The Badger's Rolling Word

One little word can do more than one job.

A short story to enjoy together



Read slowly. Pause to enjoy the pictures and the words.

The Badger's Rolling Word

READ TOGETHER

Badger offered to draw a sign for the bakery. "Could you draw a roll?" the baker asked. Badger nodded and opened his notebook. He drew himself rolling down a gentle grassy slope.

The baker smiled. "That is one meaning of roll. I meant a bread roll." Badger looked through the shop window at the round bread. It was sitting perfectly still.

"Same word, different job," he said. The baker showed him a roll of paper for wrapping parcels. Now the word had another useful meaning, and none of the paper was rolling away either.

Badger divided his notebook page into three spaces. He drew the movement, the bread and the paper. Under each picture, Mum helped him write the little word roll.

The Badger's Rolling Word

READ TOGETHER

For the bakery sign, he chose the bread picture. He made its crust round and drew a little split across the top. Customers would understand that version most easily beside a bakery door.

The baker displayed the finished sign. Badger put his pencils back in their clean jar and admired his work. One word had sent his drawing in three different directions.

Before leaving, he chose a bread roll for lunch. "This one is going into my bag," he told Mum, "not down a hill." He carried the bag carefully, just in case the word had other plans.

LET'S TALK

What helped Badger understand which meaning of roll the baker intended?

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