**A Puppy for Joshua** by Mandy Redcliffe

Josh woke up very early and realised that this was the day of his birthday. He felt **excited** because he knew there was a big surprise waiting for him. His parents had promised to surprise him with a gift that he had always wanted.

Josh ran to the lounge room just in time to see dad carrying a huge box into the room. At first, he thought it was a new skateboard, but then he heard something … there was a scratching sound coming from inside the box. “Peek inside Josh” his dad said. Josh could hardly believe his eyes … inside the box was the cutest puppy that he had ever seen in his life! He felt like the **happiest** boy in the world. The little eyes looking back at him were filled with **excitement** and **curiosity**.

Dad lifted the puppy out of the box and the moment he put him down on the floor, he ran off with his ears flapping up and down. Mom looked at Josh and said, “I think we could call him Flap, what do you think?” Flap ran around for a while until he was so tired that he flopped down on the floor and fell asleep.

He had a short nap until he was woken by the sound of someone knocking on the front door. Flap barked loudly and Josh could see that Flap was **upset** that there was someone at the door. Mom opened the door and explained to the man that he had come to the wrong address. Flap only stopped barking once the person had left.

Josh was very **thrilled** with his new friend. His puppy made him feel **happy** and safe.

Later in the day when Josh’s friends arrived, he was excited to show them his new puppy. Mom told Josh that it was important to always have the gate closed whenever they were playing in the front garden. She explained that Flap needed time to get used to his new home and that he would need to be trained to stay inside the garden and not run onto the road.

Josh and his friends were trying new tricks on their skateboards and didn’t realise that the gate was wide open. A little while later mom called the children to come inside for the birthday cake. She noticed that Flap was nowhere to be seen. Josh looked around and became very **worried**. He was **scared** that Flap could get hit by a car. He also knew that his dad will be **angry** because he had forgotten to close the gate.

They all ran down the road calling out for Flap. They looked under cars and behind trees, but they could not see him. They ran towards a small park and as Josh ran around the corner, he saw Flap running towards him. Josh was so **pleased** to see his puppy and felt very **happy** when he picked him up and carried him back home.

**Debrief questions:**

* What did Dad do to add to Josh’s excitement on the morning of his birthday?

(he hid the puppy in a box so that Josh could be surprised).

* How did Josh feel about his gift? (happy).
* How do you think Flap felt when a stranger was knocking on the front door? (upset/angry).
* What happened that caused Josh to become anxious? (Flap ran out of the gate and they couldn’t find him).
* Can you think of a time when you felt happy/sad/excited/worried ... (the children can offer any appropriate story and relate how they felt).