
FIFTY PLAYS

FOR

CLASS DISCUSSION

RELATING TO VALUES AND KEY COMPETENCIES

In the 2007 curriculum

For years 7-13 in state, integrated and independent schools

By
Gwen Francis

Plays for Class Discussion

For years 7-13 in state, integrated and independent schools.

**To add an ethical content to the
Key Competencies of**

**Managing self- Relating to others – Participating and contributing – Thinking –
Using language, symbols and texts.**

**And to the broad abstract values
As stated in the Draft Curriculum 2006**

**Diversity – Community – Excellence – Inquiry – Integrity – Equity – Respect and Care –
Environmental sustainability**

ISBN 978-0-473-20835-6

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INTRODUCTION

These plays were written for use in half-hour lessons involving values education, critical analysis, and ethical decision-making.

They cover the key competencies as stated on p 12 of the New Zealand Curriculum Statement 2007, i.e.

Managing self

Relating to others

Participating and contributing

Thinking.

Using language, symbols and texts.

The plays are indexed according to the broad values specified in the recommended statement for values in the curriculum (P10), i.e.,

Diversity, Community, Respect and Care, Equity, Integrity, Inquiry and curiosity, Excellence and Environmental Sustainability.

They are also indexed more specifically to the issues that are involved. Some will be especially relevant to a particular age group, e.g. “The end of the year” was written for years 7 and 8 who were going on to secondary school next year.

Most plays however will be relevant to a variety of age groups depending on the level of the class, and depending on what issues are being discussed or analysed.

They were originally sight read by members of the class, and were designed for use in an ordinary classroom, with no special facilities. There was a copy of the script for each character, with their part underlined in a different colour so that it was easy to follow. In some plays the whole class was involved and each student had a script.

Role-playing had been tried, but it was found that much time was wasted, and the point of the lesson was not always made clear.

If the facilities were available the plays could be made into videos, keeping the same readers for the different characters.

The copies of the scripts were filed in manila folders and were used again for other classes over several years.

Each play is followed by suggestions for questioning and discussion to clarify understanding of the issues involved. Some have activities such as questionnaires or cartoon drawing for the same purpose.

As student language involves popular in-words of the moment, exclamations and idioms can be updated to keep up with the latest fashions, but the types of situations do not change.

Many of the plays were written originally for years 7 and 8 at Buckland School where students were going on to Pukekohe High School. Where school names are mentioned in the plays, they can be altered to be relevant to the pupils concerned. Backgrounds in the texts can also be modified to suit the different geographical surroundings, and the abilities and interests of different age groups.

The Smith family, who are constant characters throughout the series, consists of mother, father, grandparents, uncles, and cousins. The Smith children are John (17) starting in the work-force. Mary (16), Jo-anne (14) and Billy (12), so there is someone in the family with whom most students can identify and speak for in discussions.

There may be some argument that many children do not have fathers like Mr Smith. That is the importance of his character. He is a role model for boys brought up in a single parent family, or with a less than adequate father. He is not perfect. He has made mistakes in the past, but he now takes his

responsibilities seriously. He is a “good provider” for his family. He is a reliable employee and mentor to young people starting in the work-force. Young people cannot reach for the stars if they do not know the stars are there. Those from less fortunate homes are not so likely to repeat the cycle if they realise they can choose to make something better.

There is also room for comment about Billy’s liking for food, but Billy sees cream cake as a treat. It is not part of his ordinary diet. There is opportunity here for discussion of the effects of eating high-fat or high-calorie food without the exercise required to burn it up.

The advantage of using plays such as these for discussion is that no-one need be seen to be personally involved, but many will be able to personally identify with the characters, and will be able to put forward points of view that they might not do otherwise.

It is not advisable to use methods such as lining up in order of preference for any point of view.

Students may wish to side with a popular student, may be afraid to go against another student, or may want to do what they think will please the teacher. It is a brave young person who will be prepared to stand out for an unpopular point of view, even if subsequent ethical reasoning could prove he/she was right. I have always found that pupils enjoyed discussions as long as the teacher acted as a fair chairperson. **All students should be encouraged to offer an opinion.**

The plays are set out here ready to be photocopied as scripts, with the points for discussion omitted and used by the teacher for discussion during and after the performance.

They can be revised to suit different schools, or different idioms used.

They can also be read individually, with written answers to the questions.

My own classes often drew cartoons to illustrate the point being made.

THE ROLE OF THE TEACHER IN DISCUSSION

The 2007 Curriculum states (p10) that values will be expressed in a school's philosophy, structures, curriculum, classrooms and relationships, and therefore no specific time is allowed for values education as a subject. Though values permeate the whole curriculum, and the ethical principles used here can be used there also, the natural home for values *education* is social inquiry in the social sciences. If students are to "make ethical decisions and act on them," as required as an outcome, (p10 2007 curriculum,) discussion will need to be based on consistent ethical principles.

The theory that children "catch" values as they would catch measles is no longer an adequate foundation for values education. Outside the school gates there are other values - presented by T.V., Videos, pop music, films, sports personalities - all on offer and waiting to be "caught," and these are often more attractive short-term propositions than values modelled in schools. There are also values offered by dysfunctional families. There are values modelled by criminal associates. There are values of new immigrant families who come from countries where democracy is unknown and bribery and corruption are taken for granted. Values merely "caught" in schools may be seen as no more than school rules - to be left behind at the school gates.

Not all values are ethical values, but all values have an ethical content when they affect other people.

The role of the teacher in these discussions is to base reasoning on the simple ethical principles offered here -

- 1 **Wisdom** – We should be sensible – consider the likely long- term consequences of our actions – maximise the good and minimise the harm.
2. **Justice** – We should be fair – No person or group should be treated any better or any worse than any other. "Justice" for one should not involve injustice for another. Equal outcomes are not expected because outcomes often depend on individual choices.
3. **Truth** – We should be honest. Reasoning should be based on factual evidence, not merely opinion or emotion. No-one should deliberately try to deceive others.
4. **Love** – We should treat every person with respect. No-one should use any other person for his/her own ends.

There are two checks and balances on our reasoning –

The Golden Rule – How would *I feel* if I were the one personally affected? This encourages individuals to feel for others.

The Goal –a better world - Will this action make the world a better or happier place – at home – at school – at work – in the community – in the nation – in the environment – globally?

Open-ended discussion is not sufficient.

Open-ended discussion can often be ethical relativity, and ethical relativity fails at the intersection of cultures. The ethical values of *all* cultures will be under scrutiny. We can respect and value diversity in cultures, traditions, music, dance, food etc, but in a newly multi-cultural society, where actions affect other people, we need to have common ethical principles and common standards of "right" and "wrong." In real life we have to make decisions and we have to consider consequences. In this country we all live similar westernised lives, we live under the same laws and the same system of democracy and have many similar family problems.

When a class has examined a particular situation on the basis of consistent ethical principles, and has considered the probable consequences of actions, there is generally agreement on the wisest course of

action to follow. In the plays however, the characters often do not follow the wisest course of action, and this fact frequently leads to unfortunate consequences for the characters in the next episode.

Teacher as Chairperson

The teacher is not neutral. He/she chairs the discussion, but also takes a part in supervising the debate, adding questions that will ensure that consideration has been given to ethical principles, and keeping the objective in view. This is Socratic questioning that leads the thinking and reasoning along a logical course to a logical conclusion. The teacher points out where argument is based on emotion rather than reason, insists on evidence being factual and reasoning logical, makes sure a wide variety of views has been presented, and asks questions that will make students “feel” for others. The teacher aims to raise the level of reasoning of all students from, “What’s in it for me?” to “How are my actions going to affect other people?”

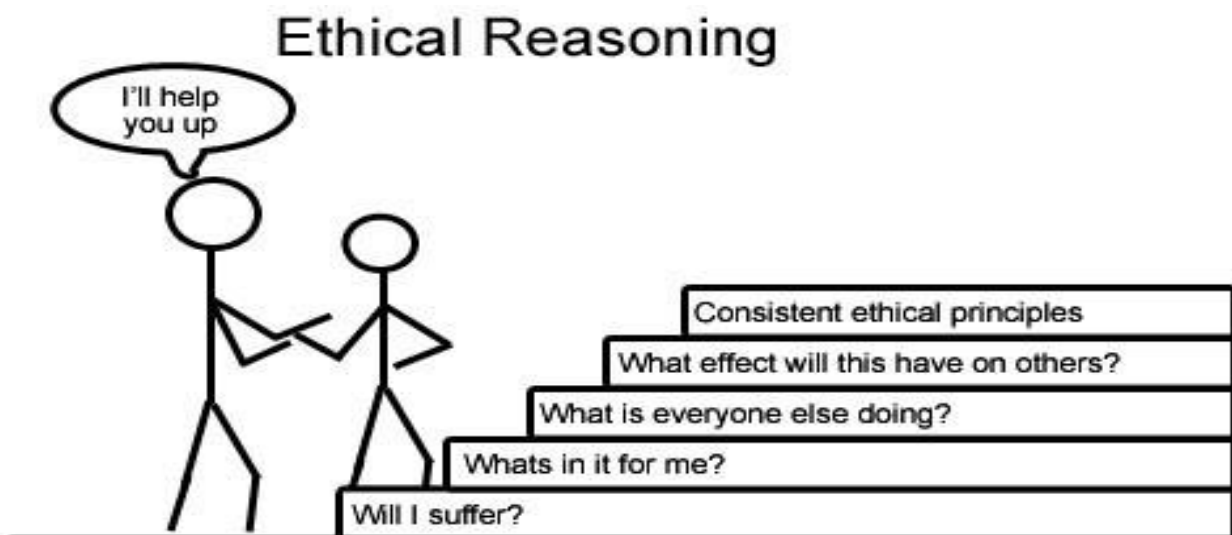
“Will this maximise the good and minimise the harm?”

“Will this make for a better world, now and in the future?”

Kohlberg’s theory of moral reasoning

As well as using consistent ethical principles as a basis for making ethical decisions in discussions of the situations in these plays, the aim is to raise the level of ethical reasoning of all students. For those teachers who are unfamiliar with Kohlberg’s theory, it will be explained in more detail on pages 9 and 10

Finally – The characters in these plays are composite pictures of people that most of us will be able to recognize from their own experiences when they have lived long enough. They are not meant to be accurate representations of any particular individuals.



PLAYS INDEXED TO VALUES IN CURRICULUM

Diversity –

A better world
What's passed is past
The Bridge

Community –

Apathy and initiative
The tennis courts
The dirt track

Peer pressure and support
The new car
The team
The College social
Follow me
The first puff
Never too late (grief)

Integrity -

Being responsible and reliable
The loose wheel
The forgotten heater
The election
The broken engagement

Other people
The good neighbour
The relations
The lazy family

Gossip and the media
The thief
What's news?

Leaders and the media
The working bee

Democratic Government
Vote for me
The budget
The public servant

Respect and care –

Human failings
Selfishness - What's wrong with being selfish?
Envy - Not yet
Greed - The pile
- The crash

- - So that's what happened to Francy Bitmore

Seeing ourselves as we are

Why not me?

The three brothers

The end of the year

Stress

Help!!!

Grief

Never too late

Self-control

I'm sorry

Boom!!

Out to tea

Excellence

Courage

To face life. – Does the road wind uphill?

To face new situations – The first day

A new start

Love and marriage

The good provider

For better or worse

As long as we both shall live

Equity

The principle of justice is discussed with every play.

Care for the Environment

The new phone

Care for the environment is also involved in the constant check – **“Will this action make for a better world** – at home – at school – at work – in the community – in the environment – in the nation – globally?”

PLAYS INDEXED FOR SUBJECT MATTER

PEER PRESSURE AND SUPPORT

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BEING RESPONSIBLE AND RELIABLE

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MAKING THE BEST OF OUR TALENTS

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Upwards or downwards	62

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LEADERS AND THE MEDIA				
The working bee	.	.	.	105
COURAGE				
To face life – Does the road wind uphill?	.	.	.	109
To face new situations – The first day	.	.	.	111
SELF-CONTROL				
Boom!!!	.	.	.	113
Out to tea	.	.	.	116
I'm sorry	.	.	.	119
LOVE AND MARRIAGE				
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For better or worse	.	.	.	126
As long as we both shall live	.	.	.	130.
THE FUTURE				
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What's passed is past	.	.	.	137
The bridge	.	.	.	140
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT				
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The budget	.	.	.	146
The public servant	.	.	.	150
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY				
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THE WORKPLACE				
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GRIEF				
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KOHLBERG'S THEORY OF ETHICAL REASONING

Professor Lawrence Kohlberg of Harvard University was inspired to do his research into the development of moral reasoning by events of World War Two, and the fact that some people would risk their own lives and be prepared to suffer, not for their own gain, but for what they saw as a higher good,¹ whereas others would not go beyond what the law required.

The theory that children's moral reasoning develops through stages, also relates to the work of Dewey and Piaget who saw that each new step in learning was based on previous experience and the assistance of others who operated at a more advanced level.

Outline –

Kohlberg believed that at every moral stage there is a concern for justice, and that central to justice are the demands of *liberty*, *equality* and *reciprocity*.

Stage 1 The child understands punishment. Actions that bring pain or personal discomfort are to be avoided. (Also applies to adults at this stage of reasoning.)

Stage 2- The child is oriented towards seeking his/her own pleasure. What will produce rewards is good. There is an element of reciprocity, "You scratch my back I'll scratch yours."² (this also applies to adults)

Stage 3. The child desires approval. "Good boy!" " Good girl!" works, even though the child does not see any personal advantage, e.g. in sharing with others.

Stage 4. Accepting set standards and conforming to conventional norms of behaviour. At the time Kohlberg was writing, conventional morality was "a morality of law and order" i.e. obeying authority and doing one's duty" was what was right. Today it is more a case of doing what everyone else in one's own group is doing. This applies to teenagers and also to adults, but just because "everybody does it," the behaviour may not necessarily be ethical behaviour.

Stage 5. The beginning of personal morality. The person recognizes that rules and laws flow from justice, from a social contract between the governors and the governed. It is a contract which is designed to protect the equal rights of all, and works for the common good.

Stage 6. It is suggested that this level is only reached by people like Mahatma Gandhi, Mother Theresa or Martin Luther King. Few of us are going to attain that level, but the person who acts on ethical principles by personal choice and for his/her own self-respect is well on the way.

Kohlberg was researching and writing in the 1960s and 70s at a time when many of the authoritative texts on "moral" education were being written. Since then, there has been criticism of Kohlberg's work by feminists because his research was done only with males, and by social activists because of his emphasis on justice rather than activism, but there has been no real success in producing anything better. Another criticism was that Kohlberg, like Piaget, is weak on the emotion side: that there is not enough concern for people.

Emphasis on the principle of "Love" and concern for other people in discussions should deal with that. Also the check of the Golden Rule. Asking children to explain how they would feel if they were the ones to be affected can help children feel the emotions of other people, what it would be like if they were in the same situation. They have to think about what they would like to happen if it was happening to them personally. A modern ethicist Rawls suggests that rules should be made from behind a "veil of ignorance" as to what position in society the rule maker

¹ Hinman, L. *ethics: A pluralistic approach to moral theory*. P370

² Hinman, p371

would personally occupy, e.g. would people vote for slavery if they did not know if they were to be master or slave? At senior levels, this can be a useful tool in class discussions on making rules. Another question to ask, based on the ideas of the philosopher Kant, is, "What would happen if everybody did that?" for instance if everybody lied to each other? Kant's categorical imperative says, "I ought never to act except in such a way that I can also will that my maxim become a universal law."³

Kohlberg accepted that many adults did not advance beyond Stages 3 and 4. He believed that the stages were the same in any culture regardless of different social norms. He also concluded that maturity of moral judgement is not highly correlated with I.Q. or verbal intelligence, which probably accounts for the amount of white-collar crime and successful criminals – or the bright student who uses intelligence to the detriment of others. The work of Sheldon Berman((1997) in synthesizing the major research over the last half century in the field of social consciousness, showed that most of the criticism of Kohlberg's work had come from theorists with ideologies of their own to push. He concluded therefore that – "The consistency across numerous studies leads me to believe -----there is still a good deal of substance in Kohlberg's theory."⁴

One final criticism of Kohlberg's work was that his emphasis was not so much on morality as on making good citizens of the United States. Since an aim of social studies in New Zealand has always been to produce good citizens, then Kohlberg's theory is very relevant and is in line with the "key competencies" as expressed in the 2006 Draft Curriculum. . Forty years on from Kohlberg's research, we are still waiting for the perfect theory. However as the ethicist Beauchamp(1991) claimed "A theory is pragmatically justified if it gets you there more often than not,"⁵ and the system offered here will do that.

Open-ended discussion

The 2007 Curriculum requires students to be able to "make ethical judgements and decisions and act on them."⁶ The type of discussion that reaches no conclusion has been accepted practice with values "clarification," but may not *educate* in values, or enable students to make *ethical* judgements. In real life we have to make decisions and often there is no perfect answer. We have to make choices and we need to consider consequences. It is recognised that considering consequences does not rate highly with young people, but if, in critical analysis, constant emphasis is put on considering consequences, this could improve. In real life we need to consider the effect of our actions on other people, and often we need to make compromises. If we are unwilling to make compromises occasionally, there is little chance of our being able to live peacefully and happily with other people for any length of time. There is often an opportunity for compromise in details that do not really matter, but not in the ethical principles on which we base our choices.

Practice in making wise choices and knowing when to compromise, is essential if students are to be prepared for life in the real world. There is little practical use in philosophy if it teaches students to think, but it does not help them to find answers. There is also little point in reasoning, if in the end, a person does not choose to act on this reasoning, so there also needs to be motivation to act. The final check on ethical reasoning, is whether our decision will make for a better world – at home – at school – in the community and in the environment, nationally and globally.

THE NEW CAR

³ Beauchamp, T.,(1991). *Philosophical ethics: An introduction to moral philosophy*. (2nd ed.) p186.

⁴ Berman, S., (1997) *children's social consciousness and the development of social responsibility*. P 83.

⁵ Beauchamp, T., (1991) *Philosophical ethics : An introduction to moral philosophy*. (2nd ed). P89.

⁶ Draft Curriculum p10

Characters – William, Peter, Mark, Glen, Brian, John, Angus, Others, Reader.

Reader – It is lunch-time at Pukekohe High and a group of boys from Buckland are standing around talking.

Mark – Did you hear Peter's Dad has bought him a car?

William – Yes, I heard. I believe it's a Honda Accord. They can really go!

Glen – Well, he promised he would buy Peter a car if he got his NCEA qualifications.

John – He won't have it long then, the way I saw him driving down the road last night.

Brian – Is that so? His father told Dad that Peter has promised not to more than 90k, while he was still at High School.

John – Some promise then! He was doing 110 at least when I saw him, and he reckons he can get up to 130 on that straight out towards Tuakau.

Mark – He must be mad.

John – No, he just thinks he's smart. Having the car has gone to his head I think.

Angus – He said he'd take us out with him on Sunday afternoon. He said we could go up to town and he'll show us what it can do.

John – I'm not going anywhere with that lunatic. He could kill us all!

Other Boys (together) – Chicken! Chicken!

John – I'd rather be a live chicken than a dead show-off.

Glen – Or a crippled show-off would be even worse.

Brian – Here he comes now. Let's see what he has to say.

Reader – Peter comes up to the group.

Peter – Hello you guys. Heard about my new car?

All Boys – Yes – we've heard!

Peter – I had her up to 130 coming out from Pukekohe last night.

Brian – I thought you promised your father you wouldn't do over 90k while you were still at High School.

Peter – Oh well, that will keep him happy. What he doesn't see won't worry him.

Angus – It will jolly well worry him if you smash the car and yourself with it!

Peter – No chance man, I'm too good a driver for that.

Glen – But you only got your license two months ago.

Peter – So what? Some people have got it, and some haven't. I'm just a natural. See you later then, I'm off to the cafe.

Reader – Peter walks off towards the cafeteria.

William – What a big head! He'd make you sick!

Angus – He used to be all right till he got that car. His father should never have bought it for him.

John – Perhaps if we let him see we aren't impressed by his showing off he'll get the message and see sense.

Brian – Yes, and if we won't go anywhere with him he won't have anyone to show off to.

Angus – And he won't have the chance to kill any of us.

Glen – He's sure to find someone who will go with him.

Brian – Too bad for them then, but we have to make up our own minds.

John – He always enjoyed being with our gang, and doing things together. Perhaps he'll see reason.

Brian – We could say we won't go with him unless he keeps his promise to his father.

William – He'd rather have us with him anyway than have to make new friends.

Mark – Here he comes again.

Reader – Peter enters carrying his lunch

Peter – Well you guys. Are you coming with me on Sunday, or do I look for some other passengers.

John – Look Peter, we'd really like to come with you. We've always had a good time together, but if we do we want you to keep your promise to your father.

Brian – We've got a lot of living to do, and there's a lot of things I want to do with my life. Ending up now in a wheelchair or the cemetery is not one of them. We don't want to take any stupid risks.

Angus – Now, be honest with yourself. You haven't got the experience to handle a car at high speeds yet, and we don't want you practicing on us.

Peter – Oh, O.K. I guess you're right. I wouldn't want Dad to find out I'd broken my promise. He gets pretty serious about things like that.

John – Great! We'll come then, and in a few years time, if you still fancy yourself as a driver you can take up motor-racing.

Other boys – ON YOUR OWN!!!!

Ends

SAMPLE LESSON PLAN

For half hour lesson for years 9 and 10

Revision of previous lesson.

Objective –

To show how peer pressure can be applied for good purposes as well as harmful purposes

Motivation –

Do play “The new car” stopping at different points to ask questions.

New Learning -

Based on questioning to make sure the class understands what is happening and the possible consequences of different courses of action.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- What was the main cause of Peter’s trouble? PRIDE – He had such a swelled head over the new car he couldn’t see straight!
- How important is it to keep a promise?
- What are the likely results if you show you can’t be trusted? Better not to make a promise than to make one you can’t keep.
- Should Peter be punished if his father found out what he was doing, and what would be a fair punishment?
- Would it be hard to admit to your friends that you were scared to do something because of what the consequences might be?
- Would it be possible that they might be feeling the same way?
- If even only one person spoke the truth as they saw it what might the others do then?
- **PEER PRESSURE?** What is it? It can be applied for good purposes as well as bad.
How could friends help? - A friend being tempted to try drugs.
To prevent bullying? - People who lack confidence in themselves
Any other suggestions?

Reinforcing activities – Do you know any leaders in sport or other activities who influence others for good?

Draw cartoon.

Evaluation – Did most students take part in the discussion?

Did they grasp the main point that they can help friends who may be weaker than themselves, to make better choices?

THE TEAM

Characters – Jane, Susan, Jackie, Mary, Linda, Colleen Others

Reader – *It is Saturday morning and a group of Buckland girls are waiting at the bus stop for the bus to Pukekohe-.*

Jane – Lovely morning, isn't it? Looking forward to your netball match today Susan?

Susan – I certainly am. If we win this game today we'll be in the finals.

Linda – I've seen you running round the block each night. Is that why you're so keen?

Susan – Yes, and if we win the finals we get a trip to Hamilton to play their top team, so we're all training hard.

Jane – Have you seen Colleen lately? She used to play in your team didn't she?

Susan – Oh, she couldn't be bothered training and the coach wouldn't let her play till she trained regularly, so she doesn't come any more.

Jane – I wonder what she does with herself on the weekends now.

Jackie – I can tell you that! She hangs around that coffee bar down the bottom of the street. You know, the one where that gang hangs out.

Mary – Yes, and I've seen her going off with some of them in a car. I think they'd been drinking too.

Jane – That's too bad. I always liked Colleen. She was a bit thoughtless, but full of fun and always good to the little kids.

Jackie – Her mother and father are really nice people. They'd be terribly upset if they knew what she's doing.

Susan – I think they think she still goes to netball on Saturday. She takes her gear with her, but she never turns up at the courts.

Mary – She'll end up in some sort of trouble if she doesn't watch out. That's a bad lot she's got in with.

Linda – I wish we could do something to help her. She was great to me when I had a broken leg. She used to come round and talk to me, and bring me records and magazines.

Jackie – Do you think we should tell her parents? They might be able to stop her.

Susan – Well, I suppose that's what we ought to do, but they might go mad at her, then she'd get mad at them, and might get even worse.

Jane – I wonder if we could talk to her ourselves?

Mary – I don't know about that. No-one likes to be criticized. Perhaps if we did the best we could to get her to come back to netball she might forget about that bunch, and no-one would get mad.

Susan – That's a good idea. I'll tell her about the trips that may be coming up and see if I can get her to come to training with me. She's a really good player if she puts her mind to it, and I'm sure the coach would put her back in the team if she did train properly.

Jackie – And I'll see if Mum and Dad will let us have a bit of a party on Saturday night so we can get her back with the rest of us.

All girls – That's a great idea!!!

Reader – *Two weeks later and the girls are all having lunch together at school.*

Colleen – That was a great party on Saturday night Jackie. Your Mum and Dad were super to put up with the noise, and put on such a great feed for all of us.

Jackie – Yes, as parents go, they're not too bad are they?

Linda – We should do that more often. I'll ask my Mum and Dad if they can all come round to our place this Saturday after the game.

All girls – Great! That would be fun!!!

Mary – How's the training going Colleen?

Colleen – Fine. I'm working hard to make up for lost time. I'd forgotten how good it feels to be really fit. The coach says I've got a good show of getting in the team, and we've got to take a couple of reserves so I won't be doing anyone else out of a trip.

Susan – And Colleen's parents said if she got in the team and we all go to Hamilton they'll take their station wagon and shout us all to the Pizza Hut on the way home.

Colleen – It's certainly good to be back with you lot again. I'd forgotten how much fun we used to have before I stopped coming to Netball.

Jane – And we're glad to have you back too. You're always good at making us laugh.

Colleen – A natural-born clown, that's me!

Jackie – Let's make sure we stick together in future.

All Girls – And so say all of us!!!

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Why did Colleen stop going to Netball? Laziness! Being lazy is as bad as being destructive. It gets us into all sorts of trouble. Give examples of the type of trouble laziness can cause.
- Why did she hang around the coffee bar? She needed company. We all need other people, whether we like to admit it or not. Tribal instinct? Safety? Support?
- How do you feel about the girls deciding not to tell Colleen's parents? Might the results have been what they thought?
- Were there other ways in which they could have helped a friend?

THE COLLEGE SOCIAL

Characters – Robin, Raewyn, Sally, Kathy, Tony, Jason, Phillip, Michael, Others
Reader

- Reader** – The scene is the local store. A group of girls and boys are waiting for the High School bus. Robin and Raewyn come around the corner, talking.
- Robin** – Are you going to the social next week? It's a special one for third and fourth formers.
- Raewyn** – I don't think so. I've never been to one, and I wouldn't know what to do. Any way you've got to have a partner, haven't you?
- Robin** – I haven't been to one either, but Alison went to the one last year, and she said I could go with her.
- Raewyn** – I don't think it would be much fun for me. I'm not much good at that sort of thing. I'd probably sit in a corner on my own and be miserable all night.
- Robin** – Hello everyone!!!
- Raewyn** – Hi there!!
- Others** – Hi! Good morning.
- Robin** – Who's going to the social next week?
- Tony** – Not me. I'm not going to have a bunch of girls treading on my toes, or hanging around me all night!
- Sally** – Listen to him! Anyone would think he was Robbie Williams or something. What makes you think any girls would hang around you?
- Others** – Yes, what's so great about you?
- Tony** – Geoff went last year to a social and he said "Never again". He reckoned all some of the girls wanted to do was sit around on that balcony with boys all night.
- Jason** – Carl went too, but he didn't enjoy himself either. He was too embarrassed to ask anyone to dance with him, and all his friends had partners so he felt left out.
- Phillip** – Girls are all right to have a laugh with, but I'm darned if I want to get stuck with one girl all evening.
- Sally** – What makes you think any girl would want to be stuck with you all evening?
- Michael** – Now then, you two, break it up. Break it up! Mum and Dad say I have to go to the social. I have to learn how to cope with things like that.

Kathy – Dad says I'm not going at all. He's heard how some of the kids behave and that's it. I'm just not allowed to go.

Robin – That's a shame Kathy. We're not all like that. Perhaps if your father knew you'd be with us, he would let you go.

Kathy – Well, I don't know. He's pretty up-tight about it. I'm scared to mention it again.

