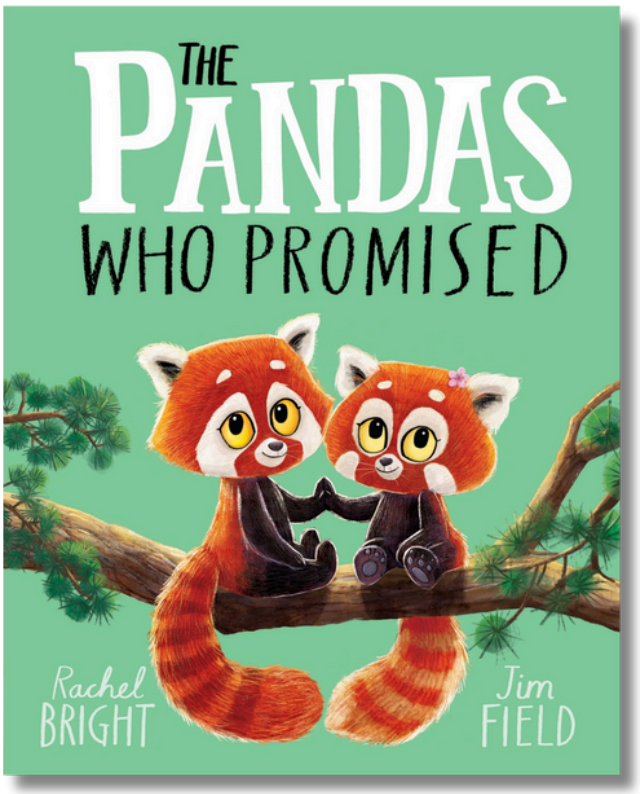



# Teaching Notes & Resources

Early Years

**Themes: Family | Starting school | Growing Up | Empathy**

**View the full series**

# CAPTION WRITING

THE PANDAS WHO PROMISED

What is happening in this part of the story?

Write a caption.

EARLY YEARS

# CURRICULUM MAP

THE PANDAS WHO PROMISED

## Communication, Language and Literacy

### Comprehension

Who are the main characters in the story?

Where do you think the story is set? What clues can we find for this in the story?

What does mum tell Popo and Ketu at the start of the story?

What does Ketu decide to do? Why does Popo follow her?

What happens to Ketu when she heads for the mountains?

How do Popo and Ketu feel at the end of the story? What have they learned?

### Discussion Questions

What is a promise?

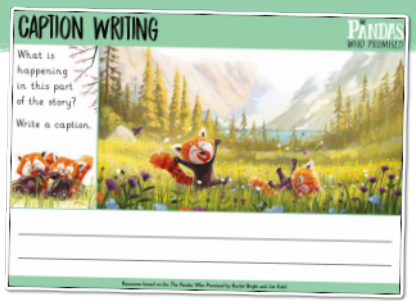
Can you think of a time when you didn't keep your promise?

How can we stay safe?

### Caption Writing

What is happening in this part of the story?

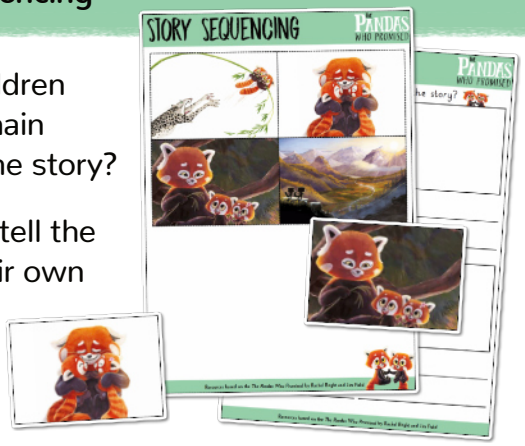
Write a caption.




### Story Sequencing

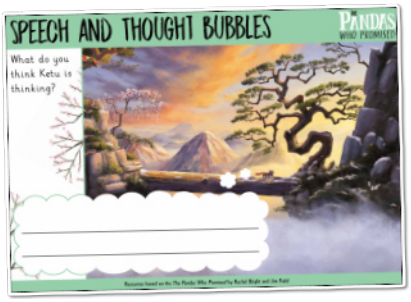
Can the children order the main events of the story?

Can they retell the story in their own words?




### Speech and Thought Bubbles

What do you think Ketu is thinking?




