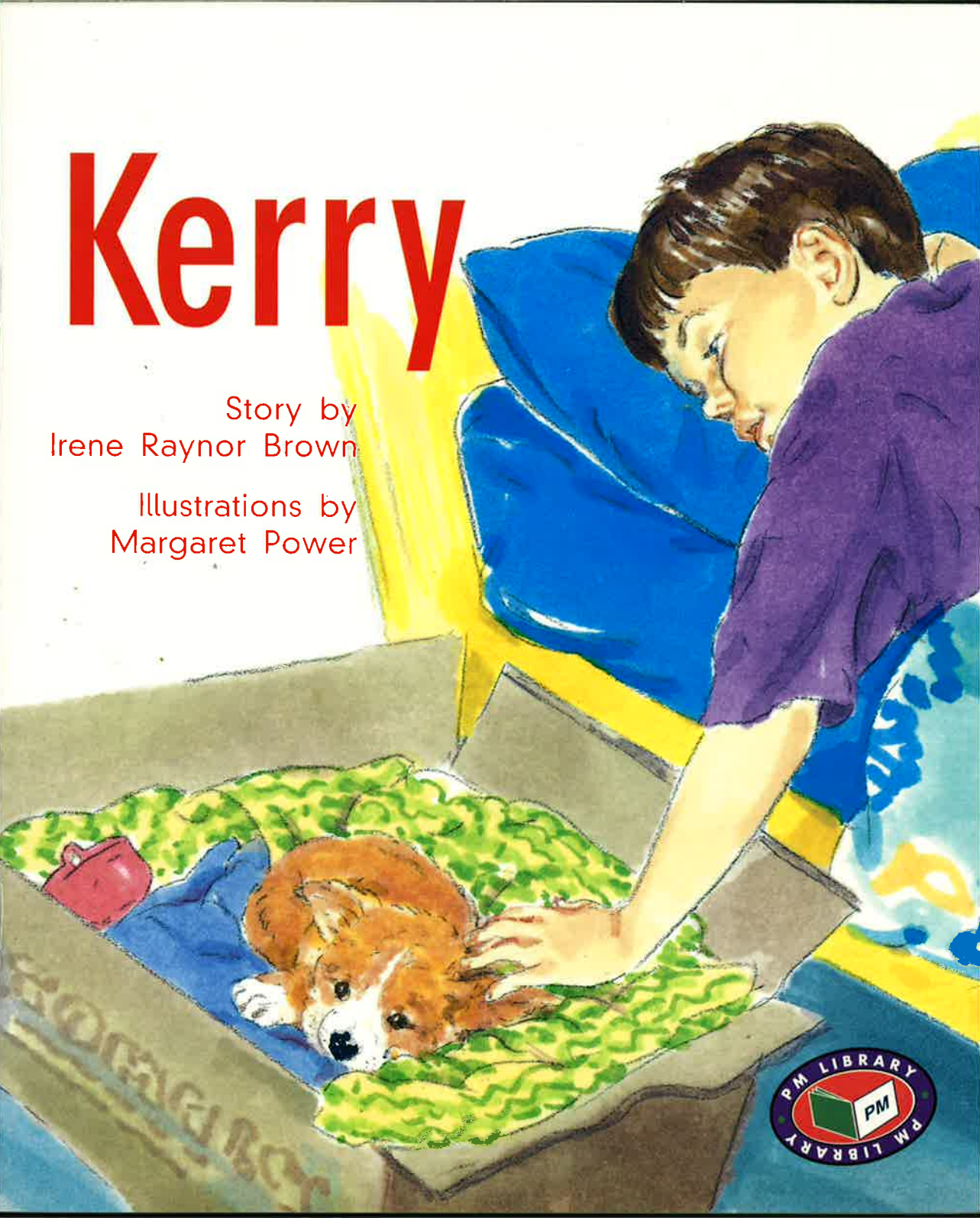
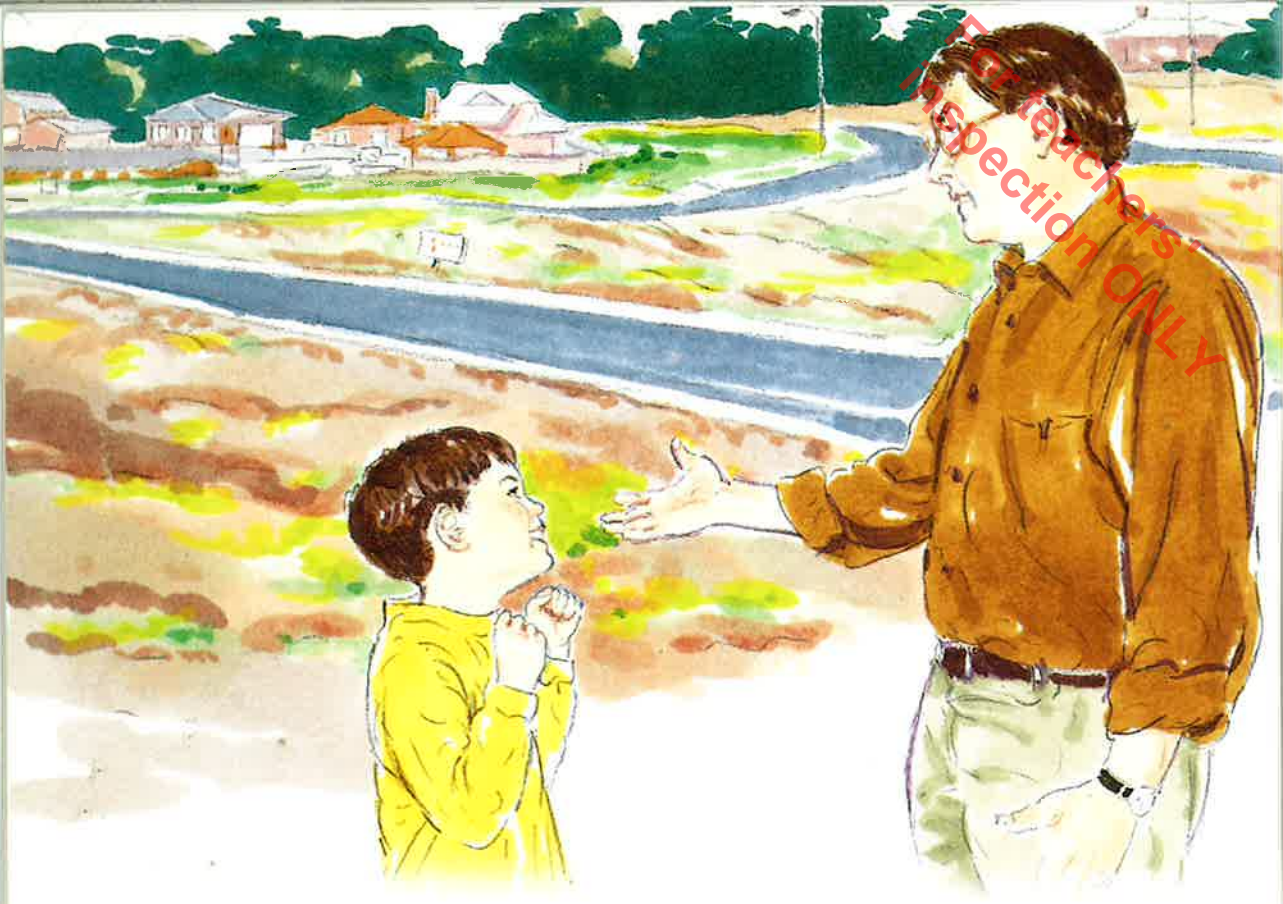
Kerry