Jason – I've got an idea! It looks as though none of us is very sure of what it's going to be like. We've always got on well together. Let's stick together at the social and not worry about what others are doing.

Tony – That's a good idea. If I have to put up with girls, they might as well be the ones I know. At least I can talk to them.

Sally – And you'd be safe from any of us wanting to chase you around all night. We know you too well for that.

Other Girls – That's true. How right you are!!

Raewyn – If you're all going to stick together I think I might come after all. The music will be good, and I hear they always have a good supper.

Boys – That settles it. We'll come.

Robin – What about it Kathy? Do you think your father would let you go if I rang him and told him we had all agreed to keep together and enjoy ourselves in a group?

Kathy – He might, but it would be better if your father rang. Dad would take more notice of him.

Robin – O.K. I'll get Dad to ring and see if he can persuade him.

Michael – Tell Carl to come with us too, Jason. He wouldn't be embarrassed to dance with the local girls. He knows them all and he wouldn't feel left out.

Phillip – Just one thing, you girls. If you want nice looking guys like us to put up with your company for the evening the least you can do is to make yourselves look as good as possible. No jeans...

Tony – I'm all in favour of that! I'm sick of looking at girls wearing jeans.

Sally – Is that so!! What about you boys? Bare feet or jandals – scruffy hair – faded T-shirts. What's the use of our dressing up if we're going to be seen with you.

Michael – Look, my Dad says I've got to look reasonably respectable. How about we all make a bit of an effort for one night?

Robin – Well, we'll find it hard to recognise you boys, but if you're prepared to make the effort, so will we. How about it girls?

All Girls – O.K. All right, then!

Michael – That’s a deal then. I hope the shock won’t be too great for all of us.

Reader – At the bus stop next Monday morning.

Phillip – That was a pretty good do on Saturday night.

Jason – Yes, and though it pains me to say it, I must admit you girls didn’t look too bad at all.
Quite a credit to Buckland in fact.

Sally – Listen to him! However, much as it pains me to say it, you boys surprised us too.

Raewyn – You know, I really had a good time – thanks to the rest of you. I’d have been
hopeless on my own.

Kathy – I couldn’t believe it when Dad said I could go.

Robin – Dad told him we’d all promised to stay together in a group, he said he knew he could
trust us, so you could go too. He just didn’t want you going on your own and maybe
getting in with some group he didn’t know.

Tony – And you girls saved me from having to fight off the hordes of women who would
have been after me otherwise.

Everyone – OOH! Very funny! Just listen to him!

Jason – Even Carl enjoyed himself this time. Once he knew no-one was going to turn him
down, or laugh at him because he can’t dance very well, he was right. He must have
danced with all of you girls.

Raewyn – He even danced with me. You know, he’s really interesting to talk to, once he gets
over being shy.

Sally – He could hardly be scared of us. We’ve been all through school together so far.

Michael – That’s the best part about it. We’ve always got plenty to talk about. I’m glad Dad
made me go. Who’s coming to the next one?

Everyone – I am! All of us!!

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- What were the reasons various people gave for not going to the social? Were they fairly common reasons?
- Michael's parents said he had to go. Were they right?
- What about Kathy's father? Did he have any justification for his stand?
- What do you see as the advantages of going out in a group at that age?
- How did the more confident help the less confident?
- Does it matter how people dress for different occasions?

FOLLOW ME

Characters – Richard, Tony, Rebecca, David, Jason, Paul, Lisa, Gayle, Jenny

Reader

Reader – A group of pupils from -----College are having lunch under the tress.

Lisa – What do we have first period after lunch? I can never remember the timetable for Tuesday?

Richard – It's Maths with Miss Peters.

Gayle – If you did your homework every night, you'd know what was on the timetable for the next day.

Jenny – Lisa doesn't do homework, do you Lisa?

Lisa – Not if I can help it. I can usually think up a good excuse for not having done it.

Paul – Don't your parents ask you about your homework?

Lisa – They both work, and when they ask, I say I did it after school. Jenny gave me that idea, didn't you Jenny?

Jenny – It always worked for me. What they don't know won't hurt them.

Rebecca – It might hurt you though Jenny. I always do mine straight after school. Then I can watch the T.V. afterwards.

Jenny – You would, Rebecca! You're too good to be true. You never get into trouble, do you?

Rebecca – Well, I don't like getting into trouble.

Jenny – You're soft. That's what you are. I like having a bit of fun with the teachers. What say we give Miss Peters the works after lunch?

Jason – Great idea. She's pretty new to the job, I think. We should be able to get her pretty up-tight.

Tony – Yes, that way we won't have to do any Maths, and I haven't done my homework either.

Gayle – I thought you wanted to go into the Air Force when you leave High School? You won't get in without a reasonable pass in Maths.

Tony – Oh, I'll worry about that later. I can catch up. I like to upset Miss Peters.

Rebecca – I think you're rotten to her. She's really nice to us.

David – Not like old Patterson. Blink your eyes in his class and you're on detention.

Paul – At least we can all get some work done in his class, without you lot wasting our time. I want to get a good pass in English. I want to be a Reporter for a newspaper or T.V.

Jenny – English is so boring. I want to have a bit of fun at school.

Lisa – Even you behave yourself in Mr Patterson's classes.

Jenny – Well, I don't want to be kept in, there are too many other things I want to do after school. Any idea what we could do to Miss Peters, Jason?

Jason – I've got an idea, but it will need everyone if it's going to work.

Richard – Well count me out. I like Miss Peters. I think she really cares about us. I suppose old Patterson does too in his way.

Jason – You're another soft one. They don't care about us. They only want to have an easy life for themselves.

David – I don't believe that. Old Patterson will always help you at lunch-time or after school if you really want to learn.

Rebecca – And Miss Peters is just the same. She looked after you Jenny last week when you hurt your ankle, even took you home in her car, and after you'd been so awful in class.

Jenny – So what? She offered to do it. I suppose she was trying to butter me up.

Richard – You've got a real chip on your shoulder Jenny. You can't see any good in anyone. I think we should scrap your idea and see if we can't have a peaceful Maths lesson. Be decent for a change.

Paul – And I agree.

Gayle – And so do I.

Lisa – It would be nice to be able to concentrate. I certainly need to in Maths.

Tony – Well I suppose it wouldn't hurt me to concentrate on my Maths for a change, especially since I'm going to need it for the Air Force. I'd be really disappointed if I didn't get in.

Jason – You're a great bunch, you are! Jenny and I will have to think up something for ourselves.

David – Well do it in your own time then, and not in our Maths class. I want to work.

Richard – It looks like you two are in the minority. Most of us want to work, and we won't be happy if you waste our time as well as yours.

Reader – The bell rings, they pack up and walk back to school. Jason and Jenny are behind the others.

- Lisa** – I'm glad you and David were with us Richard, or Jenny might have made us do what she wanted.
- Richard** – You shouldn't let them make you do anything Lisa. You should make your own decisions.
- Rebecca** – It isn't easy to so "No" to Jenny when she wants you to do something.
- Gayle** – And it's usually something that's going to get us into trouble.
- Tony** – Jason's the same. He's a good mate really, but he doesn't seem to care about anything, and I do really want to get into the Air Force.
- Richard** – I don't think they'll cause any trouble in class today, not now they know how we all feel about it.
- Lisa** – I might even enjoy Maths today. Miss Peters can make Maths really fun when she's not worrying about how we're behaving.
- Paul** – You never know, even Jason and Jenny might enjoy Maths today.
- David** – They'd certainly surprise Miss Peters if they got to like Maths.
- Rebecca** – That might be too much to hope for. I'll be happy just so long as they don't stop us from learning.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Some of the students were easily led. Who were they? In what way were they led?
- Who were the leaders and in what way were they trying to influence the others?
- What effect could their actions have had on the rest of their lives?
- Are you a leader or a follower?
- Do you consider the long-term results of your actions, or do you follow the course that seems more immediately attractive? Look at yourself honestly.
- If you are going to follow someone, make sure that person is going where you want to go.



THE FIRST PUFF

Characters – Kathy, Beth, John, Chris, Dan, Mark, Paul, Chariman, Mrs Brent,
Mr Sim, Mr James, Reader

Reader – A group of girls and boys from Buckland have met up during the weekend.

Kathy – I wish there was something more exciting to do around here. I'm bored.

Dan – Look, I've got a packet of fags here. I'm going to have a smoke.

Beth – Where did you get those? Your father would be mad if he knew you'd spent your pocket money on smokes.

Dan – Well, he doesn't know, and I'll spend my money how I choose. Come on John. Have one of these.

John – No thanks. It's not very sensible to smoke. People get lung cancer from that.

Mark – Don't be stupid! That's only old people isn't it? Anyway, I've had plenty of smokes and it hasn't harmed me. Don't be chicken!

Kathy – I'll have one. I reckon it makes a girl look grown up.

Dan – It'd take a lot to make you look grown up, but O.K., here you are. You can share it with Beth, unless she's too chicken too.

Beth – If Kathy has a smoke, I'll have one too.

Paul – You can call me chicken if you like, but I promised Dad I wouldn't start, so I'm not going to.

Chris – What's the harm in one?

Paul – I might not be able to stop at one.

Dan – You're soft. Come on John. You're not going to be like him are you? Have a puff at this.

John – Oh, O.K. I suppose one won't hurt.

Reader – It is three years later. School Cert is behind them. The scene now is the office of a local firm and the Directors are having a meeting.

Chairman – Now, as you all know, this meeting has been called to select a new Clerk for our front office. There are five applicants. You have read their qualifications.

Mrs Brent – They are all suitable as far as I can see, but John Barker has the highest School Cert marks by far. I suggest we choose him.

Mr Sim – I think you could be making a mistake there. It's a responsible job. He'd have to handle a lot of money.

Mrs Brent – What have you got against John Barker? He seems a bright keen boy.

Mr Sim – He hasn't got a very good name, you know. Don't you remember what happened a couple of years ago at Kay's factory?

Mr James – Oh! Was that the boy? I remember! His father worked at Kay's and he reckoned someone was stealing money out of his wallet.

Mr Sim – That's right. He kicked up a terrible row about it, accused his mates of doing it and they had the Police in interviewing everyone!

Chairman – What did that have to do with this boy?

Mr James – Well it finally came out that it wasn't the chaps at the factory at all. That boy had been doing it.

Mrs Brent – Why would he do a thing like that? He must have known he'd get caught sooner or later. Fancy stealing from his own father too!

Mr Sim – It seems that he'd started smoking on the sly, and you know how dear cigarettes are! Once he got a taste for them his pocket money wasn't enough to keep him supplied, and that's what he did.

Chairman – I don't think we could risk putting a boy like that in charge of money. We'd better choose the next one on the list.

Reader – It is a few days later and John and his friends are at the Post Office waiting for the mail.

Beth – You're in a hurry for the mail this morning. What are you waiting for?

John – I applied for that job at James Plumbing Supplies, and they said they'd let me know by today.

Chris – So did I!

Dan – I did too. It sounded like a really good job.

Mark – I'd have liked that job too, but you'll get it for sure John.

Chris – Yes. Your marks were higher than any of ours.

John – I hope so. I need that job. It pays really well.

Reader – A girl comes in with the mail and hands it out to them. They open their letters.

Chris – Well I expected it. The job's not mine.

Dan – No luck for me either. You must have got it all right John.

Reader – John is looking at his letter in disbelief.

John – No! I didn't get it after all. I was sure I would though!

Chris – I'm really sorry about you John, but I'm afraid the job's mine.

John – Congratulations Chris, but I wonder why? I had so much the best marks. Do you know, Paul? Your father's on the board at James. Please tell me if you do. I want to know.

Paul – I'm sorry John, but if you really want to know, it seems you haven't got a very good name around the place. You remember after all that trouble a couple of years ago.

John – That's not fair! That was two years ago!

Paul – I thought that too, but Dad said once you'd lost a good name, it's very hard to get it back.

John – I needed that job. It costs me a fortune to smoke. A packet a day is \$60 per week.

Dan – It costs me \$18.

Kathy – Well it costs me \$25.

Mark – If only I'd stopped at the first puff.

John – If only I hadn't got to like it so much that I can't stop now. I wish I could, but I can't.

Chris – Why don't you talk to your Uncle Jack about it?

John – What good would that do? He smokes too.

Chris – Yes, but you know he wants to stop. He's always saying so. Perhaps you could try together.

John – That's a good idea. It's worth a try. Uncle Jack's a good sort. He won't sling off at me, and we could see who can cut down the most each week.

Dan – And a prize for the one who's the first to stop altogether.

Mark – You could get something really good with all the money you'll save.

Chris – You could buy me a present for suggesting it.

John – No. It'll be a great new paint job on the car Dad's going to get me when I get my first job. I'm sure someone will give me a chance before long.

Dan – Good luck to you then John.

Other Boys – Yes, good luck!!!

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Why do young people start to smoke? To look important? To look older? Because they get to like it? Other reasons?
- Is it difficult to say “No” when others are pressing you to say “Yes”? Is it “soft” to say “No”?
- Where do children get cigarettes or money for cigarettes?
- If they spend their money on cigarettes what might they have to do without?
- Would there be temptation to steal?
- One small choice led to a big consequence in John’s life. What was the result of his taking the first puff?
- Was it fair that the employers should have held that against John?
- Do you think that is what happens in real life?
- Why did John feel he could talk to Uncle Jack?
- Do you think the reasons people start smoking are the same reasons they start on other drugs or alcohol?
- What might the small decision “I’ll just try one,” lead to?
- Do you have an adult you can talk to about problems?
- Where are some of the places in the community someone with a problem can go for help?

A NEW START

Characters – Mrs Brent, Mother, Father, John and Reader

- Reader -** John had been caught stealing money to pay for his smoking habit, but he has been trying to make a new start. He was turned down for a job he really wanted because the employers had heard about his stealing. Mr and Mrs Barker and John are sitting in their lounge watching the TV. There is a knock at the door. Mr Barker goes to open it.
- Mrs Brent -** Good evening. May I come in? I'd like to talk to you all.
- Father -** Certainly, Mrs Brent. Come in and take a seat.
- Mrs Brent -** I have been really worried about John since he didn't get that job. I felt that he must have been trying, or he wouldn't have got such good marks in his exams.
- Mother -** Yes, he really has tried. He's worked very hard, and he got a part-time job to pay for his own cigarettes. He's even given them up now.
- John -** Thanks to Uncle Jack.
- Mrs Brent -** I thought he was made of good stuff. He just made a mistake, and we all do that. I would like to see he gets a chance, and I know where I could get a job for him.
- John -** Could you really Mrs Brent? I was beginning to think I would never get a job. I thought people would never forget that mistake I made.
- Father -** Yes, I was beginning to feel that too.
- Mrs Brent -** I want to help, but you know if I get you this job, they will be taking my word about you. You won't let me down will you?
- John -** No, I won't, Mrs Brent. You can trust me.
- Mother -** I'm sure he's learnt his lesson now.
- Father -** And one thing about John, if he gives his word, he'll keep it.
- Mrs Brent -** It's settled then. Call at my brother's workshop on Monday morning.
- John -** Gee, thanks Mrs Brent! That's the best place to work in town! Far better than James ---- oops, sorry Mrs Brent!
- Mrs Brent -** That's all right John. It will be much more interesting than a plumbers suppliers.

John - How can I ever thank you, Mrs Brent?

Mrs Brent - That's easy John. Just promise me you'll help someone else when they need it.

John - I certainly will!

ENDS

Points for discussion -

- How do you think John felt now about taking that first puff?
- Sixty dollars each week was a lot to go up in smoke. What else could he have done with the money?
- Why did Mrs Brent bother to help John?
- What was she going to expect from him?
- Why do we trust people or not trust them?
- Do you think John could be trusted now?
- What was the promise she asked from John?
- Why do you think she did that?

THE LOOSE WHEEL

Characters – John, Bill, Chris, Barry, Glen and mates. Reader

Reader – The workers at the local garage are leaving for home. They are just about to leave the yard.

John – Oh heck! I've left my jacket in the locker room. I'll have to go back and get it.

Mates – Well, hurry up, or we'll be late for footy practice.

John – Won't be a minute. You go on and I'll catch you up.

Mates – It's OK. We'll wait for you.

Reader – John goes out and comes back in a few minutes with his jacket.

John – Wasn't that Holden supposed to be collected tonight?

Bill – Yes, but it was supposed to be left in the yard for its owner to pick up.

John – Well, it's in the yard all right, but two of the wheel nuts are missing from the left front wheel.

Chris – It's not our problem. We can't do anything about it now. Come on, or we'll be late!

Mates – Yes. Come on!!

Bill – If the owner drives away in that he might lose his wheel before long.

Chris – I tell you, it's not our problem. Jack was seeing to that car and he's gone. Let's go ourselves.

Barry – Who's to know that we'd noticed it anyway?

John – That's not the point. I know about it, and now you know about it.

Glen – Look! The owner is sure to notice it, and he can ring the boss.

Bill – He won't notice it on that side, and I know he wanted to get the car because he was taking his family to the airport tonight. They'll be in a hurry for sure.

Glen – It's Jack's problem, or the boss's problem. It's not ours. Now, come on.

John – I don't think I can. I'll have to do something about it.

Glen – What can you do? The place is locked up. You can't get any gear out now.

Chris – And if you ring the boss, he'll know Jack left the car like that and he might lose his job.

Barry – Jack will be mad as hops if you let the boss know.

Mates – He certainly will be! Too right! etc.

John – Well, I'm sorry about Jack, but we'd be sorrier still if Mr Shaw had an accident on the way to the airport and any of them were killed.

- Barry** – Make up your mind what you're going to do or we'll never get to practice. You know the coach is picking the team for that big match we play on Saturday.
- Glen** – It's none of my business, and I want to get in that team so I'm off. I'll see you later – if you get there.
- Mates** – We're off too. So long!
- Reader** – Glen and the rest go out. Only Bill, Chris, Barry and John are left in the yard.
- Barry** – I don't want Jack getting mad at me. He's a good friend of mine. I don't want to upset you either John, but it's your problem. You noticed it. If only you hadn't looked that way.
- Reader** – Barry goes out also. Now only Bill and Chris are left with John.
- John** – You're all a great lot of help aren't you? I suppose you're off too Bill!
- Bill** – No. I'll stay a minute and see what we can do. I wouldn't like to drive a car like that myself. Of course, the wheel might stay on.
- Chris** – It might – and then again it mightn't. What about it John?
- John** – I hate getting Jack into trouble, but it looks as if I have no choice. I'll ring the boss and he can see it's fixed before Mr Shaw comes for it.
- Chris** – He might come while you're ringing. I'll stay here and see he doesn't drive away with it.
- Bill** – And I'll use the other phone box and see if I can get hold of the coach to tell him why we'll be late. We might still have a chance of making the team.
- John** – Thanks a lot guys. You're real friends!!

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

No-one made John, Bill and Chris stay. Why did they?
How would they have felt if an accident had happened?

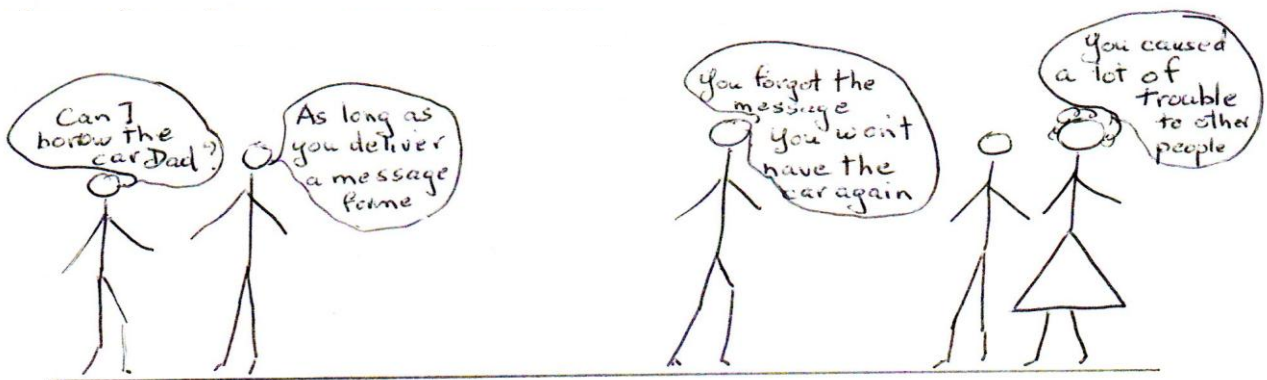
- What about the other boys?
- It is important how you feel about yourself?
- They were in an awkward situation. What was the difficult choice they had to make?

- Give other situations where you might have to make a choice like this.
- What happens if you are not trustworthy?
 - (a) At home?
 - (b) At school?
 - (c) In the community?

If people cannot be trusted with freedom they lose privileges, and there have to be stricter laws so everyone suffers.

- Self discipline. What does it mean? Doing what you know is right without someone else having to make you. It is a sign of growing up, but some people never grow u

People who can be relied on to be trustworthy in small things are the ones who are put in charge of more important areas of responsibility.



THE FORGOTTEN HEATER

Characters – Sarah, Lisa, Jane, Debbie, Jackie, Kate, Friends

Reader

- Reader** – The girls all work in Mr Jones clothing factory. They are leaving work for the day.
- Sarah** – Wait a minute! I'm not sure that I turned the heater off in the office. I'll have to go back.
- Jane** – Don't start imagining things now. If we miss our bus we won't get to Claire's party tonight.
- Lisa** – Of course you turned it off. Oh come on, and don't waste time.
- Friends** – Yes, hurry up.
- Sarah** – I can't help it. I'd never be able to enjoy myself if I was worrying about that heater.
- Debbie** – For goodness sake stop worrying and let's get going!
- Lisa** – What would it matter if you had left it going? It would only cost Jonesey a bit more for his power bill.
- Sarah** – I'm even more sure that I didn't switch it off. I'll have to go back and check. It isn't only the power, the whole place could catch fire.
- Debbie** – Don't be an idiot. You've been looking forward to that party for weeks, and you know this is the last bus.
- Lisa** – The place can't catch fire anyway. The heater is in the corner of the room. There's nothing near it. I'm off!
- Reader** – Lisa and a few of the others leave to catch the bus.
- Jackie** – There is something near it, you know. Just before we left I was looking for a pen I'd dropped, and I moved the waste paper basket over to the corner. I meant to shift it again, but I forgot.
- Sarah** – I know you all think I'm a nuisance, but think how we'd feel if the place did catch fire.
- Reader** – Sarah goes out and hurries back to the factory.
- Friends** – If it did catch fire we'd have a holiday.
- Jane** – We'd loose our jobs, you mean, and if old Jonesey couldn't afford to put up a new building there'd be no more work for us here.
- Debbie** – We'd have to travel to the next town to work.

Jackie – And we'd have to get up half an hour earlier every morning!

Friends – Ooo – oh

Kate – You lot may not have thought about it, but the hospital is next door to here.
Jonesey's building would go up like a flash. The hospital would be sure to catch fire.

Jane – All the patients would have to be evacuated and that wouldn't do them any good.

Jackie – I never thought about the hospital. It's just as well she's gone back.

Reader – Sarah comes back across the yard.

Friends – Well? Had you left it on?

Sarah – Yes I had, and you were right Jackie. The waste paper basket was just beginning to melt, and then the paper would have fallen out and caught fire.

Jane – It wouldn't have taken long for the building to go up!

Friends – And the hospital.

Mary – I'm really sorry I made you all miss the bus.

Sarah – It was just as much my fault for leaving that waste paper basket there. I meant to shift it. I should have done it there and then.

Debbie – Just as well you went back, Sarah.

Sarah – I should never have left it on in the first place.

Kate – She probably wouldn't have left it on if she hadn't been helping me with my machine. The cover was stuck.

Jane – And we really wouldn't have wanted to burn old Jonesey's building for him would we girls?

Friends – No, we wouldn't really.

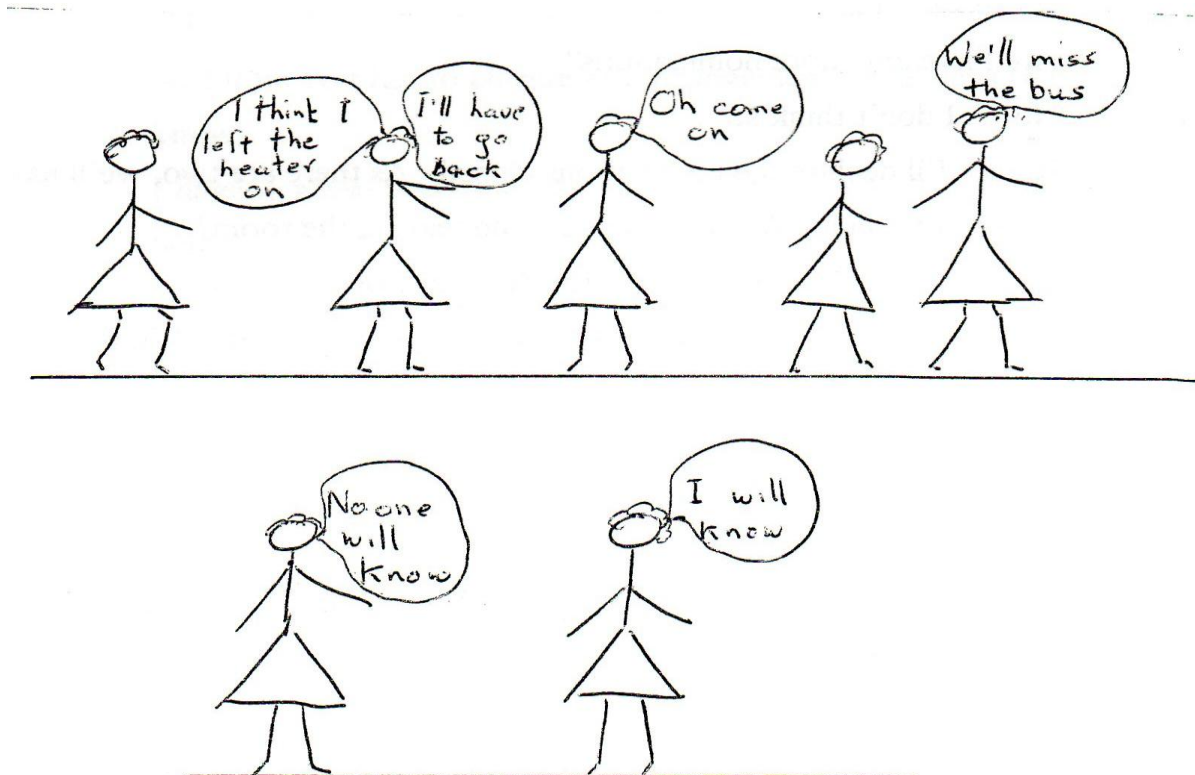
Jackie – Especially if it meant getting up half an hour earlier every morning, eh girls?

Friends – No way!!

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- No-one forced Mary to go back to check the heater. Why did she?
- Is it important how you feel about yourself?
- Their first impulse was to leave and catch the bus. What happened when they started to think about the possible consequences?
- Self discipline. What does it mean? Doing what you know is right without someone else having to make you. It is a sign of growing up, but some people never grow up.
- Major disasters have been caused by small acts of negligence. How would these girls have felt if there had been a major fire caused by the small things the girls left undone?
- People who can be relied on to be trustworthy in small things are the ones who are put in charge of more important areas of responsibility.



THE ELECTION

Characters – Steve, Chris, Bill, Jason, Dan, Matthew, Brian, Geoff and others.

Reader

Reader – The scene is a meeting of the local Rugby club being held in the club rooms.

Steve – As you know, now that Paul Scott has left the district, this meeting has been called to elect a new Club Captain, so I will call for nominations.

Chris – I would like to nominate Brian Hamilton.

Bill – I'll second that.

Jason – I would like to nominate Matthew Roberts.

Dan – I'll second that.

Steve – Are there any more nominations?

Everyone – No ... I don't think so ...

Steve – Right. I'll declare the nominations closed. As there are two, we'll have to take a vote on it. Would you two mind leaving the room?

Reader – Brian and Matthew go out and the door is closed.

Steve – The meeting is open for discussion before we take a vote. Would you like to say something Chris?

Chris – Well, I reckon Brian is a good guy, and he's a jolly good player.

Bill – He's got that great sports car, and he's always ready to give any-one a spin in it.

Geoff – Yes, you guys should have been with us last Sunday. We went out to the springs at Miranda, then fish and chips at Kaiaua, and back home round through Clevedon.

