

In a Minute

Mum was busy baking.

“It looks like rain,” she said. “Please can you bring in the washing, Rory?”

“In a minute, Mum...” Rory said. He was busy eating a snack.

Fifteen minutes later, it started raining. The clothes on the line were soaked.

“Oh, Rory!” said Mum.

Dad was working in the garage.

“Please can you go and get my newspaper, Rory?”

“In a minute...” Rory said.

He was busy playing.

Half an hour later, Rory went to the shop – but it had closed!

“Oh, Rory,” grumbled Dad.



On the way to school, Rory stopped to look in a toy shop window.

“Come on,” said his friend, Terry. “We’ll be late!”

“In a minute...” Rory said. He was busy looking at the toys.

The teacher told them off for being late.

“It’s your fault, Rory,” mumbled Terry.



Everybody was fed up with Rory.

“He never does things on time,” said Dad.

“And he’s always late,” said Mum.

“He’s impossible!” agreed Terry.

They decided something had to be done...

Rory was hungry after playing football all afternoon.

“Can you make me a sandwich, Dad?” he asked.

“In a minute...” Dad said. He carried on watching TV.

Rory wanted to go for a bike ride with his friends, but his bike had a flat tyre.

“Can you fix it, Mum?” asked Rory.

“In a minute...” Mum said. She carried on reading her newspaper. Rory sulked when his friends left without him.

“Everyone keeps making me wait!” Rory cried.

“Now you know how it feels,” said Mum.



Mum thought it would help to buy Rory a watch. Rory watched as the second hand ticked its way around.

“A minute’s not long at all!” said Rory. “I’m sorry, I didn’t realise I was taking so long.”

“Will you show me your new watch?” asked Terry.

“In a min—” began Rory, but then he stopped.

“Oh, okay,” he grinned.