

# Matilda's Morning Adventures

A story with active travel and road safety messages for children

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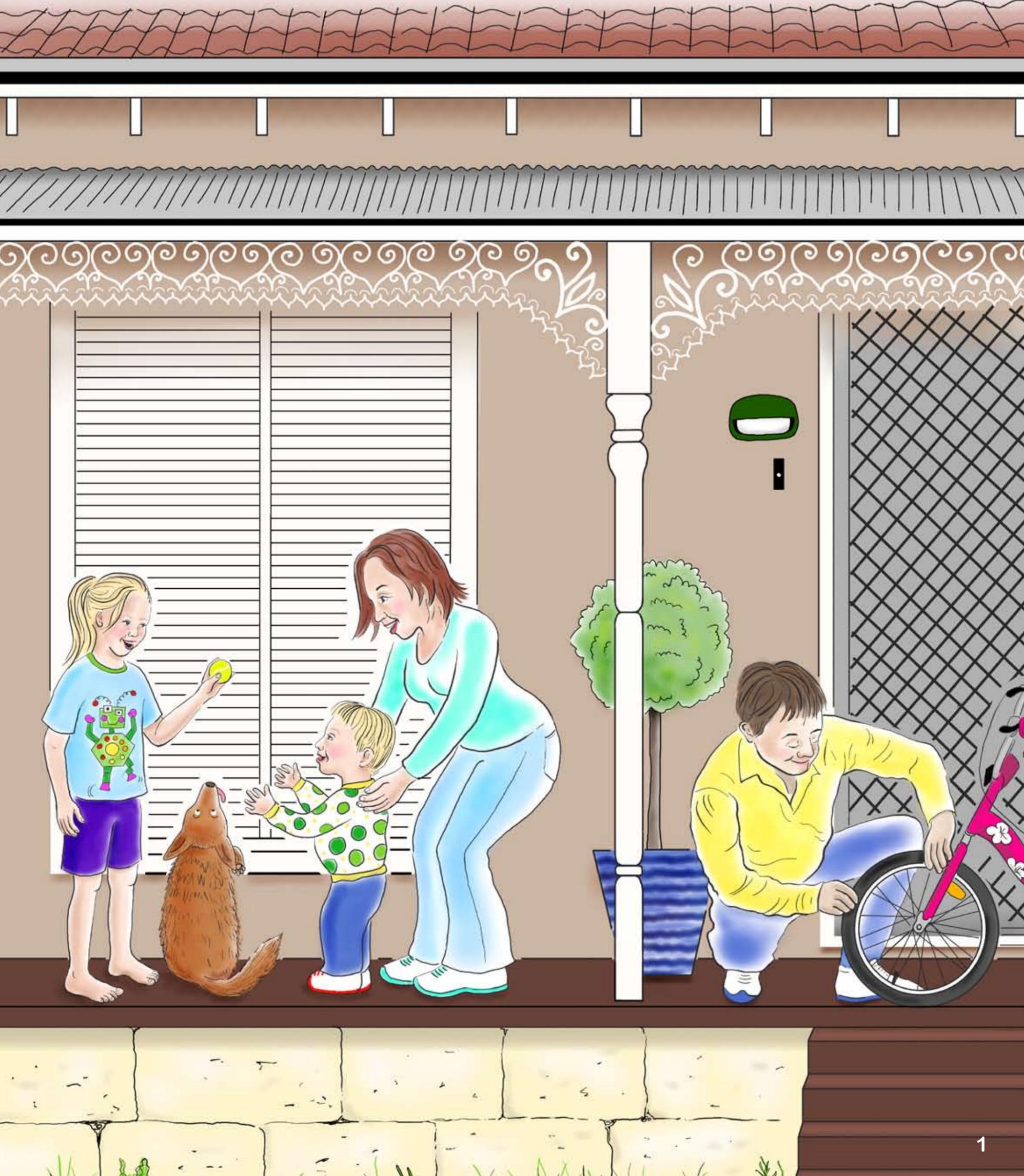
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One Sunday not so very long ago, Matilda's mother said,  
'We're not going to use the car to get to school next week. We're going to have an adventure every morning instead.'  
'What sort of adventure?' asked Matilda.  
'You'll have to wait and see,' smiled Mum.  
'Sounds exciting, I can hardly wait,' said Matilda.



On Monday morning, Matilda walked to school with her mother, her brother Jack and her dog Jedda.

On the way to school, Matilda held onto Jack's pram as they walked along the footpath. Matilda and Jack counted all the dogs they saw on the way to school.

