

Stories for Lipreading



[The E is Silent by Alva Holland - Setting the Scene](#)

This story is set in Ireland. It begins with the narrator watching her small son, Eoin, playing with Lego. His deep concentration ignites a memory flash from 1985, when as a young girl she was asked to help on a day-trip to the beach for a group of twenty young boys.

(Please note that, for a lipreader, the name 'Eoin' produces more or less the same lipshapes as 'Owen')

Helpful Vocabulary and Phrases

Eoin sits cross-legged

Latest Lego

Sandy brown hair

Covers his ears

Sister

Cut

He likes it

Connect the multi-coloured pieces

A sea of silent movement had rocked the bus

Flailing

Eager pre-teenage faces

Fingers sketched

Condensation

Turned off the radio, creating an eerie quiet

Ten-year-old sister, Orla

Fiona and Desmond

Summer picnic

Thumbs-up

Sea air captured my breath

Hands linked hands

Wooden boardwalk clattered

Skidded with unbridled delight

Soft sand scattered

Skinny legs

Without a sound

Darting eyes danced with approval

Solitary play

Creating a seamless, mutual, silent trust

Possessed a palpable alternative strength

Colourful baked treats

Tartan rugs

Stories for Lipreading



Plaintive sounds of protest drifted across the sand
Yanked onto bare sandy feet
Balled-up socks
Grainy pockets
Cheeky grins
Twenty silent boys
Couldn't hear life
That night, before Orla slept
Certain I heard my sister smile

Tugging
Jolts me to the present
Graphic recollection
Three opinionated, energetic sons
Lego masterpiece
Cupping his face, I toss his hair
Flooded with love
Last week
Headphones
Secured it to the fridge
Grinned and high-fived