## Personal Social and Emotional Development

**How can we stay safe?**

*Ketu wanted to go out on her own and didn't tell her mum. Her sister Popo followed, and they soon realised they were both in great danger and should have listened to their mum. They learned the importance of not keeping secrets and talking to their mum first to stay safe.*

In this discussion activity, you will talk to the children about keeping secrets, looking at each scenario and deciding together when it is okay to keep a secret and when it is not safe to keep a secret. The children will think about a trusted adult at school and at home that they can talk to and be listened to, just like the mum in the story.

## Phonics

### My Packing List

Pack a suitcase with things that you might need to take on a mountain expedition. Invite children to explore these items, talk about them and then make a list of items that they might take on their own adventure. Can the children use the phonics knowledge to make a list of everything they might need or want to take with them?

### Feed the red panda

Cut out the red panda. Write tricky words onto the bamboo shoots. Can the children read the tricky words on the bamboo shoots and feed them to the panda? This would also work well for CVC words. Can the children blend the sounds to read the CVC word and feed it to the red panda?

### Rhyming words

Identify rhyming words in the story and find rhyming pairs e.g. yawn/dawn; play/stray; pine/fine; hear/near; grew/chew; still/thrill; peep/sleep; free/me; paw/saw; taste/waste; know/snow; trip/slip; double/trouble. What other words can the children think of that rhyme?

### Draw and label

Can the children draw an image of a red panda and then label the image using phonics knowledge? Head, claws, round ears, fur – look for the use of initial sounds and blending sounds. Can they talk to you about what they have written?

### 'p' Initial Sound

For children working at Phase 2, this is a useful book to focus on the phoneme /p/. Can children spot /p/ in the book title *The Pandas Who Promised*? What other words do they know that use the initial sound P? Place lots of objects in a tray. Can they pick out the objects that have the initial sound /p/?