Matilda's mother showed her a safer way to get to school.

'There's not much traffic and only two roads to cross,' she explained. 'It's much safer this way.'



‘Tell me what we do before we cross the road Matilda?’ asked her mother as they reached the edge of the kerb.

‘Well, we STOP away from the kerb. We LOOK for traffic. We LISTEN for traffic and we THINK – Is it safe to cross?’ said Matilda.

‘Well done! Let’s STOP here, LOOK and LISTEN for traffic and THINK – Is it safe to cross? I think it is, don’t you? Let’s walk straight across the road,’ said Matilda’s mother.



‘Seven dogs in one walk,’ said Matilda as she arrived at school. ‘That was fun.’  
‘Goodbye Jack, goodbye Mum, goodbye Jedda.’



On Tuesday morning Matilda rode to school with her mother and her brother Jack. On the way to school, Matilda rang the bell on her bike to warn Mr Kendall from next door that she was passing him on the shared path.

‘Good morning Matilda, lovely day for a ride!’ shouted Mr Kendall as she rode by.



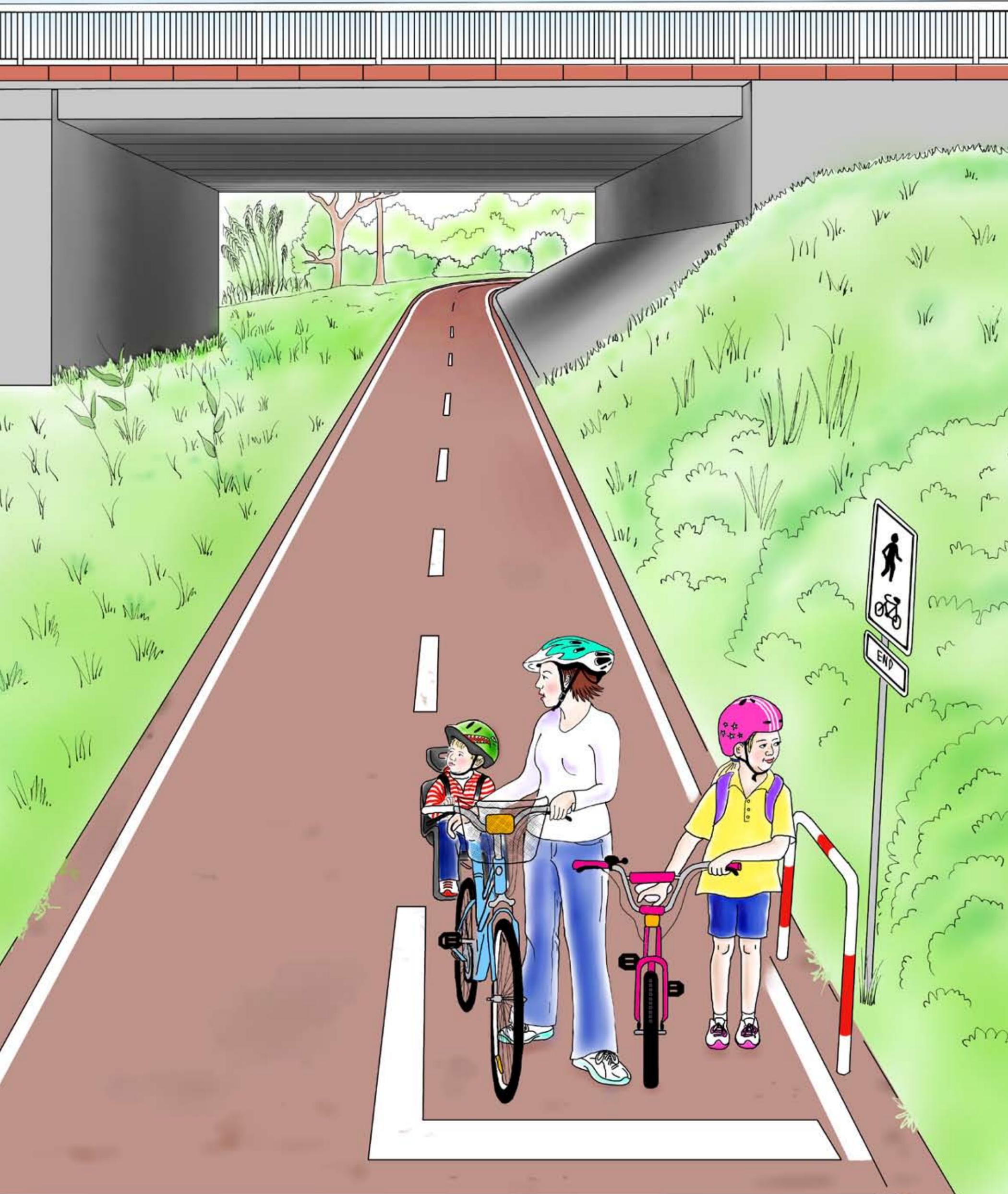
‘Tell me what we do when we get to the end of the shared path Matilda?’ asked her mother as they reached the edge of the kerb.

