

BLACK DOG

One day, a black dog came to visit the Hope family. Mr Hope was the first to see it.

Mr Hope - My goodness!

he cried, dropping his toast. He didn't waste any time in phoning the police.

Mr Hope - There's a black dog the size of a tiger outside my house! What should I do?

Policeman - Don't go outside – the policeman laughed and put down the phone.

Mrs Hope was next to get up.

Mrs Hope - My goodness!

she cried dropping her mug of tea. She didn't waste any time in calling for Mr Hope.

Mrs Hope - Did you know there's a black dog the size of an elephant outside? What should we do?.

Mr Hope - Turn out the lights so it doesn't know we're here!"

Adeline Hope was next to get up.

Adeline - My goodness!

she cried, dropping her toothbrush. She didn't waste any time in calling for her parents.

Adeline - Did you know there's a black dog the size of a Tyrannosaurus rex outside?

Mr Hope Mrs Hope – Yessssssssss

Adeline -What should we do?

Mr Hope Mrs Hope – Close the curtains so it can't see us.

Maurice Hope was next to get up.

Maurice - My goodness!

he cried, dropping his teddy. He didn't waste any time in calling for the family.

Maurice - Did you know there's a black dog the size of a Big Jeffy outside?

Adeline - What's a Big Jeffy?

Maurice - Never mind that! What should we do?

Mr Hope Mrs Hope – Hide under the covers!

It was then that the youngest member of the Hope family, called Smart (for short) noticed that there was something going on.

Smart - What are you lot doing under there?

Mr Hope Mrs Hope – We're hiding from the Black Dog!

Smart - Oh, you are such sillies!

And Small opened the front door.



Mr Hope - Don't go out there!

Mrs Hope – The hound will eat you up!

Adeline - It'll munch your head!

Maurice - It'll crunch your bones!"

But Small had gone anyway. Outside, the Black Dog leaned down towards her and breathed.



Smart - Crikey, you ARE big! What are you doing here, you guffin?
The Black Dog SNUFFED at her.

Smart - All right then, if you're going to eat me, you'll have to catch me first.
And with that she scurried into the lowering trees. As she ran, she made up a song:

Smart - ***You can't follow where I go, unless you shrink, or don't you know?***
The Black Dog followed. As Small hurried towards the frozen pond, under the little bridge and over the ice, she sang:

Smart - ***You've got fat legs, ice is thin, lose some weight or you'll fall in.***
And the Black Dog followed. Next she scuttled through the playground, down the slide and around the roundabout, singing:

Smart - ***You've a BIG TUM, I'm all slim, you'll fit through if you're more trim.***
And still the Black Dog followed. Finally, Small had run all the way back to the house.

Smart - ***You'll find out why they all hide, if you follow me inside.***
And with that, Small tumbled into her warm home through the cat flap. She really was that small. And so, by now, was the Black Dog.

Inside, Small grabbed a washing basket and, as the Black Dog scrabbled in behind her, she covered him with a loud "**HA!**"
Just then, the rest of the Hope family popped up from behind their barricade.

Mrs Hope – You haven't been munched!

Mr Hope - You haven't been crunched!

Maurice - You haven't been eaten!

Adeline - But where's the Black Dog?



Without a word, Small lifted the basket. The rest of the Hope family were extremely pleased to see that the Black Dog was neither so huge, nor so scary, as they had feared.

Mr Hope - He doesn't seem fierce at all now I really look at him.

Adeline - We were silly, only Small knew the right thing to do.

Everyone was quiet for a while, thinking how brave Small had been.

Mrs Hope – You've got a lot of courage, facing up to a big, fearsome thing like that!

Smart - There was nothing to be scared of, you know.

Small Hope went to sit by the fire. And the Black Dog followed.

