

Storytelling with Michael Rosen's [Chocolate Cake](#)



Children love Michael Rosen's story [Chocolate Cake](#) as much as Michael Rosen loved chocolate cake.

In the story from when he was a boy, Michael sneaks downstairs in the middle of the night and eats all of the remaining chocolate cake, leaving not a skerrick for a lunchtime treat. If only he'd been able to restrain himself, then he would have had a treat as well.

Michael tells the humorous story with expressive voice and face. Children laugh out loud as they recognise themselves in the story, and beg for it to be retold, often spontaneously joining in with the telling.

After a few repetitions, children are confident enough to retell the story independently, imitating many of Michael's humorous gestures and intonations.

Listening to Michael tell stories is a great way to encourage the development of expression, in both telling and reading stories.

Suggestions for using the story:

Introduce the story

Discuss children's favourite treats. Without a requirement of sharing, ask if they have ever considered sneaking a treat when they weren't allowed; and to consider what may happen if they ever did and were found out.

Explain that, when Michael was a boy, his favourite treat was his Mum's chocolate cake, which he found hard to resist.

Share the story

View the video [Chocolate Cake](#).

Respond to the story

Invite children to share their reactions to and thoughts about the story.

View the story again if children's interest is high.

Ask children to retell their favourite parts of the story.

Further suggestions

Discuss sneaking treats when no one is looking – it might be treats to eat, or sneaky activities (playing a game on the iPad, watching TV, or reading a book under the covers when the light should be turned off).

Invite children to innovate on Michael's story by writing one of their own.

Discuss and graph favourite cake flavours, or favourite treats that would be worth sneaking around in the middle of the night

Discuss: Many schools now have rules about bringing cake to school for lunch. Why? Should schools make rules like that? Is it fair? If not, what would be fair?

Play the readlearn game [Save a piece for Michael](#) in Maths groups or with older buddies.

Invite children to tell the story to each other in small groups.

Perform the story as a class on assembly or for parents.

Make a chocolate cake to share. Make a long slab like the one in the *Save a piece for Michael* game or a round cake like the [Moon Cake](#).

Note: *Not all Michael's videos are suitable for early childhood. Please preview videos before presenting them to your students.*

