

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2015  
Author/Interview subject: Chae Strathie  
Interviewed by: Janice Forsyth

JF Hello, I'm Janice. A very warm welcome. How are you? Great to see you: so glad that you are along for the ride today. Now, first of all I want you to look at something – the fabulous PJs that the people here are wearing. Look at that! Well done – gorgeous, colourful, lovely. What about you? Are you wearing PJs out there? I know you are. Thank you very much indeed. Do you know, this was making me think, pyjamas, PJs – aren't they great? They're so comfortable. Wouldn't it be really splendid, actually, if we could just wear them all the time: PJs all day. It would save so much time when you get up in the morning and go to bed at night. I think that's a really good idea.

Anyway, I am here with these lovely pupils from St John Paul II's Primary School in Glasgow, and we're all gathered here together for a very important occasion, because we are here to meet a wonderful Scottish author, the author of brilliant picture books – fantastic! But you know something: there's only one problem – he's still fast asleep. Look at him! What'll we do? I know: let's all together wake him up. After three, as loud as you can, say 'Wake up, Chae.' Are you all ready to do that? Are you ready out there? Okay, one, two, three:

Aud Wake up, Chae!

JF It didn't work! Okay, much louder this time; as loud as possible, you and you, after three: one, two, three:

Aud Wake up, Chae!

JF Yes, it worked – fantastic.

CS Oh, what a fright!

JF Brilliant! Sorry to give you a fright. Boys and girls, boys and girls, ladies and gentlemen, whoever you are, a huge wonder wake, wake up welcome for Mr Chae Strathie – yay! [applause]. Wooh!

Aud Wooh!

CS Wow, that really woke me up. I'm still half asleep, I think, so do you know, why don't we say hello to each other, help wake me up a little bit more. So hello, everyone.

Aud Hello, Chae.

CS Well, that's not going to wake me up, is it? That was very quiet. Let's do...do you know, I think you can do a lot better than that. But let's not start too big too soon. Let's warm up our hellos, okay? So we'll start off with a very quiet, peaceful, gentle hello, so quiet and peaceful, it's the most gentle one you've ever done in your life. So after three, a very peaceful hello: one, two, three:

Aud Hello.

CS [Snoring].

Aud [laugh].

CS What's that?

Boy We putted you to sleep.

CS You did, you sent me to sleep 'cos it was so peaceful. Was I snoring there?

Aud Yes.

CS I don't snore. I think it must have been Janice, probably, 'cos that wasn't me. That was a good start: excellent. So let's build up to the next level of hello – a happy, cheerful, medium-sized hello. So the kind of hello you might say to somebody who's feeling a bit down in the dumps, and you want to cheer them up. All right? So after three, a nice happy, medium-sized hello. Tell you what: I'll be said, and you can cheer me up. So here's my sad face, all right? Boo-hoo-hoo-hoo. One, two, three:

Aud Hello.

CS Oh, that's perfect: I'm happy. I'm happy – whoo-hoo! Look at my big smile – wonderful, excellent, well done. Now for the biggie. The biggest, loudest, most ma-hoosive hello you've ever done in your entire life. So big and loud, it's going to make your hair stand on end and your bottom fall off and roll out the door and down the street – that's how loud it's going to be, okay? So hold onto your bottoms. Right: before we do it, though, health and safety is very important, so I need to make sure I've got my safety equipment on. So I've got my safety

goggles on – here we go – just in case you’ve just had your breakfast and you spray me with cornflakes. All right? And I’ve got my safety ear muffs on, in case it’s so loud it blows my ears away. All right, are you ready? Now, I’ll stand here and brace myself in case you blow me away ‘cos it’s so loud. So after three, ready for a big one: one, two, three:

Aud HELLO! [laugh].

Boy We’ve blown your goggles off.

CS You blew my goggles off! Look at that.

Aud [laugh].

CS Now that is what I call a loud hello: that’s really woken me up. I’m wide awake now. Excellent, well done. So hello everyone. My name is Chae Strathie, and I write books. Can anyone...does any...can anyone tell me what you call someone who writes books? There’s a special name for it. Yes?

Boy An author.