Chris – And you should see him in his latest gear. He looks better than Michael Jackson.

Steve – Well Jason, what have you got to say about Matthew? You nominated him.

Jason – I don't think this is a popularity contest. We're electing a Club Captain, not finding out who is the most popular guy in the club. Matt may not be as popular as Brian, but you can always rely on him to do what he says he is going to do.

Dan – That's right! He'd never let you down.

Geoff – You’ve got a point there. I will say Brian is a bit unreliable. He said he’d pick us up at one o’clock and he didn’t get there till nearly two.

Dan – Just think what the Club Captain has to do. He has to open the hall for our meetings.

Chris – And ring everyone the night before the game, to make sure we all know the last-minute arrangements.

Jason – He’s got to collect the gear afterwards and see it’s all ready for the next game.

Steve – Do we really see Brian doing all those things?

Others – Not really ... No.

Chris – We’d probably turn up for the game and find half our togs missing because he hadn’t got around to sending them to the cleaners.

Jason – You could really rely on Matthew though. He’s never been late for a practice yet.

Dan – And if he ever has to change any arrangements he always rings and lets you know.

Bill – I have to admit that he always does more than his share of the work around here.

Steve – Well chaps, I think we’ve had enough discussion. We’ll have a show of hands. Those in favour of Brian please.

Reader – No one puts their hands up.

Steve – I think you and Bill should vote for him Chris. You nominated and seconded him.

Chris – O.K. then. It won’t make any difference to the result.

Reader – Chris and Bill put up their hands.

Steve – Those in favour of Matthew?

Reader – All the rest put up their hands

Steve – I declare Matthew duly elected. Ask them in.

Reader – Bill opens the door. Brian and Matthew come in.

Steve – The meeting has elected Matthew as captain. Sorry Brian. Congratulations Matthew.

Matthew – I’m really surprised, but thanks very much guys. I promise I’ll do my best for the club. Let’s start by checking our gear for next week.

Reader – Most of the boys go out to the back room with Matthew. Brian, Chris and Geoff are left talking.

- Brian** – I wonder why they elected Matthew. Though I say it myself, I didn't think he would have had a show against me. He's not what you'd call a very noticeable person.
- Chris** – To tell you the truth, Brian, they seemed to feel he'd be a bit more reliable than you.
- Brian** – I suppose I am a bit unreliable. Dad's always going off at me about things like that. I didn't think it mattered. Sort of part of my image, you know. I certainly would have liked to be Club Captain though. It's quite an honour.
- Bill** – Oh well, they only hold office for two years. Perhaps by the time the next election comes round you'll have made a whole new image for yourself.
- Brian** – I might just do that too.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Why was Brian the first to be nominated?
- Why was Matthew nominated?
- What happened when the boys started to think of the consequences of having Brian for Club Captain?
- How much trouble and stress is caused in every-day life by people being unreliable? Give examples, e.g. people saying they will ring back and not doing it.
- Do you think the unreliable people realize how much trouble they cause?
- How could Brian go about making himself more reliable?

THE BROKEN ENGAGEMENT

Characters – Jan, Kathy, Simon, Jill, Jackie, Brian, Nicky and others.

Reader

Reader – A group of young people are having lunch together in a clothing factory.

Jan – Did you hear Jim and Julie have called off their engagement?

Nicky – Yes, Julie told me they'd had an awful row.

Simon – What about, I wonder? He seems a decent guy, and Julie is a really good sort. It must have been something pretty serious.

Nicky – I don't think it was just one thing. I think it was a lot of little things, and then the last one really put the lid on it.

Jackie – Julie told me she really liked him, but he would have been hopeless as a husband. He was just too unreliable.

Jill – What did happen? I'm dying to know. He's really neat looking. I don't know how she could break it off with him

Jackie – Julie said there are more important things in a husband than good looks. I guess she wouldn't mind your knowing. It's no secret. He was supposed to take her to that big dance on Saturday night, and at ten o'clock she was still waiting for him to arrive.

Brian – That was supposed to start at eight o'clock, wasn't it?

Nicky – Yes. He arrived at ten fifteen and said "Are you ready yet?" He'd been messing around with his boat and hadn't bothered about the time.

Kathy – I wouldn't have liked anyone to have done that to me!

Other girls – I wouldn't either! ... Nor me!!

Jackie – Julie said there'd been lots of things like that.

Simon – I know he used to say he would ring, and she'd wait inside for the phone for hours, and he wouldn't bother. Then he'd come round and act as though there was nothing wrong.

Brian – Perhaps he couldn't see anything wrong in the way he acted.

Jackie – Well, Julie jolly well could. So would you if you'd been the one to have to put up with that sort of thing.

Nicky – I wouldn't have put up with it either. Just imagine what kind of a husband he would have turned out to be.

- Kathy** – My mother says if there's one thing you want in a husband you want to be able to rely on him.
- Simon** – People can always rely on your father to be on time with that bread run of his.
- Brian** – If Jim was doing it, you'd never know if you were going to get the bread for breakfast, lunch, or tea.
- Jill** – I always envied Julie, having such a good-looking boy=friend. Now it looks as though she's well out of it.
- Nicky** – Yes, a husband like Jim would probably go and buy some new gadget for his boat, and forget the rent had to be paid.
- Jan** – Or he'd leave you standing at the bus stop in the rain with all the groceries when he'd promised to pick you up.
- Brian** – Or he'd lose job after job because his bosses couldn't rely on him.
- Jackie** – Julie said it wouldn't have been so bad if he'd just forgotten things, but he didn't even care about what effect it had on her. That really bugged her.
- Nicky** – We can all forget something at times, but a promise is a promise.
- Simon** – Just as well she found out then, before it was too late.
- Jill** – He's so good-looking he shouldn't have any trouble finding himself another girl to marry.
- Kathy** – Well, it certainly won't be one of us will it girls?
- Other girls** – No jolly fear! ... Not likely! ... No way!

ENDS

Points for discussion –

- What effect does breaking a promise have on other people?
- What were some of the things that Jim had done that had caused Julie hurt and inconvenience and finally made her angry?
Jim and Julie had been foolish to promise to marry each other without knowing very much about each other, so should they keep that promise now?
- Examples of how you or someone you know has been inconvenienced by someone else not keeping their word. (No names please)
- Why was Kathy's father respected and trusted?
- Why did Julie say that Jim's attitude was worse than just being forgetful?
- Jill was impressed by Jim's good looks. Are good looks important in a husband or wife?
- What qualities do you consider to be more important than good looks?

A GOOD NAME

Characters – Mr James, Mr Gregory, Mrs Brent, Mr Johnson, Dave Jennings, Reader.

Reader – The directors of James Plumbing Supplies are holding a meeting to choose a new apprentice.

Mr James – I have all the applications here. You've all had a chance to think things over and make your decision. Who do you choose?

Mr Gregory – I choose Paul Muir. I think he could be best. He has good references, and a good school report.

Mrs Brent – Yes, I liked him, but I'm not sure about his ability to work with his hands. He seemed more suited to book-work. I chose Dave Jennings.

Mr Johnson – Surely not!! You know what sort of family he comes from. His father is out of work as much as he is in it. He's one of the laziest men I know.

Mrs Brent – I realize that, but we shouldn't judge the boy on his parents alone. Those were wonderful models that he brought to show us.

Mr James – I admit he is very clever with his hands, and he was a nice enough boy ... but I don't know ... that family of his !!!

Mrs Brent – Don't forget that John Smith is his uncle. You couldn't get a more conscientious and reliable worker than he is.

Mr Gregory – If John Smith was his father, I'd be more inclined to agree, but I don't know if an uncle would have much influence on a boy.

Mrs Brent – I believe that Dave has spent a lot of time with his uncle lately, working at nights in his workshop. I would like to give him a chance. We can't just judge him by his father.

Mr James – I think you are right. He has a lot of talent and I'd like to give him a chance. We'll have to have a good talk with him though, so that he understands what we expect of him.

Mr Johnson – I'll get him in for an interview then.

Reader – Mr Johnson goes to the door and speaks to the secretary.

Mr Johnson – I want you to write to all the other boys telling them we are sorry they have been unsuccessful, and ring Dave Jennings to come in again.

Secretary – Surely you haven't chosen Dave Jennings!! His father is hopeless. He's nearly too lazy to get himself to the table to eat!

Mr Johnson – Dave is very clever with his hands, and I suppose we shouldn't judge him by his father. Mr James and Mrs Brent want to give him a chance.

Secretary – I hope he's not like his father. He'd never get himself here on time for an interview.

Mr Johnson – John Smith is his uncle you know. You couldn't have a better worker than he is.

Secretary – You're not hiring John Smith. I just hope Dave Jennings doesn't let you down.

Mr Johnson – It will be entirely up to him. We are giving him a chance.

Secretary – Oh well. I suppose everyone deserves a chance.

Reader – It is the next day and the directors are waiting for Dave Jennings. The secretary knocks on the door. Mr Gregory opens it.

Secretary – Dave Jennings is waiting.

Mr Johnson – Show him in please

Mrs Brent – Well, he's right on time. That's a point in his favour.

Mr James – I saw him as he came into the office. He's neatly dressed and clean. That's another point in his favour.

Mrs Brent – Yes, untidy people usually can't be trusted to do tidy work.

Mr Gregory – I must admit he was very polite when I spoke to him the other day. He has quite a lot going for him really. If it wasn't for that father of his----!!!

Mr James – Now ... we agreed we'd give him a chance.

Reader – The Secretary shows Dave Jennings into the room.

Mrs Brent – Good morning Dave. Sit down here. We want to talk with you.

Dave – Thank you Mrs Brent. Good morning Mr James. Good morning Mr Gregory and Mr Johnson.

Others – Good morning.

Mr James – Dave, we have decided to take you on trial if you are willing. We are very pleased with your ability at metal work, but you will have to prove yourself as an employee. We expect 100% effort from the people who work here.

Dave – I'm very glad to be given the chance. I know what a lot of people say about my family, but Uncle John says I'm on my own now, and I have to prove myself. I won't let you down.

Mr Gregory – We're pleased to hear you say that. You will have a good opportunity here, but it will be up to you what you do with it.

- Dave** – Uncle John has given me a lot of good advice. I only want a chance to show what I can do.
- Mrs Brent** – I'm sure you won't let us down, Dave. You have great ability, and if you're determined, some day I believe you will make a name for yourself in this town.
- Dave** – I must admit I'd like to have a better name than poor old Dad. It's not really all his fault, you know. He had a lot of bad luck and now he's given up trying.
- Mr James** – Good boy. I like to see you're not condemning your father, but it's up to you now to make a life for yourself, and a good name for yourself.
- Dave** – I'm really going to try.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Was it fair that some of the directors should have judged Dave on the reputation of his family?
- Do you believe this happens?
- Stereotyping. What does this mean?
- Stereotyping can also apply to our attitude to other nationalities, races or cultures. Examples?
- What is Dave going to have to do now to build a good name for himself?
- Dave made a good impression at his interview. What had he done?
- Did his prospective employers have a right to expect their employees to be tidy?
- Did Dave have a right to be untidy if he wanted to be?
- What would have been the consequences?

“WHY NOT ME?”

Characters – Mark, Mary, Helen, Jeff, Billy, Paul, Umpire, Other players, Uncle Jack.

- Reader** – The local school children are organizing a game of soft-ball at lunchtime. Mark and Billy are picking the team.
- Billy** – Four more to pick. That’s two each. I’ll have Jennie.
- Mark** – Right. I’ll have Helen.
- Mary** – I suppose you’re only choosing us girls now because you have to!
- Billy** – Oh some of you are not too bad. Nowhere near as good as us boys though.
- All Girls** – What a cheek etc.!!!
- Mark** – Get on with it Billy. We want to have a game, not stand around arguing all lunchtime.
- Billy** – All right – I’ll have Claire then.
- Jeff** – I don’t see why I’m always last to be picked. I’m a better player than those girls.
- Helen** – You may be able to hit the ball further, but you’re a real pain.
- Jeff** – I don’t think much of you either. You can’t catch. You can’t hit the ball and you can’t run.
- Mary** – Thanks very much for those kind words. You’re so thick, you can’t see why no-one wants you in their team.
- Jeff** – Well tell me then!
- Billy** – Oh, shut up and let’s get on with the game.
- Mark** – There’ll be no time for a game at this rate.
- Everyone** – Come on!! Let’s get started!!
- Reader** – They start their game and Mark’s team are batting. Jeff is last to bat. Mark is back at home base.
- Mark** – Now your turn Helen. Just do the best you can. Keep your eye on the ball, that’s the main thing.
- Helen** – I’m not very good at this.
- Mark** – Never mind. It’s only a game. Just do your best.
- Reader** – The pitcher throws the ball down. Helen swings and misses.
- Jeff** – What a fool! That was an easy one. Why didn’t you hit it?
- Mark** – Shut up Jeff! You’re putting her off.
- Reader** – Next ball, Helen manages to tip and get to first base.

Mark – Well done Helen!

Jeff – Aw – She was lucky. If they’d been half awake she’d never have got there.

Mary – It’s my turn now. I hope I don’t strike out.

Mark – Never mind if you do. It’s only a game. Just do your best.

Reader – Mary does strike out on the last ball.

Mary – I’m sorry Mark.

Jeff – I told you, you shouldn’t have put those girls in before me. I’ll be lucky if I get a turn at this rate, and I’m sure to hit a homer.

Everyone – Oh – shut up Jeff.!!!

Mark – Don’t worry Mary. It was a good try. You’re next Paul.

Paul – I might be lucky. Here goes.

Reader – On his third strike, he gets to first base, but Helen is out on second.

Jeff – Look at that Helen! I told you she couldn’t run!

Mark – That’s enough about that Jeff. It’s your turn now. Let’s see what you can do.

Jeff – Huh! I’ll hit a homer for sure.

Reader – The pitcher sends down the first ball.

Umpire – Strike one!

Jeff – That was ball one! It was nowhere near the plate!

Umpire – Strike one! Carry on!

Reader – Jeff swings --- and misses.

Umpire – Strike two!!

Jeff – That’s not fair! That fielder moved behind him and put me off. Have it again!

Umpire – Strike two! Carry on!

Reader – The next two pitches are called “ball.”

Jeff – Now watch this one. If it’s a good ball, I’ll hit it out of the grounds.

Mary – Just hit it! You’ve told us how good you are. Now show us!

Reader – The next ball comes down. Jeff gives a mighty swing --- and misses.

Umpire – Strike three! Out!!!

Jeff – It wasn’t fair. The sun was in my eyes!

Mark – It was the same for all of us. Shut up Jeff and get out to field.

Jeff – I want to pitch. None of those others are any good as a pitcher.

Mark – It’s Paul’s turn to pitch. Here you are Paul.

Paul – Thanks Mark. I’ve really been practicing hard. I hope I can do better than when I had my last turn.

Jeff – Why do you let him have a turn? He's no good at it.

Mark – He's improving all the time. All he needs is a bit of confidence.

Reader – The bell rings and they all walk back to school. Jeff is behind Mark, Billy, Mary and Helen, but they don't see him.

Billy – Jeff gets worse and worse. I suppose it will be my bad luck to have him in my team next time.

Mark – You can't imagine anyone would be so thick he couldn't see why no-one wants him in their team.

Billy – He reckons he wants to go into the navy, and finally be a submarine commander. Pity help anyone stuck in a submarine for weeks on end with him in charge.

Mark – They'd all go stark staring mad!

Billy – Probably surrender to the enemy to get away from him!

Helen – You're a bit hard on him. He's not all bad, and he's quite good at most games really.

Billy – Yes, and he's strong and fit, but Dad says that to be an officer and lead other people, you have to have really special qualities.

Helen – Like you, Mark! You always encourage us and help us. I would never have got to first base if you hadn't told me not to worry.

Billy – That's true Mark. If anyone could be a good officer it would be you.

Mark – Well I hope there'll be no more wars so I'll never need to find out.

Reader – Mary looks around as they turn the corner and sees Jeff just behind. As they go into class, she speaks to the others.

Mary – I think Jeff must have heard what you said about him. He looked a bit startled.

Billy – We didn't say anything that wasn't true. Maybe it will do him some good. Oh well! It's maths now!

Everyone – Oh dear!! Etc. etc.

Scene 2

Reader – The next day Jeff calls in to see Uncle Jack after school.

Uncle Jack – What's wrong Jeff? You look a bit down.

Jeff – I heard the other guys talking about me at school yesterday. They always pick me last. They said they hated having me in their teams, and I'd be useless as an officer.

Uncle Jack – You've always wanted to be a submarine commander. What did they say

exactly?

Jeff – I didn't hear it all, but they said Mark would be good because he always encourages people.

Uncle Jack – And do you?

Jeff – I guess not, but some of them are so hopeless, and I'm really keen to do well and win.

Uncle Jack – Wanting to win is not a bad thing, in fact it's a very necessary thing if you're fighting a war, but it's how you handle your men that is important.

Jeff – They said my men would surrender to get away from me.

Uncle Jack – Well, you certainly wouldn't win at that rate. Your men have to have confidence in you, and you have to give them confidence in themselves as well.

Jeff – It doesn't seem as though I'd be much good, does it? I'd be a real failure at that rate.

Uncle Jack – You've got time yet Jeff. If you really want to, you could improve yourself.

Jeff – I really want to, but I know I can't change myself in a hurry. Anyway, I wouldn't know where to start.

Uncle Jack – Well - every time you find yourself about to criticize someone, try to stop – and encourage them instead.

Jeff – It will be hard, but I'll try. I think I skate a bit too.

Uncle Jack – You've taken the first step to improving yourself Jeff. You've admitted to yourself that you're not perfect. Now, just try and do something about it. You can – if you want to badly enough.

Jeff – I bet you would have been a good officer Uncle Jack. You've made me feel better already.

Uncle Jack – Good – and if you really make an effort, before long you may find you'll be first to be picked when someone wants a team.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION-

- Why did no-one want Jeff in their team?
- What did Mark do that would have made him a good leader?
- Why did Jeff go to see Uncle Jack?
- Who can young people go to, to talk about their problems?
- What had Jeff finally done that was the first step to improving himself?
- Do you think he could improve?

THE THREE BROTHERS

Characters – Mr Hemming, Mrs Hemming, Marie, Joey, Sam, Reader.

- Reader** – The Hemming family are sitting around watching the TV and waiting for their tea to cook. The door opens and Joey comes in.
- Mr Hemming** – So you're home at last. Where have you been?
- Joey** – I went to Marshall's place after school, and we didn't know what time it was. Sorry Dad.
- Mr Hemming** – Is that so? Well, I've got news for you. The truant officer was round here today and said you'd been away from school five days out of the last two weeks, and you weren't at school today either!
- Joey** – Gee Dad! What does it matter? School's boring. There's nothing there for me. You used to think so yourself. You left as soon as you were old enough.
- Mrs Hemming** – Yes, he did, and that's just why you are not going to do the same.
- Mr Hemming** – Your mother's right. I thought I was smart. Too smart to fall for that guff about working hard and getting an education.
- Mrs Hemming** – He had a good teacher who told him he had the ability to do anything he wanted to do. He could have been a teacher himself, like Uncle Ben.
- Mr Hemming** – Yes, but all I wanted to do were the easy things. Leave school and hang around. I've been hanging around all my life, and I wish I had done something better with it.
- Marie** – You always used to say Uncle Ben was a fool to work so hard.
- Joey** – You've said he was stuck up too. I heard you. You said he wasn't one of us anymore.
- Mr Hemming** – I've said and done some stupid things in my life, and I wouldn't admit it till I could see you going the same way.
- Mrs Hemming** – Ben has done far more for the young people of this district than we have ever done.
- Sam** – He spends most of his spare time at our youth centre, helping all the kids there.
- Mrs Hemming** – I believe he's encouraging the kids to bank their pocket money and not spend it all on space games.

- Mr Hemming** – Like Mr Hewitt tried to teach us, but only Ben would listen. Jerry and I were out spending ours while Ben was home studying.
- Sam** – Well, at least you're not like Uncle Jerry. He spends as much time in jail as out.
- Marie** – It's funny how three brothers could all turn out so different. Your parents must have taught you the same things.
- Joey** – When I grow up, I think I'll be like Uncle Jerry. They always have a big party when he comes out of jail.
- Mrs Hemming** – Joey! The party is because he's come home again, not because of where he's been!
- Mr Hemming** – It's time we started facing some facts around here. Jerry gets sent to jail because he wants all the things other people have, but he doesn't want to work for them, so he steals them.
- Joey** – Yes, and he's not very good at that either, because he keeps getting caught. I wouldn't be so dumb!
- Mr Hemming** – You're dumb already if that's the way you're thinking! You ought to be able to look at the three of us and see which one of us brothers is doing the most good with his life.
- Marie** – You haven't done any harm to anyone Dad.
- Mr Hemming** – No. But I haven't done much good either, and I wish I'd done something better with my life. I had the opportunities but I didn't take them.
- Sam** – You had no-one to help you Dad. Grandma and Granddad couldn't help you much with your school work. It wasn't your fault.
- Mr Hemming** – It was my fault! I can see that now. I had the same opportunities as Ben. The same teacher tried to help me too. The only difference was, Ben accepted the help and I wouldn't.
- Mrs Hemming** – Yes, Mr Hewitt encouraged them all, but only Ben would listen. The others couldn't be bothered working, and wouldn't take any notice of any advice Mr Hewitt or their grandparents offered.
- Sam** – Well, what would their grandparents have known? They didn't even speak English when they came here!
- Mr Hemming** – I'm proud of what my grandparents did, and they'd be proud of Ben. I don't think they'd be proud of Charlie and me though!
- Mrs Hemming** – They had to face a new climate, and a new way of life when they came here, and they succeeded.

Marie - Not like Uncle Charlie, trying to have the things of today without doing any work to get them.

Joey – Work is a bore.

Mr Hemming – Not having any useful work to do is worse, especially when it drags on for weeks and months and years. You either start stealing like Jerry or become lazy like me.

Joey – If you can't get a job, you can't do any work.

Marie – Huh! Have you ever tried helping with the dishes? There's plenty of work to do around here.

Sam – A man doesn't do housework! You've always said so Dad!

Mr Hemming – From now on, around this house anyway, a man does any work that can be of use to this family, starting with me.

Mrs Hemming – What are you going to do?

Mr Hemming – I'm going outside to start digging a vegetable garden, and Joey and Sam can help me.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- How had the three brothers ended up?
- What had made the difference?
- What had Ben done that the other two hadn't?
- Which way was Joey heading?
- Should boys and men do housework?
- How do you think Joey and Sam will end up?
- What will make the difference?

THE END OF YEAR

Characters – Sarah, Mark, Brian, Jackie, Eru, Jenny, Peter, Reader.

- Reader** – It is lunch time at the local school, and Year 8 are sitting around talking. The teacher from the College has just been interviewing them and leaving their forms to be filled in.
- Sarah** – Gee ... It's going to cost a lot to get all our books and uniform for next year!
- Mark** – I had no idea it would cost so much. I hope Mum and Dad will be able to afford it.
- Brian** – Why worry about it now? We've got three months before we start College.
- Jackie** – I'll have to start worrying about it now. There's only Mum to keep us, and we hardly ever have any spare money.
- Eru** – It's going to be hard for most of us nowadays. Dad and Mum were talking about it, and they said they were going to put aside \$10 a week so that there will be enough to get me started.
- Jackie** – I don't know if Mum could even afford to do that, what with Christmas coming and everything. She has been saving all year to buy me a new bike as it is.
- Jenny** – I'm going to make sure I've got everything ready in plenty of time. Look what happened to Susan last year.
- Everyone** – What? What was that?
- Jenny** – Well, she started the year with no uniform and no money for her books. She kept getting into trouble, and finally her parents got everything for her, but by then she decided she hated High School.
- Peter** – No wonder she hated it. No-one likes being different. If her parents got it for her in the end, why didn't they have it ready for her when she started?
- Jenny** – Oh, they're just like that. They never bother about things till they have to.
- Jackie** – It wasn't very nice for Susan. I'm going to make sure it doesn't happen to me, even if I have to save my bike money to use.
- Eru** – Maybe you could get a job and make a bit of money for yourself.
- Jackie** – What could I do?
- Sarah** – You're pretty good at housework, you help your mother a lot.
- Jackie** – But who would give me a paying job?

Mark – Mrs Martin might. I heard her telling Mum she wished she could get someone to clean her windows and polish her floors.

Jenny – I hate cleaning windows!

Sarah – And I hate polishing floors!

Jackie – I'd do any job to help Mum. I'll go and ask.

Peter – I wouldn't clean windows. That's girl's work. I'd mow lawns though.

Sarah – No-one would let you clean their windows. You'd probably break them.

Eru – I'd clean windows for Mrs Martin. She'd be sure to give you a great afternoon tea as well.

Everyone – Trust you Eru.

Brian – I'm not going to worry about it anyway. Something will turn up. Maybe we'll get it from Uncle James, or we could try the Social Welfare.

Jackie – Mum says she's trying to stand on her own feet if she can. She always tries to.

Eru – My grandfather is a Maori. He's a very wise old man. He says it is a weak tree that never finds the strength to stand on its own.

Brian – Why should we worry about standing on our own? If our relations won't help we can try the Government, or the churches. No-one is going to let us starve.

Eru – My grandfather says that the strong trees help to support the weak until they become strong themselves. If they don't become strong they are no use for anything.

Jenny – Your grandfather sounds like a very wise old man.

Eru – He is. We're all very proud of him. He also says we stake a tree while it is young, or when we transplant it into a different environment, but a strong tree will soon need no stake.

Jenny – That's like us. When we're young we need our parents or someone to lean on, but we have to grow strong ourselves.

Eru – He talks about the Maori people. He says they've been transplanted and have needed to be helped, but the strong ones will learn to stand alone. They could be like the weak sapling that finally reaches the sun and becomes the tallest tree in the forest.

Jackie – That's really the sort of thing that Mum's saying, so I'm going to make sure that I don't have to lean on anyone. Mum says that overcoming obstacles makes you strong.

Peter – Sometimes things go wrong though, and you really need help. Like when our house burned down and everyone helped us.

Sarah – But that's different. When people have bad luck like that other people are glad to help.

Mark – That's because we never know when we might be in trouble ourselves. Anyway, here's hoping none of us will be in trouble on our first day next year.

Everyone – We'll see that we're not!!

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- Why had Susan decided she hated High School?
- What could have been done to avoid the problem?
- Brian and Jackie showed very different attitudes to the problem. What were their attitudes?
- Eru's grandfather saw issues in pictures which related to his own environment. Can you see what he meant?
- Do you agree with Jenny that young people are like the trees?
- Why are people usually ready to help other people who have had bad luck?
- What is likely to happen if too many people become leaner's?

Are you a worker or a leaner?



Too many people leaning on others and the whole system will collapse.

THE TENNIS COURTS

Characters – Bob, Jenny, Thomas, Jane, Kate, Joseph, Reader

Scene - A meeting of members of the local tennis club being held at Thomas' and Jane's home.

Bob - There are not many of us here, and I let everyone know we were having a meeting.

Jenny - I didn't expect many. You know what the locals are like.

Thomas - I thought there'd be more, but we've waited long enough. We'd better get on with the meeting.

Bob - Right then. You know Jane and I are moving away next season, and we've been President and Secretary for years. If we can't get someone else to help run the club it will have to close.

Thomas – I've enjoyed playing, but now I've got two small children and I'm trying to build a house, I just haven't got time.

Jane - When our children are older, we'd like to come back and bring them to play too But we can't do it now. Surely we can find someone who will carry on running the club till then.

Kate - There are lots of young people who want to play, but they can't run the club on their own.

Thomas - I suggest we write a letter to all the people in the district, tell them the problem and ask for help to keep the club going for a few years.

Bob - That's a good idea – and tell them it's urgent or the courts will have to be sold.

Jenny - I'll type them and send them off tomorrow

Scene 2

Reader – It is a fortnight later and the same people are meeting again.

Jane - Well- How many replies did you have Jenny?

Jenny - Would you believe there wasn't even one!

Thomas - None at all? Not from any of the parents of those kids who are so keen on their tennis?

Jane - I can hardly believe it. Well, what can we do now?

Bob - There's a local citizen's group. I'll see if they want to take everything over. I'll ring their president.

Reader - He goes over to the phone to ring up while the others listen and wait.

Bob - He says they can't even get enough people to come to their own meetings. They won't be able to help.

Thomas - What do we do now? The courts should be kept open for the next lot of children in this town.

