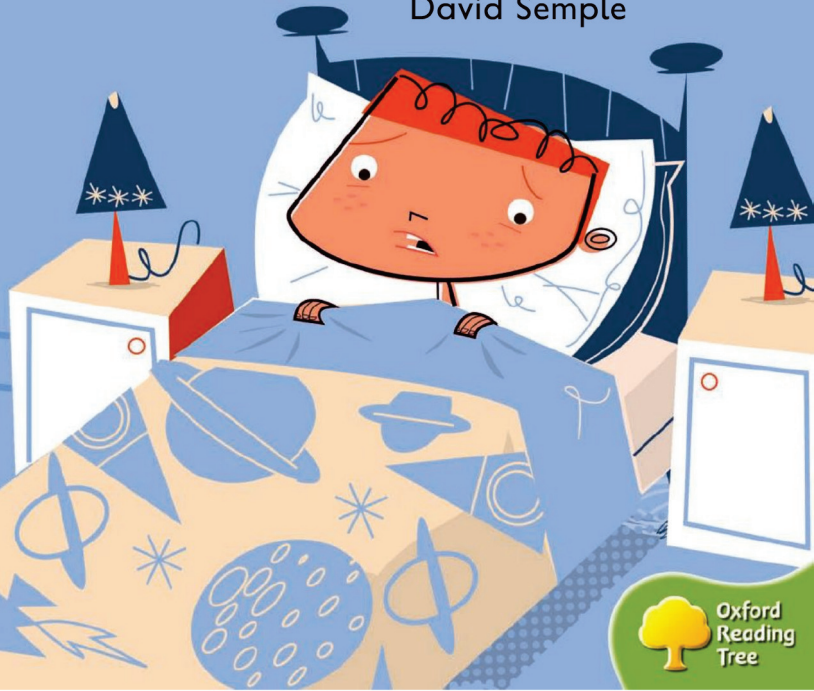


Snapdragons

# Rory's Lost His Voice

Malachy Doyle  
David Semple



Oxford  
Reading  
Tree



### **What is the story about?**

Rory is a chatterbox, but one day he loses his voice. He was looking forward to watching the Big Match with his friends, Mohammed and Angus, and worries he won't get his voice back in time. The doctor visits and Rory then falls into a deep sleep. When his friends come to watch the match on Rory's television, their shouts at the game don't wake him. Then suddenly he wakes with a shout 'GOALLLL!'. His voice is back just in time, and he starts to be a chatterbox again.

### **Talk together**

Look at the cover and read the title together. Talk about the cover illustration, and ask your child what is happening. Look together through the book at the illustrations. Find the characters in the illustrations and their names in the text.

### **Read the story**

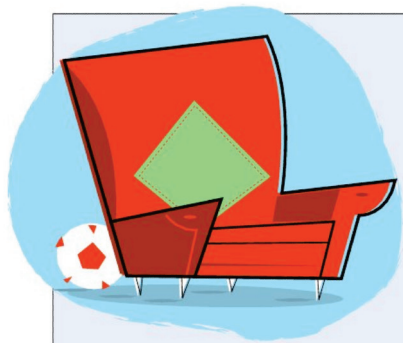
- Encourage your child to read the story aloud to you, and join in with the enjoyment of the story. Remember to give lots of praise.
- If your child misreads words, ask him/her to reread the sentence and check it makes sense, but don't let your child struggle for long or the sense of the story may be lost.
- Occasionally ask your child to show you the punctuation that tells us someone is speaking, by putting a finger on the speech marks at the beginning and end of spoken words and reading between them.
- On pages 6 and 7, if your child struggles to read 'television' and 'computer', encourage him/her to break the words into smaller chunks, then read the whole word again.
- At the end of the story, ask your child if he/she thinks everyone is pleased Rory has his voice back.

# Rory's Lost His Voice



Story by Malachy Doyle  
Pictures by David Semple

OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS



Rory never  
stopped talking.

“Where’s my  
football?

Hello, cat.

When’s Granny  
coming to stay?

Guess what I did at school...”

From morning to evening he talked and  
he talked.

But one night Rory woke up with a sore  
throat. It hurt when he breathed, it hurt  
when he swallowed and it hurt even more  
when he tried to call for his mum.





In the morning, Rory stayed in bed.

"You're very quiet, Rory," said his mum.