CS Excellent, well done. An author – exactly. An author writes the books, and an illustrator draws the pictures – well done. So I’ve written quite a few picture books, and we’ll be reading some of them today. What else will be doing today? Let’s think. We’ll be singing a song on my Loon on the Moon guitar, and you can all help me with the chorus, and you can help me out there, too. And we will be coming up with an alien just like this one, if we have time. And of course we’ll be telling some stories. Hands up if you like stories. Oh, they all do! Hands up if you love stories – yes. Three hands up if you have a really weird third hand going out the top of your head, like this – hello, hello.

Aud [laugh].

CS Four hands up if you’re a pussy cat. Any pussy cats? Miaow, miaow. Quite a few, quite a few. Eight hands up if you’re a wibbly wobbly octopus just popped out the Clyde to come and say hello. Hello, wibbly wobbles. Hello. One hundred hands up if you’re a wriggly, jiggly centipede with one hundred hands. Any creepy crawlies? Oh, look at all the creepy crawlies – ugh. Two hundred and seventy-three hands up if you’re a very strange creature with 273 hands. Any strange creatures? Lots of strange creatures. Any strange creatures? There’s normally a few, I would imagine.

Now, I know a place where there are lots of strange creatures, and that's in my book, *The Fabulous Flapdoodles*. So let's read that one first. Just one slight problem: I can't see my books. Do you think I keep them in my...

Aud Behind you! There they are!

CS They're not...they're not my books, they're just other people's books. Do you think I keep them in my pocket here?

Aud No.

CS Too small, too small. Do you think I keep them in my socks?

Aud No [laugh].

CS Too smelly – ugh, don't want cheesy books, do you? I know. I keep them in the Bedtime Bag. Now, here's the Bedtime Bag here. Do you like it?

Aud Yes.

CS Yeah. Now, this is where I keep all my books. But here's how the Bedtime Bag works, okay? Because it makes books appear as if by magic. But first of all, we have to say a rhyme and do some special actions to make the book bag work. Okay? So I'll do it first. You watch and listen, and then we'll do it together. So watch and listen out there, too, and we can all do it together. Here's how it goes – very easy.

What's inside? Let's take a look. Bedtime Bag, give us a book.

So let's try that together, okay?

All What's inside? Let's take a look. Bedtime Bag, give us a book.

CS Well done, that was fantastic. So let's have a look inside and see if we can get a book; 'cos sometimes it gives me weird stuff like smelly socks and stinky pants instead of books, so hopefully...

Aud Ugh!

CS None of that today, hopefully. It feels kind of bookie. I can't look. Is it a book?

Aud YES.

CS Yes – *The Fabulous Flapdoodles*. So here we go. So what we'll do is take a nice big, deep breath in...

Aud [Breathe in].

CS ...and breathe out. Get all nice and relaxed and chilled out for the reading, okay. So we'll read this first. The Fabulous Flapdoodles, by me. And here's what we'll do: tell you what, doesn't matter, what we'll do is, we'll just use the book, all right, so we can look at this – and out there as well, you can see it, too, hopefully. All right?

The Fabulous Flapdoodles.

When stars fill the sky at the end of the day

The fabulous flapdoodles come out to play.

They wait in the darkness for soft, sleepy snores [snoring]

Then slip through your windows and under your doors.

They're brimful of magic and mischievous tricks

And zoom round your room upon brooms built for six.

They've got stripy red stockings and wild purple hair.

They're as small as a mouse but as strong as a bear.

They'll jumble your wardrobe while dancing a jig

But even a flea wouldn't say they were big.

They always have things hidden under their hats

Like cookies and spell books and tiny, green cats.

They've pockets and locketts and satchels and sacks

And big, shiny [star whizzers 00:08:57] are strapped to their backs.

For giggles, they jiggle the hands on your clocks

And hide single socks in their Flapdoodle box.

Boy [laugh].

CS

But though they might doodle and draw on your wall

They don't just make mischief – oh no, not at all.

They like to make sure that you don't get a fright  
From all of the things that go bump in the night  
Like big, scary hairies from under the bed  
And small, hairy scaries with more than one head.  
Those boggle-eyed bug-woggles don't stand a chance  
If caught in the glare of a Flapdoodle trance.  
And grumpy blue bump-a-lumps aren't quite so tough  
When blown out the door [blows] with an effortless puff.  
They've nets made of moonbeams to trap naughty ghouls  
And practical jokes to make ghosts look like fools.  
They're always on duty when you have a snooze  
To shield you from showers of bogey-men's ooze.

Ugh!

Aud Ugh.

CS Yuck!

