Lucy the mouse lived with her family in the middle of a great big forest. One day Badge the postman called with a letter addressed to Maurice and Mildred Mouse, Lucy’s Mum and Dad. Inside was an invitation. It was her cousin Rolland’s birthday. He lived in the town and he was having a special party, Lucy was very excited.

Oh that would be fantastic, I’m really looking forward to visiting Roland. Can we go to the shops when we’re there Daddy? Asked Lucy. Lucy had never been to the town before, and she had only heard about the shops, she’d never seen them. Where she lived in the forest they didn’t need any shops because they could find everything they needed to eat around them.

Going to the shop wasn’t the only thing that Lucy wasn’t used to! She wasn’t used to seeing cars and she didn’t know anything about roads or pavements. The only thing that Lucy had seen was the farmer driving his tractor in the field at the edge of the forest.

The next day, they were getting ready to leave. “Right then!” said Lucy’s Dad, “that’s everything packed. Lucy you take this little back-pack. It’s got your toothbrush, socks and pyjamas inside, and some food for our journey. On and we must go to the shops and buy a present for Roland on our way to the party” And so they started to walk to the town and Roland’s house. Some of their friends came to wave goodbye. “Look Daddy! There’s Oswald Owl. Hello Oswald, I’m going to the town to visit my cousin Roland. It’s his birthday” Said Lucy.

“O-o-o! Have a nice time wo-on’t you-o-o! Take care in the town! I was nearly run over by a bus there once o-o-o-o!” said Oswald Owl.

It was quite a long walk across all the fields from the forest to the town. “Oh Daddy, we’ve been walking for hours! Are we nearly there yet?” asked Lucy in a tired voice. “There’s not far to go now” said Lucy’s Dad. After a while they came to the main road which went all the way to Roland’s house.

“My goodness” said Lucy’s Mum, “look at all the cars on this road! I wonder if they’re all going to Roland’s Party!” “I really can’t say!” said Lucy’s dad. “One thing I do know, we have to cross this road to get to Roland’s house. We must hold hands now, and all the time. Let’s have a look in the shops and see if we can find a nice present for Roland”.

As they were walking along the pavement looking at the shops, Lucy let go of her Mummy and Daddy’s hands and began to skip and jump between the cracks on the pavement. “Stop skipping Lucy! That’s very dangerous, you mustn’t run or play games on the pavement in case you trip,” shouted her Dad.

Suddenly Lucy stumbled off the kerb just as a great big red bus came rushing by. Fortunately the bus did not hit Lucy.

“Lucy! That bus came so close! I was very scared! Be more careful! You must keep hold of my hand when we are next to these busy roads,” said her Mum. “Gosh I’m so sorry Mum. I will hold your hand now I promise. I wonder if that was the bus that nearly ran into Oswald Owl. I was so excited about going to Roland’s party I forgot all about the busy road” said Lucy in a frightened voice. “Lucy you
must really think about where you’re going. Roads are very dangerous places” said her Dad sternly. Lucy’s Mum and Dad spent a long time going in and out of the shops looking for a birthday present for Roland. Finally they found a shiny red toy car they liked. They brought it and walked out of the shop. “Hold my hand again Lucy, we’ve got to cross this busy road now, we must be very careful” said Lucy’s Mum.

Lucy held on tight to her Mum’s hand while they found a safe place to cross the road. When they had found a place away from the cars parked outside the shops they stopped by the kerb. Lucy, her Mum and Dad looked up and down the road to see if there were any cars coming. They listened carefully for traffic and when they were sure it was safe they walked across the road. “Well done Lucy. You must always remember to Stop, Look and Listen before you cross the road” said Lucy’s Dad.

Lucy kept holding on to her Mum’s hand as they walked down the road to Roland’s house. Outside of Roland’s house there were balloons hanging on all the trees. “Look at all the balloons Daddy Aren’t they wonderful? It says happy birthday on them” said Lucy.

She rang the doorbell. Roland opened the door. “Hello everyone! You’ve arrived just in time, the party is about to begin. Let me get you a drink and you can tell me all about your journey here” said Roland. Lucy smiled at her cousin. “Well, Roland, we had such an adventure, I don’t know where to begin!”