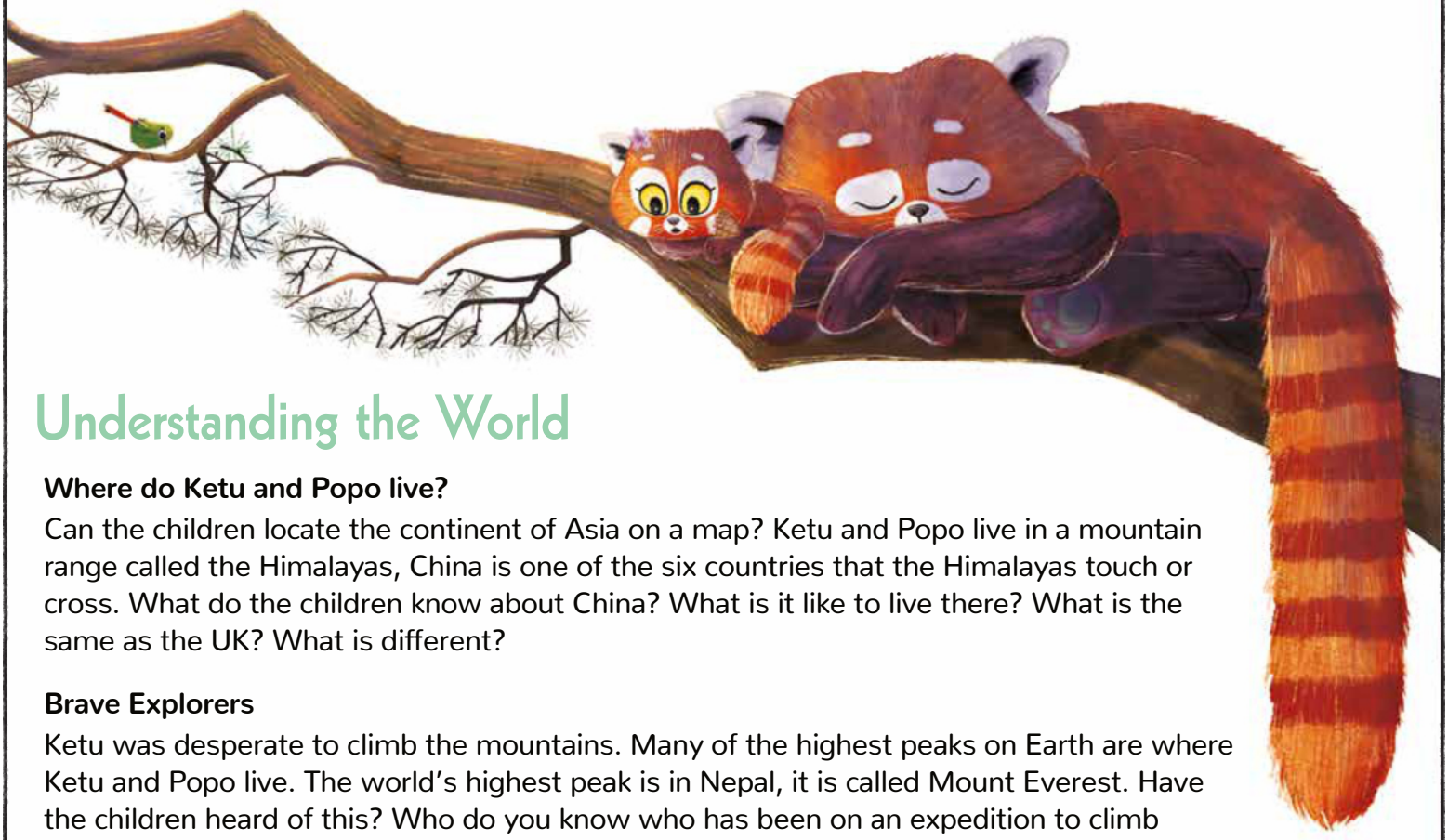
## Expressive Arts and Design

### Cherry Blossoms

Can the children find the cherry blossoms in the story? Give the children cotton buds and brown, pink and white paint. Can they create their own cherry blossom tree for Ketu and Popo to sleep on?

### Traditional Music

Offer a selection of traditional music from Himalayan countries for children to listen to and respond to by dancing or playing instruments.



## Understanding the World

**Where do Ketu and Popo live?**

Can the children locate the continent of Asia on a map? Ketu and Popo live in a mountain range called the Himalayas, China is one of the six countries that the Himalayas touch or cross. What do the children know about China? What is it like to live there? What is the same as the UK? What is different?

**Brave Explorers**

Ketu was desperate to climb the mountains. Many of the highest peaks on Earth are where Ketu and Popo live. The world's highest peak is in Nepal, it is called Mount Everest. Have the children heard of this? Who do you know who has been on an expedition to climb Mount Everest? Look at different people who have climbed Mount Everest.

**My Expedition**

Provide the children with props and costumes to go on their own climbing expedition. Can the children draw a map to show their journey and the different things that they saw on their expedition

## Continuous Provision

**Prayer Flags**

Prayer flags are beautiful and calming to look at, and they're believed to bring peace and prosperity to all around them. Prayers, mantras and symbols are printed on the flags, so that nothing but blessings may be scattered about by the wind blowing through the flags.

Provide the children with photos of prayer flags as well as flag shaped templates and materials to create their own prayer flag. Join the flags together and hang from the classroom or outside to watch them blow in the wind.

**Red panda Non-Fiction book**

Provide photos of real red pandas that are featured in the book and simple writing frames. Can the children write about red pandas? Can they label the photograph? Pull all the writing templates together to create a class non-fiction book about red pandas.

SCENARIO CARD

THE PANDAS WHO PROMISED

The dog has eaten your brother's chocolate. He has told you not to tell dad but you know chocolate is poisonous to dogs.

Resources based on the *The Pandas Who Promised* by Rachel Bright and Jim Field

SCENARIO CARD

THE PANDAS WHO PROMISED

A surprise birthday party for your little sister.

Resources based on the *The Pandas Who Promised* by Rachel Bright and Jim Field

SCENARIO CARD

THE PANDAS WHO PROMISED

Someone hits you and makes you promise not to tell the teacher.

Resources based on the *The Pandas Who Promised* by Rachel Bright and Jim Field

SCENARIO CARD

THE PANDAS WHO PROMISED

You have bought your grandad something special for Christmas.

Resources based on the *The Pandas Who Promised* by Rachel Bright and Jim Field

SCENARIO CARD

THE PANDAS WHO PROMISED

You are going to have a baby brother or sister. Mum and dad have told you not to tell anyone yet.