And giants won't enter your bedroom at all  
For fear they'll be shrunk till they're two inches tall.  
From slithery snarkels to wheezers with wings  
The Flapdoodles terrify terrible things.  
When masses of monsters leap out at one time  
All stumpy and stumpy and covered in slime,  
These miniature marvels put up such a fight  
They send them all scampering into the night.  
And when their task's over and day starts to break  
The Flapdoodles vanish before you awake.

But though you won't see them, they'll always be there

To stop you from getting a toe-curling scare.

They hide out of sight behind clouds in the sky

With long golden telescopes held to their eye

Waiting and watching to make sure you're good

And settle down gently to sleep when you should.

The end.

There we go. Let's put this over here, shall we? *The Fabulous Flapdoodles*.

Now, there were lots of made-up words in the Fabulous Flapdoodles, weren't there? There was – well, Flapdoodles is a made-up word, isn't it?

Aud Yeah.

CS And it had grumpy blue bump-a-lumps. That's a made-up word. It had wheezers with wings – wheezers is a made-up word. And it had slithery snarkels; and I made that word up, too. I love making words up. So I wonder if you could come up with some made-up words of your own. Perhaps you could come up with some here, and perhaps you could come up with some, wherever you are; you could write them down or make them up later on, even. Okay? So before we do that, or while we do that, why don't we ask the people here if they have any made-up words. Did anyone come up with any made-up words? Any wonderful, amazing words that sound funny and peculiar and weird? Let's take a few. Let's have you, young man – yes?

Boy Tangerine teeth.

CS Tangerine teeth: oh, that's a good one. Tangerine teeth. Tangerine...teeth...oh, it's no that long. Tangerine teeth; so he's got orange teeth, or round teeth. Any other good, funny words? Yes, right at the back.

Aud [Inaudible 00:12:29].

CS What's that one? Boom-boom-bippety bongle? I love that one! What an amazing word. Boom-boom bippety bongle. I love that. That sounds like a character from one of my stories. Tell you what: I think we'll just say them instead of writing them down – it's going to take ages. Okay, some more words: quick. Yes?

- Girl Fizz bungle.
- CS Fizz bungle: that's a good one. Fizz bungle – that sounds familiar. We might do that later, actually. Yeah?
- Girl Chocolate teeth.
- CS Chocolate teeth: oh, that would be good, wouldn't it? Chocolate teeth, num, num, num, tasty. Yes?
- Boy ...I can't remember.
- CS You can't remember! I always do that: I put my hand up, then I go, oh, I can't remember what I was going to say. I do it all the time. Yeah?
- Girl Banana hair.
- CS Banana hair. Oh, that would be funny, wouldn't it? Big yellow banana hair.
- Boy [laugh].
- CS Yes?
- Girl Chocolate bunny.
- CS Chocolate bunny [laugh]. I like chocolate bunnies. A couple more, then we'll move on. What do you think? Anyone got a really funny one? Yeah?
- Boy Lemon teeth.
- CS Lemon teeth – we're all very fruity and teathy at the moment, aren't we? Lemon teeth, yeah. Yes?
- Boy Chocolate bear.
- CS Chocolate bear – yeah, that would be a good one. Sounds very interesting. I like a chocolate bear; they're good to eat. I think we'll have one more. Yes?
- Boy Doo-doo dah-dah
- CS Doo-doo dah-dah; that's a good one. That sounds like a character in one of my books; Doo-doo Dah-Dah. That could be some kind of interesting, amazing creature, couldn't it? Yeah? Excellent made-up words; let's do one more, just the last one. Yeah?
- Boy Doo-doo dah-dah.

CS Doo-doo dah-dah: that's the same as that one. They could go along together: two Doo-doo dah-dahs. A pair of Doo-doo dah-dahs – excellent. Okay, they were really good made-up words, and I hope you came up with some good words back out there, too. And maybe you could try it later on; just write down lots of interesting words and what they all mean – it would be fantastic.

Okay, so let's move on to the next book. Now, where would the book be? In the...

Aud The magic bag.

CS In the magic bag; in the bedtime bag, that's right. Now, do you remember how the bedtime bag works?

Aud Yeah.

CS You have to do the rhyme and the actions. I hope you're all ready there, too. Everyone ready? It starts like this: what's inside. Let's take a look.

All Let's take a look. Bedtime bag gives us a book.

CS Well done, that was great. How did you get on? Do you remember it? Let's have a look. Let's have a look and see if it's *The Loon on the Moon* or a smelly sock. Is it *The Loon on the Moon*?