- Jenny -** It takes money to maintain them, and people to do the work and run a club. We haven't got either so it looks as though the courts will have to be sold.
- Jane -** Oh no! The courts shouldn't be sold. We'll never be able to afford new ones when we are able to help again, and there'll be no land in such a suitable place. The new owners would probably rip up all the surface and build flats there..
- Joseph -** Sorry! We are an incorporated society. That means that we will have to do what the law says. If there is no-one to look after it, the property must be sold, and I guess the money will have to go to the local citizen's group.
- Kate -** I think it's terrible that no-one was interested.!
- Joseph -** So do I, but if the local people are so apathetic that they don't care what happens that will be the end of their tennis courts.
- Reader -** And so it was! Two years later a block of flats were being built and now there is no space left in the community for children to play ball games.

ENDS

Points for discussion –

- The same people had been running the tennis club for years. Why could they not carry on?
- Why do you think there were no replies and offers to help keep the club going?
- What do you think many expected to happen?
- How do you think the locals reacted when they heard the tennis courts had been sold?
- Should anyone have been responsible for seeing that the space was kept available for the use of future generations? If so who?"
- Do you know what the word apathy means?
- What were the long-term consequences of apathy in this case?

THE DIRT TRACK

Characters – Paul, Michael, Jane, Billy, Joanne, Uncle Jack, Reader.

Scene 1 -

- Reader** – A group of young people are hanging around the street corner on a Saturday morning.
- Paul** – I'm bored. I wish we had something to do.
- Michael** – So am I. There's nothing to do in this place.
- Jane** – What would you like to be doing?
- Paul** – I've got a good tough bike. It's no fun riding around the street. I wish we had a dirt track.
- Billy** – Gee. That would be great.
- Joanne** – I can't say I fancy a dirt track. I'd rather have a roller skating rink.
- Jane** – Yes. That's a better idea.
- Paul** – That's not exciting enough for my liking.
- Joanne** – You only say that because you can't do it. Typical of boys.
- Paul** – I'd like to see you trying to keep up with me on a bike. You'd crash at the first bump.
- Michael** – Oh, stop scrapping you two, and think of something to do.
- Reader** – Just then Uncle Jack comes around the corner.
- Uncle Jack** – What's all this? Nothing to do today?
- Billy** – If we had a dirt track we'd have something to do.
- Joanne** – Or a roller-skating rink – but we've got nothing round here.
- Uncle Jack** – If you want something, there's only one way to get it - and that's *not* by sitting and wishing.
- Billy** – What could we do then?
- Paul** – I suppose we could ask the District Council, but I doubt if they'd take much notice.
- Uncle Jack** – Well, they've got plenty of other things to spend the rate-payers' money on. Why don't you do something about it yourselves?
- Jane** – What could we do? We're too young.
- Uncle Jack** – Think of someone who has the right kind of land and ask them to help.
- Paul** – Mr Williams has a good paddock.
- Billy** – He wouldn't let us have it there. He's too mean.
- Michael** – What about Mr Fenton?
- Joanne** – I know him. He's really nice. He just might help if we asked him. I'll go with you boys if you want me to.
- Billy** – You might just be useful for something after all. O.K. Let's go.

Scene 2

- Reader** – It is a week later, and the group are at Mr Fenton’s farm with spades, rakes and wheelbarrows.
- Paul** – This is hard work, but it’s going to be worth it.
- Michael** – I wouldn’t have believed that anyone would have been as helpful as Mr Fenton.
- Billy** – He’s done all the hardest work with his tractor. We couldn’t have done that. Come on, you girls. Where’s the afternoon tea you promised us?
- Joanne** – You’ve just had your lunch. You can’t be hungry again.
- Paul** – Yes we are. If you work like a horse, you have to eat like a horse, you know.
- Jane** – That’s really hard work, but you seem to be enjoying it.
- Michael** – Well, we’ll have something really worth having when we’ve finished. Oh look. Here comes Uncle Jack!
- Uncle Jack** – I see you’ve all done a great job. When is opening day?
- Joanne** – Next week-end they hope.
- Uncle Jack** – You’ve done really well. How did the boys manage to get you girls to help? You weren’t all that keen on a dirt-track.
- Billy** – A simple case of bribery Uncle Jack. We promised to try and help them get somewhere to roller skate if they’d keep us well fed.
- Uncle Jack** – That’s really showing some initiative. And where do you think you’ll find someone to help you with a place to roller skate?
- Paul** – We do have someone in mind. He’s got a large area of concrete at the back of his house because he hates mowing lawns.
- Billy** – And he likes kids, so I’m sure he won’t turn us down. You won’t will you Uncle Jack?

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- Do you know what the word “initiative” means?
- In what ways did these young people show initiative?
- Mr Fenton had allowed them the use of his land. What responsibilities would they have in return?
- What do local Councils have to spend money on?
- Where do they get the money from?
- When young people destroy or graffiti local amenities who has to pay in the end?

IT'S A GOAL!

Characters – Mr Smith, Mrs Smith, John, Geoff, Mary, Joanne, Billy, Reader

Reader – The Smith family are having Sunday tea and Geoff, one of John's friends is visiting.

Mr Smith – I see Tom Abbott is home for the week-end. I wonder what he is doing now.

Mrs Smith – Was that the boy who was always top of your form when you were together at Grammar?

Mr Smith – That's the one. When I left school and got my apprenticeship, he went on to University, but he didn't seem to have any idea what he wanted to do.

Mrs Smith – He dropped out of University didn't he?

Mr Smith – Yes. He couldn't seem to concentrate on working if there was no-one standing over him. Then he went overseas for a while, but he couldn't find anything to suit him anywhere.

John – Was he the chap you told me about who was accused of importing drugs?

Mr Smith – That was the chap. He was lucky to get off that time. I think he had a go at practically everything. He wanted to get rich quick, but he never liked the idea of hard work to get there.

Billy – Gee!! Who likes hard work?

Joanne – Not you anyway, Billy. You haven't even done your homework yet, and the week-end's nearly gone.

Mr Smith – You know better than that Billy. Leaving things that *have* to be done, until the last minute, is a sure way of getting yourself into strife.

Billy – Why did you have to let Dad know about that Joanne? You just wait. I'll get my own back on you.

Mrs Smith – That's enough of that Billy. You only need to see what Tom Abbott did with his life to realize how important good work habits are.

Geoff – My Dad never got into the habit of working. He could find any excuse to take a day off.

Mary – Your mother's always working though Geoff.

Geoff – She has had to, but now I've started work, I'll be able to help with the money a bit more. I think I'd like to find a happy medium. Work hard enough to do well, but still have time to enjoy life a bit.

Mr Smith – If you're making a good job of the work you do, you get enjoyment out of seeing what you've done.

Geoff – That's true. I used to hate it when the boss found faults in my work, but since I've been trying really hard, I must admit I like looking at what I've done and seeing how much better it is.

John – It's like mowing the lawn. If you make a good job of it, the whole garden looks good, but if you leave bits here and there, it still looks untidy when you've finished.

Billy – Don't tell me you enjoy mowing the lawn!!

John – No. There's plenty of things I'd rather do than mow lawns, but when I do it, I like to make a good job of it.

Mrs Smith – Sounds like John is getting to be a bit like you Dad.

Mr Smith – Yes, but I can't say I'm doing the job I really wanted to do. I wanted to be an architect, but my parents couldn't afford to send me to University, so I got an apprenticeship with a carpenter and learned to build houses.

Mary – You are a very good tradesman Dad. Everyone says you're the best in town.

Joanne – And you're the foreman now too. You've got a lot of other men to supervise.

Billy – As well as supervising us lot at home, eh dad?

Mr Smith – No wonder I'm going grey. I'm not sure who causes me the most strife, you lot at home or the chaps at work. I'm not sure how I rate as a father, but when I started my apprenticeship I decided I was going to be a first class tradesman.

Mrs Smith – It's a pity Tom Abbott didn't decide to become good at something, instead of flitting from job to job.

Mr Smith – With all his brains, I think he could have done just about anything he set his mind to, but he never seemed to have any goal in life.

Mary – It's hard for us now though dad. A lot of kids leaving school can't get into the jobs they want to do.

Mrs Smith – There are also a lot of kids who think the jobs that are available are not good enough for them, or they don't pay well enough.

John – Grandad said it was just as bad when he left school and he was glad to take any job. He said if he'd had to be a dust- man he would have made sure he was the best dust- man they'd ever had.

Joanne – They don't have dust-men now.

Mrs Smith – I wish the men who pick up our rubbish were a bit more like grandad. It's just as important to be a good dust-man as it is to be a good anything.

- Mary –** Maybe the men who work on our rubbish truck think the job's not good enough for them, so they don't bother much.
- Mr Smith –** You're better to be working at a job that you think is not good enough for you than not working at all.
- Billy –** What's so great about work dad? If all you lot are so keen on work, you can do it all and I'll sit around and watch. Mum will keep me fed, won't you Mum?
- Mrs Smith –** Mum certainly will not! If you don't work you don't eat.
- Mr Smith –** Your mother's right son. A person's lucky if they can work at a job they're really interested in, but you can get interested in most jobs if you learn to do them well.
- John –** If dad had been a bad carpenter just because he couldn't be an architect, he wouldn't have got very far.
- Mr Smith –** I wouldn't have lasted long in a job, that's for sure, and then how could I have afforded to get married and bring up you lot?
- Mary –** Are you really sorry you didn't get to be an architect?
- Mr Smith –** I wanted to be good at my job and I've done that. I wanted to have a happy home with a wife and family and I've done that. When you lot are all supporting yourselves I might have another go at that architecture course.
- John –** I wouldn't be surprised if you did it dad. You're a real sticker, that's for sure.
- Geoff –** You know, I'm sorry for Tom Abbott. I'm sorry for my father too. You really sound as though you've had the best life. You sound really happy.
- Mr Smith –** I am happy. With such a good cook for a wife and enough money to pay the bills, life is not too bad.
- Billy –** Not forgetting us kids!!!
- Mr Smith –** I don't want you lot to think I'm getting soft in my old age, but you kids are the best part of it.
- Mrs Smith –** I must be getting a bit soft as well, but I think you're right.
- Billy –** How about increasing my pocket money then dad? And Mum might trot out that cream sponge I saw her putting in the cupboard before tea.
- Everyone –** Great idea Billy!
- Joanne –** And just for once, you can wash up the supper dishes.
- Billy –** I might even force myself to do that as long as I get the biggest piece of Mum's cake.
- Mary –** I wonder what Billy's goal in life will be.
- Billy –** Number one – to find a wife who can cook as well as Mum.
- Joanne –** No-one will marry you if they know you're so lazy.

Mr Smith – Give him a hard time girls. I was a bit lazy myself when I was his age.

Mary – Not you Dad!

Mr Smith – Oh yes I was. It was only when I decided what I wanted out of life that I really knuckled down to work hard and save money.

Mrs Smith – So there's hope for Billy yet.

Billy – Well, bring on the sponge and I'll decide if it's worth working for.

Joanne – Well, I vote he goes and gets the supper ready, so he does his work *before* he gets his piece of cake.

Mary – And Mum will cut it *after* it gets in here.

Billy – Gee, a bloke can't win around here. O.K. I'm going.

Geoff – And I'll help. I'd hate the girls to think I'm lazy. I might be looking for a good cook myself one day.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

Tom Abbott had been very bright at school, but why had he not done well in life?

What did Geoff see as a happy medium? Do you agree?

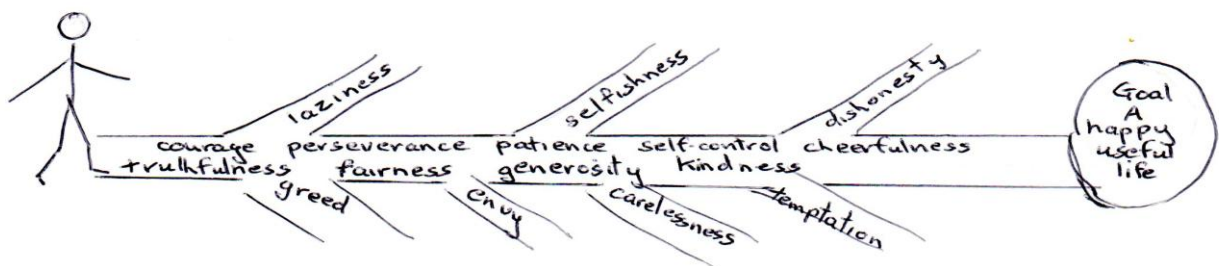
What gave Mr Smith job satisfaction, even though he was not doing what he had wanted?

Why is it good to set goals and work towards them?

It is possible to set unrealistic goals. What may happen then?

Tom Abbott wanted to get rich quick, but he didn't want to do the hard work that was needed to get there honestly. What had he been tempted into doing?

Mrs Smith told Billy that if he didn't work, he wouldn't eat. Was that fair?



UPWARDS OR DOWNWARDS

Characters – Paul, Andrew, Kathy, David, Angela, Carl, Uncle Jack, Reader.

Scene 1

- Reader** – Some pupils from Pukekohe High are talking together after sports afternoon.
- David** – Gee Paul! You were jumping well this afternoon.
- Kathy** – Nobody got within four centimetres of you.
- Angela** – You're lucky Paul. You seem to be good at all sports.
- Carl** – You don't seem to practise much either, but no-one else can get anywhere near you.
- Paul** – I guess I am lucky, but training's a bore. I'd rather watch TV in the evenings.
- Andrew** – I wish I could do things as easily as you. I have to train and train and I never seem to do any better than second or third.
- David** – Well, Paul's got the junior high jump in the bag for sure.
- Paul** – I'm lucky really. Dad was a good jumper and Mum won lots of prizes for athletics so it runs in the family. I'd hate to have to train like you Andrew.
- Andrew** – There's two months to go before the champs and I'll be training every night for an hour at least.
- Paul** – I won't need to do anything like that. I've got other things to do in the evenings, especially now I've just got my own TV and computer in my room.

Scene 2

- Reader** – Andrew is practising when Uncle Jack comes by and stops to talk to him.
- Uncle Jack** – You're putting in a lot of time practising your jumping.
- Andrew** – I'd like to win the junior high jump at the school sports, but I haven't got a show of beating Paul.
- Uncle Jack** -- Is he that much better than you?
- Andrew** – Yes, he is. He cleared four centimetres more than I did at the last meeting and he hardly trains at all. I don't know why I bother.
- Uncle Jack** -- Why don't you forget about what Paul can do, and just try to do better than your best now. Put the bar up one centimetre and try for that. When you can do that, then put it up another centimetre.
- Andrew** – One centimetre is not as hard to try for as four centimetres. Thanks Uncle Jack. I'll try it one centimetre at a time.
- Uncle Jack** – And I'll come by every evening to see how you're going.

Scene 3

- Reader –** The time passes. Andrew works hard at his training, but Paul spends all his spare time on his computer and does no training until a few days before the sports. He is now down at the sports ground with his friends
- Paul –** I suppose I'd better have a few jumps tonight just to sharpen myself up.
- Kathy –** Andrew has been working really hard every night for the last two months.
- Carl –** He's really improved too. He's got his weight down a bit with all his hard work, and that helps him.
- Paul –** I think I've put on a bit of weight in the last couple of months. I like to have a big bag of chips with me in front of the screen.
- Angela –** I always get hungry watching TV.
- Carl –** Mum says it's a bad habit to get into, but I like to do that too.
- David –** Here comes Andrew. You two could have a bit of practice now to see how well you're both doing? How about it Andrew?
- Andrew –** No thanks. I've done my training. I'm saving myself for a real effort on sports day next week.
- Reader –** Andrew goes off, and Paul has a try at the height he could easily clear two months ago. He knocks the bar down each time.
- Paul –** I must be well out of practice. Put it a bit lower.
- Reader –** He tries again and fails again.
- Carl –** That's four centimetres lower now. Andrew just managed that height two months ago.
- David –** I wonder if he has improved with all his practising.
- Kathy –** Maybe that was why he didn't want to jump against you just now.
- Carl –** You'll have to work hard over the next few days if you're going to be sure to win.
- Paul –** Oh, I'll win all right, but I'd better do a bit of work just to be sure.
- Reader –** So he goes on practising with the bar at a lower height.

Scene 4

- Reader –** Sports day arrives and to everyone's surprise, Andrew manages to clear the bar two centimetres higher than Paul's best effort.
- Paul –** I just don't understand it. Two months ago I could jump that height and Andrew couldn't. I suppose I should have worked harder.
- Angela –** You certainly worked hard Andrew.
- Andrew –** Yes I did, but I would have given up if it hadn't been for Uncle Jack.

- Kathy** – How did he help?
- Andrew** – He told me not to worry about what Paul could do, but just to concentrate on putting the bar up one centimetre at a time, and doing better myself..
- David** – I suppose one centimetre didn't seem as much to worry about as four.
- Andrew** – No, and when I could regularly jump that height, he'd put the bar up another centimetre and I'd practise till I could get over that.
- Paul** – Well you've gone upwards and I've gone downwards. I suppose I've only got myself to blame for taking things too easily.
- Carl** – Your Uncle Jack sounds like he's a pretty good coach.
- David** – Maybe he could help Paul as well, and you two could win the junior team jump for us against Wesley College. They'll be the toughest competition.
- Andrew** – I'll be trying for another centimetre over the next month. What about it Paul? If Uncle Jack helps us he will expect you to work.
- Paul** – As long as he doesn't expect four centimetres a week from me, I reckon I'd like to give it a go.
- Kathy** – You'll have to cut down on those chips in front of the TV.
- Angela** – And the cream cakes after tea.
- Paul** – I guess it might be worth it for a few weeks, if it would help us win that team event.
- Andrew** – Good on you Paul. You'll probably be able to beat me again if you really train hard, but I won't mind that if it helps our school to have a win.
- Kathy** – You're both good sports, and when the competition is over, win or lose, I'll ask Mum to put on a party for all of us.
- Paul** – With plenty of chips, sausage rolls and cream cakes for Andrew and I.
- Carl** – You'll really have deserved them by then.
- Others** – They certainly will!!!! Etc.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- Why did Paul not bother about practising?
- What was he doing instead?
- Is it tempting to get into the habit of eating in front of the T.V.?
- What can be some of the results of spending most of our spare time in front of a T.V. or computer screen?
- What would be the wisest thing to do?
- Why did Uncle Jack suggest trying for only one centimetre at a time?
- What do you feel makes "a good sport?"

THERE WAS A CROOKED MAN

Characters – Mr Smith, Charlie, Mike Bassett, Jack, Alec, Susan, Margaret, Reader.

Reader – Charlie started work this year at James Plumbing and Builders. He has been working most of the time with an older man, Mike Bassett, who has been teaching him the trade. It is lunch time and the staff are sitting out in the yard in the sun.

Mr Smith – Did you bring back that level you borrowed for the week-end Mike? I'll be needing it this afternoon.

Mike – Sorry Bill. I forgot about it. I'll bring it back tomorrow for sure.

Jack – You said that about the trowel you borrowed before Christmas and I haven't seen that turn up yet.

Mike – So what? The boss has plenty of tools. What's one more or less to him? He'll never miss it.

Mr Smith – That's not the point Mike. It belongs to him and you should bring it back.

Mike – I'll get around to it some time, but if I don't it's no great deal.

Susan – Well, I wouldn't like to have that sort of thing on my conscience.

Margaret – I'd be scared every time Mr James spoke to me. I'd be sure he was going to ask about them.

Charlie – Nothing worries Mike.

Jack – Well, things like that worry me. What about that glass door you smashed last week Mike? Mr James asked how it happened, and I had to say I didn't know.

Alec – He asked me too, and I didn't know what to say. I didn't want to tell a lie about it, but I didn't want to get you into trouble either.

Mr Smith – The rest of us shouldn't have to lie to cover for Mike. It would be far better if you owned up about it. As it is, everyone's under suspicion.

Everyone – That's right Mike!

Charlie – It was partly my fault. It was too heavy. I couldn't hold my end up and it slipped. I wanted to go and explain to Mr James.

Mike – I told you kid. Just keep quiet about it, and he'll never know who did it.

Charlie – But I don't like Mr James thinking it could have been one of the others.

Mike – You've got a lot to learn in this life son. Being honest is a fool's game. It never gets you anywhere.

Mr Smith – You'd better think for yourself Charlie my lad. Mike's been lucky so far, but one day he will get caught.

- Mike –** Your ideas are out of date Bill Smith. A man's got to look after number one in this world. I've just about done all the repairs on my bach with bits I've borrowed from this firm. What have you got to show for your twenty years here?
- Mr Smith –** I've got a clear conscience, and I don't have to worry that one day I'll be caught for stealing.
- Mike –** I'm not stealing. I'm just borrowing a bit here and there – and just forgetting to bring them back.
- Jack –** You're pretty smart at dodging work too, Mike. You left me to finish that job on my own last week while you sneaked off early.
- Mike –** You had Charlie to help. You were only an hour late getting away.
- Charlie –** I'd promised Mum I'd be home right on time because she wanted to go out and I was going to mind the kids. She missed her bus and was really upset.
- Mike –** Charlie, you're as soft as Bill Smith. You don't get anywhere in this life by thinking about other people. Look after number one. That's what I always say.
- Margaret –** That's going to get you into trouble one day Mike.
- Alec –** Or you'll get someone else into trouble. I wouldn't put it past you to leave someone else to carry the can.
- Susan –** It could even be you Charlie.
- Charlie –** Oh, it wasn't so bad really. I wasn't too keen on minding the kids. At least I didn't have to do that.
- Mr Smith –** Someone always pays. It was your mother this time, but next time who knows?

Points for discussion –

Most of you will eventually go into the work force and you will be exposed to different role models.

- What sort of a person was Mike Bassett? What was his main policy?
- What could be attractive about that? What had he achieved?
- What sort of a person was Mr Smith?
- In what way did his thinking differ from Mike Bassett's?
- Who do you think Charlie would be wise to take as a role model?
- Why?
- Do you think he was already being influenced by Mike?

THE HARD LESSON

Characters – Charlie, Alec, Jack, Susan, Mr Smith, Reader.

- Reader** – Charlie has been working with Mike for a year now. He has been learning his trade and other things as well. The staff are at lunch again.
- Charlie** – Well, that's the last of the stuff I'm going to need for my bike rack. It will be good to have a decent place at home to stand our bikes. Mum is always going on about tripping over them.
- Alec** – Won't she ask you where you got it all from? She knows how much pay you get and what you spend it on.
- Charlie** – I've told her it's only some off-cuts they didn't want at work, and Mr James gave it to me.
- Jack** – You've certainly learned a lot from Mike. I'll bet you don't let Mr Smith know what you're up to.
- Charlie** – No fear of that. He's too square and out of date. He'd probably tell me to bring it all back.
- Alec** – It might be better if you did bring it back. You could still get caught.
- Charlie** – Not a chance. The last lot is in the tool-kit of my bike now. I've been pretty smart about getting it out of the yard.
- Reader** – Susan comes across from the office to where the boys are talking.
- Susan** – Mr James wants to see you in the office Charlie.
- Charlie** – What about?
- Susan** – I don't know really. Someone knocked your bike over and tipped all your gear out of your tool kit. Maybe Mr James wants to make sure nothing was broken.
- Jack** – I don't like the sound of that Charlie.
- Alec** – Maybe some-one noticed what was in the tool-kit.
- Charlie** – Not a chance. Mike always got away with it so why shouldn't I?
- Reader** – Charlie goes off to the office and Susan stays to talk to the other boys.
- Susan** – What was that all about?
- Jack** – Nothing we can tell you about at the moment!
- Susan** – I hope Charlie hasn't done anything stupid. Mr James looked very annoyed.
- Reader** – Susan goes back to the office and after quite a while Charlie comes out. He goes over to where Jack and Alec are working.
- Charlie** – This is a rotten place to work. I thought Mr James was a decent bloke, but he's

just as bad as Mike says all bosses are.

Alec – What happened? Did they find the stuff?

Charlie – That stupid Margaret upset my bike when she put hers in. then she asked Mr Smith to help her put the stuff back.

Jack – I suppose he saw what you had in your bag and knew what you were doing.

Charlie – Why couldn't they mind their own business? I wasn't doing them any harm.

Alec – Mr Smith is responsible for keeping a check on all the stuff in the yard, and he did warn you about listening to Mike.

Charlie – Mike has always taken stuff home and he's never got caught. Why should I be the one to get caught? Mr Smith should have kept his mouth shut.

Reader – Mr Smith comes across the yard, and Charlie abuses him for reporting him to Mr James.

Mr Smith – That's enough of that Charlie. You just stop to think a bit about what has happened. I warned you not to copy Mike.

Jack – Did you really have to report it to Mr James?

Mr Smith – Yes I did. There is a lot of stuff missing, and I am going to have to account for it at stock-taking. Charlie is not going to allow the rest of us to take the blame.

Alec – But Charlie only did what Mike has done.

Mr Smith – It is too late to make an honest man of Mike Bassett, but Charlie is young and has his whole life in front of him I don't want him to ruin it.

Charlie – Why didn't you keep quiet then?

Mr Smith – That wouldn't have been the answer. You need to learn a hard lesson Charlie, and I've put in a good word for you with Mr James. We'll just have to wait and see what happens.

Points for discussion –

- How had Charlie changed in the time he had been at work?
- Which man had he been taking as an example or role model?
- Who did Charlie blame for his trouble?
- Do we often blame someone else when we get into trouble?
- Who should he have blamed?
- Should Mr Smith have reported Charlie?
- What might have been the consequences if he had not?

THE ENCOURAGING WORD

Characters – Mike Bassett, Mr Smith, Mr James, Jack, Alec, Charlie, Reader.

Reader – It is the day after Charlie was found out and the staff at James Plumbing and Builders are having lunch at work.

Mike – So Charlie finally got caught. I told him to be careful where he put the stuff he was taking home.

Mr Smith – It's a pity you didn't tell him not to take it at all unless he asked.

Mike – Oh, everyone does it. You've just got to be careful how you go about it.

Mr Smith – He's only a young chap. I suppose he thought if the older men were doing it, it was all right for him to do it too.

Jack – He's back in the office now. I wonder what is happening.

Mike – I bet they called the police and are going to charge him.

Alec – I hope they don't. Mr James and Mrs Brent are really kind. They helped me when I needed it.

Mike – This is different. Charlie has been caught stealing.

Mr Smith – You didn't call it stealing when you were doing it. Here's Charlie coming now. He's looking pretty gloomy. We'll have to cheer him up a bit.

Reader – Charlie comes into the lunch room and slumps down on to a seat, looking thoroughly miserable.

Mike – Well? Are they going to the police?

Alec – What did Mrs Brent say?

Jack – You look pretty down. Have you lost your job?

Mr Smith – Just a minute, you chaps. Give him a chance. Would you like a cup of tea Charlie? There's still plenty in the pot.

Charlie – Thanks, Mr Smith. I could do with a cup of tea after all that.

Mike – I suppose you've been fired. Even if they didn't get the police, you'll find it hard to get another job after all this.

Alec – You're not much help, Mr Bassett. How would you have been feeling if you were in Charlie's place?

Mike – I'm too smart to be in his place. Charlie only has himself to blame for being so careless.

Charlie – I admit now it was my own fault. I shouldn't have taken that stuff without asking, but it was just lying round and I thought it didn't matter. I told them I would pay for it.