Resources based on the *The Pandas Who Promised* by Rachel Bright and Jim Field

SCENARIO CARD

THE PANDAS WHO PROMISED

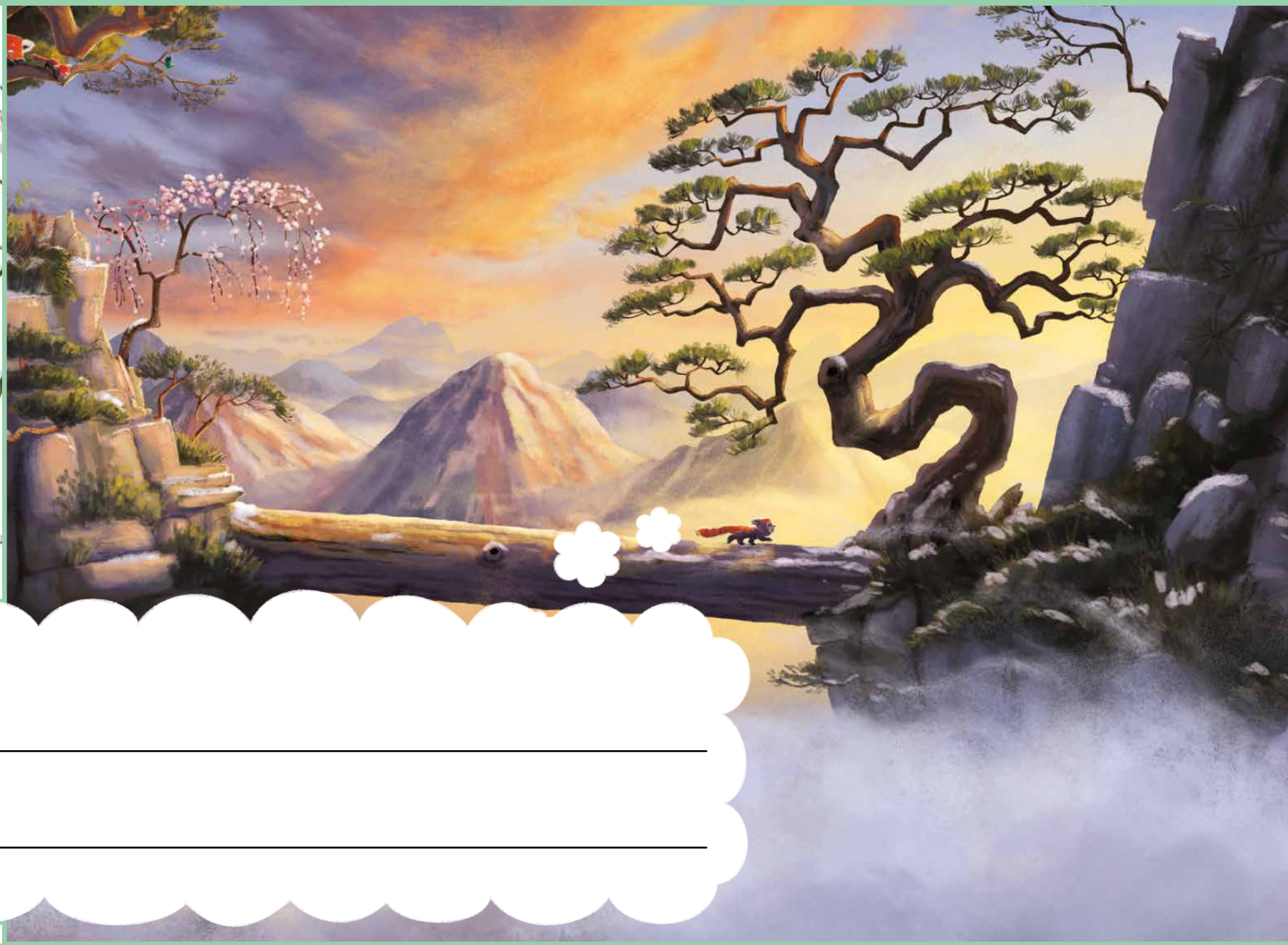
Someone has touched your private parts and told you not to tell anyone.

Resources based on the *The Pandas Who Promised* by Rachel Bright and Jim Field

# SPEECH AND THOUGHT BUBBLES

THE PANDAS WHO PROMISED

What do you think Ketu is thinking?



Resources based on the *The Pandas Who Promised* by Rachel Bright and Jim Field

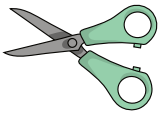
# STORY SEQUENCING

THE PANDAS WHO PROMISED

Can you order the main events of the story?

# STORY SEQUENCING

THE PANDAS WHO PROMISED



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# Teacher's Pet

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