Aud YES.

CS Are you sure?

Aud YES.

CS It's *The Loon on the Moon*, not a smelly sock – whew! Right, so let's read *The Loon on the Moon*. Here we go. So we'll just do the same – I'll turn around so you can all see it.

The Loon on the Moon, by me. This is the Loon who lives on the...

Aud Moon.

CS ...Moon. Excellent.

Every night he zooms down to Earth in his Loon-Zoomer...

...that's his space ship here...to suck up all the dreams that leak from children's ears like steam from a kettle. Then he zooms back up again and uses the dream steam to power the engine that lights up the light bulbs that make the moon glow.

But one evening the Loon zoomed down to find the dreams had all dried up. ‘Oh dear’, he said. ‘Oh, fizz-bungle!’ (Fizz-bungle’s quite a naughty word on the Moon.) ‘Now I’ll have to get my dream steam from somewhere else. Perhaps the Mock-tops from Mercury have some.’

So the Loon zoomed with a boom to Mercury...now actually, here’s a bit where you could help me out. When I say ‘zoomed with a boom’ you just give me a nice, big loud boom – all right? And you can try it out there, as well. So I want to hear big, huge booms when I go ‘zoomed with a boom’. Let’s try it.

Zoom with a...boom.

Aud BOOM.

CS Brilliant. Okay. So the Loon zoomed with a...

Aud BOOM.

CS ...to Mercury. ‘Hello, Mock-tops; do you have any dream steam?’ he asked. The Mock-tops stopped dancing. ‘No dream steam here, Moon Loon,’ they all chorused together. ‘Try the Noodles from Neptune.’ So the Loon zoomed with a...

Aud BOOM.

CS ...boom to Neptune. Hello, Noodles, do you have any dream steam?’ he asked. The Noodles were sitting on their noodle nests waiting for their noodle eggs to hatch. ‘Coo, our dream steam is all finished,’ they cooed. ‘Try the Vimtingles from Venus.’ So the Loon zoomed with a...

Aud BOOM.

CS ...boom to Venus. But the Vimtingles were far too busy telling each other jokes and laughing until their bottoms fell off, to care about dream steam. The Yoo-hoos from Uranus weren’t much help either. Nor were the Sing-Dings from Saturn, nor the Moomy-moos from Mars, nor the Jiffles from Jupiter, nor the Polly-Wolly Plumpkins from Pluto.

‘Fizz-bungle!’ said the Loon. No dream steam meant no power, which meant no Moon. That night the Loon only had enough power to light up three-quarters of the Moon. Then half the next night, then a quarter, until finally the light in the Moon went out altogether. What was the Loon going to do?

He was feeling very sad, sitting all alone on his dark moon, when all of a sudden, he had a fantastic, brilliant, extraordinarily exciting idea. As quick as a flash he

wrote down the tale of his outer space search for dream steam; then he wrote it again, and again, and again until he had an enormous pile of stories. Then – ready for the last one – he zoomed with a...

Aud BOOM.

CS ...boom down to Earth and left a story in every child's room. When they heard the story, their heads were filled with Mock-tops and Noodles and Vimtingles and Jiffles, and that night they all dreamed dreams of marvellous things. And the Loon could light up the...

Aud MOON.

CS Fantastic, well done. Give yourselves a round of applause for joining in. That was great – loads of applause, guys.

[Applause].

CS Cool. Okay, so we are going to, very quickly, go over here and come up with our very own alien – our amazing alien – using your incredible imagination. And what we'll do is, we'll make him out of lots of different things. So lots of shapes, or maybe things you eat. So it could maybe have a sausage for a leg, or a banana for a nose, or a pizza for a head, or maybe things you would play with, like a football – poof – football head would be quite good, yeah? Or things you would wear – maybe a pair of socks; socks for ears. So have a think, and see if you can come up with lots of different things to make our alien from. And you can try it out there, as well, if you've got paper and pencil, now, you can do it. Or you can do it later on, and come up with your own amazing imagination alien. An Imaginalien – that's a good word for it, eh?

Right, so actually, I need you to put your thinking caps on – like mine. Put on your creativity wellies – yeah? Yeah, we'll be creative.

Aud [laugh].

CS Pull on your imagination pants, as well – [Inaudible 00:20:09] got to be imagination.

Aud [laugh].