‘Well, we get off our bikes and walk them across the road,’ said Matilda.



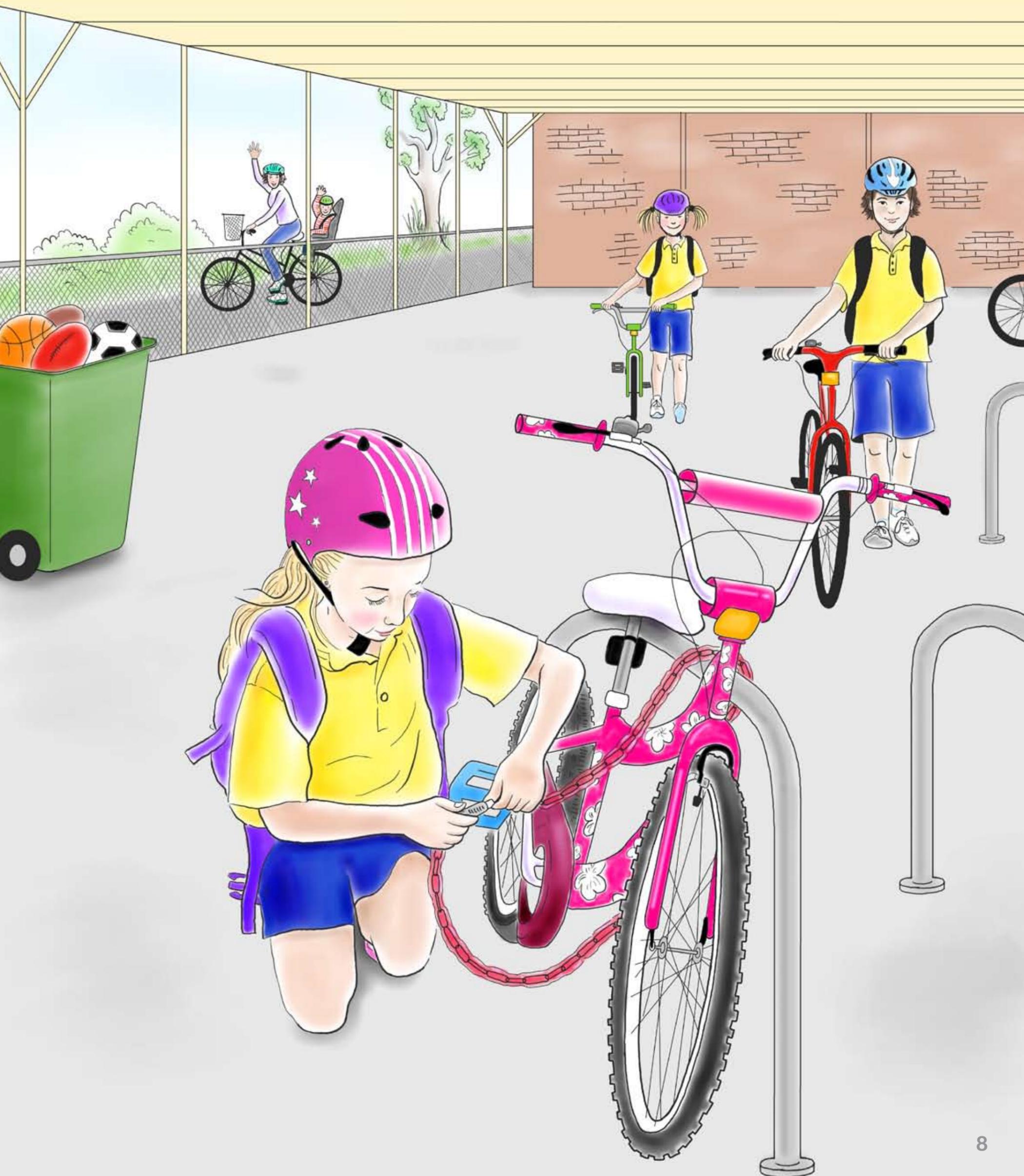
'Well done! Let's STOP here, LOOK and LISTEN for traffic and THINK - Is it safe to cross?'

