



**The History  
of Hats**



**Come on,  
Tiger Tom**

# Reading Booklet

2024 key stage 1 English reading booklet





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# The History of Hats



There are lots of different types of hats. In the past, it was normal for everyone to wear a hat every day in England. People used to wear hats as a sign of good manners. There were rules about when people wore hats and when they should take them off.

## Hat or hair?

Hats and hair decorations have changed over time. Over two thousand years ago, women in Rome sprinkled gold dust and jewels over their hair. In Ethiopia, some groups of people have always used materials like beads, shells and leaves as hair decorations.

Old statues can show us what people looked like in the past. For a long time, people thought that statues from Greece showed women wearing their hair in special plaits. However, experts now think that the women were probably wearing hats, not hairstyles.



## Bonnets

Bonnets have been worn by men and women in England for over 400 years. There have been many different types of bonnet.

In the past, the most common type of bonnet had a large brim that surrounded the face. This brim protected the face and head from the sun. Bonnets were decorated with ribbons, flowers or special pins and in winter they might have been made of fur.



## Tricorne hats

This kind of hat had a brim that was folded to make a triangle shape. It was named a tricorne hat because of its three corners. It was first worn by sailors to help protect their faces from rain and seawater. The tricorne then became a fashionable hat for other people to wear around 300 years ago.



## Bobble hats

For many years, bobble hats have been worn by sailors. Some people think that the bobble on top was put there to stop sailors from banging their heads when they worked in small spaces.

Nowadays, it is fashionable to wear bobble hats when it is cold. Some hats have several bobbles (sometimes called pom-poms) on them. Many sports fans wear them in their team's colours as a way of showing support.

The word bobble comes from the way the strands 'bob' (or move) around on top of the hat.



## Hat rules in England

In the past, it was polite for men to take their hats off when they visited someone else's house. Some people think this first started because knights would take off their helmets when they went inside to show that they did not want to fight.

When walking outside, people would often 'tip' (or lift) their hats as a way of greeting each other. In some schools, pupils had to 'tip' their hat whenever they walked past teachers to be polite and show respect.





## Come on, Tiger Tom

One long, hot summer's day, Tiger Tom and his mum went out for a walk.

They walked a little while and came to an old tree. "Up you come," said Mum. "And remember, one paw at a time – and don't look down!" Tom tried. For a while. And then he looked down.

Bump! He landed on the ground with a soft thud.

"Come on, Tiger Tom," said Mum after checking her little cub was all right. "That's enough of that for today."



At last they reached the shadowy cool of the forest's edge, where golden leaves lay heaped in little piles. "This will be fun," said Mum. "We can practise your pouncing. Now watch. Crouch down low, like this, and keep as still as a statue. Then – POW! Out you come!"

Tom tried. He pounced at a red beetle. And then he pounced at a beautiful, bright blue butterfly! The butterfly flittered and fluttered through the dappled light of the forest. Tom followed until the butterfly fluttered behind a tree. Tom peeped round it and then he

looked up, down and behind it too. But the butterfly had gone. And Tom soon realised that he had walked deep into the forest.



It was dark and chilly. He shivered. He turned around and around but no matter where he looked, he couldn't see Mum. He was lost!



Just then, he noticed a lizard scuttling speedily up a tree. “Aha,” he thought. “If I climb up there, I’ll be able to see Mum!” So carefully, he slowly climbed the tree. And he didn’t look down. Tom curled himself tightly around a high branch and inched his way out until he could see across the forest.

He couldn’t see Mum. But he could see the river. Tom scrambled back down the tree trunk. If he could just get back to the river he’d find his mum for sure.



He trotted back through the trees, trying not to look at the pretty fireflies, or at the lime-green frogs hopping amongst the leaves. This time, he kept straight on.

But by the time he reached the river, the sky had turned dark and the moon shone on the water. But Tom still couldn’t see Mum. And then he heard a noise. Tom was scared. Then he remembered what Mum had said. “*Crouch down low and keep as still as a statue.*” So Tom tucked himself into a ball and got ready to pounce. The noise grew louder and footsteps crunched closer and closer towards him. And then...



“Tom – is that you?” called a familiar voice. And out pounced Tom – POW! A roly-poly bundle of pure happiness, into a great big hug with Mum. Phew!

The next morning, Tom woke early. “Come on, Mum,” he said. “Time for fishing practice! And this time I am going to do it just like you told me!” Tom and Mum set out for the river. And Tom watched and listened...

...most of the time.



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