CS Right, okay. So hands up. Let's do the body first. What could the body be made out of? Hands up. I'll choose who's sitting really well. Let's choose someone in the middle. Hello.

Boy A triangle?

CS A triangle – that’s a good shape to start with. Okay, so let’s do a nice, big triangle. There we go. Now, let’s have a pattern inside it. What pattern do you think we could have inside? It could be stripes or spots or zigzags. Let’s have someone here. Yeah?

Boy Zigzags.

CS Zigzags – cool. Let’s have a red triangle with blue zigzags. Excellent. So we’ll do the legs next. We’ll do four legs made of different things. So have a think about what we could do each leg from, all right? Tell you what, I’ll swap this with another red. Okay, so what could we make the first leg from? Let’s have someone right on the end here. Hello.

Girl Triangle.

CS Triangle legs. Okay, so we could have, like, maybe three different triangles – yeah? Okay, so start to think of things, as well, maybe like foods or clothes you wear. Think of your favourite food, or a thing called, something you’ve got on, like socks, or maybe a hat, or a scarf. There we go. So let’s have...the first one is some triangle legs. So that’s cool; let’s do wee triangles for toes. Wee triangle toes. Excellent: so let’s have leg number two. What could leg number two be? Someone down the front, then we’ll come at the back.

Boy Sock.

CS A sock for a leg – brilliant, I love that. Let’s do a green sock for our leg number two. Here we go. And it’s a nice, striped...with a wee hole in the toe. And let’s do some pong coming off it: it’s a smelly sock – ugh. Okay, leg number three. What could that be? Let’s go up the back? Yes? You’re sitting really nicely.

Girl Ice cream.

CS Oh, I love that; an ice cream leg, mm, mm, mm. Green, red, or blue, do you think, ice cream wise? Red! A red ice cream; so strawberry ice cream, maybe. I think what we’ll do is, we’ll do a nice ice cream cone with a big blob of ice cream coming off. There we go. Maybe some wee blobs, some wee dribbles for toes. There we go: excellent, that looks good enough to eat – well done, mm, mm.

Leg number four: what could the last leg be? Let’s have someone over this side. Yes, young man?

Boy Banana legs.

CS Banana legs; that's a good name, as well: Mr Banana Legs. Okay, what colour would you like?

Boy Blue.

CS Blue, okay. Let's do a blue banana for Mr Banana Legs. Here we go, excellent. That was good; so he's...so far he's got a triangle body, some triangle legs, a sock leg, an ice cream leg and a banana leg. Let's do the arms now, so we'll do two different arms. What could we make the arms from? Yes?

Girl A circle.

CS A circle; okay, we've got circle arms. What colour?

Girl Green.

CS Green? Okay, so we'll do three different circles. What kinds of things are circles, do you think? What do you kick?

Boy That's it – a ball.

CS A ball. So let's do some balls for arms; so footballs, perhaps, or some bouncy balls. There we go, and we can have wee circles for the fingers. Let's do our second arm. What could the second arm be? Let's go right up the back to the young man with the green PJs on. Yeah?

Boy Bananas.

CS Bananas. We've got a banana already. What other thing can you think of that's a good...

Boy Apple.

CS Apple; there we go, that's...oh, it's making me very hungry, this alien. Red, yeah? Okay, so we've got some nice red apples; there we go. And there we are. Tell you what: let's do some wee bananas for toes here, shall we? Because you said bananas first, so let's have some tiny little bananas. There we go – Banana fingers; so he's got apples and bananas; it's a very healthy alien, isn't it? He's missing something, our alien: what could it be?

Aud Head, head.

CS A head, exactly. I'm still half asleep. You're desperate to tell me: yes?

Girl Square.

CS A square; oh, that's quite a good one. He could be, kind of, like a robot alien. Red, green or blue?

Girl Red.

CS Red, okay. So let's have a nice square. It'll be a big square, so we can fit all the eyes and the mouth in. So think about what things we could have for eyes, a nose and a mouth, and ears as well. Amount of hair on it, too. So eyes – what could we have for eyes? Good alien eyes – what things could we use? Right here.

Boy Strawberries.

CS Strawberries: I love that: high five. High five – don't leave me hanging. Yes! Right: red, green or blue?

Boy Blue.

CS Oh, I like that; blue strawberries. Good imagination. How many eyes do you think our alien should have? Don't say a thousand. How many?

Boy A thousand.

Girl Three.