'I think it is, don't you? Let's walk our bikes straight across the road,' said Matilda's mother.



‘Wow that was quicker than driving in the car,’ said Matilda as they arrived at school. ‘That was fun.’

‘Goodbye Jack, goodbye Mum.’



On Wednesday morning Matilda walked to school with the Walking School Bus™. On the way to school, Matilda walked with Jess, a new girl who had just come to their school. She had a brother called Jack as well and she also had a new puppy called Butch.



‘Tell me why we have to walk between the mothers in the yellow vests?’ asked Jess.

‘Well, they keep us safer on the road and can see the traffic better than us,’ explained Matilda.

‘Do you want to come over to my house after school and play with Butch?’ asked Jess.

‘That would be great! I’ll ask my mum,’ laughed Matilda.



Wow I've made a new friend, thought Matilda as she arrived at school.

'That was fun.'

'Goodbye Jess, see you at recess.'



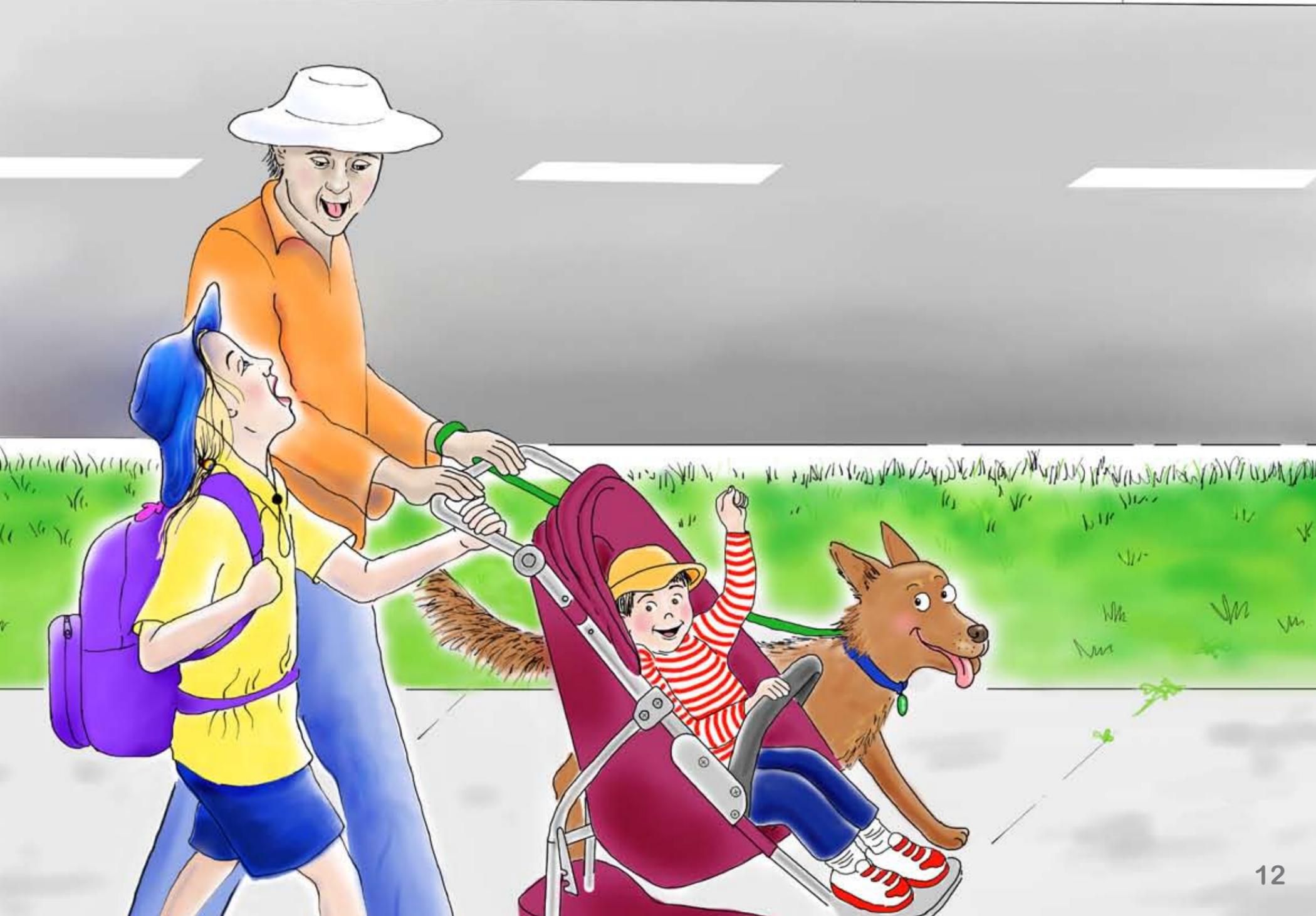
On Thursday morning Matilda walked to school with her father, her brother Jack and her dog Jedda.