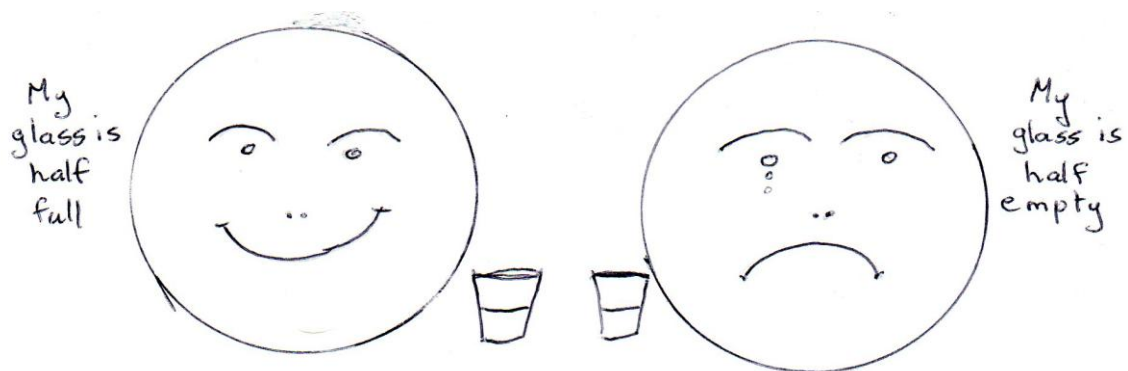
- Mr Smith** – Mr James and Mrs Brent are very fair. I think if they feel you are really sorry and have learnt a lesson, they may keep you on.
- Mike** – Not a show!! They're like all bosses. Greedy and selfish. We've got to get everything we can out of them, any way we can.
- Jack** – I'm sure you're wrong about that. They're not like that. This is a good firm to work for, and I wouldn't like to have the worries they have now. There hasn't been too much work to do lately you know.
- Charlie** – I was really glad to get this job, and now I've messed it up completely. I hope they'll give me another chance.
- Alec** – I'm sure Mrs Brent would.
- Mr Smith** – Mr James is just as kind really, though he doesn't show it as much. I don't think they'll put you off Charlie, but if they do, I might be able to put a word in for you at Jenkins Building Supplies.
- Charlie** – That's a lot further to travel and I really like it here, but thanks Mr Smith. You've made me feel a bit better.
- Mike** – Well, don't start feeling too cheerful. Here comes old James now. What's the betting they've decided to call the police?
- Others** – Oh, shut up Mike!!!
- Reader** – Mr James comes into the lunch-room.
- Mr James** – You all know what has happened so I'm speaking to all of you together. Charlie has made a mistake, but we believe he has learned a lesson, so he is stopping on.
- Charlie** – Thanks very much Mr James. I'll really try to do my best for the firm.
- Mr Smith** – Thanks Mr James. Charlie is a good boy really, and he's doing very well at learning the trade.
- Mr James** – I'm relying on you older men to set the boys a good example. If this firm is going to survive in the present economic climate we all need to work together and trust each other. We needn't mention this again. We'll see you back at work tomorrow Charlie.
- Reader** – Mr James goes back to the office.
- Mike** – Huh! You were lucky Charlie. I hope he doesn't change his mind and send for the police yet.
- Mr Smith** – You're a real ray of sunshine Mike, especially as you really caused all this. Mr James won't go back on his word once he's given it. Haven't you heard the old saying, "His word is his bond?" That's how Mr James is.

- Alec** – That's really great Charlie. How about we go to the stock-cars tonight to cheer you up properly?
- Mike** – It's going to be a rotten night. The forecast is for heavy rain later.
- Mr Smith** – Maybe, but I can see a patch of blue sky and I think it is going to clear instead.
- Charlie** – You know, Mr Bassett, I don't know why I ever copied you. Mr James said I'm not going to work with you any more and Mr Smith will take over my training. I think life is going to be a lot more pleasant from now on.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION–

- Why was Charlie in trouble?
- Is it stealing to take something that belongs to other people without their permission?
- In what other ways can we steal?
- E.g. cheating in school or at sport, borrowing books and not returning them, telling lies about people, putting too little money in an honesty box, not paying accounts when they are due?
- Should Charlie have lost his job?
- Two of the older men had very different attitudes towards Charlie now. Who were they?
- How did they make Charlie feel?
- One was an optimist and one a pessimist. Explain the difference.
- What is the effect of each of this type of person on other people?



WHAT'S WRONG WITH BEING SELFISH?

Character – Mr Jones, Mrs Jones, Simon, Jennie, Claire, Mr Smith, Mrs Smith, John, Mary, Joanne, Billy, Reader.

Reader – Harvey Jones was a selfish little boy. He never wanted to share his toys. He always wanted his friends to play the games he wanted to play. He always wanted people to see how good he was at things. He always wanted the best of everything for himself. No-one really liked him very much. When he grew up he got married to a nice girl who believed he was wonderful because Harvey kept telling her he was. They had three children and they came to live next door to the Smiths.

Scene 1

Reader – The Jones family are all at breakfast on a Saturday morning.

Simon – I'm playing in the school's top cricket team this afternoon Dad. How about coming and watching?

Jennie – Rather Dad than us. Cricket's boring.

Simon – I asked Dad, not you lot. How about it Dad?

Mr Jones – What did you say? Watch you play cricket? Sorry son. I want to try out those new golf clubs this afternoon. No-one else at the club has a set as good.

Mrs Jones – Couldn't you go and watch him for once Harvey? Then you could see he gets home straight after the game.

Mr Jones – He'll be all right. He can tell me about the game later. I'm too tied up today.

Claire – You said you'd take us to the beach while the weather is good. What about tomorrow? Oh Dad. You're not listening to me. This weather won't last for long.

Mr Jones – There's a soccer game I want to watch on the TV tomorrow. Semi-finals of the World cup. I can't miss that.

Mrs Jones – I wish you'd take us all to that place out at the coast that the Smiths went to last week.

Simon – Billy said it was really good.. They had great pizza - and the biggest cream cakes he ever saw for afternoon tea.

Jennie – You're as bad as Billy Smith. Always thinking about food.

Simon – Well, that's better than always looking at yourself in the mirror.

Claire – No mirror could stand you looking in it for too long. It would crack up. Ha!Ha!

Mrs Jones – Harvey, why don't you stop them quarrelling like that? We should be enjoying our week-end. The Smiths always seem to be having fun even if they don't go out much.

Simon – Mr Smith plays cricket with John and Billy in the back yard.

Mr Jones – Bill Smith is a fool. He never gets to do the things he would like to do himself. He had a set of golf clubs given to him and he hasn't even tried them out yet

Simon – I'm going over to the Smiths. I've had enough of this place.

Reader – He goes out and slams the door.

Scene 2

Reader – The Smiths are finishing their breakfast when Simon knocks at the door. Billy opens it and Simon comes in.

Mr Smith – Hello Simon. Ready for the big game today?

Simon – How did you know I was playing?

Mr Smith – Billy told me. Actually, I'm coming to watch after lunch. I can't come all day. I've got a few jobs to do around here first for the girls.

Mary – Dad is redecorating our room, and he's building us a set of shelves.

Billy – For all that junk you collect. Dolls and things!

Mrs Smith – You have plenty of your own junk Billy. I'm frightened to open your door at times.

Joanne – Last week it was frogs. At least our junk doesn't crawl or jump.

Mr Smith – Well, I'll have to jump to it if I'm going to get all these jobs done this morning. I'm bringing Billy home when the game is over. Would you like me to pick you up too Simon? We could have a quick look in at that new dirt-track on our way home.

Billy – How about it Simon? John is going to drop me off on his way to his game this morning. He could take you too and we could come home with Dad.

Simon – Gee ! That would be great. I've been wanting to have a look at that dirt-track. I'll go and ask Mum if it will be all right.

Mr Smith – Better ask your father Simon. He might have something organized for you.

Simon – He's got something organized for himself. He's spending the day with his new golf clubs. (He goes out.)

Mrs Smith – That Harvey Jones is a really selfish man.

Joanne – Thank goodness we have a father like you Dad.

Mary – You're never too busy to do things for us.

Mrs Smith – It's nice to know you appreciate your father.

Mr Smith – Harvey Jones isn't all bad. He's very generous to his kids with money. It's his time he likes to himself.

Billy – Yes. I have to admit Simon always has the latest gear – and he's got a new trail-bike too.

Mr Smith – I've known Harvey Jones since we were kids. He was a selfish kid and unfortunately his parents didn't teach him any better. I just hope Simon doesn't grow up to be like him.

Billy – Simon told me he'd like to grow up to be like you, Dad.

Mr Smith – Cut that out. You'll give me a swelled head. But it would be nice to think you could help someone have a better life than they would have had otherwise.

Mrs Smith – Harvey Jones doesn't seem to have any really close friends, does he?

John – If you look at them Dad, they're mostly like himself. I doubt if any of them would put themselves out for anyone else.

Mr Smith – I'll put myself out for you girls, if you'll put yourselves out for me and make some hot scones for morning tea.

Mary – O.K. Dad. that's a deal!

Billy – And have them ready before John and I have to leave. I could just fancy a hot scone dripping with butter.

Everyone – Trust you Billy!!!! Etc.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- Why did Mr Jones not want to watch Simon play cricket?
- What was Mr Smith going to do with his spare time?
- Mr Jones was not selfish with money. What was he selfish with?
- What do you think the long-term consequences would be in each case?
- Why had Simon said he would rather grow up to be like Mr Smith?
- How do you think the Smith children could show that they appreciated what their father did for them?
- What do you think is more important to spend on people, time or money?

NOT YET

Characters – Mr Smith, Mrs Smith, John, Mary, Joanne, Billy, Reader.

Reader – The rest of the Smiths are at breakfast when Billy comes into the room.

Billy – What do you think? That was Gary Jenkins on the phone. Their father won't take them to the picnic this afternoon.

Mary – Why not? Susan Jenkins said they all wanted to go, and her father won't be working today.

Mr Smith – That's right. Nobody works when it's the firm's picnic, so everyone is able to go. There must be some other reason.

Billy – Would you believe that Mr Jenkins won't take them because he says that everyone else has a newer car than theirs, and he's not going to have his car parked next to a whole lot of better ones.

John – His car goes doesn't it?

Mr Smith – Of course it goes. I'll admit it's a few years older than anyone else's, but I've never thought about that. I'm sure no-one else has either.

Mrs Smith – What a shame! The children will be so disappointed. Could we take them with us?

John – Not a show! With all of us and all the food you girls have prepared, there won't be any room to spare.

Joanne – We could leave Billy at home.

Mary – Or leave the food at home.

Billy – You're not leaving the food at home – or me! Of course, now I come to think of it, if you left me at home – and all the food, I could have quite a good day.

Joanne – Trust you to think of that!

Billy – Well, trust you to pick on me.

Mr Smith – That's enough. We can't take the Jenkins, but it's just too bad Jenkins has such a chip on his shoulder. He's just the same about boats.

John – He's always saying he wants one, but maybe he can't afford one.

Billy – Gary says his father won't get one till he can get a six metre one with all the trimmings. He could get an aluminium dinghy like Grandad's, but he won't.

Mr Smith – He could afford that, but if he can't have a big boat, he won't have one at all.

Mary – We've had lots of fun in Grandad's dinghy, and he catches lots of fish too.

Billy – Remember that big one I nearly caught last Christmas?

Joanne – We'll never hear the last of that will we?

John – Knock it off you two!

Mrs Smith – Poor Mrs Jenkins. She wanted to plant a rose garden at the front of the house but Mr Jenkins didn't want it.

Mary – It would have improved that bare front lawn. Why wouldn't he let her?

Mrs Smith – He said the neighbours on each side had had theirs professionally landscaped, and since he couldn't afford that, it was better not to do anything to it.

Billy – Maybe he was too lazy to dig it.

Mr Smith – No Billy. He's not lazy. He works really hard at the factory.

John – I suppose he's after your job Dad.

Mr Smith – You can't blame a man for wanting to get on in the world. The trouble is, he's never happy. No matter what he has, he can always see someone with something better.

Joanne – The kids wanted to have a party, and invite all the rest of us from around here, but he wouldn't let them. He's really mean.

John – No, you have to be fair Jo-anne. He's not exactly mean. He's quite generous when anyone goes collecting for anything, and the kids seem to have everything they need. Why wouldn't he let them have a party?

Mary – He said the house was too small and when they had a house with a basement like the Jones, then they could have a party.

Billy – Huh!!! They'll be too old for parties by then!

Mr Smith – Mr Jenkins will certainly be too old for parties by the time he's got everything he wants to impress other people.

Mrs Smith – I don't think he'll ever be satisfied. No matter how much he gets, there will always be someone else with more.

Billy – It's a wonder his eyes don't grow out on stalks like a snail's, the way he's always looking at what other people have.

Joanne – Your eyes were a bit like that when you saw the cake Mum had made for the raffle today.

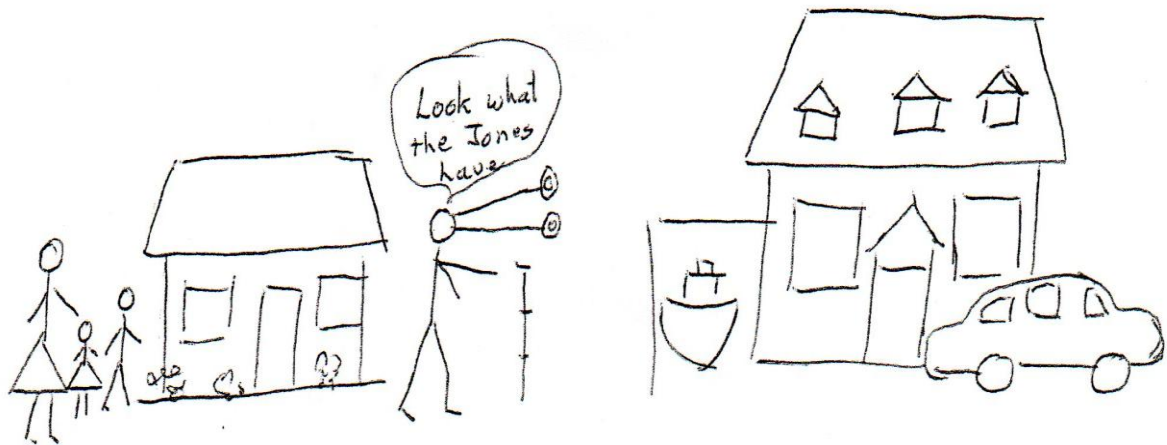
Billy – Well! Fancy making one to give away, and forgetting about her growing son.

Mrs Smith – Don't worry, Billy. I haven't forgotten you. Go and have a look in the cupboard, but don't touch. It's for the picnic today.

Billy – Good old Mum! You're a beaut!

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- What was the problem for Mr Jenkins?
- Do you think he would ever be satisfied with the material possessions he acquired?
- What might be more important to a family than material possessions?
- What do young children envy that others might have?
- What do teenagers envy that others might have?
- If they could not afford them what might they be tempted to do to get them?
- What should you do if you want something you can't afford at the moment?
- Environmentally however, we need to become a conserver society, rather than a consumer society. Do you know what that means?
- Environmentally, is it wise to aim to be the sort of people who consume and waste more than their share of the world's resources?



The grass over the fence may be greener now, but how green will it be in the future if we use more than our share of the world's resources?

THE PILE

Characters – Mr Bitmore, Mrs Bitmore, Francy Bitmore, Tommy Bitmore, Reader.

Reader – The Bitmores live in the big house next door to the Jenkins. Tea is ready and the family are waiting for Mr Bitmore. The door opens and he comes in.

Mr Bitmore – You know, when I parked my new car outside, it's so long it took up all our parking space and some of the Jenkins as well.

Tommy – The car's a beaut Dad! I bet it's upsetting Mr Jenkins.

Francy – When you brought it home last night, he couldn't keep his eyes off it.

Tommy – Just like Gary when he sees me on my new bike. I'll go outside after tea and ride around the block a few times so all the kids can have another look at it.

Mrs Bitmore – Dad and I are going out after tea. Dad's taking me to the opera.

Tommy – You hate opera Dad. All that singing and language you don't understand.

Mr Bitmore – I know, but your mother wants to go. She's just bought another dress, a thousand dollars worth – and she wants to show it off to her friends.

Francy – I've got a new dress too. I'm wearing it to the College ball next month. No-one else will have such an expensive dress.

Tommy – You females make me sick! You've got so many clothes, you fill up every wardrobe in the house.

Mr Bitmore – I may have to suffer through the opera, but it will be worth it. I'll drive up in that new car and let them all see how well I'm doing.

Tommy – What are you doing tomorrow Dad? We could drive to the park and watch that football game.

Mr Bitmore – Sorry son. I've got to go and look at a bit of property I want to buy. Take your new bike and let everyone have a good look at it.

Francy – Oh Mum. I nearly forgot. Can you help at a stall at our College gala day next Saturday?

Mrs Bitmore – Certainly not. I'm going to spend the day in town shopping. I do like these credit cards. Much better than when we were young and had to have money in our hands before we could spend it.

Mr Bitmore – Just as well I can afford to pay them off isn't it?

Mrs Bitmore – Well, I think they're a great idea. If you see something you like, you can just get it. Now, I'm going to get ready for the opera. You can do the dishes Francy. Francy – Oh Mum! Why should I do them? You've got plenty of time.

Mrs Bitmore –It will take me all that time to get ready. I’m really going to make an impression tonight.

Francy – Well, Tommy or Dad will have to help!

Mr Bitmore - Sorry kid. Not me. I’ve got a big deal coming up and I’ve got a lot of phone calls to make before we go out.

Mrs Bitmore –Tommy will help with the dishes.

Tommy – Oh, Blow the dishes!

Mrs Bitmore –You’re not buying any more property at the moment are you Dad? You said you’d have to wait a while, till that next lot of money came in.

Mr Bitmore – This is too good a deal to miss. I can borrow the money that’s in the children’s trust account.

Francy – I thought you weren’t supposed to touch that. Grandad left it for Tommy and me.

Mr Bitmore – It will be perfectly safe. I can’t miss out on this deal. I’ll double it for you and then you’ll thank me.

Tommy – If you’re going to double it for us, then I guess it’s O.K.

Mrs Bitmore –Your father was always too careful. He could have been really rich if he’d taken a few risks.

Mr Bitmore – When I’ve made my pile, the amount Grandad left will look like peanuts!

Tommy – Good on you Dad. By the time I’m able to get my driving license, you’ll be able to buy me a car like yours.

Francy – We’ll be so rich all the boys will want to take me out. I’ll be able to choose any one I want.

Mrs Bitmore –Well, as long as Grandad’s lawyer doesn’t find out what you’re doing.

Mr Bitmore – I’ll put it back before he knows anything about it.

Francy – When you make all that money, we can have two or three servants and I won’t have to do any housework.

Tommy – Good old Dad! You really know how to operate. One day I’m going to be just like you!

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- All of the Bitmores wanted people to admire them because of their possessions.
- What was each member of the family greedy about?
- Greed for admiration causes young people to “show off.” Examples and consequences?
- Wars have often been caused by leaders who are greedy for power. Examples?
- What may happen in the future if people are greedy now about the world’s resources?

THE CRASH

Characters – Mr Smith, Mrs Smith, Mr Jenkins, Mrs Jenkins, Mr Smiley, Mrs Smiley. Mrs Jones, Billy, Gary, neighbours, Reader.

Reader – The locals are having a working bee at the community hall. Billy Smith and Gary Jenkins are working around the back while the adults clean up the front.

Mr Jenkins – I see Bitmore's not here – as usual! It would be too much to expect him to come and help. He's always too busy making money.

Mr Smith – Havn't you heard? That new project that Bitmore invested in has crashed. Bitmore has lost all his money.

Everyone – Is that so? Is that a fact? etc.

Mrs Jones – It's true, and Mrs Bitmore let it slip to Mrs Jackson that they'd lost everything. Their house was mortgaged to the hilt. That great new car wasn't paid for, and he'd even put the children's trust fund into his schemes as well.

Mr Smith – Their grandfather would not have been happy about that trust. He told me once he wasn't too keen about his son's big ideas, so he'd leave some money tied up for his grandchildren where Bitmore couldn't get his hands on it.

Mr Jenkins - If he's used that money and lost it, he'll be lucky if he doesn't go to gaol.

Billy – He'd lose a bit of weight if he was on bread and water for six months.

Mr Smith – What are *you* doing here? You're supposed to be washing that wall around the back.

Billy – I came to get some more detergent, but it's more interesting listening to what you adults are talking about. Tommy Bitmore won't be so smart now.

Mr Smith – You get back to your job, and don't be gossiping to the other children.

Billy – Oh, O.K., but I can never see why it's all right for adults to gossip and not us.

Mr Smith – Billy!!!!

Billy – O.K. Dad. I'm going! I'm going!

Mrs Smiley – He's right really, but I suppose there's no harm in discussing what is true.

Mr Jenkins – To think I wished I was Bitmore. I don't think I'd want to change places with him now.

Everyone – Neither would I! No way! Etc.

Mr Smith – I wonder what they will do now. The grandfather was a great old chap. There must be some good in them.

Mr Smiley – I bet if he was here now, he'd be telling them to pick themselves up and have another go, but not to be so greedy in future.

Mr Smith – I'm going over tonight to see if there's anything I can do to help.

Mr Jenkins – Don't be silly enough to offer them any money.

Mrs Smith – We haven't got any to offer, but maybe we can help in some other way.

Mr Jenkins – Why should we help them? They were always crowing over the rest of us.

Mrs Jenkins – True – but I wouldn't like to be in their shoes now.

Mr Jenkins – At least I've still got my old bomb of a car, and our house, even if we haven't got a basement.

Gary Jenkins – Does that mean you might let us have a party now Dad?

Mr Jenkins – Are you kids back again?

Billy – We've finished Dad. I reckon it's time for morning tea. Bring on the hot scones!!

Everyone – Great idea Billy!!!

Scene 2

Reader – The Bitmores are sitting around their table after tea.

Mr Bitmore – That's the last of the fillet steak. It will be a while before we can afford any more of that.

Mrs Bitmore – You were a fool to use that money. It was all your fault! You're lucky you're not going to be prosecuted. My friends won't want to know me now.

Mr Bitmore – You were always wanting new clothes – and a bigger house. I was doing it for you as well.

Tommy – You shouldn't have used that trust money.

Francy – Grandad left it for us.

Mr Bitmore – You were happy enough to use it when you thought I'd double it for you.

Mrs Bitmore – You're supposed to be the businessman. You never ask me what you should be doing. You should have told me our house was mortgaged.

Francy – None of the boys will have anything to do with me now. I'm too ashamed to go out. I hate you!!!!

Tommy – I suppose my bike isn't paid for either! I suppose I'll have to lose that as well.

Mr Bitmore – Can't you lot leave me alone. I didn't lose that money on purpose. I've got enough worries trying to work out what to do now.

Reader – There is a knock at the door. Fancy answers it, and Mr Smith and Mrs Jones come in.

Mr Smith – We're not staying Bitmore, but we just wanted to say that if we can help in any way, any work that needs to be done, or anything like that, you can call on us.

Mrs Jones – We’re really sorry about your trouble. When you feel like talking about things, come over and have a cup of tea. I’m sure we’ll be able to do something to help.

Mr Smith – That’s all we wanted to say. When you’re ready, we’ll be happy to do anything we can to help. See you later.

Mrs Jones – Good night. Don’t forget that cup of tea.

Reader – They go out.

Tommy – I don’t believe it. I thought they’d all be laughing at us.

Francy – I know that older Jenkins boy wanted to take me out. He’d be better than nothing I suppose.

Mr Bitmore – Can’t you think of anyone but yourself? The neighbours have offered to help, but I haven’t heard any of you lot offering to do anything.

Mrs Bitmore – They made me feel ashamed. Grandad used to say, “It’s no good crying over spilt milk.” I can sell some of those clothes you males were always complaining about.

Mr Bitmore – That’s more like it. If this family pulls together we will be able to get back on our feet again and the first thing I am going to do is to replace that trust money.

Tommy – Is my bike paid for or not?

Mr Bitmore – Yes, it is.

Tommy – Well, much as I will hate to part with it, you can sell it and that will give us enough money to live on till you get a job, Dad. I might be able to get a paper round like Billy Smith, and earn some money as well.

Francy – I don’t *want* to sell any of my clothes. I *won’t* sell any of them!

Mrs Bitmore – That gown you were going to wear to the College ball cost a thousand dollars. It hasn’t been worn yet so you can part with that. I’ll make you a dress instead. I was a good dressmaker before we made money.

Francy – I won’t!!! I won’t!!! I hate you all!

Reader – She rushes out of the room and slams the door.

Mr Bitmore – Poor Francy. I’m afraid we’ve spoiled her badly. We’ll have to give her time to get used to things.

Tommy – Oh well. If we sell my bike, and our car and the boat, it will still upset Mr Jenkins. It will be no use his looking over our fence any more. There’ll be nothing for him to be envious about.

Mr Bitmore – I’m afraid we’ll have to leave here anyway, and find somewhere else to live. I was thinking of moving right away where no-one knows us, but the neighbours have been so good, maybe we’ll rent the Jackson’s house down the street.

Mrs Bitmore – That little house!!! Oh I'm sorry. I shouldn't have said that. Just so long as it's something we can afford, it will be all right by me.

Mr Bitmore – That's the spirit. If we stick together, we'll come right.

Tommy – I bet we'll make Grandad proud of us yet.

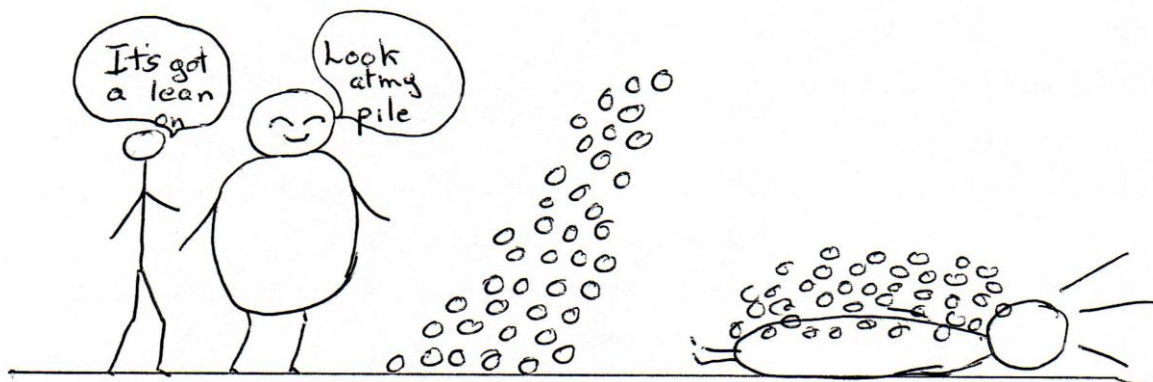
Mrs Bitmore I wouldn't mind betting he's proud of us now. He always used to say, "God loves a trier!"

Mr Bitmore and Tommy – And we're certainly going to try!!!

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION-

- Greed leads to destruction.
- What types of trouble can greed for money lead to?
 - Possessions?
 - Power?
 - Admiration?
 - Time?
 - World's resources?
- At first all the Bitmores were blaming each other. Do we usually look for others to blame when things go wrong?
- Why did the neighbours offer to help?
- What had the Bitmore's grandfather said?
- Did Francy really hate her father?
- Francy now has to make a choice – to accept what has happened and try to help – or?



SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED TO FRANCY BITMORE

Characters – Mr Smith, Mrs Smith, Mr Jenkins, Mrs Jenkins, John, Mary, Joanne, Billy, Gary Jenkins. Reader.

Reader – It is two years since the crash of Bitmore's pile. The Smiths and the Jenkins are having a barbecue in the back yard of the Smith's house.

Mr Smith – I think that was the paper boy. He's late tonight. Go and get it will you please Billy.

Billy – O.K. Dad, but make sure my sausages don't disappear while I'm gone.

Joanne – How can you tell one sausage from another on a barbecue?

Billy – That's easy. Mine are the biggest.

Mary – You don't improve with age, Billy. Hurry up with that paper, or we'll eat them all while you're away.

Reader – Billy goes out, and after a few minutes comes rushing back with the paper.

Billy – Dad! Mum! All of you!! It's on the front page! I can't believe it!!

Mrs Smith – For goodness sake Billy, what is it?

Billy – I can't believe it! It can't be true!

Mr Smith – Give me that paper Billy! What are you on about?

Billy – It's Francy Bitmore! That body they found up in the Waitakeres the other day!

Mr Jenkins – You mean the girl who was murdered?

Gary – The one they thought was mixed up in drugs or something?

Mr Smith – Yes. That's the one. Here it is on the front page. "Dead girl identified. Missing daughter of Mr and Mrs Bitmore of Albert Street. Left home two years ago." I can't believe it. Poor Bitmores. How terrible they must feel.

Mrs Smith – They never stopped worrying about Francy. No-one could have imagined it would end up like this.

Mr Jenkins – To think I used to envy the Bitmores. I don't know how they'll be able to face it all.

Mrs Jenkins – They stood up to all that trouble when they lost their money. At least Mr and Mrs and Tommy did, but this is something far worse.

Mary – How terrible that Francy couldn't bring herself to face their problems then. If she had, this would never have happened.

Mr Smith – She tried to run away from everything, but she couldn't run away from herself. If only she'd tried to change her outlook a bit.