CS Three eyes: brilliant. Okay, so let's do three blue strawberry eyes. So we'll do them nice and big. Here we are; they've got the wee stalks on them. And let's do some nice, googly eyeballs, so he's looking in lots of different directions at once. He's a googly alien – Mr Googly.

Boy Ha, ha.

[Inaudible 00:25:06]

CS Let's have a nose. Now, the nose could be, kind of, round shaped, something that's round, or it could be a long, kind of, nose, maybe like...I don't know, like a hot dog or something; it's up to you. Let's...where have we not been? So let's come over to...let's go right at the back to this young lady.

Girl A sausage.

CS A sausage, yes. What colour?

Girl Red.

- CS Red: a nice red sausage with tomato sauce on it. Okay, so we've got a nice, big sausage nose: look at that. And he's got a big nostril as well, so he can smell things like...he can smell his own smelly sock leg. And we need a mouth. What could we have for a mouth? That's quite a hard one, actually. Yeah – hello there.
- Girl A banana.
- CS A banana. Yeah, let's go with a banana; why not. What colour?
- Girl Green.
- CS Green: okay, green. So we've got a banana for a mouth. How are you getting on there? Have you got a really good alien, as well? Some great ideas here: I'm sure you're coming up with some magical ones, too. So we've got a nice, big smiley banana mouth – lots of bananas going on here. Shall we make him a little bit cheeky?
- Aud Yeah.
- CS Just a wee bit, yeah. Let's have...he's sticking his tongue out...
- Aud [Blowing raspberry].
- CS ...and blowing a raspberry [blows raspberry] oh, I say, what a cheeky alien! Ears: very quickly, we need some ears. What can we have for ears sticking out the side of his head? Let's have someone in this area here who I've not spoken to before. I've not spoken to you: hello. What kind of ears do you think he should have?
- Boy A chocolate doughnut.
- CS A chocolate doughnut! Oh, I love this alien. Ho, ho, ho. I'm going to have chocolate doughnuts for lunch. What colour?
- Boy Red.
- CS Red chocolate doughnuts – okay. Let's think very quickly about hair: what could we have for hair? I'll do the chocolate doughnuts. So there we go, we'll do a nice ring doughnut there, and a nice big ring chocolate doughnut here, as well. Excellent: so he's got chocolate doughnut ears; he's a very foodie alien; that's a brilliant alien to have. What could we have for hair – the last thing we're going to have for this? Let's have someone who I've not spoken to – I've not spoken to you, right over here. What could be good hair? What kind of shape? What kind of...do you think he should have spiky hair or wavy, wiggly, curly hair?

Boy Curly hair.

CS Curly hair: good. Okay, let's have curly hair. What colour?

Boy Blue.

CS Blue: brilliant. Well done, young man. So some nice curly hair. Let's make it spaghetti, keeping with the food theme we've got, okay? So we've got some wonderful spaghetti here – Betty Spaghetti. There we are. So there we have our very own Imaginalien, that you've just made, and hopefully you've come up with a fantastic one, too, out there, okay? So I think you should give yourselves a big round of applause [applause] for some amazing imagination. Well done, everyone.

Okay. Now, [Inaudible 00:27:40] time, we have read the story, we have drawn the picture. Now it's time to sing the song. Think you can help me sing the song?

Aud Yeah.

CS I'm sure you can. So here we have my Loon on the Moon guitar. Do you like it?

Aud Yeah.

CS Cool. Now, what we're going to do is, I'll sing the verses and you can help with the chorus, and out there you can help with it, too. So I'll sing it once first, the chorus: you can hear what it sounds like, and you can help me sing along with it while we're practising – okay? Then we'll sing the song. It's very easy, and it goes like this:

So he went zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom, zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom, zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom, off to find some dream steam.

Perfect, well done. I hope you got that, and you can carry on and learn it as we go along; you'll be great. Okay.

This is the story of the Loon on the Moon. I'll sing the verse: you help with the chorus, all right?

Now this is the story of a happy, hairy Loon, whose job's collecting dreams for the light bulbs in the Moon. Late one night while the children were in bed, the dreams dried up, to off to space he sped.

Ready? So he went...

