ZAC'S NEW ACT

Story by Cameron Macintosh
Illustrations by Tom Jellett



PM

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Zac's New Act

Level 22

Running Words 753 **Text Type** Narrative (Imaginative)

Curriculum Area Literacy

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the story in his or her own words.

Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 What happened to Eric at school?

2 Why did Zac make an obstacle course for Swoopy's act?

3 What did Zac use to make the hoops?

Inferential

4 Why did Zac usually work backstage?

5 Why was Zac worried about taking Eric's place in the show?

6 Why was the audience thrilled with Dad's juggling act?

7 Why did Swoopy get stuck in the tube?

8 Why did Zac yell at Swoopy to "*Stay calm*"?

Applied Knowledge

9 What is an obstacle course?

10 Why would a loudspeaker be used at the circus?

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 22	Card	Procedure	*How to Ride a Unicycle*
Level 22	Book	Poetry	*The Acrobat and Other Poems*
Level 22	Book	Narrative	*Race Through Space!*

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Chapter 1

MY FAMOUS FAMILY



It was almost breakfast time in the Trapezio household.

Mum was balancing on her unicycle, cooking our eggs.

Dad was cheerfully juggling the pieces of toast that popped up out of the toaster.

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Eric walked into the kitchen on his hands,
and Jess came in wearing her new cape.

As for me, I was sitting at the table, quietly eating my cereal.
Our parrot, Swoopy, just watched us.



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"So, is everyone ready for tomorrow night's show?" asked Dad.

"We certainly are," replied Eric.

"You will love my new trick!" said Jess. "I can turn tennis balls into flowers!"



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"I can now do a full handstand on the trapeze," said Eric.

"And I'm ready to help backstage, as usual," I said.



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My family are circus performers.
Everyone performs in our circus, except for me.
I enjoy helping behind the stage.

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Most of the time, I am happiest in my room,
working on model ships and planes.
One day, I'd like to be an engineer.
Everyone in my family thinks my models are great.
They're not worried that I don't want to be a clown
or an acrobat.