"What's wrong?"

"Oh, Mum," he tried to say. "I've got a sore throat and a sore head and I didn't sleep much."



But all that came out was a croak.

“Oh dear,” said his mum. “You must have lost your voice. Stay in bed, love, and if you’re not better by lunchtime, I’ll call the doctor.”



Rory tried to sleep, but in came his friend Mohammed.

“Hello, Rory,” he said. “Your mum says you’ve lost your voice.”

Rory nodded, sadly. “What shall I do?” he tried to say. “I’ll need it for the Big Match.”



“Don’t worry,” said Mohammed, joking.  
“It must be round here somewhere.”

He looked under the bed and in the wardrobe, behind the television and under the computer. But there was no voice. Not anywhere.





A little while later, in came his other friend, Angus.

“Mohammed tells me you’ve lost your voice,” said Angus. “You’ll need it for the Final!”

“I know,” said Rory. But nothing came out.

Angus went up, right next to him. “Say that again, Rory.”

“I know...” said Rory. But still nothing came out.







"I can hear something," said Angus. "But it's far too quiet. I'll see if I can turn the sound up."

So Rory tried to talk, while Angus twiddled the knob on the end of the bed.

Then Rory tried to talk again, while Angus twiddled the light switch on the wall.







Then Rory tried a third time, while Angus twiddled his friend's ear.

"Owww!" yelled Rory. Except he didn't. Because he couldn't.

Rory was drifting off to sleep when Mags, the window cleaner, tapped on the glass.

"Hello, Rory!" she yelled.

"What are you doing in bed?"

"I've lost my voice," said Rory.

"I can't hear you!" cried Mags. "I'll have to open the window."



"I can't speak," said Rory, "and..."

"It's too noisy out here!" cried Mags. "I'll come inside."

"I've lost my voice," said Rory, "and..."

"Oh, you poor boy," said Mags, understanding at last. "You've lost your voice! I'll go down and tell your mum."



A bit later, in came Rory's mum, with Doctor Thapa.

"Hello, Rory," said the doctor. "Let's have a look then."

She peered into his ears and down his throat.

"Bed rest and medicine, that'll do the trick!" She pulled out a bottle and gave him three spoonfuls.



“What about my voice?” Rory tried to say.  
“And what about the Big Match?”  
But he was fast asleep already.



Mohammed and Angus came to the front door.

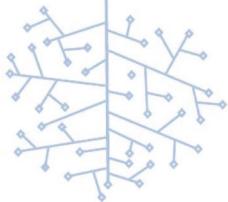
"We've come to watch the Final with Rory," they said.

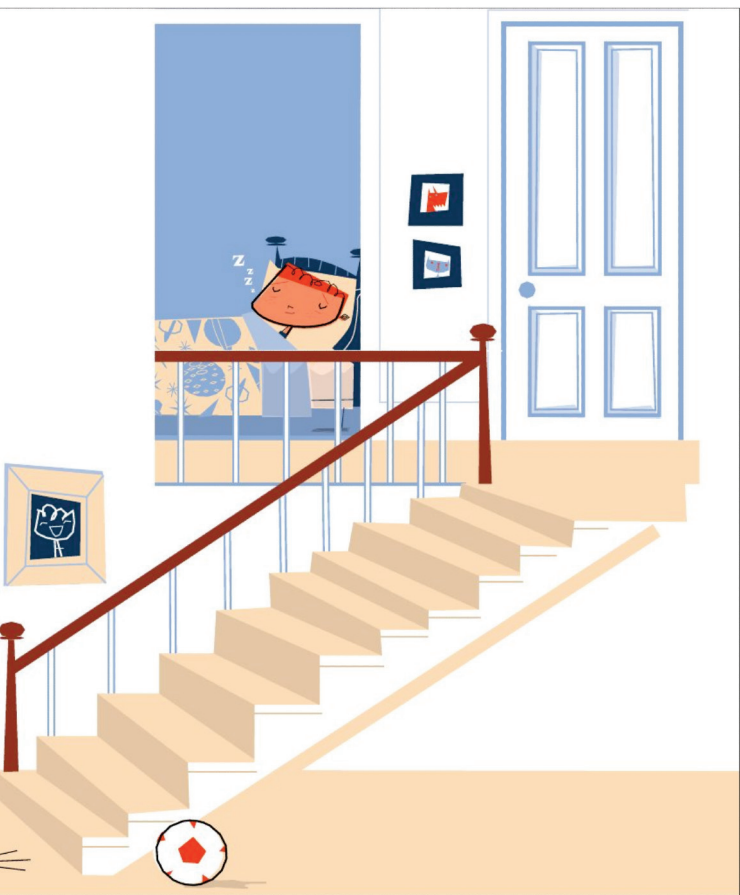
"I'm afraid he's asleep, boys," said Rory's mum. "I think you'd better watch it somewhere else."

