things

Tom's got a big smile on his face. He's thinking about swimming again. Tom's an excellent swimmer. It's his best thing, something he's really good at. Right now he's daydreaming about swimming in the sea, with dolphins and whales. He saw a documentary about that once. Tom feels the water on his back and on his legs and just then he feels a dolphin rubbing its fin against his right arm. 'Ahhhh,' he says. 'That's nice. What's your name? Can you speak?'



Tom hears children's laughter first, then, 'My name is Mrs Potter! As you know! Tom, wake up. You're daydreaming again!'



Tom opens his eyes and looks up. Mrs Potter, his teacher, is tapping his arm to get his attention. She doesn't look very happy. He gives her his best smile but she turns her back to him and walks away, saying, 'No play time for you today, Tom. You can help me clean the classroom instead.'

Tom sighs and looks across the classroom at May. They've got plans for play time. Yesterday he promised to play table tennis with her. May's very good at table tennis. It's her best thing. She wants to practise for the school championship. 'Isn't it nice?' he thinks. 'Everybody's got a best thing - something that they're good at.'





Tom looks around at his classmates. Fatima's sitting next to him. She's good at singing. Tom thinks she'll be a famous pop singer one day. Charlie's in front of him. His best thing is painting. Last year he won a prize for a portrait of his pet fish, Goldie. It was amazing! 'There's Ollie,' he thinks. 'Ollie's the town's chess champion. Nobody at school can beat Ollie at chess.' He moves his thoughts around the classroom, stopping at each child to name their best thing. Dora's good at horse riding, and Huang's brilliant at languages. He can speak Chinese, English, German and French. He wants to be a translator when he grows up.



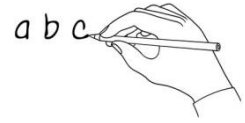
'It's strange,' thinks Tom. 'We're all very different but we're all friends. And we've all got a best thing.' Then he looks at Mrs Potter and thinks, 'She's very patient. She's the best teacher ever!'

Tom looks at May again. He can't see her face but he knows she's sad. 'I need a plan,' he thinks. 'Mrs Potter always tells us it's important to help each other.' Tom remembers the shiny, red apple in his

school bag and he smiles ... just as the bell rings and all the children shout 'Play time!' and move towards the door.

A few minutes later Mrs Potter smiles to herself as she looks out of the window, into the playground. Huang and Fatima are in the corner, sharing an orange. The wheels on Fatima's chair are shining in the sun. Charlie and Dora are sitting together on a bench. Charlie's not looking at Dora, but Mrs Potter can see he's talking to her. 'I bet he's telling her all the amazing new animal facts he's memorised this week,' she thinks. Ollie's having a conversation with Mr Domingo, the school caretaker. He's moving his hands quickly to make the words. 'What are they talking about?' she wonders. She takes another bite from her shiny, red apple and watches May and Tom as they play table tennis. 'Tom's right,' she thinks. 'Table tennis is May's best thing.' She smiles. 'Every one of my pupils has got a best thing,' she thinks.



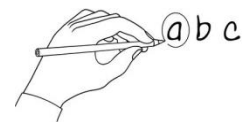


1. Fill it in!

Complete the sentences.

table tennis	swimming	languages	painting
teaching	singing	chess	horse riding

- a. Tom's good at swimming.
- b. May's good at _____.
- c. Fatima's good at _____.
- d. Charlie's good at _____.
- e. Ollie's good at _____.
- f. Dora's good at _____.
- g. Huang's good at _____.
- h. Mrs Potter's good at _____.



2. True or false?

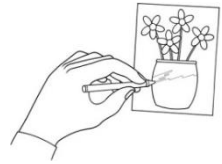
Circle true or false for these sentences.

- a. At the beginning of the story Tom's daydreaming in class. true false
- b. Mrs Potter's happy with Tom. true false
- c. Tom doesn't want to miss play time because he has plans. true false
- d. All the children are good at something. true false
- e. Tom's friend is called Goldie. true false
- f. Tom doesn't like his teacher. true false
- g. Tom gives his teacher an apple. true false
- h. Tom doesn't go outside at play time. true false



Write and draw!

What's your best thing? What are you good at? Draw a picture and write about it!



A large rectangular area for drawing and writing, containing several horizontal dotted lines for text.