



Story summary

Zeke and Becca go busking to raise money so they can go on a school camping trip. Unfortunately, a boy from Zeke's old street gang, Shark, threatens them so Zeke cuts short his busking session. Becca continues but Shark comes back and steals her money. Zeke helps her get away from the gang, but now they only have enough money for one of them to go camping. Later, their friends, the Gang-Stars, join them busking and raise enough money so both Zeke and Becca can go on the trip.

Vocabulary and spelling

Tricky words: reason, either, could, breath, believe, least, nervous, worse, sign, quiet, enough, sweaty, guess

Compound words: backpack, someone, anyone, without, whatever, streetlight, everyone, midday, railway, teenager, afternoon, overhead, something, inside, potatoman, sometimes, courtyard, lunchtime

Hyphenated words: Gang-Stars, under-12s

ea phoneme (long *ee* sound): reason, means, least, real, leader, beat, please, jeans, leave, steals, reached, easy, eats

Different pronunciations of the ea grapheme: breath, ready, overhead, heavily, sweaty, yeah, great, earn, heard, year, heart, areas, realised

Grammar and punctuation

Irregular past tense verbs: was, saw, got, knew, met, thought, said, kept, felt, took, began, drew, sat, bent, kept, did, had, spat, gave, stood, bit, fell, heard, shook

Adverbs: really, hardly, tightly, heavily, safely, badly, quickly, quietly

Apostrophes for contraction: didn't, couldn't, I'm, it's, don't, doesn't, can't, wasn't, we'll, that's, you'll, we're, you're, let's, he's, I'll, where's, shouldn't, we've, they'll

Apostrophes for possession: Zeke's, Becca's, Shark's

Ellipsis indicating a pause: 'It's just that ...', 'I think we've got about ...'

Italics for emphasis: 'You don't put money *in*. You take it *out*.'

Questions to interrogate the text

Chapter 1

- What feelings did Zeke and Becca have in common that day?
- Why do you think Zeke had kept his grant a secret from the others?
- How did they plan to make some money to pay for the camping trip?

Chapter 2

- Why do you think Zeke was nervous?
- Why did Zeke decide it was time to stop busking?
- What made Zeke change his mind about leaving Becca?

Chapter 3

- When Becca saw Shark had returned, what did she think might happen?
- How did Becca behave towards Shark and his gang?
- What did Zeke do to help Becca escape?

Chapter 4

- Why didn't Becca and Zeke have fun busking in the courtyard?
- How do you think Becca and Zeke felt when Natalie told them what the busking was for?
- What do you think Becca and Zeke learnt from their busking experiences?

Role-play/drama suggestions

- Hot-seat a pupil as Zeke. Invite the other pupils to ask Zeke questions about what happened when he and Becca went busking in Camden. Encourage them to delve into Zeke's different emotions on the day.
- Ask the pupils to work in pairs, one taking the role of Shark and the other taking the role of Natalie's mum. Invite them to role-play what happens when Natalie's mum sees Shark bullying Becca.

Copymasters

PCM 1

This copymaster focuses on apostrophes for contraction. Ask the pupils to rewrite the verb phrases using an apostrophe for contraction, then write the shortened verb phrases in full.

PCM 2

This copymaster involves writing a news report about Natalie's mum's attempt to confront Shark when he stole Becca's money. Discuss the event with the pupils and draw up a list showing their sequence. Go through the typical features of a news report, e.g. a headline, sensational vocabulary, named participants (witnesses). Do they think this is a good or a bad news story? Brainstorm possible catchy headlines, such as 'Have-a-go mum confronts thief'.

Apostrophes

Name: _____ Date: _____

Rewrite these verb phrases using an apostrophe. The first one is done for you.

I cannot	_____	<i>I can't</i>	
We are	_____	They will	_____
He would	_____	We will	_____
I do not	_____	We have	_____
You are	_____	He is	_____

Rewrite these shortened verb phrases in full. The first one is done for you.

That's	_____	<i>That is</i>	
Let's	_____	We'll	_____
You've	_____	I don't	_____
I can't	_____	We're	_____
He's	_____	I've	_____

News report

Name: _____ Date: _____

Write a news report about Natalie's mum and Shark. Include details to make it exciting for readers.

Headline (short, eye-catching, tells readers what the story is about)

Opening sentence (introduces the story)

What happened? Where and when? Who was involved?

Closing sentence (sum up the story and comment on it)