- All ...zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom; zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom; zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom, off to find some dream steam.
- CS Brilliant. He went to see the Mock Tops, to Mercury he flew, but they were busy dancing, there was nothing they could do; the Yoo-hoos and the Noodles couldn't help the Doodle blue, and if there was no dream steam, there would be no Moon. Oh no!
- Ready? So he went...
- All ...zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom; zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom; zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom, off to find some dream steam.
- CS Brilliant. He zoomed off to Saturn and then he zoomed to Mars. He zoomed round all the planets and he zoomed round all the stars, but all the dreams had vanished; of that there was no doubt, and that's why the light bulbs in the Moon went out. Oh no!
- Ready? So he went...
- All ...zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom; zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom; zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom, off to find some dream steam.
- CS Last verse. Now sitting in the darkness, the Loon was feeling sad: boo-hoo-hoo-hoo. And then he had a bright idea: the best he'd ever had. He wrote down a story for the children down below and when they started dreaming, the Moon began to glow-ow-ow.
- Last time, nice and loud:
- All So he went zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom, zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom, zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom, off to find some dream steam.
- Chae One more time:
- All Zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom, zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom, zoom, zoom, zoom with a boom, off to find some dream steam.
- CS Whoo! Give yourselves a nice round of applause. Amazing singing. Fantastic: you guys rock. Okay, now, let's pop this over here.
- Okay, so it's nearly time to move on to the last book. Now, obviously *The Loon in the Moon* is all about collecting dream steam to help people sleep at night and have nice dreams, and make the Moon glow. And dreaming is very important; having a nice dream helps you sleep [yawning] nice and soundly, and wake up

feeling very happy. And a great way to have a nice, good sleep and a happy dream is to have a bedtime story before you go to bed. That could be a lively, fun story like the ones we've had, or it could be a nice, gentle, peaceful story to help you sleep. So it's always great to ask for a bedtime story before you go to bed. Yes? Yeah?

Aud Yes.

CS Yeah, we love bedtime stories. So this last book is all about a tiny little mouse who can't sleep. It's called Bedtime for Tiny Mouse. Okay? And we're going to read that next. So let's go back to the bedtime bag and get the final book out; the last book of today. Okay, so this is Bedtime for Tiny Mouse. I love this book; it's really good. This is going to be amazing. It's a very...a book that I love so much.

Aud [Shouting].

CS It's a great book, isn't it? It looks amazing, yeah?

Aud [Shouting].

CS I love this book.

Aud [Shouting].

CS What?

Aud It's a sock.

CS A sock? Oh, it's smelly, oh, it's so cheesy [coughing]. Goodness me. Sorry about that, everyone. Right, okay. Ah, now this is it: so this is Bedtime for Tiny Mouse. It's totally great, you're going to love it...

Aud [Shouting].

CS ...and it's a quiet...it's a quiet book, so it's nice to have a sleep, and all that...

Aud [Shouting].

CS A banana? What? Oh me! Oh me, oh my. What's flying...why is the bedtime bag not working?

Aud You're supposed to say the rhyme.

CS We never did the rhyme: well done. Just as well you're here: I'd be pulling smelly socks and bananas out of the bag all night. Right, so let's do the rhyme and see if that will work, all right? So hope you can remember it. Let's go.

All What's inside? Let's take a look. Bedtime bag give us a book.

CS Let's see if it works this time. Oh, is it a banana? Is it a smelly sock?

Aud [Shouting].

CS It's all right – yes. Right, okay. *Bedtime for Tiny Mouse*, our last story of the day.

Here we are. I'm going to have a wee sip of water before we start, 'cos I'm getting a bit hoarse. You ready for this, everyone?

Aud Yeah.

CS Yeah! It's exciting; here we go. [Drinking]. Thank you very much. Thank you very much. You can try that at home, by the way – it's perfectly safe. Okay, so let's do *Bedtime for Tiny Mouse* by me, again.

Tiny Mouse couldn't sleep. He curled and twirled – we've got the pictures here, actually – he curled and twirled, flipped and flopped, snuggled and hugged, but he was still wide awake. So he climbed out of bed and scampered off to the living room. Mummy Mouse, he sighed, I can't sleep a wink. My head's full of fizz and my eyes won't stay shut. Try counting sheep, said Mummy Mouse; that will send you to sleep.

So Tiny Mouse scurried back to his bedroom and began counting sheep in his head. At first the sheep jumped nicely, but then, they started doing cartwheels, star jumps and ridiculous roly-polies. Tiny Mouse couldn't keep up. So he climbed out of bed, padded off to the kitchen: Daddy Mouse, he sighed, I can't sleep a wink. My feet are full of fireworks and my knees won't behave. Try drinking this cup of warm milk, said Daddy Mouse; that will send you to sleep.

