

### Phonics Investigations

In the story there are words that have sounds made with a vowel and 'r': /ar/, /er/ and /or/

Sound spotting: share the story and see if you can listen for these sounds. Look at the following words/names that come from the story:

**Hercules Morse, horse, covered, Bitzer Maloney, park, Scarface Claw, scatter, clatter**  
Can you underline the /ar/ /er/ and /or/ sounds that are spelled in the same way? e.g. Hercules Morse

### Wider Curriculum Links

**Listening and attention:** read the story out loud. Can you listen carefully? What do you think will happen next?

**Understanding the world:** compare the dogs from the story with each other. Which is the biggest? The smallest? Which one is spotty?

**Being imaginative:** role-play the story and make a new story with different characters. Will you change the ending?

### Discussion Questions

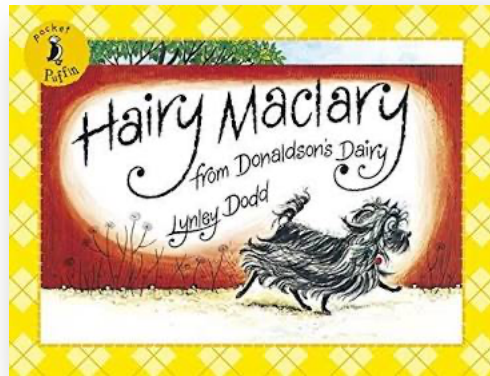
Which dog do you like best? Why?

Which dog is described as being *like a bundle of hay*? Why has he been described like this?

What do these doggy friends like to do together?

What do you think of Scarface Claw? Would you like him as a pet?

Lots of lines in this story – which is a bit like a poem – are repeated. What pattern do you hear?



### Key Vocabulary

How many of these words do you know? Can you find the meanings of new words?

bundle  
hay  
skinny  
trotted  
snooped  
yowl  
clatter

NB Dairy (in this context) is what people in New Zealand call a local shop that stocks newspapers, milk, sweets and so on.

### Writing Opportunities

- Now that you've set your animal shelter up, can you make some labels for each pet in their bed and some other signs for the shelter?
- Can you re-tell the whole story from beginning to end? Maybe you could use cuddly toys to help, adding each one at a time as the group gets bigger!
- Once you've played your match-game make up 2/3 more dog characters and write a description that rhymes with their name e.g. Hamish Deveer with the soft jaunty ears.
- Can you make a poster to warn dogs about Scarface Claw? Remember to draw a picture of Scarface so that the other pets know who to look out for!
- We think that Scarface Claw is mean because he is lonely and would like a friend. Can you write a letter to him giving him some ideas on how to be kinder? Use ideas from the role play.
- Now it's time to write or make your own version of the story. What animal will your main character be? What will the names of the other animals be that they meet? What will the friends do together? What pet will be the scary one that frightens all the others home to bed?

### Further reading

*Billy and the Beast* by Nadia Shireen

*A Dog with Nice Ears* by Lauren Child

*Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak

*Bringing the Rain to Kapiti Plain* by Verna Aardema (a cumulative rhyme tale like *Hairy Maclary*)

Other books from the *Hairy Maclary* series also by Lynley Dodd

Want to find out more? Why not download the full Planning Sequence on our website?



# Home Learning Branches

## *Hairy Maclary* by Lynley Dodd

1 Gather some cuddly toys (if you've any cuddly cats or dogs then include these) and some boxes/baskets/blankets/play pay food or any other objects/clean junk that could be repurposed. Find some bowls of different sizes that could be used as pretend pet food bowls. Can you choose a bed for each pet? Make sure the bed is the right size! Match bowls to pets by size too.

Make some signs for your pet shelter and labels for each pet bed and pet bowl:

Pet Shelter  
Fluffy's bed  
Colin's bowl

You could even make pet collars! Leave the pet shelter set up or where it can be accessed tomorrow.

2 Settle the pets down in their beds for a nap and read them the story of *Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy*.

Why do you think the title of the story is *Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy*?

Do you know any other stories that have lots of repetition?

There are 6 dogs in the story. Choose 6 cuddly-toy pets from your animal shelter to re-tell the story of *Hairy Maclary from Donaldson's Dairy*. Have one pet being Hairy Maclary and then add the others in as you retell.

What do you notice about the pattern? One more dog is added each time until they meet Scarface Claw.

3 **Where's the doggy?**  
Describe one of the dogs using its description from the story e.g. *The dog I'm thinking of is covered in spots.*

Can you find the dog being described? Find the page and say the dog's name – *Bottomley Potts* and then the whole rhyme: *Bottomley Potts covered in spots.*

Make a match-game using pieces of card or post-it notes so that you have each animal name on one card and the description on the other. Read together to make a match! You could even draw each dog on a third set of cards so three cards have to be matched together. Can you turn cards face down and find the pairs or threes from memory?

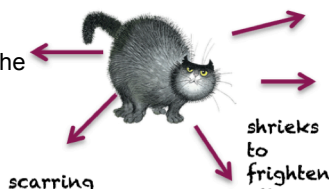
Bottomley Potts

covered in spots

4 **Splat the cat!**  
Scarface really scares the dogs! Here are some words that describe how he makes the dogs feel:

yowl, howl, scatter, clatter

Talk about how you could describe Scarface and splat some words and phrases around his picture.



### Warning sentences

How could you warn the other pets that there is a mean and scary cat called Scarface Claw?

Listen out for a howl!  
Look in the bushes.  
Watch out for a clatter of claws.

5 Look in the story at the bit where Scarface Claw appears. Although he is scary, why might this be? Talk about Hairy Maclary and his friends. Maybe Scarface feels lonely and left out. Talk about how we can include others but also that if we want to have a friend then we must be friendly and kind – scaring others won't do!

How could we help Scarface to be kinder and less scary so that he can find some friends?

### Role play

Pretend one of your cuddly toys is Scarface Claw. Tell him how to be kind and explain how to behave if you want to have friends:

Don't scare other pets.

Ask if you can play.

6 Choose three cuddly pets from the animal shelter set up on day one. Make your own version of the story e.g. *Fluffy MacHornor from the House on the Corner Out of the gate and off for a walk went Fluffy MacHornor from the house on the corner and Hamish De-veer with the soft, jaunty ears and...*

Now make a new scary animal character e.g. *Riptail Paw* This could be a cat or any other animal!

Think about the noises Riptail Paw makes. Where could he be hiding before he scares the animals?

You could decide to change the ending so that Riptail Paw has actually learned to make friends just in the way you shared with Scarface Claw the other day.

