

A walk in the forest

On her usual walk in the forest, Grace meets an unusual boy.

Tuesday

Going through the forest is my favourite part of the walk. My dog Benji _____ (love) it too. I'm Grace. I _____ (live) on a farm with _____ (I) parents and I take Benji for a walk most days after school. While Benji's playing, I stop to take a photo of a butterfly. I'm thinking about posting it on Facebook, but then I hear Benji barking. He _____ (jump) and running around a boy. The poor boy looks worried. 'Benji, stop! Come here!' I call and throw him his ball. I'm about to say sorry to the boy, but he's gone.

Wednesday

It's cold today, so Benji and I _____ (walk) fast. As we go through the forest, it starts _____ (rain) so I run. Suddenly, I fall and I'm on my back. OUCH! That hurt! Then there's someone there and a voice asks 'Are you all right?' I look up and see the boy from yesterday. 'I'm OK,' I say and the boy _____ (help) me up. 'I haven't seen you at school. Do you live near here?' I ask. 'No, I'm from Manchester,' he says. 'Sorry! I have to go. Can you walk? Do you need help?' 'No, I'm fine. Thanks!' I say and the boy _____ (walk) away. 'I'm Grace,' I call. 'What's your name?' but he's already gone. At home, Mum _____ (watch) the news. 'Hi Grace. Do you know about this boy, Mark?' she asks. 'No, what boy?' I say. 'A boy from Manchester. He's run away from home. Look! This is his dad.' There's a man on TV sitting with a policeman. He _____ (cry) as the policeman asks people to help. Then they _____ (show) a photo of the missing boy. It's the boy from the forest. He's Mark. Should I say something? 'Poor man,' says Mum. 'I just hope they find his son soon.' No, I mustn't say anything. If I tell Mum, the police will come and find Mark. What if he's run away for a good reason? I should talk to _____ (he) first. Thursday I can't find Mark, so I shout, 'Mark, where are you?' No answer. 'Mark,' I shout again, 'I know about you.' After a moment, he appears. 'What _____ (you/know)? How do you know my name?' 'Your dad was on TV. The police are looking for you.' He looks shocked. 'Did you say anything? Have you told them?' 'No,' I say. 'I wanted to talk to you first. What's happened? Why have you run away?' 'I had an argument with my dad. A bad one.' 'What about?' I ask. Mark points to a fallen tree and we sit down. 'My mum _____ (die) four years ago. It _____ (be) a very difficult time for me and for Dad. He was sad for a long time, but then he

_____ (meet) someone new. Mel's her name.' 'Oh, and don't you like her?' I ask. 'No, not much. She's not a bad person, but we don't really connect. She wants my dad for herself and she isn't _____ (interest) in me.' 'But, what about your dad? Have you talked to him?' 'He tells me to try harder with her, but I can't. The night I ran away, he told me that we're all moving to London. Mel's from London, you see. Then he told me that he and Mel want to get married and have a baby. We both got angry and I _____ (tell) him I'm not moving to London. I _____ (take) my tent and I left in the middle of the night.' 'But what will you do? You can't live here.' I tell _____ (he). 'I know, but my grandad and my friends are in Manchester. I don't want to move to London.' 'You might like London,' I say. 'That's what my dad says.' I feel sorry for Mark, but I think of his dad crying on TV and feel sorry for _____ (he) too. 'What are you going to do?' I ask. 'I don't know. I need time to think.'

Friday

Mark's waiting for _____ (I) in the forest. I've got some news. 'The police came to the farm this morning. They're going to search the forest tomorrow.' Mark looks sad, 'I didn't want this. My dad, crying on TV and the police looking for me. I don't know what to do.' 'I've got an idea. Why don't you live with your grandad in Manchester? Let your dad and Mel move to London and visit them in the holidays.' Mark _____ (not/ answer) at first, then he looks at _____ (I) and _____ (smile). 'Can I use your phone?' he asks. 'I need to call my dad.'

Robin Newton

1) Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a-h next to the numbers 1-8.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1..... a forest | a. the noise a dog makes |
| 2..... bark | b. a place with lots of trees and plants |
| 3..... to run away | c. a nylon and metal structure that you sleep in when you go camping |
| 4..... to cry | d. to speak in a loud voice |
| 5..... to shout | e. to produce water from your eyes when you're sad |
| 6..... an argument | f. to escape or leave suddenly or secretly |
| 7..... a tent | g. to cause pain |
| 8..... to hurt | h. a conversation in which people express different opinions, often angrily |

2) Choose the best option to complete these sentences.

1. Grace takes a photo of _____ *Benji / a butterfly*.
2. Mark and Grace speak for the first time on _____ *Tuesday / Wednesday*.
3. After Grace falls, Mark _____ *helps her stand up / walks home with her*.
4. On TV, Mark's dad looks _____ *sad / angry*.
5. Grace doesn't tell her mum about Mark because her mum will call _____ *the police / Mark's dad*.
6. Mark ran away because he didn't _____ *like Mel / want to live in London*.
7. The police are going to search the forest on _____ *Friday / Saturday*.
8. Grace thinks Mark should _____ *move to London / stay in Manchester*.

3) Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

at	about	away	in (x2)
on	for (x2)		

1. Grace thinks _____ putting the photo on Facebook.
2. Grace has never seen Mark _____ school.
3. Mark's dad is _____ TV with a policeman.
4. Mel isn't interested _____ Mark.
5. Mark runs _____ after an argument with his dad.
6. Mark left home _____ the middle of the night.
7. Grace feels sorry _____ Mark and his dad.
8. On Friday, Mark is waiting _____ Grace in the forest.