Billy – Tommy made a go of things. He's turned into quite a decent guy. He works hard at school and after school, and he's tried to make it up to his Mum and Dad for Francy leaving them like that.

Mrs Smith – No matter how hard he tried Billy, he could never take their minds off Francy completely. Each child is special to its parents, even if you might not think so at times.

John – She got into trouble with the police soon after she left here. She could have come home then.

Mr Jenkins – How do you know?

John – Mr Bitmore let it slip one day when I was working with him. He asked me not to talk about it. The police had told him they had traced her. They'd picked her up for some small thing and called her father. He tried to persuade her to come home but she wouldn't.

Joanne – She always was stubborn. You just couldn't reason with her.

Mrs Jenkins – What a pity she didn't go home then. If she had, none of this would have happened.

Mrs Smith – I suppose she wouldn't admit she had made a mistake.

Mary – She wouldn't admit it to her parents anyway. You know how she blamed her father for losing that money.

Gary – I suppose she got into the drug game hoping to make some big money.

Mr Smith – I doubt if it was as simple as that. You know how she always wanted people to admire her –

Joanne – Wanted to show off you mean!

Mrs Smith – Now Joanne – It's not kind to speak about her like that.

Billy – It was true though Mum.

Mrs Smith – Yes, I'm afraid it was, and I suppose that was the beginning of all this.

Mary – You mean she started using drugs just to show off?

Mr Smith – Probably. That would have been more important to her than thinking about the consequences.

Gary – It may seem stupid to us, but lots of kids do get into these things for that reason.

Billy – Like that kid at school who skites about how much of his father's whiskey he gets away with!

Mr Smith – A boy like that could become an alcoholic before he leaves school. Doesn't he realize how dangerous it is?

Billy – Oh, I think he does, but I think he reckons he's too smart to have it happen to him.

Mrs Jenkins – That really upsets me Billy. Young people don't seem to realize that something that starts as a little thing can easily grow into something too big to handle.

Joanne – Like with Francy. Who could have believed that all of this could have happened to someone who went to school with us.

Mr Smith – There have been lots of people murdered over drugs, and they were all children once. Somewhere along their lives they must have taken a wrong step that led them to that end.

Mrs Smith – This was supposed to be a happy evening, and I don't know when I've felt so upset. I can't imagine how poor Mrs Bitmore is feeling. I couldn't go now, but in the morning I'll go over and see if there is anything we can do.

Mrs Jenkins – I think we'll pack up and go home. I don't think anyone has much of an appetite now.

Billy – Not even me – and I was really looking forward to those sausages.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION -

- After two years how were the Bitmores doing?
- What choice had Francy made and why?
- Why do you think she had not gone home when she had the opportunity?
- There is a difference between being persevering and being stubborn or "pig-headed." What is the difference?
- It is said that teen-agers often do not think of the possible consequences of their action. Do you think that is true?
- Even if they do think about the possible consequences, why do they go ahead and do things like drink-driving with a car-load of friends?
- Do you think Francy Bitmore thought about the possible consequences when she left home?

THE GOOD NEIGHBOUR

Characters – Mr Smith, Mrs Smith, John, Mary, Jo-anne, Billy and Chad Henry.

- Reader -** It is Saturday morning, and the Smith family are sitting around the breakfast table.
- Mr Smith -** Well, where are you all off to today?
- John -** Our team are playing out at Bombay this afternoon. It's going to be a tough match so I think I'll just hang around home this morning.
- Mary -** Our game is at 11 o'clock.
- Jo-anne -** And ours is at 11.15.
- Mrs Smith -** That's good, you'll both be able to go at the same time. What about you Billy?
- Billy -** Dad's coming with me to watch our game, aren't you Dad?
- Mr Smith -** Wouldn't miss it son.
- Reader -** There is a knock at the door, Mary opens it and Chad Henry from next door is standing there.
- Chad -** Can I borrow your lawnmower Mr Smith? Ours has broken down.
- Mr Smith -** All right Chad. It's under the car-port.
- Chad -** Thanks Mr Smith (he goes out.)
- Mrs Smith -** You were going to mow our lawns today?
- Mr Smith -** He'll be finished by the time I get back from Billy's game, and I can do them then.
- John -** Leave them till tomorrow Dad, and I'll do them.
- Mr Smith -** I'd rather not John. Mr Taylor hasn't been very well, and you know he likes a peaceful Sunday afternoon.
- Mary -** Poor Mr Taylor. I must pop in next door and see him.
- Jo-anne -** Just as well he's on the other side of us, and away from the Henrys.
- Mrs Smith -** Yes, I must say they're not the most considerate of neighbours.
- Reader -** They hear the mower starting up and Billy goes to the window.
- Billy -** Dad, would you believe it? He's mowing that bit out the front where they've had those old car wrecks parked.
- Jo-anne -** They haven't mown that bit for months, and with our mower too!
- John -** They've already wrecked their own, now they're going to use ours on the tough stuff.
- Mrs Smith -** Well at least we can be thankful that they've moved those old wrecks.

Mr Smith - Yes, they certainly were an eyesore. The Henrys are not exactly an asset to this street.

Billy - Chad Henry borrowed my skateboard last week and he hasn't brought it back yet.

Mrs Smith - Well, don't forget he lent you his roller skates instead.

Billy - Yes, but I've given them back. I wish they weren't so careless about things like that.

Mr smith - Well, he knows our lawns need mowing so I'm sure he'll bring the mower back this afternoon.

Scene 2

Reader - It is late afternoon, and all the Smiths are home again. They have been talking about their games.

Billy - Did they bring our lawnmower back Dad?

Mr Smith - Not yet, but I heard the mower stop half an hour ago, so I expect they'll bring it back soon.

Mary - Have they been mowing all day with our lawnmower?

Mrs Smith - They did have a long break for lunch, but I think they must have mowed every blade of grass on the place.

John - All the bits they never mow with their own mower I'll bet.

Mr Smith - Yes, I'm a bit upset about it. I wanted to get our lawn done before dark.

Reader - There is a knock on the door. Jo-anne opens it and Chad Henry is there.

Chad - I've brought your mower back, Mr Smith. I've put it under the car-port.

Mr Smith - Did you get your lawn finished?

Chad - Yes, we had a great clean up. Even mowed that bit down the back of the orchard where the rubbish dump was.

John - I hope you didn't strike any bits of old wire?

Chad - Only a few, but it certainly was tough, and the mower kept stopping. Oh, by the way it won't start now. I think the spring on the starter is broken. Thanks again Mr Smith. (He goes out.)

Jo-anne - What a nerve!

Mr Smith - My poor mower. I only had that starter fixed last week.

Mrs Smith - And our lawns won't get done this weekend.

Billy - You should go over there and tell them what you think of them Dad.

Mary - Yes, a good straight talking to might make them see what kind of neighbours they are.

Reader - Billy goes over to the window and looks at the mower.

Mr Smith - I don't think that would do any good, and I don't want to fall out with them.

Billy - (coming back) You wouldn't believe it! They haven't even cleaned it. It's covered with grass and dirt, and even the grass catcher is full of rubbish.

Mrs Smith - That's the limit. I just can't understand people like that. How would they like it if we did that to something of theirs?

Mary - Yes, go and blow them up Dad!

Jo-anne - Give them a bit of your mind.

Billy - Yes Dad, go and pull old Henry's nose!

Mr Smith - I think you're all forgetting a few things. What about that time you kicked your ball through their window Billy?

Billy - Aw, I forgot about that. Old Henry was pretty decent about it, wasn't he?

John - Yes, he let you off pretty lightly. Even laughed about it and said he'd done the same thing when he was young.

Mrs Smith - Yes, and Mrs Henry was good to us when you were in hospital Dad.

Mary - I forgot about that. They're pretty kind at heart really.

Mrs Smith - If only there were that considerate all the time. I don't suppose they mean any harm. They just don't think.

Billy - I suppose Chad has forgotten he has my skateboard. I guess I'd better ask him for it.

Mr Smith - Yes, and maybe Mr Henry will come around in the morning and offer to have the mower fixed.

Jo-anne - I suppose they're not all bad.

Mrs Smith - No, and we're not all good either.

Billy - But I reckon we-re a bit better than they are.

Jo-anne - Nothing like blowing your own trumpet, eh, Billy?

Mr Smith - I guess it was the way their parents were brought up. They had a pretty hard time. Both of them were on their own a lot, and had no-one to really take an interest in them.

Billy - I will admit Granddad must have made you toe the line Dad.

Mr Smith - He certainly taught me to treat other people the way I would like them to treat me.

Mrs Smith - You have to feel sorry for the Henrys. They really do try to bring up their kids properly.

- Mary -** Yes, and we'd have been a bit of a mess ourselves if we'd had no-one to teach us how to get along with other people.
- John -** It's very simple really, if you just remember to put yourself in the other person's place and think how they feel.
- Jo-anne -** Certainly simpler than learning a lot of rules about what to do and when to do it.
- All children -** That's true!!!

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- What would have happened if Mr Smith had done what the children first suggested?
- How did they react when they were reminded about the past?
- Do people really treat other peoples' possessions like this? At home? At school? In the community?
- In what other ways can people be bad neighbours?
- How about people who graffiti other peoples' fences?
- Who actually has to pay when public property is destroyed?
- What did Mr Smith believe had been the cause of the Henrys being so thoughtless?
- What rule had Mr Smith's father taught him?
- Treat other people the way you would like them to treat you is a simple rule to remember.
- Do you think the Henrys would have been better neighbours if they had used that rule as a guideline?

THE RELATIONS

Characters – Mr Smith, Mrs Smith, John, Mary, Joanne, Billy and Reader

- Reader -** The Smith family are sitting around the breakfast table on Saturday morning. Mr and Mrs Smith are opening the mail.
- Mrs Smith -** Oh, here's a letter from Jenny.
- Mary -** We haven't heard from Auntie Jenny for ages. I wonder how they all are.
- Mr Smith -** Let your mother read it and we'll all find out.
- Reader -** Mrs Smith reads the letter and looks up again.
- Mrs Smith -** They've had a bit of bad luck. Uncle Bart has lost his job, and they're coming up to Auckland where he thinks there will be more work.
- Mr Smith -** And they want to stay with us I suppose.
- Joanne -** Oh no! Not again! You know what it was like last time.
- Billy -** Jimmy and I fought the whole time.
- Mary -** And we had to share our room, and the girls were so untidy!
- John -** And Dave borrowed my bike and smashed it up.
- All Children -** Do we have to have them?
- Mr Smith -** Yes, we do. They're our relations, and they've had a bit of bad luck. It's up to us to help them.
- John -** I think I'll go and stay with Geoff for a week. I'd rather give up my room than share it with Dave.
- Billy -** I wish I could come with you. I just can't stand that Jimmy.
- Joanne -** No wonder! He's just like you are.
- Mrs Smith -** Now stop it children! They are part of this family. If your family won't help you when you're in trouble, then who will?
- Mr Smith -** You'd better write and tell them they can come, and I want you children to make them feel welcome.
- All Children -** (groaning) Oh, all right!

Scene 2

- Reader -** It is two weeks later and the relations have been staying for a week. The Smith family are at breakfast again.

Mr Smith - Well, they've all gone out for the day. I must say it's nice to be on our own for a change.

John - How long are they going to stay Dad?

Mr Smith - Till they get somewhere to live, and a job.

Mary - They haven't even been looking! Uncle Bart and Aunt Jenny have been visiting friends and having friends here all week.

John - And you're paying for it Dad, I suppose.

Mrs Smith - Yes, its costing a lot to keep them. Just as well we have plenty of vegetables in the garden.

Joanne - I wouldn't mind so much if those girls helped in the house, but they just settle in front of the T.V. and only get up to eat.

Billy - Jimmy thinks he owns my skateboard – and he cheats at cards too!

Mr Smith - Now cut it out all of you! This is usually a happy home!

Billy - Yes, when they're not here. Why do they have to stay Mum?

Mrs Smith - I've told you. They're relations.

Mary - There are relations and relations. We love having Uncle Jack's family to stay.

John - And we love going to stay with them. We all have a great time together. Why are Uncle Bart's family so different?

Joanne - They're lazy. They never help!

Billy - And greedy! I never get any left-overs now.

Mary - And selfish! They hog the bathroom, they take the best seats, and they don't even bother to help pay for their food.

John - They think that because we grow our own vegetables and fruit it should be shared with them.

Joanne - But they never offer to share the work! I'm just sick of them. I wish they'd find somewhere else to live.

Mrs Smith - We shouldn't be saying these things about our relations, but they are the truth. What can we do Dad? We just can't afford to keep them forever.

Mr Smith - I don't think they even think about our problems, and they're certainly making no effort for themselves. We can't stand this much longer, we're using up our savings, and we've only just got back on our feet since I was ill last year. I'll ask around at work and see if I can find Bart a job.

John - And so will I. If we find him a job he'll have to take it.

Mrs Smith - And I'll ask around our friends and answer ads till I find them a house.

Mary - I saw some people moving out of a house in the next street yesterday, maybe they haven't let it yet, I'll go and ask.

Joanne - If we don't they'll never do it for themselves. They're too comfortable here.

Mr Smith - It isn't just that. They're our relations and they expect relations to help each other.

John - I'd be the first to want to help them if they were really in trouble, but they're not, and we're only getting ourselves into trouble by keeping them all when we can't afford it.

Mrs Smith - That's right. We have to survive as a family too. If we all get busy maybe we can help them to help themselves.

Billy - And when they've gone you can make the biggest cream sponge you've ever made Mum, and I might even get two pieces for a change.

Everyone - Trust you Billy.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- One of the accepted ethical rules for living is that we should not use other people for our own ends.
- How were the relations *using* the Smith family?
- How was this affecting the Smith family?
- When do you think people should help each other?
- Were the relations being fair to the Smiths?
- The Smiths enjoyed having Uncle Jack's family to visit and going to visit them. What was the difference between Uncle Jack's and Uncle Bart's families?
- Do you think people have a responsibility to help their relations? When?
- The relations spent a great deal of time sitting in front of the T.V. and eating. What harm can this cause?
- The Smiths were helping their relations with their own resources, so they had a right to choose to do this. Would there have been a difference if they were helping them in ways that affected other people or that other people would have to pay for?
- Do you think most people in this country are willing to help if people are really in need?

THE LAZY FAMILY

Characters – Uncle Bart Walker, Aunt Jenny, Dave, Philippa, Carol, Brendan, June, Jimmy,
Reader

Reader – The Smiths have found a place for their relations to rent and now the Walker family are sitting around watching television and waiting for their tea. Aunt Jenny comes in from work.

Uncle Bart – Where's my tea? I'm hungry!

All children – Yes, we're starving. When's tea going to be ready? Etc.

Aunt Jenny – Sorry it's late, but I've been out working all day too, you know. Why should I always be the one to get the tea?

Uncle Bart – You're the woman. It's your job.

All boys – That's right. Housework is woman's work! Etc.

All girls – Is that so? Etc (ad lib)

Aunt Jenny – I wouldn't mind if I didn't have to go out to work as well now. I enjoyed getting your meals ready when the children were small and I worked at home all day.

Uncle Bart – Well, we can't live on my wages now, can we? And the children are all at school now. We need the money you earn.

Aunt Jenny – I know we need the money, but it's just too much for me – going to work and doing all the housework as well.

Uncle Bart – The girls will just have to help more. They could do a lot of the housework.

Girls – That's not fair! Why not the boys? Etc.

Boys – Why should we? Like dad says, housework is woman's work.

Philippa – Why shouldn't you help? I have a lot of homework to do every night.

June – I look after Mrs Brown's children after school and I wouldn't get paid here.

Carol – Housework gives me a headache!

Dave – That's typical of girls. Any excuse to get out of work.

Philippa – Anyway, I still don't see why it should be girls' work. What do you boys do to help around the place?

Dave – Don't expect me to do housework! I've got rugby practice two nights a week, and I have to work on my motor-bike all my spare time.

Brendan – And I have too much homework to do.

Jimmy – And I'm too young. You can't expect me to cook.

Philippa – Fine husbands you lot will make. You'll be just like Dad!

Aunt Jenny – You shouldn't talk about your father like that Philippa!

Uncle Bart – What does she mean anyway? I'm a good father. I bring most of my wages home don't I?

Philippa – Yes, but you've never done anything to help around the house, and now Mum's going to work it's different.

Brendan – Well, I intend to be just like Dad. No housework for me!

Carol – You won't get any girl to marry you then, if she knows that's how you feel.

Dave – We won't let them know that till we're married will we Brendan?

June – What chance will you have to have a happy home if you're like that? When I get married, I want to marry someone like Uncle Bill.

Jimmy – You're not much like Auntie Pat. No-one like Uncle Bill would have you!

June – I intend to be like her when I'm older.

Uncle Bart – You'd better start right now then by going and getting the tea ready.

June – I will too. I'm sorry Mum. I know you must be tired. You sit there and I'll get busy.

Philippa – And I'll come and help.

Carol – And so will I, but I don't see why it should always be us and not the boys as well. They should take a turn.

Aunt Jenny – Their own consciences should tell them whether they're doing their share.

June – Even if their consciences did tell them, they wouldn't listen. Come on girls. While we get the tea, we can think up all the awful things we could do to lazy husbands. If they didn't work, they wouldn't eat for one!

Philippa and Carol – And it would serve them right.

Reader – The girls go out laughing, leaving the boys slumped in front of the T.V.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- Being too lazy to do a job properly can cause disasters. Examples? E.g. an airline disaster because someone had failed to check their work. "She'll be right!"
- Uncle Bart and Aunt Jenny had both been out working all day. Was it fair that Aunt Jenny should then have to get the tea?
- Is housework strictly "woman's work?"
- Could you suggest a fair arrangement?
- Should the children be expected to do a share of the housework?
- Today, families have different timetables and different arrangements. Does it matter who does what work?
- What does matter?
- Suggested questionnaire – List all the jobs that get done before and after school at your place, and who does them? Does everyone do a fair share of the work? Are there good reasons why not?

HELP!!!

Characters – Jim, Sally, Joanne, Doug, Claire, Reader.

Scene 1

- Reader** – A group of pupils from Pukekohe High are sitting under the trees eating their lunch.
- Jim** – I wish Mum wouldn't give me vegemite and lettuce sandwiches. The lettuce is like wet plastic by lunch-time.
- Sally** – She probably thinks they're good for you.
- Joanne** – You're lucky she gets your lunch ready for you at all. Why don't you make your own?
- Jim** – I only just get to the bus in time as it is. My morning schedule is timed to a split second, and it doesn't include lunch making.
- Sally** – You could get up earlier.
- Jim** – Trust a girl to think up an idea like that. A growing boy needs his sleep you know.
- Doug** – You don't think about that when its time to go to bed.
- Jim** – That's different. My inner time-table insists I go to bed as late as possible and get up as late as possible.
- Joanne** – "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a boy healthy, wealthy and wise" you know.
- Doug** – In that case Jim will never be wealthy or wise, and talking about healthy, look at Brad over there. He hasn't touched his lunch. Just sat there yesterday at lunch-time too, without eating.
- Claire** – He really looks terrible these days. He used to be a great guy, always ready for a laugh – mad on his sport and everything.
- Jim** – He's certainly changed over these last few months. He doesn't come to cricket practice any more either.
- Sally** – I wonder if he's in some sort of trouble!
- Doug** – What sort of trouble?
- Sally** – I don't know. Maybe he's sick.
- Joanne** – He's never been away from school. Surely, if he was sick he would have mentioned it to someone.
- Doug** – He doesn't seem to talk to anyone much at school since he dropped out of cricket.

Sally – Maybe it's drugs!
Claire – Or he's been caught stealing!
Jim – Well, one usually leads to the other, but I wouldn't have thought Brad would have been one to get mixed up with that scene.
Joanne – Perhaps we could ask him to come and have lunch with us tomorrow. Maybe we could get him to talk to us, and tell us what's wrong.
Claire – I don't think he'd talk to a whole bunch of us. You go home in his direction, Doug. Maybe you could walk home with him and get him to talk.
Reader – The bell rings and they get up and walk towards school.
Doug – Well, I'll give it a go, but I don't know that I'll be any good at that sort of thing.

Scene 2

Reader – It was lunchtime the next day and the same group are together again.
Sally – Well? Did you manage to talk to Brad last night?
Doug – Just call me Sherlock Holmes! I hung around the main gate talking to Claire till he came out ...
Claire – Yes, and then, just at the right moment I said "See you tomorrow Doug," and walked off.
Doug – And I was left to walk with Brad. Beautifully timed, though I say it myself!
Joanne – That's enough self praise Sherlock. Did you get him to talk to you?
Doug – I talked ... about Cricket ... about maths ... about the Dire Straits show, but he didn't talk much!
Jim – Didn't he tell you anything?
Doug – Not a great deal really. It was hard work getting much conversation out of him at all. I felt as though he wished I'd shove off and leave him alone. One thing he said made me wonder a bit though.
Sally – What was that?
Doug – I asked him if he'd be going to the concert next week, and he said he might not be around. Then he changed the subject, and soon after that we got to his gate, and he just said "See you," and went in.
Claire – I wonder what he meant by "not being around?" His family is not moving. His father works with Dad, and they were planning a job that will last for months.
Jim – Perhaps he's had a row at home, and is going to clear out.
Sally – I can't imagine that. His parents are great, and they all seemed to get on so well.

*BREAK FOR CLASS DISCUSSION ON WHAT THE TROUBLE COULD BE THAT
COULD MAKE A YOUNGSTER SO MISERABLE*

- Claire* – He couldn't have meant suicide could he?
- Doug* – Surely not! That's a pretty final sort of thing to do!
- Sally* – Gran told me that my mother wrote "suicide is the only way out," on the board in her room when she'd failed U.E. for the second time, and two years later she was engaged to Dad and off on a trip around the world.
- Joanne* – Lucky for you she changed her mind, or you wouldn't be here.
- Sally* – Yes, I am lucky. And she's so much fun, you couldn't imagine she could ever have felt like that.
- Claire* – Brad used to be fun. Perhaps someone has hurt him. A girlfriend perhaps?
- Joanne* – Maybe he wants to make them pay for what they've done to him.
- Jim* – I don't want to joke about something so serious, but honestly, suicide doesn't strike me as a very good way to get revenge on people. You wouldn't be there to see it, would you?
- Joanne* – No, it isn't funny, but I guess you're right. I guess if you're that desperate you wouldn't be thinking straight anyway.
- Sally* – He ought to talk to someone though. Gran always says "A trouble shared is a trouble halved."
- Doug* – Old people are always quoting things like that, but you must admit there's a lot of truth in them.
- Jim* – Well, he won't talk to us!
- Sally* – He ought to talk to his parents. I would.
- Doug* – Well, I wouldn't. Mine would be down on me like a ton of bricks if I'd got myself into some sort of trouble. I might talk to Uncle Jack though. He's really great. He wouldn't pull any punches if I was in the wrong, but he's make me feel I could cope with the problem, whatever it was.
- Claire* – I think I'd go to Father Dooley if I was in trouble.
- Doug* – A Priest! You wouldn't get me within a mile of one!
- Claire* – I wouldn't have talked to our last priest, but Father Dooley is different. He takes our youth group. He's quite young and really understands us.
- Jim* – Everyone to their own taste, but I can't think of anyone I could talk to if I was in trouble.
- Joanne* – You could talk to us.

- Jim** – I wonder if I would. Or would I just bottle it up like Brad seems to be doing.
- Claire** – It would help to talk to us, but I don't know that we'd be of much use apart from listening. We wouldn't really know much more than you do.
- Sally** – The school counselor is there to help people, and they are trained to help. They know all the right ways to help.
- Claire** – I like Mrs Gardiner. I think I could talk to her.
- Jim** – No way would I talk to any school counselor about anything personal. Careers maybe, but nothing else.
- Joanne** – We've run out of suggestions for you Jim. You just wouldn't want to admit to anyone that you couldn't cope.
- Sally** – He's a real problem, isn't he?
- Claire** – There is one thing he could do.
- Jim** – What's that?
- Claire** – You could ring lifeline and talk to the people there. They wouldn't know who you were, and they have all sorts of addresses and phone numbers on file of people who can help.
- Jim** – How do you know?
- Claire** – One of my aunts is a life-liner and she told me about it. There is a Youth-line in Auckland too.
- Jim** – Maybe if I was desperate, and no-one was going to know who I was, I might ring them. I wonder if Brad has thought of that?
- Sally** – Perhaps Doug can do his Sherlock Holmes act again tonight and bring the conversation around to such things.
- Doug** – I suppose it's worth a try. I guess we'd all feel rotten if something really bad happened, and we hadn't tried.

CLASS DISCUSSION ON SOURCES OF HELP AVAILABLE, AND ADVANTAGES OF SAME

Suggested Activity:

QUESTIONNAIRE

If you had a serious problem you felt unable to cope with, would you ...

- (a) Talk it over with a parent
- (b) Talk to a school counselor
- (c) Talk to any other teacher

- (d) Go to a minister of a Church
- (e) Go to the police
- (f) Ask a friend for their opinion
- (g) Ask an older friend or relation, or neighbour
- (h) Keep quiet about it and hope the problem would go away.
- (i) Any other?

CARTOON STRIP

1. Pressure rising, fired by problems, feelings of anger, hatred, depression, self-pity, etc.
2. With no outlet our boiler explodes, and we do things we would not do if we were thinking straight.
3. To let off steam we need to communicate.

The fire can be watered down with understanding and practical help, until we have ourselves under control and can cope with our problems



THE THIEF

Characters – Tom, Jim, Jack, Joe, Bill and other men

Scene - Local men's club. All men sitting around talking except Bill and Joe.

Mr Hemming - You know what? I saw a police car outside Bill Jackson's place the other day.

Jim - Is that so? I wonder what he's been up to.

Jack - I wonder. Of course, he has plenty of opportunity to get up to all sorts of things. He's a painter and paper hanger, you know. Goes into people's houses to work. Often they clear out and leave him to it, because they can't stand the smell of paint.

Tom - No wonder he was looking pretty prosperous, he must have been knocking off a few bits here and there, and the police have finally caught up with him.

Jim - Well, even if he gets off, I wouldn't have him around my place doing any work. Where there's smoke there's fire, you know. I was going to get him to paint my kitchen, but I'll get someone else to do it now. I'd better tell Fred, he was going to get a job done too.

Reader - They pass the word around till it gets right around the room.

Scene 2

Scene - Same place, but a month later, Bill is sitting by himself looking upset.

Joe - Bill Jackson looks pretty miserable over there, I wonder what's wrong with him?

Jack - Haven't you hear? Of course, you've been away for awhile. The police caught him for lifting stuff out of his customers' houses.

Joe - Is that a fact? I would never have believed it. Has he been in goal?

Tom - No, I think he must be waiting for his case to come up. No-one is game to have him work for them any more.

Jim - It's taken him down a peg or two. He always did think he was too good to spend his spare time with us.

Joe - No wonder he looks upset. He must be feeling pretty down. I'll go over and have a talk with him. (Goes over to Bill)

- Reader -** Others mutter to each other and look sideways.
- Joe -** What's the matter Bill? You've got a face so long you'll trip over it shortly.
- Bill -** I don't know Joe. Just all of a sudden my business has dropped off completely, and now none of the chaps seem to want to talk to me. If business doesn't pick up soon I'll lose my house and everything I've been working so hard for.
- Joe -** Well, it's better to get at the truth. I heard that the police were seen at your place, and that you're up for stealing from one of the places you were working at. Surely that's not true.
- Bill -** The bit about the police is true. Is that what the trouble is? One day last month I found a load of stolen goods dropped over my back fence, and I rang the police to come and get them. They were great, gave the kids a ride in their car and all.
- Joe -** Just goes to show how much damage rumours can do. Come on over and join the others, I think we'll be able to celebrate an upturn in your business from now on.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- Most of us take an interest in the things our neighbours do and there is no harm in that.
- Do people enjoy hearing gossip about others?
- Do people always make sure information is true before they pass it on?
- What effect did the gossip about Bill Jackson have?
- Why did the gossip harm him?
- How would we feel if people told lies about us like that?
- Did the other men actually set out to harm him?
- Some would be feeling a bit guilty. What could they do to help put things right?

Activity – Whisper a message to one student and ask for it to be passed on around the room. See how it ends up.

WHAT'S NEWS?

Characters – Woman's meeting in local hall, all women sitting around.

Mrs Adams - You wouldn't believe what I saw last week. I was sitting in our car opposite Howe and Weston's, and I saw Mrs Jones going into the police station.