Tiny Mouse trotted back to his bedroom and sipped his milk. He soon began to feel drowsy, but then a drop of milk dribbled all the way down his nose and – aaah...

All ...choo!

CS He sneezed so hard he fell out of bed. So he hopped off to see his big brother Milo. Milo, he shouted, I can't sleep a wink. My tail is twitchy and my ears are excited. Milo was listening to his favourite loud rock music. Try dancing round your room to tire yourself out, said Milo; that will send you to sleep.

Tiny Mouse hurried back to his bedroom and started dancing. Round and round he went, jigging faster and faster. He tried Bali – tiddle-toot-toot-too! He tried

Hip Hop; he even did the Highland fling – whoo! But nothing tired him out. He was more awake than ever.

So he skipped to the front porch. Grandma Mouse, he sighed, I can't sleep. Is your head full of fizz? Asked Grandma Mouse. Yes, sighed Tiny Mouse. And are your feet full of fireworks? Yes, said Tiny Mouse. Even my whiskers are wide awake.

Grandma Mouse looked up at the deep, dark sky where the golden moon floated peacefully. I know just what to do, she said. Grandma patted her knee and Tiny Mouse scrambled up. The Mouse in the Moon will sing you to sleep, said Grandma, but he's very shy, so first you must close your eyes. Tiny Mouse shut his eyes, and by and by a soft voice began singing:

Lay down your head, little dreamer.

All Close sleepy eyes. Time to drift off, little dreamer, meet starry skies. Cosy and warm, little dreamer, arms hold you tight, sleep safe and sound, little dreamer, all through the night.

CS Well done, that was great! Did you hear that?

Tiny Mouse felt very sleepy. The fireworks in his feet flew away, and the fizz fizzled out of his head. His frisky whiskers drooped and his knees settled down at last. Grandma Mouse carefully carried him indoors and tucked him in bed. Tiny Mouse curled and twirled, flipped and flopped, snuggled and hugged, and finally fell fast asleep. Goodnight, little dreamer, whispered Grandma Mouse, sleep tight. And that is bedtime for Tiny Mouse.

Now, I'm feeling very tired after that, and some of you are falling asleep 'cos it's so tiring. So I think I'm going to have a little sit down, and Janice wants to come and say goodbye...

JF Yeah.

CS ...before I go.

JF Oh, hasn't Chae been amazing? You...but you should sit down and have a wee rest for a minute or so.

CS I think I will.

JF Hasn't he been fantastic?

Aud Yes.

JF Just wonderful. And has he put you in the mood for wonderful bedtime stories?

Aud Yeah.

JF And has he put you in the mood for bedtime stories, wherever you are? I'm sure he has. Thank you so much for sharing your love of it; you're so good. I love your singing, everybody. Did you enjoy that little bit of singing?

Aud [Inaudible 00:38:51].

JF Yeah. And great ideas for this wonderful creature – well done, everybody, and well done, all of you, wherever you are watching, it's been great to have you along. But yes, very sadly – are you ready for a big ahh! – it's almost time to say 'bye 'bye – ahhh!.

Aud Ahhh.

JF Oh, a bit louder than that, I think! AHHH.

Aud AHHH.

JF But before we go, Chae is going to sing a last lullaby for us, aren't you?

CS That's right, I am.

JF Before Chae does that, can we give him a massive round of applause and cheering, please.

Aud [Applause and cheering] YES.

JF Thank you. And now, Chae is all set for the Tiny Mouse Lullaby.

CS Yeah, let's do that.

JF I'll creep off like a little mouse.

CS Shhh. There we are. Now it's time – what we'll do is, we'll just very quickly sing the lullaby from Tiny Mouse before we go to sleep, and before we all go home. It's always nice to have a lullaby before we go to sleep.

You all ready? And you can maybe try it out there, too. Here we go.

Lay down your head, little dreamer, close sleepy eyes. Time to drift off, little dreamer, meet starry skies. Cosy and warm, little dreamer, arms hold you tight, sleep safe and sound, little dreamer, all through the night.

Well done, everyone. I'm going to go back to bed now, because I'm very tired. It's been lovely to speak to you all. I'll see you again some time. 'Bye!

'Bye!

Aud 'Bye.

CS 'Bye 'bye. [Yawning].