

## **Frequency Analysis: Finding out which letters are most common**

### **Activity**

Count how many of each letter there are in the passage below by keeping a tally for each letter on the Tally Sheet. Ignore punctuation like full stops and commas.

**Here is Edward Bear, coming downstairs now, bump, bump, bump, on the back of his head, behind Christopher Robin.**

**It is, as far as he knows, the only way of coming downstairs, but sometimes he feels that there really is another way, if only he could stop bumping for a moment and think of it.**

**And then he feels that perhaps there isn't. Anyhow, here he is at the bottom, and ready to be introduced to you. Winnie-the-Pooh.**

Which are the three most common letters in the above passage?

### **Extra things to do**

The following are extra activities you could do.

1. Draw a histogram of your tally data. The x-axis should show the letters of the alphabet. The y-axis should show the frequency of each letter.
2. Do a new frequency analysis but this time by tallying several pages from your favourite book. Draw a histogram of the results.

Are the results exactly the same as your original version? If not, can you explain why not?