



Tilly and the toy shop

There were only **6** more sleeps until Tilly's birthday.

Outside, the rain hammered against the windows like a

1000 thousand drummers but the lights inside the toy store smiled

down kindly. It was filled to the ceiling with box upon box

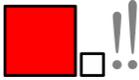
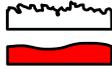
of tempting, shiny toys. There were train tracks that would

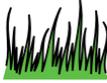
cover her kitchen table, dolls that could walk and talk and

beeping and flashing electronics. Everything was beckoning to her.

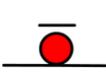
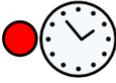
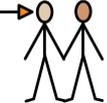
Suddenly, she saw it! The best toy of all. Bathed in

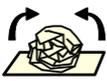
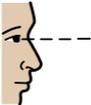
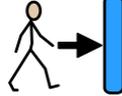
a halo of  golden  shop  lights  at the end of the  aisle, was a

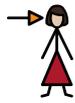
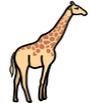
 gigantic  giraffe. It  had  smooth  fur with  eyes as  green

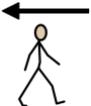
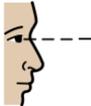
as  freshly  cut  grass. Tilly's  heart  thudded like a  drum.

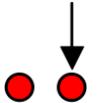
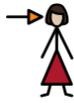
She  loved  giraffes. Then she  saw  the  price. It was  much

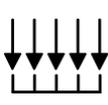
 too expensive.  Still,  before  they  left  the shop,  she

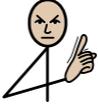
 screwed up  her  eyes,  looked  towards  the sky and  wished as

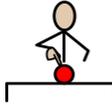
 hard  as she  could  for the giraffe.

 Mum and Tilly  walked  around  the whole  town,  looking for

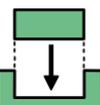
 another  gift  but nothing  was as good  as the giraffe.  She

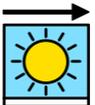
  and  all  the  home. Tilly  knew

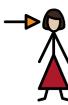
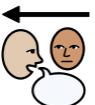
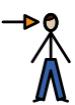
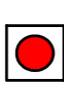
 she  had to  have the  giraffe. What  could she  do? For  hours,

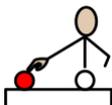
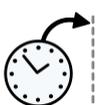
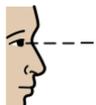
 her  thoughts  a swirling  storm  she  thought about  what to

 do. Then it  came to  her! She  would  have to  steal it. She

 was  sure it  would  fit  in  her  camping  rucksack.

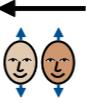
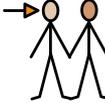
The  next day,  when  Mum  was at work, Tilly  begged her

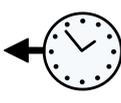
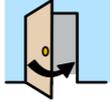
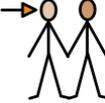
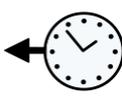
 brother  to  take  her  to the  toy shop. She  told  him  in  her

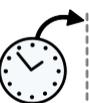
 sugary-  sweet  voice  that  she  just  wanted to  look  around

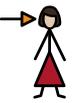
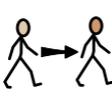
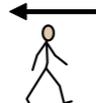
 again  to  choose  a  present  but  really  she  was  going to  put

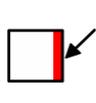
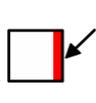
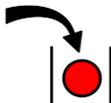
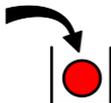
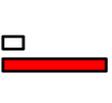
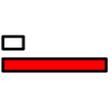
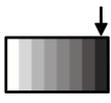
       
the toy in her rucksack when he wasn't looking. Eventually

       
he agreed however, when they got to the shop, the

      
shutters were closed. They were too late!

        
Just as her disappointment began to pull her like quicksand,

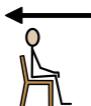
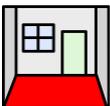
        
she heard someone crying. Following the sound, she walked

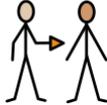
         
around the side of the building and into a long, dark

         
alleyway. Walking along, she found a girl, sat on the ground.

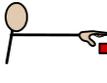
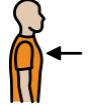
    
"Are you ok?" asked Tilly, crouching down.

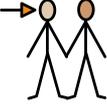
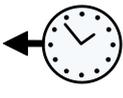
 "No,  I  fell and  now  I  can't  stand up,"  wailed the  girl,

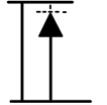
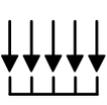
 sat on the  wet  floor.

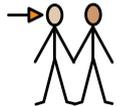
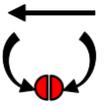
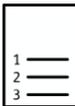
 "Come  on,  let  me  help  you!"  said Tilly,  holding  out a

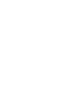
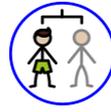
 hand.

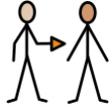
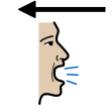
 It took  a long time for them to  reach the  front of the  building.

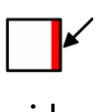
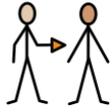
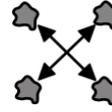
 They  chatted the  whole  way and  realised they  were

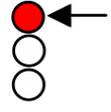
 almost the  same  age and  liked  all the  same  things. The

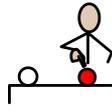
 girl's  name  was  Molly and  they  made  plans to  play  together

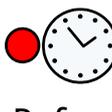
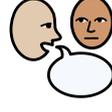
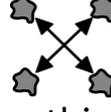
 woman  was  stood  with  her  brother.

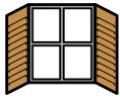
 "Molly!  You  found  her!"  shouted  the  woman,  running  to  Molly's

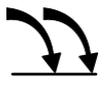
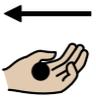
 side,  "You  must  have a  reward!  Name  it,  anything!"

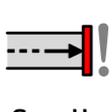
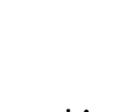
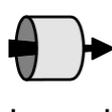
 Tilly  stared  at the  woman's  top.  She  was  wearing  the  toy shop's

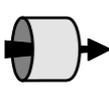
 logo.  Tilly  realised  this  woman  was the  owner  of the  shop.

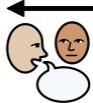
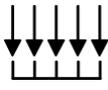
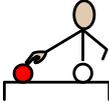
 Before  she  could  say  anything,  the  woman  had  unlocked

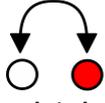
 the shutter  and was  leading  her  inside.

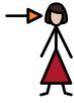
 Soon,  Tilly was  home  again.  It was dinner time  and the sun  had

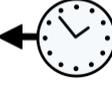
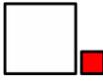
 finally  decided  to  come out  peeking  through  the  clouds  like  a

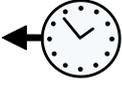
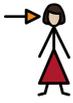
  She   through  the  front door and

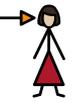
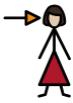
 quickly  told her   mum everything  that  had  happened. Tilly

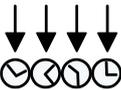
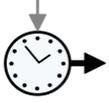
 hugged the  huge,  beautiful  giraffe  which was as  soft as

 silk.  Excited, she   jumped onto  her bed. Her  mum

 had been so  proud to  hear  how she  had  helped the  little

 girl. She   had  smiled and  praised her  for being so  kind. Tilly

was  glad she   hadn't  stolen the  giraffe. She  would  remember to

 always  be honest and  kind  from now on.