

Dad's Helper on the Farm

Question: Where do sheep get their wool cut?

Answer: At the Baa Baa shop!



I left school when I was thirteen and a half, to help my dad on the farm.

It was a big farm of about forty-five thousand acres, with more than five thousand sheep. My dog Butch and I fed them with oats and barley, every day from our old ute. I taught Butch how to steer while I put out the feed.

When we were sheep shearing, I did shed-handing for my dad. My job was to pick up the fleeces and throw them on the table, skirt them and tidy them up. (Thank goodness it was somebody else's job to handle the dirty dags!) Then I had to put them into the woolpack bag and squash them down with the woolpress machine, weigh them, fasten the flaps and load the bale onto the truck.

Dad and I then delivered the load to the nearest railway station weighbridge. After weighing the bags, we put them on the train. This needs heavy lifting work.

On one occasion, dad sent me over to help some guys who were struggling, and when we finished we all went down to the pub. There, they were bragging to one of their mates, "This is the guy that helped us to lift our heavy woolpack bags."

Dad proudly corrected them by saying, "Didn't you know? She is a girl - she is my daughter!" They were so surprised to find I was a girl.

Student's Note: I always look forward to my weekly RWN visits. I do my homework every day and I feel that I am improving. Writing this story has been a real challenge. My friends are just waiting to read the book! ~ *Anonymous*

Tutor's Note: *My student is still working just as hard, to catch up on the schooling she missed. I'm the one who's now bragging that she is doing a terrific job!*



Discussion & Activities

Discuss these questions
with your tutor:

- What surprised you, in this story?
- What do you think about the dog steering the ute?
- The text tells us that the Dad was proud of his daughter - how do you think the daughter feels?

Check the text *if necessary*, to find answers to these questions

- How old was the girl, when she left school to help her dad on the farm?
- What was the *title* given to her job, when the sheep were being sheared?
- From what you read in this text, did 'Anonymous' shear any sheep?
- Which part of the day's work involved the heavy lifting?
- How often did this writer do her RWN homework?

Expand this text with adjectives Can you add your own adjectives (describing words) to this extract, which is the 2nd last paragraph of the text?

On one occasion, dad sent me over to help some
..... guys who were struggling, and when we finished we all went
down to the pub. There, they were bragging to one of
their mates, "This is the guy that helped us to lift our
..... woolpack bags."

Choose one of the discussion questions (above), and recall the discussion you had with your tutor about it. **Now write your response**, in 1 or more full sentences.

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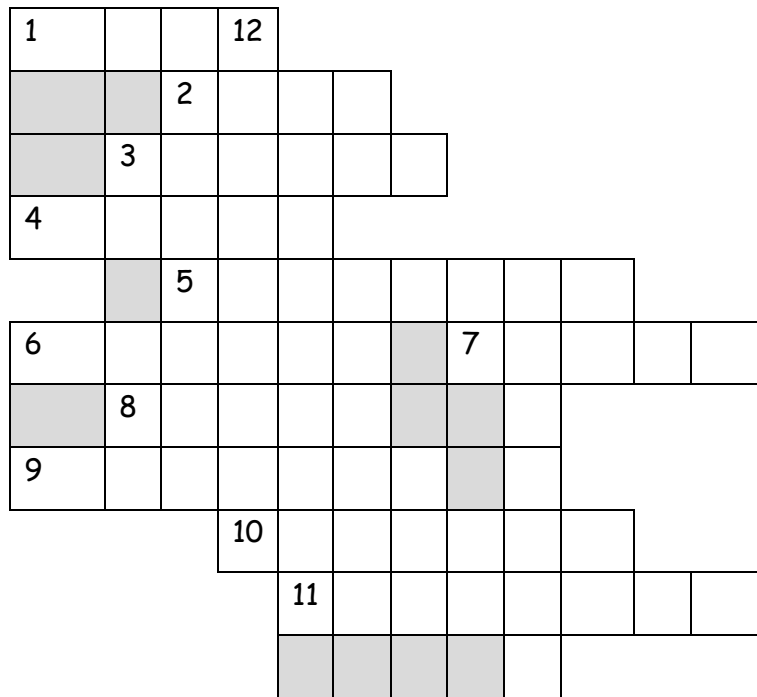
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Crossword using words from the text



Clues

Words Across

1. "..... the bale on to the truck"
2. a grain used in porridge
3. a vegetable/also to push something down
4. a different spelling for the same sound as 'way'
5. the act of removing a sheep's coat
6. to join together or lock
7. weighing a lot
8. control the direction of a car
9. the closest is also the
10. coats of wool, once removed from sheep
11. 3 words that mean 'once'

**There is only one
'real' word going Down**

12. "She is a girl - she
is my!"
(Only 8 letters, not 9)

Expand the text with adverbs

Adverbs add information to **verbs**. Verbs are **action words**. Some examples are underlined below. Can you add **your own** adverbs to 2 of the verbs, in this excerpt (fill in the blanks)?

On one occasion, dad impatiently sent me over to help some guys who were struggling, and when we quickly finished we all went down to the pub. There, they werebragging to one of their mates.



Spelling note This text has 6 instances where 'ing' is added to the end of a verb, to indicate that the action (of the verb) is continuing.

For example, someone might say something (in the present), and that verb becomes saying (when the action continues).

say becomes saying

shear becomes shearing

hand becomes handing

weigh becomes weighing

Notice that brag becomes **bragging!** (with an extra 'g') - while struggle becomes **struggling** (without the 'e').

On page 160 of the *Adults Only! Spelling & Phonics Workbook*, you will find the **Doubling Rule**, which explains that **we double the consonant** (in brag, that's the 'g') **when adding -ing, -er, -ed, -est, or -y ... BUT ONLY to words which have:**

- 1 syllable (like brag), *and*
- 1 consonant at the end (like brag) *and*
- 1 vowel before that consonant (like brag).

With struggle, that Rule doesn't apply (because struggle has 2 syllables). Instead, because struggle ends in 'e', we drop the 'e' before adding 'ing'. Some people remember this Rule as: **"e goes away when -ing comes to stay!"**

Just for fun!

How many words can you make out of **weighbridge**? You can use each letter as many times as it appears in weighbridge, so you can use 2 'e's, 2 'i's, 2 'g's.

5-letter words	6-letter words	more than 6 letters???
<i>Minimum 5 letters!</i>		