On the way to school, Matilda held onto Jack's pram as they walked along a different footpath to Monday's walk.

'Mum's way is usually the safer way,' explained her father 'but today there are some workmen working on that footpath so we are going a new way today.'

Her father taught her a song that he used to sing when he went on long car trips with Gran and Pop.

'The wheels of the car go br-oom br-oom br-oom, all the way to Perth,' they all sang until they came to the driveway to the teachers' car park.



‘Tell me what we do when we are around car parks Matilda?’ asked her father as they reached the edge of the driveway.

‘Well, I hold onto your hand or Jack’s pram and we **STOP** on the edge of the driveway. We **LOOK** and **LISTEN** for traffic and **THINK** - Is it safe to cross the driveway?’

‘Well done!’ said Matilda’s father.



‘Wow! I love that new song,’ said Matilda as she arrived at school. ‘That was fun.’  
‘Goodbye Dad, goodbye Jack, goodbye Jedda.’



On Friday morning Matilda caught a bus to school with her grandmother.

On the way to school, she tagged her SmartRider on the machine. She sat next to the window and looked down on all the cars.

She looked at all the people on the bus. She could see some people were talking. Some people were reading. Some people were listening to music.

She pushed the button to ring the bell when it was time to get off the bus.



**‘Tell me what we do when we get off the bus Matilda?’ asked her grandmother as they stepped off the back step of the bus.**

**‘Well we wait on the kerb behind the bus until the bus has moved away,’ said Matilda. ‘Then we check to see if it is safe to cross the road.’**

**‘Well done!’ beamed Matilda’s grandmother.**



'Wow I liked seeing things from high up on the bus Gran,' said Matilda as she arrived at school. 'That was fun.'

'Goodbye Gran.'



On Saturday Matilda's mother asked, 'How did you like your morning adventures to school this week Matilda?'

'They were fun,' said Matilda. 'I think we can stop using the car so much and walk and ride home from school next week as well. How will I get home from school on Monday Mum?' she asked.

'You'll- come-a-walking, you'll-come-a-walking, you'll-come-a-walking-Matilda-with-me,' sang her mother.

'Yes, walking is fun!' shouted Matilda.



## Discussion questions

This picture book complements the Early Childhood learning experiences outlined in the **Choose Active Transport Teacher's Resource**. Please see this teacher resource for detailed explanations of follow up activities.

To engage students in the reading of this book, ask students to:

- predict what the book may be about by looking at the cover picture
- predict how Matilda may choose to come to school the following day
- find specific items on each page
- describe how Matilda may be feeling each day
- describe the fun thing Matilda does each day on the way to school e.g. saw seven dogs on Monday
- predict how the story may end
- describe safe places to cross the road
- describe unsafe places to cross the road
- explain why Matilda holds onto Jack's pram when she walks to school
- explain why children need to be careful in car parks
- explain why children need to wear a helmet and closed in shoes each time they ride their bikes
- explain why you should walk alongside your bike when the footpath is crowded
- describe what things Matilda and her family do each day on the way to school to keep them safer:
  - Monday: Matilda holds Jack's pram; she walks on the footpath away from the kerb; she practises **STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, THINK** with her mum when they cross the road.
  - Tuesday: Matilda wears a correctly fitted helmet and closed in shoes; she rides with an adult; her bike has been checked by her dad; they ride in single file on a shared path; she rings her bell when she passes Mr Kendall; they walk their bikes across the road.
  - Wednesday: The children walk on the footpath away from the kerb; they walk between the adult helpers on the **Walking School Bus™**.
  - Thursday: Matilda holds Jack's pram; she walks on the footpath away from the kerb; she goes a different way to avoid workmen on the road; she practises **STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, THINK** with her dad when they cross the road.
  - Friday: Matilda sits quietly on the bus; she waits behind the bus until it has moved away and then checks to see if it is safe to cross the road; she holds her grandma's hand.

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