Story by
Irene Raynor Brown

Illustrations by
Margaret Power





For teachers' inspection ONLY

Steve had always wanted a puppy, but his parents kept saying that he was too young to care for a dog, and that the backyard was too small.

Then, when Steve was eight, the family moved to a new house. "Can I have a puppy, now that we've got more room?" asked Steve.



For teachers' inspection ONLY

"Sorry, Steve," said Dad. "Not yet. Not until I've planted the lawn and built a fence around the backyard."

When Steve was nearly nine, he asked again. "Please can I have a dog for my birthday? I know just the sort I want. A corgi, with four white feet and a white chest. I want to call him Kerry."

"You would have to take care of him, Steve," Mum said. "Dogs need feeding and training. They are a big responsibility."

"I'd do everything," said Steve. "I'll save up and buy a collar for him."

"That would be a good start," said Dad.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

So Steve saved all his pocket money. He earned some money by doing odd jobs, too. He put all his savings into a box marked *Kerry*.

One day, Steve showed his dad and his little sister, Katy, all the money he had saved. When he counted it, there was enough for a collar and a leash as well!

"I'm impressed," said Dad. "Would you like me to help you build a dog kennel?"

They started work straight away. Steve did a lot of the sawing and hammering himself, and he painted the word *Kerry* on the front.

"Now all I need is a dog!" said Steve.

On the Saturday before Steve's ninth birthday, they went to see some people who had corgi pups for sale.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Two pups were brown all over... they wouldn't do.

One pup had three white feet and one brown foot... he wasn't quite right.

Then Steve saw a pup that had four white feet and a white chest.

"That's Kerry!" said Steve.



For teachers' inspection ONLY

Steve couldn't stop smiling as they drove home, but Kerry wasn't happy at all. He trembled and whimpered, even though Steve talked to him gently and tried to comfort him.

"He'll soon get used to you," said Mum, "but he's missing his mother."

When they got home, Steve did everything he could to help Kerry settle down. He put him in a comfortable box in the garage, but Kerry whimpered and cried.

"If he could stay in my room beside my bed," said Steve, "I could pat him. I think he's lonely."