Mrs Brown - You didn't!

Mrs Cook - Is that a fact?

Mrs Adams - Yes, it's true. She went inside, and it was quite awhile before she came out again. She did look upset too.

Mrs Brown - Ooh! I wonder what that was all about.

Mrs Cook - I bet she was caught shoplifting, and had to go and report.

Mrs Brown - Yes, that was probably what it was. I always thought there was something odd about her.

Mrs Adams - Yes, I thought so too. She's very quiet at times, isn't she? As though she was looking around, just thinking about things, wondering what she can pick up.

Mrs Brown - Yes, I never did take to her.

Mrs Cook - (turning to Mrs Duke) Did you hear Mrs Jones was seen coming out of the police station, crying, last week. She was had up for shop lifting, you know.

Mrs Duke - Was she really? Fancy that, and her such a quiet women, never would mix much, thought herself above our conversation though. I must tell Mrs East.

Everyone passes the tale around the hall until it reaches Mrs Smith.

Mrs Smith - Surely not, I don't believe it, I've always found her a very nice woman, quiet, but always ready to do a good turn, and her share of the work. I'll go and ask her.

Mrs Adams - You wouldn't ask her, surely.

Mrs Smith - Of course I would. She's not the sort to take offence if I ask tactfully. Better to find out the truth.

Mrs Smith walks over to Mrs Jones on the other side of the room.

Mrs Smith - Mrs Jones, they tell me you were seen coming out of the police station the other day. What have you done? Held up a bank at gun point, and tried to escape with \$50,000?

Mrs Jones - (laughing) No, nothing as exciting as that. I saw two men hanging around my neighbour's house. I knew he was away, so I thought I had better take their van number and report it to the police, just in case.

Mrs Smith - Well, that's a relief, I thought for sure I was going to have to visit you in goal, and bring you a file hidden in a loaf of bread, so you could make an escape.

Mrs Cook - (to Mrs Brown) I never did believe that story about her being caught shoplifting. I wonder who started that tale.

Mrs Brown - Yes, you wouldn't believe people would gossip like that.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- Gossip had started about Mrs Jones and she could have been badly hurt by it.
- What did Mrs Smith do?
- How did she go about asking without hurting Mrs Jones?
- What had Mrs Cook done to the story?
- Was she prepared to admit what she had done?
- What could have happened if Mrs Smith had not set out to find the truth?
- How would we feel ourselves if we were victims of untrue rumours?

THE WORKING BEE

Characters – Sam, Ray, Barny, Ken, Des, Bill, all local young men

Mr MacPherson – an elderly man, T.V. Man, Paul – a young boy, Joan, Jackie, Kathy, local girls, T.V. Girl, Jenny – a little girl, Mrs Brown - mother

Scene 1

Reader - A group of young people are standing around the local store.

Sam - I hear they're getting up a working bee to paint the hall.

Ray - Yes, old MacPherson's been going around asking people to go along next Saturday.

Sam - He's getting a bit past it, isn't he? I can't see him getting anybody enthusiastic about anything.

Barny - They say he's been a great worker in his day, but he's too out of date to inspire anyone these days.

Sam - I bet I could get everybody worked up about it, and dead keen to help.

Ray - Why don't you then? The hall certainly needs doing up.

Barny - Yes, we need it for indoor basketball.

Ken - We need it for badminton.

Des - We'd have no table tennis club without a hall. How about it Sam? It's not everybody that can get people stirred into action.

Sam - Oh, I don't know. It's a big hall, and it'd be pretty hard work, I don't think I can be bothered.

Kathy - You know you could get them going Sam. You're so good at that sort of thing. There's no one else who could do it.

Joan - And you know if we don't look after it, it will be taken away from us. The local Council will run it, and we'll have to pay the same as outsiders to use it.

Des - There'd be no more using it for nothing for rehearsals for school shows.

Ray - Or getting cheap hire because we are a local club and it belongs to us all.

Jackie - Our badminton subs would go up and a lot of us couldn't afford to play.

Kathy - Oh come on, Sam, you know you could do it!

Sam - Why should I be bothered? I'm leaving here next year, and I'm not going to get anything out of it except hard work.

Barney - If we could get everyone working it would make a good story for a T.V. programme.

Joan - Yes, that's right. I bet they'd send a T.V. crew out if we told them, and then we'd all be in the news.

Sam - That's a thought. They could do a shot of me organizing everyone, and giving them their jobs to do.

Jackie - I bet all our badminton club would help if we explained things to them.

Des - And our table tennis club members.

Barney - And all the others who use the hall.

Kathy - If we were all helping, anyone would be ashamed not to be there if they didn't have a good reason.

Sam - I've thought it over. I'll go around and talk to them. I bet I can get them all stirred up. I'll really open these local's eyes. They won't know what's hit them.

Everyone - Hooray! Good old Sam! Etc.

Scene 2 -

Reader - One week later outside the local hall. A crowd of people are gathered. All with paint tins, brushes, ladders etc.

Mr MacPherson - Well, you've certainly done a great job, Sam. Nearly everyone in the district is here. I would never have got them out like this.

Sam - I must admit I do have a bit of talent in that direction. You've just got to have a bit of go in you. If you can persuade them that they're needed, that's the main thing.

Ray - I don't see the T.V. crew here yet.

Barney - They should have been here by now.

Reader - Billy comes running around the corner.

Bill - Mum just had a call from the T.V. people. They aren't coming. There's been a bad accident out at the coast and they're going there instead.

Joan - Oh, what a nuisance, I put my best jeans on. I thought they could have taken a shot of me perched up on the steps with a paint pot in my hand. And it's so hot today too.

Mrs Mac - Now we're all here we might as well get on with the job.

Sam - Well, I've got quite a lot of other things I could be doing, and I'm not going to be here after this year to use the hall anyway, so I'm off. See you later.

Joan - Wait for me Sam. It's too hot to work today. You can give me a ride home.

Ray - I think I'll come with you. What about you Barney?

Barny - I don't know, I'd really like to see the hall fixed up.

Everyone - Yes, that's right. We need the hall!

Mr Mac - Give me one of those paint brushes. I didn't spend all that time thirty years ago helping to build this hall just to see it lost now.

Mrs Brown - Give me a brush too. I'm not too old to do a bit of painting. I had a lot of fun in this hall when I was young, and I want my kids to do the same.

Jenny - I can help too!

Everyone - You're too little. You'll get covered in paint!

Paul - I want to help too.

Barny - You're no bigger than her, what could you do?

Paul - I could pass things up when people drop them. Please let us help.

Everyone - Oh, all right then.

Mrs Mac - I'm not too good at climbing ladders at my age, but I'm pretty good at making scones, I'm going into the kitchen to get lunch ready for everyone, and Jenny can help me.

Jenny - Oh good, we'll make a real party for them.

Bill - It looks as though there's going to be a working bee after all.

Jackie - Yes, only one or two have gone off and left us.

Kathy - Hand me a brush. If we all get busy we could have it finished by lunch time.

Bill - Come on, I'd do anything for some of Mrs Mac's hot scones.

Des - I'll work from the ladder, I don't mind heights.

Ken - I've brought a ladder too. I'll go round the other side. Has everyone got a brush and paint?

Everyone - Yes. We're right!

Ken - Look at Mr Mac, he's done half that wall already.

Reader - They are all busy painting when round the corner comes the T.V. van. A man and a very glamorous girl get out.

T.V. Man - That was a false alarm. Glad we got here in time to catch you all at work. You haven't got much done though.

Des - No, we've wasted too much time talking, but we'll make up for it now. Just you watch the paint fly.

T.V. Girl - Not on us if you don't mind. Who's in charge here?

Mr Mac - No one's in charge. We can all see what needs doing, and we're getting on with it.

T.V. Man - That's not a bad angle for our story/. "Community sees what is needed, and gets on with it". Someone must have got you together though. Don't tell me you all gave up your Saturday morning without someone giving you a bit of a push.

Ken - Actually, it was Sam who showed us why we needed to look after our hall.

T.V. Girl - Where is he now then, I'd like to interview him on his own.

Everyone - He's gone home.

Paul - He went home when he thought you weren't coming.

Everyone - Shut up Paul! Sh!

Mrs Brown - Paul, you shouldn't say things like that.

Paul - It's true anyway.

Des - Don't put that in your programme, will you?

Barney - No, it wouldn't be fair. After all, he got us all started.

Kathy - Yes, it will be bad enough for him that he missed an interview with you.

Jenny - And our party!

Everyone - Poor old Sam!!!!

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION -

- What is a working bee? –
- Do you know that most of our sports fields, tennis courts, and local halls began with working bees?
- Originally people had very little money, but they wanted social activities to bring communities together so they got together to build their own sports facilities and local halls.
- Who do people expect to provide these facilities now?
- Where does the money come from to pay for them?
- If young people graffiti or smash local facilities who has to pay to repair them?
- Why did Sam agree to get the people together?
- What did he do when he thought he wouldn't be on the T.V.?
- What did the two old people do? Why?
- What effect did that have on the others who had stayed?
- How did Sam perform as a leader?

DOES THE ROAD WIND UPHILL?

Characters – Barry, Jim, Joe, Jack, Tom, Molly, Sarah, Reader

Reader – It is lunchtime at Howard’s Engineering and the staff are gathered in the lunchroom.

Barry - I hear Ted French died the other day. I wish I had known. I would have liked to have gone to the funeral.

Jack - Tom and I live up his way. We went. There was a really big crowd there.

Molly - For such a quiet man, it was amazing how many people turned up.

Sarah - I liked the verse they put in the paper about him. Something about the road winding uphill all the way.

Tom - I remember the poem. We learnt it at school.

Sarah - How does it go?

Tom - I’m not very good at it, but I’ll see if I can remember. A man asked a question, “Does the road wind uphill all the way?” and the answer was “Yes, to the very end.” Then he asked, “Will the day’s journey take the whole long day?” and the answer was “From morn to night, my friend.”

Barry - It was certainly an uphill road for him, and a long one.

Jack - I believe he was only twenty one when he took ill first.

Tom - He’d been a great sportsman too. It must have been really hard for him, having to give up his rugby and cricket and golf.

Molly - And then to loose both feet, and be nearly blind as well. I don’t know how he managed to go on working.

Barry - He was really good at his job. The boss said how reliable he was.

Sarah - What I liked about him most was that he was always cheerful. He never moaned about how hard it was for him to do things.

Joe - He really had to struggle up those stairs on his artificial legs.

Tom - He wouldn’t let anyone help him though. I offered to help him once, but he smiled and said he’d allowed himself plenty of time, and it was a challenge to him.

Molly - You would have thought he’d feel sorry for himself, but he never seemed to.

Joe - His family said he had a few black times when he was really down to it, but he never let them last long. He wasn’t going to make other people miserable as well.

- Jack -** Talking to him always seemed to make other people feel better. People always seemed to tell him their troubles.
- Sarah -** You couldn't feel sorry for yourself for long when he was around.
- Tom -** You should have seen the way he mowed the lawn and did his garden. He always seemed to find a way to do things even if it did take him longer than other people.
- Joe -** Yes, and even if he couldn't play any sport he took a great interest in it.
- Sarah -** He was always interested in everything and everyone. He never seemed to think about himself much at all.
- Barry -** He never let on about it, but he used to get very tired at times.
- Molly -** Yes, his wife said it was his heart that gave out at last.
- Jim -** He was over sixty, you know, and he'd put in a full life-time at work.
- Tom -** I remember the last two lines of that poem now. The question was, "And is there for the night a resting place?" and the answer, "You cannot miss that inn."
- Molly -** Funny how some verses you learn at school stick in your mind all your life. I like to think of him resting after such a long struggle uphill.
- Jack -** I wonder if there's really a life after death.
- Sarah -** Some religions believe there is.
- Barry -** Whatever the truth is, Ted certainly made the best of his life while he was here. It will be a long time before he is forgotten.
- Everyone -** That's true.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- Why was Ted French such an inspiration to other people?
- When he first became ill he could have just felt sorry for himself, been miserable and made the others around him miserable. What did he choose to do instead?
- What effect did his example have on other people?
- Albert Schweitzer said "example is not just the main way to influence people. It is the only way." What other heroes do you know who set good examples?
- Bad stuff happens to some people and we are tempted to say "Why me?" We don't know why, but how did Ted French bring something good out of the bad stuff that happened to him? We can all bring something good out of the bad stuff that happens in our lives

THE FIRST DAY

Characters – John, Geoff, Reader

- Reader -** John is standing in the gateway of Jackson's yard, feeling very scared and not knowing which way to go. It is nearly eight o'clock and people are rushing in all directions. Another boy comes across the yard.
- Geoff -** Good morning. You're John Smith aren't you?
- John -** Yes I am.
- Geoff -** Good. I'm Geoff Parker. I heard you were starting this morning. You'll be working in the same room as I am. Come along and I'll show you the way to the boss's office.
- John -** Gee, That's a relief. This is such a big place. I didn't know where to go and everyone seems to be in such a hurry.
- Geoff -** It's nearly eight o'clock, and everyone likes to be on time. This is such a good place to work, the boss is very fair to us and we like to be fair to him. You won't find many people coming late here. This way.
- John -** I was really scared. I was just about to turn and run.
- Geoff -** Yes, I know how that feels. I remember what it was like when I started six months ago.
- John -** Did someone come and meet you?
- Geoff -** No, I had to find my own way, and everyone I asked said "Down that corridor" or "Up those stairs". It took me half an hour to find the office and I was late.
- John -** What did the boss say?
- Geoff -** He was really good. Said he remembered his first day at work nearly thirty years ago, and how it felt.
- John -** Sounds like he's a bit like his sister, Mrs Brent, who got me this job.
- Geoff -** They're a really nice family, no wonder they do well at their business. They're always very fair and honest and kind. Here's the boss's office.
- John -** Thanks a lot. I'm glad we'll be working together. It was really good of you to go out of your way like this.

Geoff - That's O.K. I wouldn't have wanted you to go through what I did on my first day.
See you later.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION -

We all have to go into new situations from time to time. Starting a new school, starting Secondary school , starting a new job, leaving one country and coming to another as an immigrant.

- How many of you have moved from a school in one place to another?
- How did you feel?
- Has anyone come as an immigrant to this country?
- How did you feel about leaving your home and going to a new place?
- How did you feel about having to learn a new language?
- How would most of us feel in the same situation?
- How would we like people in the new place to act towards us?
- Have you thought about how you act towards new pupils at school, or new immigrants as neighbours?
- Do you make an effort to make them feel happier and more comfortable?

Points to make

We all have to go into new situations.

We should not refuse to do this because we are afraid – but-

Other people should help because they would want others to help them if they were in the same situation.

We cannot always repay the same people for the help they have given, but we can help others in our turn.

ENDS

BOOM!!!

Characters – Mr Clarke, Geoff, John, Reader

- Reader -** John has begun his first day at work, not as frightening as he had expected, thanks to the help of Geoff Parker. He is now settled at a desk in the same room as Geoff doing work that is new and interesting, but thanks to his technical drawing classes at College, he is able to cope. The head draughtsman Mr Clarke stops to look at Geoff's work.
- Mr Clarke -** I think you've made a slight mistake there, Geoff.
- Geoff -** Where?
- Mr Clark -** In those top corner lines there.
- Geoff -** No I haven't.
- Mr Clarke -** I think you have. Take another look at the master plan.
- Geoff -** I tell you it's right. I've already checked.
- Mr Clarke -** I'd like you to check again, and I think your printing could be a little neater there. I can hardly read that word.
- Geoff -** I can read it quite plainly.
- Mr Clarke -** The reason for writing is so that other people can read it. If they can't read it you're wasting your time.
- Reader -** Mr Clarke turns to look at John's work and Geoff mutters –
- Geoff -** Well, you're wasting my time with your silly comments. Why don't you get some new glasses.
- Mr Clarke -** What did you say Geoff? If you can't stand to be corrected you're not going to get far in this job.
- Geoff -** (jumping up and knocking all his work to the floor). That does it, you stupid old fool!
- Reader -** Geoff kicks over his chair and rushes to open the door.
- Geoff -** I've had this place and you too!
- Reader -** He bangs the door behind him so hard a picture falls off the wall.
- Mr Clarke -** Back to work all of you. The show is over, It's a pity Geoff has such a bad temper and can't stand to be corrected. He could make a top class draughtsman in a few years time – if he doesn't lose his job.

Reader - John is frightened to ask what will happen to Geoff. He is sure the boss will fire him.

Scene 2

Reader - John finds Geoff waiting for him outside the room at lunch-time. He is a bit afraid Geoff might still be in a temper, so he was relieved when Geoff came up and spoke to him.

Geoff - Come along, this is the way to the lunch-room.

John - Thanks again, I thought I would have to look after myself.

Geoff - I'm sorry I made such a scene back there. As soon as I'd cooled off, I went and told Mr Jackson what I'd done, and said I'd apologise to Mr Clarke, even if I don't feel like it.

John - Do you think you had made a mistake in your work?

Geoff - I suppose I must have. Mr Clarke is hardly ever wrong. That's what's so annoying.

John - Then why did you fly off the handle like that?

Geoff - He's always picking on me. He never seems to be satisfied with my work, and this time he said I'd have to do it all again.

John - Your work looked really neat to me.

Geoff - Yes, that's what the boss said. He said Mr Clarke keeps at me because he knows I have ability, but he thinks I don't always do as well as I could.

John - Is that true?

Geoff - Yes, it is. Now I know that's why he picks on me, I'll try to put up with it, but I've got such a terrible temper.

John - My Dad says there's no excuse for a bad temper. There's usually a reason for it, but no excuse because we should learn to control it.

Geoff - Easier said than done. There's a reason all right. I've got two older brothers, and when Mum's not there, they used to tease me until I couldn't take it any more and I'd blow up.

John - Didn't your father stop them?

Geoff - I haven't got a father, and Mum had to work, so we were by ourselves a lot. I wish I didn't blow up so easily though.

John - My Uncle Jack helped me to stop smoking. I wonder if my Dad could help you beat your problem. Come home to our place for tea, and we'll talk to him.

Geoff - I'd like that. I envy chaps who've got a father living with them.

- John -** I must admit there are times when Dad and I don't agree, but I'd hate not to have him around. I'll ring Mum and tell her you're coming.
- Geoff -** Won't she be at work?
- John -** No. She works at home. I've got two younger sisters and a brother and she says she likes to be there when we get home.
- Geoff -** You're really lucky John. My Mum has always had to go out to work. It will be good to see how a different family lives.
- John -** Don't expect us to be perfect. We have plenty of arguments, but in general we're pretty fond of each other.
- Reader -** John rings his mother and comes back again.
- John -** Well, that's fixed, and there'll be my favourite. Roast beef, roast vegetables, and a steamed pudding to follow.
- Geoff -** Wow!! Mum doesn't have time to fix things like that for us. I can hardly wait till tea-time.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION -

- Is there anyone in the class who has never lost his/her temper?
- What things make us lose our tempers?
- How do other people feel when someone loses his/her temper?
- What can be the consequences of losing our tempers?

Points to make

- When we lose our tempers we lose other things as well
- We lose our respect for the truth, because we can say things we don't really mean.
- We lose the respect and trust of other people.
- We hurt people we love, but we can't take back the things we have said.

What should we do?

- Communicate communicate communicate – before we blow up.
- Do you find it easy to talk to people about your problems?
- Who would you talk to?
- Who would it be wise to talk to?

OUT TO TEA

Characters – John, Geoff, Mr Smith, Mrs Smith, Mary, Joanne, Billy

- Reader -** Geoff and John arrive at John's place to find the fire going and a lovely smell of cooking to meet them. John's sisters and brother are in the sitting room doing their homework and Mrs Smith is listening to Billy read.
- John -** Hello Mum, hello kids, this is Geoff who saved my life this morning.
- Mrs Smith -** Hello Geoff, it's nice to meet you. John told me how you'd helped him.
- Geoff -** It was a pleasure Mrs Smith. I know what it felt like on my first day. Mr Jackson told me then to help someone else when I got a chance and so I did.
- John -** That's what Mrs Brent told me. It must be their family motto. Now, this is Mary, this is Joanne and this young rascal is Billy.
- Mary -** Hello Geoff.
- Joanne -** Hi Geoff.
- Billy -** Hi - Can you play football?
- John -** Don't mind him Geoff. He's mad on football, he'll have you out in the yard practicing if you'll let him.
- Geoff -** That's O.K. with me. We'll see about that later Billy.
- Mrs Smith -** Tea's ready. Dad will be here any minute. We've all just finished our work.
- Geoff -** Does everyone do their homework before tea?
- Mary -** Yes. When Dad comes home we like to be able to spend the rest of the evening together.
- Reader -** The door opens and Mr Smith comes in. The family all greet him, and John introduces him to Geoff and tells him how Geoff helped him.
- John -** Geoff helped me then, but I think you may be able to help Geoff too. Can we have a talk after tea?
- Mr Smith -** Yes, we can have half an hour while the girls do the dishes.
- Joanne -** Oh boy, we always have to do the dishes.
- Mary -** I hate dishes, but I suppose someone's got to do them, and Mum gets the tea.
- Mrs Smith -** That's right, and if you want me to finish those new dresses for you by Saturday night you'll all have to help.
- Joanne -** What about Billy?

Billy - Why pick on me?

Mr Smith - He has to put the rubbish out tonight. Besides, I don't want to have to buy a new set of dishes every week.

Reader - They all sit down and have a wonderful tea.

Geoff - That was really great Mrs Smith. Thanks very much for asking me.

Mr Smith - Now we'll go through to the other room and have our talk.

Reader - Mr Smith and the boys go through to the next room while the others get on with their work.

Scene 2

Mr Smith - Now, what's your problem Geoff?

Geoff - It's my bad temper. I hate losing my temper, but I don't seem to be able to help it.

John - Dad, you told me you used to have a bad temper when you were young.

Mr Smith - Yes, I had to learn the hard way that I always got the worst of it by losing my temper. I lost a good friend, my job and I nearly lost your mother, but I've learned a lot since then.

Geoff - How do you manage it Mr Smith?

John - Yes Dad, you never lose your temper, well hardly ever, and with us kids, that must be hard.

Mr Smith - I learned that if you bottle things up inside you, and don't talk about the things that bother you, you're like a balloon or boiler that finally explodes.

Geoff - I don't find it easy to talk about my problems. Mum's always busy or tired, and my brothers have their own friends.

John - We're going to be friends now though.

Mr Smith - A good friend is a great help. If you can talk to someone else, that is a safety valve, and the pressure doesn't build up.

Geoff - Yes, I am a bit like a boiler exploding.

John - Well, I'd better see the safety valve doesn't get clogged up, or we'll both go up together.

Mr Smith - Yes, and Geoff has to try and see that he doesn't stoke the boiler too much. It is easy to keep thinking about your wrongs, and let yourself build up steam.

John - If I can see he's building up steam I'll try and change the subject.

Mr Smith - That would be a great help, but in the end it will all depend on Geoff himself. Do you want to control your temper, or do you enjoy the attention it brings to you?

Geoff - Honestly Mr Smith, I really hate it, and if John helps me too, I'll really try.

Mr Smith - Couldn't you talk to you own father Geoff?

John - He hasn't got a father, Dad.

Mr Smith - Oh, I'm sorry, Geoff. I didn't realise that.

Geoff - It's alright. He's not dead though, he just cleared out when we were little, and left Mum to bring us up.

Mr Smith - That's a pity. Of course it's a big responsibility, bringing up a family, and some men never grow up. There were times at first when I felt like running away myself, but my father told me that if I took on a man's job, it was up to me to act like a man. Right – our time is up. We'd better get back to the rest of the family.

John - Think they'll have the dishes done yet?

Mr Smith - Yes, but you haven't done your jobs yet.

John - O.K. O.K. Dad, but I've got Geoff to give me a hand tonight. Right Geoff?

Geoff - After that tea, I'm ready for anything, even a game of football with Billy.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION -

- We can't always help the same people who helped us. What can we do instead?
- How was John aiming to help Geoff?
- What did Mr Smith say about bottling things up inside you?
- What can happen if you don't communicate and discuss problems?
- Mr Smith said it depended on whether Geoff actually wanted to be able to control his temper. Why might Geoff not have been serious about this?
- Some people enjoy the attention losing their temper brings. What might the long-term consequences be? On Geoff? On the people around him?
- What had Mr Smith's father told him when he was a young man?

I'M SORRY

Characters – Mr Smith, Mrs Smith, John, Mary, Joanne, Billy, Mrs Jenkins, Sandra, Reader

- Reader -** It is evening, and the Smith family have all arrived home for tea, except Joanne.
- Mary -** I wonder why Joanne is so late. Tea is nearly ready and it's her turn to set the table.
- Billy -** You wouldn't catch me being late for tea when Mum's cooking a roast.
- John -** Trust you to be thinking about your stomach Billy. Where was Joanne going after school, Mum?
- Mrs Smith -** She was going round to Sandra's place, but she should have been home by now.
- Mr Smith -** Why don't you ring the Jenkins and see if she's left. She should be more thoughtful. She knows you don't like her to come home late by herself.
- Billy -** When Joanne and Sandra get together it's "Yak, Yak, Yak," for hours. I suppose she's forgotten what time it is.
- Mary -** Well, they've been best friends for years, and anyway, you're not too bad at talking yourself, when you and Gary Jenkins get together.
- Billy -** That's different. We have important things to talk about.
- Mrs Smith -** There's nothing more important at the moment than finding out where Joanne is. I'll go and ring.
- Reader -** Just then the door bursts open and in rushes Joanne.
- Joanne -** That Sandra Jenkins! I'll never speak to her again! Never! Never! Never! I hate her!
- Mr Smith -** Calm down a bit Joanne. That's your best friend you're talking about.
- Joanne -** She's not my best friend any more. I'll never forgive her for what she's done.
- Mrs Smith -** What on earth could she have done that could make you say a thing like that.
- John -** The way you're going on you'd think she'd ruined your whole life for you, or at the very least, made you look a fool in front of your whole class
- Joanne -** Well, that's just what she has done. I hate her for it!
- Mary -** Come on Joanne. She's your best friend. Whatever she's done can't be that bad.
- Mr Smith -** Well, at least tell us what it is that's made you so angry, and let's see what can be done about it.
- Joanne -** I suppose you lot won't think it was very important, but it was important to me.

Billy - Well get on with it.

Mrs Smith - Be quiet Billy!!

Joanne - I told her a secret, and she promised she wouldn't tell anyone else. Well, she's told Julie Martin, and you know what she's like! All the kids in the class will know tomorrow, and they'll all be laughing at me.

Billy - What was the big secret eh? I'll bet I can guess.

Mr Smith - BILLY!!!

Billy - O.K. O.K. Sorry.

Mary - It's not like Sandra to do that. She knows what Julie Martin is like.

Joanne - She said she didn't mean to tell her. It just slipped out – accidentally she said, but once Julie knows everyone will know. I just can't face them.

Mrs Smith - I'm sorry you feel so badly about it Joanne. You must have been very hurt, but Sandra has been your best friend for years. She didn't mean to hurt you. Can't you forgive her and make it up?

John - You'll be sorry if you don't. She's the only girl in your class who lives close to us. You always walk to school together, and go out together.

Joanne - She shouldn't have told my secret to Julie Martin. She shouldn't have broken her promise.

Reader - Just then there is a knock at the door. Mrs Smith opens it and comes in with Mrs Jenkins and Sandra.

Mrs Jenkins - We're sorry to come around just on tea time. Sandra was so upset about what she's done and wants to put it right with Joanne, but she didn't want to come on her own.

Joanne - She can't put it right now. Everyone will know.

Sandra - I know I can't take back what I've said, but I'm really sorry and I'll try to make it up to you.

Mary - Why don't you accept her apology. You're not perfect yourself you know, Joanne. What about the time you broke Sandra's favourite doll?

Joanne - That was years ago. I was only little. I didn't mean to do it.

Mrs Jenkins - Sandra didn't mean to say anything to Julie Martin either. It would be too bad to break up your friendship now.

Sandra - Please Joanne. I'm really sorry.

Billy - For goodness sake forgive her Joanne. You know you'll be sorry if you don't. Then we can all get on with our tea. I'm starving!

Mr Smith - Billy! But he's right Joanne. What about it?

Stop here to explain that we will listen to two different endings. Listen to the first one , then discuss what the long-term consequences were likely to be. Then listen to the second one and discuss what the long-term consequences were likely to be.