"Please," said Mohammed.

"He's the only one with a television in his room. We'll be as quiet as we can."

"Oh, all right, then," said Rory's mum. "But don't wake him!"





So they sat on the bed, beside the sleeping Rory.

**"Come on, United!"** yelled Mohammed.

**"Come on, the lads!"** roared Angus.





But Rory didn't hear a word. He was still asleep. It was very strong medicine.

At last United scored.

**"GOALLLL!"** roared Mohammed and Angus, at the top of their voices.





Rory shot up in bed.  
“GOAL-L-L-L!” he  
roared.

Mum came  
running into  
the room.

“Was that you,  
Rory?” she asked.

“Have you got your  
voice back?”

Rory looked at everyone in surprise.  
Then he gulped, and found his throat  
didn't hurt any more.

“I'm not sure, Mum,” he whispered.  
“I'll try it out.”





"United," his mouth said, quietly.  
Then "**UNITED!**" he yelled, at the top of his voice.

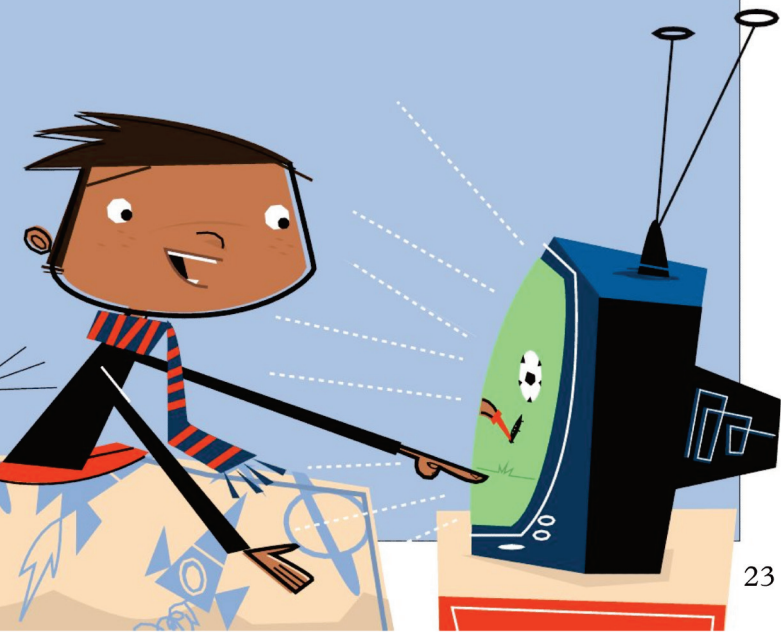
"It's back, Mum!" cried Rory. "My voice is back! I can breathe and I can swallow and my throat doesn't hurt and...!"



“Shhhhhh, Rory!” said Mohammed, turning up the television. “Why do you always talk so much?”

“Maybe you should rest it for a bit longer, Rory,” said his mum. “Just until the match is over, anyway.”

But then United scored again!





**“GOAL-L-L-L!”**

## **Play a game**

### **Finding words**

This game will help your child's spelling, and to understand which letters commonly go together.

- Make a set of letter cards, using all the letters in Rory, Angus and Mohammed.
- Using one set from each name at a time, muddle up the letters and see if you can make a new word, e.g. Angus – sang, sag, an, sun.
- Try mixing all the letters up, and see how many words can be made from them.

### **Other ideas**

- Read the dialogue together on pages 12 and 13, using different contrasting voices for Rory and Mags.
- Encourage your child to reread the story aloud to a friend or toy.

Story by Malachy Doyle  
Pictures by David Semple

## Rory's Lost His Voice

Rory's friends try to help him find his lost voice.



This story practises these words:

bed came have his not that then when what  
your

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