**What to do today**

*IMPORTANT! Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and with any weblinks or use of the Internet required.*

**1. Story time**

Read *The Rag Doll to the Heedless Child* by David Harsent.

* Read the glossed words.
* How is the doll feeling in the poem?
* How can we tell that?

**2. Making inferences**

Think about what the child in the poem could have done to upset the doll.

* Read the suggestions on *What could the child have done?*
* Add any further ideas of your own.

**3. Writing a letter**

You are going to write a letter from the rag doll to the child.

Use the *letter blank* to write your letter.

* Give the child a name.
* Get the doll to say how she is feeling.
* Get the doll to say why she is so sad.
* Get the doll to say why she still really loves the child though!
* Add a drawing at the bottom of the page.

**Now try this Fun-Time Extra**

* The heedless child is very sorry for what they have done. Write an apologetic reply to the doll from the child.

**The Rag Doll to the Heedless**\* **Child**

I love you

with my linen heart.



You cannot

know how these

rigid lumpy arms

shudder in your grasp,

or what

tears dam up against

these blue-eye smudges at

your capriciousness\*\*.

At night I watch you sleep;

you’ll never know

how I thrust my face

into the steam

of your warm breath;

and how

love-words choke me behind

this sewn-up mouth.

*David Harsent*

\* *heedless – careless, uncaring, thoughtless*

\*\* *capriciousness – moodiness, keeping changing your mind.*

**What could the child have done to make the rag doll sad?**

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Maybe they...

* haven’t played with her for ages
* have spilt a drink on her
* haven’t repaired a rip in her clothes
* haven’t tucked up with her at night for a while
* forgot to take her on a sleep-over
* ignored her birthday
* have let a careless friend borrow her for ages
* have stuffed her at the bottom of the toy chest and forgotten her
* have got toothpaste on her
* have left her out in the garden overnight

Can you think of other reasons the rag doll might be sad about the child?

Add any other ideas you have here:

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Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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