Alternative endings:

Number 1

Joanne - It's all right for all of you. It's not you who are going to have to go to school tomorrow and be laughed at. I'd rather have no friend than one who does something like that to me. I don't want to talk to any of you.

Reader - And she rushes out of the room and slams the door.

Number 2

Joanne - I suppose you didn't mean to tell her Sandra. I know what Julie's like at worming things out of you. I'd really rather stay friends with you.

Sandra - That's great Joanne. We'd better go and let you get on with your tea, but I'll wait for you in the morning. We can walk to school together as usual.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- What were the long term consequences likely to be in each case?
- Which ending would have had the best results?
- Which do you think Joanne would choose?
- Why?
- If she chose the first ending do you think she might have regretted it later on?
- How hard is it to say, "I'm sorry.?"

THE GOOD PROVIDER

Characters – Reader, John, Geoff, Mr Smith, Mrs Smith, Mary, Joanne, Billy, Phillip, Sarah

Reader - Geoff is around to tea at John's place again. They have other visitors. John's cousin Phillip has brought his fiancée Sarah to meet the family. The evenings are getting longer and they are all sitting out in the garden after tea.

Phillip - Gee, you've got a nice place here, Uncle Bill. I wonder if Sarah and I will ever be lucky enough to have a place like this.

Mr Smith - Well Phillip – it won't be luck if you do. It has taken us twenty years and a lot of hard work to get our home like this.

Mrs Smith - When we got home from our honeymoon we had only twenty dollars left between us after paying for our little bit of furniture.

Mr Smith - Remember Pat, we had to buy two knives and forks on our way home so we'd have something to eat with.

Mrs Smith - Yes, and then you spent our last twenty dollars on a radio because you couldn't stand being without one.

Mr Smith - Well we didn't have a car so we couldn't go out much – watch out for that window Billy!

Billy - It's O.K. The ball missed it by a mile.

John - By two inches you mean.

Geoff - You're lucky Billy that you've got such a decent place to play.

Billy - It would be better if Mum didn't make such a fuss about her flowers. Just as well Dad's got his vegetable garden fenced off.

Phillip - You must grow a lot of your own vegetables Uncle Bill. Do you like gardening?

Mr Smith - I didn't at first because I'd never done any, but I really enjoy it now. It was a case of having to, then, because we were so hard up.

Mary - The fruit trees keep us in fruit too and Mum bottles a lot.

Joanne - Yes! Peel – peel – peel. I hate preserving time!

Mrs Smith - You don't hate eating peaches and ice cream though.

Joanne - I'm all in favour of eating them. It's just the peeling I hate.

Mary - No worse than slicing the beans for the freezer.

John - No worse than picking them, or spraying the fruit trees.

Geoff - Do you all help in the garden?

Mr Smith - Yes, they all have their jobs to do – even Billy.

Geoff - What does he do?

Mrs Smith - He does lots of things, but his main job is washing the tomatoes.

Billy - Buckets and buckets of tomatoes. I'm glad to see the end of the tomato season I can tell you.

Sarah - It sounds as though they all do their share Mr Smith. We have always lived in rented houses so we've never had much of a garden.

Mrs Smith - We lived in a rented house for our first years, but we still planted some fruit trees. We didn't get much off them ourselves, but the people who came there next had a big family, and they were very pleased with all the fruit they had.

Mr Smith - We had several shifts, and wherever we went we planted fruit trees, because we were always glad if we moved into a place where there were trees already.

Phillip - I think I would like to do the same. I'd certainly like to move into a house with lots of fruit trees.

Sarah - You sound like a happy family Mrs Smith. I'd like to have a home and family like yours some day.

Billy - You'd never have a kid as smart as me!

Joanne - They wouldn't want a kid like you.

John - Oh – he's not too bad as little brothers go.

Mary - The trouble is, he doesn't go far enough. Keep that ball away from me Billy Smith!

Mr Smith - My father used to say that the least a man should expect to do for himself during his life time is to provide a home for himself and his family, and that has been my aim in life.

Mrs Smith - It hasn't been easy, but it's been worth it.

Mr Smith - Yes, I used to get fed up when I could see my mates going off at the weekend while I was working away in the garden.

Mrs Smith - Yes Phillip, he nearly went off with them once and left us all.

John - Did you really Dad?

Mary - You didn't tell us that.

Mrs Smith - There was no point, He didn't go far.

Mr Smith - No – I got as far as Auckland and then I began to think. I knew I had to make a choice and I decided I couldn't leave you all. I'm certainly glad I didn't.

Mary - Why are you telling is now Mum?

Mrs Smith - Phillip and Sarah need to know what is ahead of them. They will need a lot of courage to build a good life together.

Mr Smith - Yes, they need to know that though it certainly isn't easy, it is worth it to stick out the bad times. Life is good for us now, but we could easily have blown it all.

Billy - I'm jolly glad you came back Dad.

Joanne - I'm jolly glad Mum took him back.

Mrs Smith - So am I, but the fault wasn't all on his side. I could have been more cheerful and less envious of what other people had. We loved each other though, and I knew he loved you children. It was just all the responsibilities that had got him down. We both learnt a lesson and he has been a good provider for his family.

Geoff - I wish my father had come back.

Mr Smith - Some men find it too hard to accept the responsibility that goes with a family. They don't like to be tied down.

Mrs Smith - You have worked at the same place for twenty years, but now you're foreman. We're all very proud of you.

Geoff - My father was always shifting from job to job, he just couldn't settle. He reckoned that somewhere there was a job where he could make big money, if he could just find the right one.

Mr Smith - I don't think I really want to make a lot of money. We want enough to live comfortably, but I want time to coach football, and work in my garden and help with any local projects.

Mrs Smith - And I really enjoy cooking meals with home-grown vegetables, seeing the freezer full of good food and being able to help with things like school outings. I like being here when you all come home from school.

Phillip - I hope I can be as good a husband and provider as you have been Uncle Bill.

Sarah - I hope I can make as happy a home as you have made Mrs Smith.

Billy - The girl who marries me will be jolly lucky.

Joanne &

Mary You'll be jolly lucky if you get any girl to marry you.

Mr Smith - Well that's a long way into the future – thank goodness.

Mrs Smith - Yes, and now what about a dish of peaches and ice cream for supper?

Billy - You bet – and a whacking great slice of cream sponge I saw Mum making this afternoon.

Everyone - Trust you Billy!!!

Reader - The girls go off inside to get the supper, while Mr Smith and the boys go to inspect the vegetable garden.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- What was more important to Mr Smith than a lot of money?
- How did they save money on their food?
- Do you think it would have been better for the family if Mrs Smith had gone out to earn money instead of working at home?
- The Smiths lived like most families lived sixty years ago. How do you think it compares with today? What do you see as advantages and disadvantages
- Being a good provider had been seen as important then. Should it be now?
- Why had Geoff's father left?
- What is it going to take for Phillip and Sarah to build a good life for themselves and any children they might have?
- The Smith family seemed to have developed a pattern of what work the boys did and what work the girls did. How do you feel about that?
- Regardless of who does what work, what is the important thing? (Answer – that they all do their share.)

FOR BETTER OR WORSE

Characters – Reader, Mrs Smith, John, Mary, Joanne, Billy, Geoff, Policeman

- Reader -** Geoff and Mrs Smith are in the lounge, Geoff is helping Mrs Smith to wind some wool.
- Geoff -** It is good of you to ask me around to tea again, Mrs Smith. You will be getting tired of having me here.
- Mrs Smith -** Of course not, Geoff. One more doesn't make much difference when you've got six to cook for.
- Geoff -** I really enjoy being here. This is always such a happy and comfortable home.
- Mrs Smith -** The children do scrap a fair bit though, but I don't think they really mean it.
- Geoff -** I don't think so either. They sound cheerful enough out in the kitchen.
- Mrs Smith -** It's Dad's birthday next week and they're deciding what to buy him.
- Reader -** The door opens and the rest of the children come into the room.
- John -** That's it then. We've decided on a new electric razor.
- Geoff -** Gee! He'll like that!
- Mrs Smith -** They're very dear! Are you sure you want to spend that much on him? He wouldn't want you to, you know.
- John -** He never buys anything much for himself and I'm working now, so I can put more in.
- Mary -** And I've got that part-time job.
- Joanne -** It will be worth it to see his face when he opens the parcel.
- Billy -** I wish I had more to spare, but I've been saving hard for that bike and I've only got a few more dollars to get.
- John -** That's O.K. Billy, I know how much you want that bike, and you have worked hard for it.
- Reader -** There is a knock at the door. John goes to answer it and finds a policeman standing there.
- Policeman -** Does Mr Bill Smith live here?
- Mrs Smith -** Yes, he does. What's wrong?

Policeman - I'm sorry, but I've got bad news for you. He has had a bad car accident and he is in hospital. If you come with me I will take you to see him.

Everyone - Oh, poor Dad! How awful!

Mrs Smith - I'll come right away. You children will have to attend to things here.

Reader - Mrs Smith and the policeman go out together and the family have tea, though nobody feels much like eating. They are all sitting up in the lounge when Mrs Smith arrives back four hours later.

Children - How is he Mum?

Mrs Smith - Not too good, I'm afraid. The doctors told me he will live, but he may not be able to walk again for several years. I don't know how we are going to tell him.

John - Poor Dad, just when things seemed to be going right for him.

Joanne - I just can't bear to think about it.

Mary - It just isn't fair. Why should something like that happen to our Dad?

Billy - I wish I hadn't caused him so much bother. I wish I'd helped him more without having to be asked. Are you sure he's not going to die Mum?

Mrs Smith - Don't be too upset Billy. The doctors have promised he will be alright in time, but it may be several years before he will be able to work again.

Geoff - Is there anything I can do Mrs Smith?

Mrs Smith - Not just at the moment Geoff, but I am sure we'll be needing all our friends in the months ahead. It is not going to be easy to manage now. The mortgage payments will have to be made. We still have to eat, and Dad won't be able to do the garden.

John - Don't worry so much Mum. As long as Dad is going to be alright eventually, this family will pull together and manage what has to be done. I'm working now, and you can have my wages to keep up the mortgage payments.

Reader - While no one is looking, Billy quietly leaves the room.

Geoff - There's one thing I can do. I've watched Mr Smith in the garden, and I can do any digging on my weekends. I'd like to do it for him and you.

Mary - Thanks Geoff. That will be a real help. I think I can get a few more hours work a week, and that extra money can go into the house keeping.

Joanne - Mrs Jones asked me once if I'd like to clean her windows, but I put her off. I'll go and see her tomorrow. Maybe Mrs Campbell might like her windows cleaned too. Perhaps I could get quite a few jobs like that.

Mrs Smith - That's very good of you Joanne. I know how much you hate cleaning windows. You are all being wonderful.

John - Billy isn't here. Where did he go?

Geoff - He slipped out a few minutes ago. He looked pretty upset. He's really taking it hard.

Mrs Smith - He likes us to think he's tough, but he really feels things inside, though he won't show it.

Mary - Probably we've all been a bit hard on him and teased him more than we should.

Joanne - He was wiping his eyes a while ago. He pretended he'd got something in one, but I think he was trying not to cry.

Mrs Smith - There is nothing wrong with a boy crying when there's really something to cry about. I shed my tears at the hospital. It is a comfort to know that he cares so much about his father.

Mary - Here he comes now.

Reader - The door opens and Billy comes in. He is carrying his bank book.

Billy - Here you are Mum. You can have all of this to help with the mortgage.

John - But, that's the money you were saving for your bike!

Billy - I know you all think I'm not much use around the place, but I care about Dad as much as any of you. Take it Mum, it will stop him worrying for a while, and maybe he will get better quicker.

Mrs Smith - I know how much that bike meant to you Billy, and I know how much it will mean to your father to know you offered to give it up. You have set us all an example.

John - You're a good chap Billy. I'm proud of you.

Mary - I'm proud of you too.

Joanne - Yes, as far as little brothers go, you're not too bad at all.

Mary - And I'll try not to be so impatient with you in the future.

John - My old bike's still out in the garage. I might even be able to fix that up for you.

Geoff - I can see one good thing that has come out of all this trouble.

Mrs Smith - What is that?

Geoff - You are closer together as a family than you ever were, and you understand each other better.

Everyone - Yes, that's true.

Billy - I bet when Dad gets better we'll all get back to normal again, and you'll all be picking on me again.

Mrs Smith - Maybe that will be so, but you'll know too, that they really don't mean it.

Billy - I feel better now. I'm starting to feel hungry.

Joanne - He must be better!

Mrs Smith - I made another cream sponge this afternoon. It may be the last one you'll get for a while, so you'd better enjoy it while it's fresh.

Everyone - Too right we will.

ENDS

- **POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –**
- What did Geoff like about the Smith home?
- How did the Smith children feel about their father?
- Why, do you think?
- What difference was their father's accident going to make to the family?
- How did each one react?
- Do boys of Billy's age like to show their feelings?
- How did the others react to what Billy had offered to do?
- Geoff said one good thing had come out of the bad one. What was it?

AS LONG AS WE BOTH SHALL LIVE

- Characters** – Mr Smith, Mrs Smith, John, Mary, Joanne, Billy, Geoff, Grandma and Granddad
- Reader -** Mr Smith is home from the hospital and is in a wheel chair. The family are managing well, though they are all working hard. Mr Smith's mother and father have come for a visit and Geoff is round for tea again. Geoff is keeping Mr Smith company while the others are out in the garden.
- Geoff -** I wanted to have a chance to talk to you Mr Smith. There is a party at work in a fortnight's time and I would like to ask Mary to come with me. I know she is only just sixteen, so I thought I had better ask you and Mrs Smith first. I already asked Mrs Smith and she said to ask you.
- Mr Smith -** That was very considerate of you Geoff. I think you're a fine young chap. You've been a great help around here while I've been off work, but I've never asked – just how old are you Geoff?
- Geoff -** I was eighteen a few weeks ago, but lots of people say I look a lot older.
- Mr Smith -** Yes, I would have thought so myself. I like you very much Geoff, but I think Mary is a bit young to go to an office party on her own with you. Of course if you were going in a group and coming home here afterwards for supper it would be different.
- Geoff -** John was thinking of going too, if Helen from the office would go with him, and we have another friend too. We could all go together.
- Mr Smith -** Right then. You can go and ask Mary.
- Reader -** Geoff goes out and after a few minutes all the rest come in from the garden with Geoff and Mary.
- Mrs Smith -** Geoff tells us you've said Mary can go with him and John and their friends to the office dance.
- Mary -** Thanks Dad, I didn't think you'd let me.
- Mr Smith -** Young people have to have some social life. Remember the fun we had when we were young Pat?
- Mrs Smith -** Yes, we always went around in a crowd and came back to someone's place for supper.
- Mr Smith -** Our mothers never minded cooking. They were always glad to know we were safe in a group.

Mrs Smith - Yes, and our fathers would never have let us go out with you if they hadn't trusted you to get us home at a reasonable time.

Granddad - We worried about our boys too you know.

Grandma - Yes, we liked you all to come home and see you in a group. That way we could see what sort of girls our boys were going out with.

Mrs Smith - I always had the feeling you were looking me over to see if I was good enough for your son. Would you have tried to put him off if you hadn't liked me?

Grandma - No, but I would have hoped he would be able to think for himself.

Granddad - And I wanted to be sure you wouldn't kill him with your cooking, or always be grizzling about something.

Billy - I'm glad you made sure he married a good cook.

Joanne - Trust you Billy!

Mr Smith - It wasn't just her cooking I liked.

Mrs Smith - Well, I certainly wasn't the prettiest girl in our group.

Granddad - It was your kind heart and your cheerfulness that really won him Pat. Of course you'd known each other for years and you'd both had plenty of other friends.

Mr Smith - Yes, by the time we could afford to get married we'd had plenty of time to find out if we could get along together for the rest of our lives.

Mary - Mum, you said once that your mother told you to see how a boy treats his mother and that's how he'll treat his wife. Was that true?

Mrs Smith - It was true about your father anyway.

John - I'd better be careful then Mum, how I treat you when any girls are around.

Mrs Smith - You just need to be yourself John. You're all right as you are, but I've always found it true that if a boy is considerate in his own home, that is what he will be like outside.

Joanne - I can see a bit of room for improvement at times.

Billy - Better have a look at yourself too. I don't think I'd like to be married to you.

Granddad - Now children, I thought you weren't going to scrap again.

Billy - Aw – she knows I don't mean it, don't you Joanne?

Mr Smith - I must admit it would make Mum and I happier if you didn't say things you don't mean.

Joanne - It's hard to resist the temptation for a smart remark now and again.

Granddad - Just try not to hurt each other that's all.

Grandma - Listening to you young ones reminds us of when our family were young.

Mary - I love to hear you tell about those times.

Geoff - I don't see much of my grandparents. We've lost touch with my father's family since he left and my mother's parents live in Australia.

Mary - Well, we've got enough family to share around, there are plenty of cousins, as well as two lots of grand parents.

Geoff - You're really lucky Mary.

Mr Smith - Yes, in spite of my accident we're lucky in the things that really matter.

Billy - Yes, and John made a great job of that bike.

Granddad - You wouldn't have had the bike if John hadn't cared enough about you to fix it. Just remember that when you think he's picking on you.

Grandma - Our children were just the same when they were young, but they're all good friends now, and it is really wonderful at Christmas time to see all the cousins together.

Joanne - That is the best day of the year, when we all come to your place for Christmas dinner.

Billy - And all that food that everyone brings!

Mr Smith - Yes, we may not see a great deal of each other at times, but it is good when we all come home at Christmas.

Mrs Smith - It is good for the cousins to get to know each other, and then most of us go to the other half of their families for tea.

John - I'm glad we still have grandparents to keep us all together.

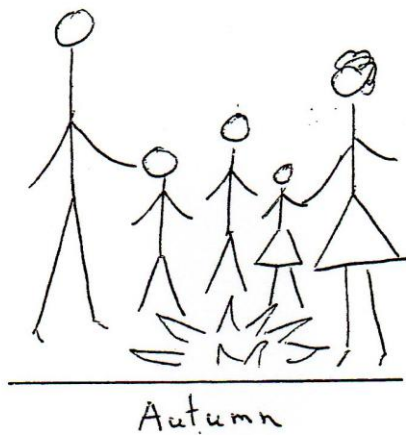
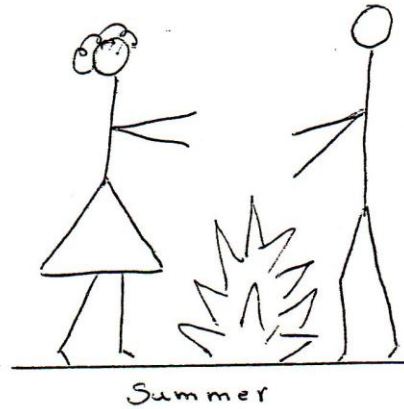
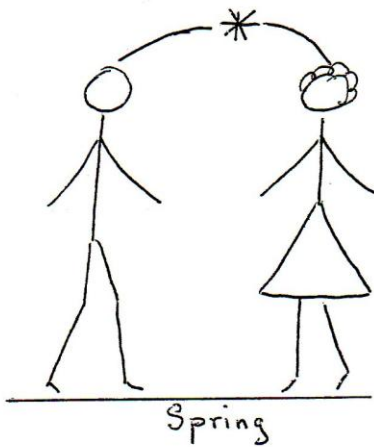
Billy - Grandmothers and Grandfathers, and all that food!!! How long is it till Christmas?

Everyone - Oh Billy!!!

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION -

- Most cultures have ceremonies of marriage where a man and woman make promises about the future. They plan to live together and provide a home for the children they may have.
- The traditional promises were that they would stay together "for better or worse, in sickness and in health as long as they both lived. How are the Smith parents and grandparents living up to the promises they made long ago?
- Do you think it would be easy to keep those promises?
- Mrs Smith had not been the prettiest girl in the group, but what had been more important in a marriage than being pretty?

- What is more important in a man than good looks?
- Mr Smith felt that in spite of his accident, his family were lucky in the things that really mattered.
- What do you think he saw as the things that really mattered?
- What are some of the things you enjoy doing as families?



The fire of love

A BETTER WORLD

Characters – Jim, Billy, Michael, Grant, Caroline, Gary

- Reader -** It is the day before Anzac day, and Billy and his friends are having lunch at school.
- Jim -** It'll be good to have a day off school tomorrow. I'm always glad of an excuse not to go to school. I think I'll spend the day doing up my bike. What about you Billy?
- Billy -** We're all going over to Granddad's place in the morning so we can go to the ANZAC service with him.
- Michael -** We're all going to our bach for the long weekend. We don't worry about the ANZAC service. My Dad says it's only glorifying war anyway, and the sooner we forget it the better.
- Billy -** My Granddad went to the first World War and he's told me a lot about it. He certainly doesn't think war was great.
- Margaret -** My Grandmother showed me a letter the other day that was written just after the first World War. It was about the troopships coming home, and how good it was to see the first lot of men who hadn't been wounded. All the other boats that had brought men home during the war had only had wounded men on them.
- Jim -** That was a long time ago. I'd rather forget it too, and enjoy the day off.
- Billy -** Granddad says we shouldn't forget what happened. When the first Great War was over they thought that the world was going to be a better place, but twenty five years later they were fighting again.
- Grant -** Dad says that those who ignore their mistakes usually repeat them.
- Margaret -** The wars weren't our mistakes. They were because other leaders got greedy for power and land.
- Michael -** Well, that's a mistake we want to be sure our future leaders don't repeat.
- Caroline -** My mother said that the boys who went away thought they were fighting for a better world. They didn't really want to go and maybe be killed or wounded, but they wanted our country to be free.

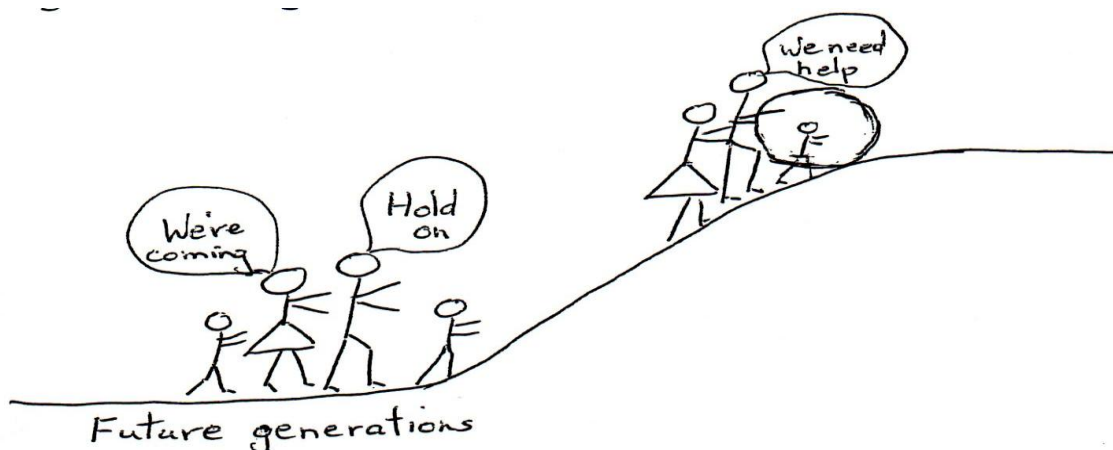
- Gary -** Mum said that two thirds of the boys in her class at school went away, and only a third of them came back safely.
- Michael -** Just imagine if two thirds of us had to go, and only a third of us came back safely.
- Margaret -** I don't like to think about it. It makes me sad. Maybe it would be better to forget about it.
- Billy -** Granddad says we need to remember, so that perhaps we can try and make the world a better place just like those boys wanted it to be.
- Caroline -** I don't see how any of us can do much to make the world a better place. Nobody would take any notice of us, or notice anything we do.
- Jim -** And nobody will notice if I don't go to the ANZAC service either.
- Billy -** No, I don't suppose they will. Granddad says it's not the service itself that's so important, but remembering what happened, and trying to do your bit to make things better.
- Michael -** I still don't see how any of us can make any difference to the world.
- Billy -** Granddad says if each one of us did his best to be a bit more tolerant, and kinder to others, and less quick to fly off the handle, we'd be making the world a better place just where we live.
- Gary -** Yes, I see, and if everyone all over the country was a little bit more honest, and a little bit less selfish as well, then soon the whole country would be a little bit better.
- Grant -** And if all of us kids tried to be a little bit better in those ways than the people who went before us....
- Caroline -** And if each lot of our children tried to be a little bit better than we'd been....
- Billy -** Yes, you see what Granddad meant don't you?
- Gary -** And if all the children all over the world tried to be a little bit more understanding of other people in other countries....
- Margaret -** They say today's children will be the rulers of the future. We could make the right sort of laws and really make a better world.
- Billy -** You've really got the idea, but it wouldn't be as simple as that unfortunately. Granddad says you can't make laws to control people's attitudes to other people. People themselves have to want to get along together, but we could certainly make a start.

- Jim -** Well, I'm going to make a start by going to that ANZAC service and showing that I appreciate what those other boys did for this country.
- Everyone -** Good for you Jim!!!
- Michael -** My family won't be going, so I won't be able to go, but when I grow up and have children of my own I'll teach them what it's all about.
- Billy -** I'm going to teach my kids too. All the things that Granddad has told me.
- Margaret -** Imagine you with kids, Billy. I feel sorry for any teacher that has to teach them.
- Billy -** Maybe they won't be so bad, if I teach them they have to do a bit better than I did.
- Caroline -** I must say there's plenty of room for improvement Billy!
- Billy -** I didn't say I was perfect, and they won't be perfect either, but we'll certainly be trying for that better world, even if it's just where we live.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION-

- Billy seems to have grown up a bit since his father's accident. How is he changing?
- No ordinary people ever want to go to war, but why did they go?
- What could have happened to this country if we hadn't won the war?
- What did Billy's grandfather tell him was the important thing?
- How could we all go about making a better world?



WHAT'S PASSED IS PAST

Characters – Jim, Billy, Caroline, Margaret, Jackie, Trudy, Gary, Michael

- Reader -** It is the next week and the classes are having their lunch together again.
- Jim -** I'm glad I went to that ANZAC service the other day. It was good of your father to take me with you Billy.
- Billy -** It was good that you wanted to go. You might have backed out if you'd had to go on your own.
- Jim -** I probably would have, and I really enjoyed talking to your Grandfather.
- Billy -** The speaker was good too wasn't he? Just like Granddad, he didn't want us to forget the past, but he wanted us to think more of the future.
- Caroline -** I went too. I especially noticed what he said about our not being able to change the past, but we could do something about the future.
- Margaret -** I went with Caroline and her parents. I enjoyed the speaker too. We could really understand what he said. He said he didn't think any country or religion could have a clear conscience about everything that had been done in the past, but we must try and put the past behind us and not want to take revenge for things that had been unfair then.
- Billy -** The point he made was that by taking revenge you were only creating more situations that other people would find unfair.
- Jim -** He said we had to try and forget the injustices of the past. It wouldn't be easy, but it would at least make us a fresh start.
- Gary -** What exactly did he mean by that?
- Caroline -** Well, land for instance. Lot's of countries have trouble over land. Hundreds of years ago, with wars and stuff, land may have been taken from some people unfairly, but if it had been bought and sold many times since then, it would be unfair to take it off the people who have it now, because they had probably paid fairly for it, and you'd be robbing them too.
- Michael -** There are lots of countries where that has happened. In Ireland for instance.
- Jackie -** Yes, and Israel and Palestine.
- Trudy -** Yes, and you could say New York belonged to the Dutch.
- Caroline -** The Indians were there before the Dutch.

Michael - What a terrible mix up there would be if we tried to go back and sort out who owned what.

Margaret - Just the thought of it is enough to make you see you can't go back.

Jim - The speaker said we would just have to try and make sure everyone got a fair deal in the future.

Billy - I can understand about the world wars, and how the bad feelings went on and on, and produced more wars.

Jim - I liked the story he told about Chile and Argentina, and the statue of Christ in the Andes.

Jackie - What was that?

Jim - Well, to make a long story short, there were just about to go to war, when Easter came. The people of both countries were Christians, and Easter reminded them of the message of peace. They realised they shouldn't be fighting each other and the people asked their governments to try and settle the quarrel without a fight.

Gary - And did they?

Jim - They did, and they melted down their guns, and made a huge statue of Jesus and put it on the border.

Caroline - It's pretty obvious no Christian nations should fight each other.

Trudy - What about the First World War? Some German soldiers had "God with us" on their belt buckles. And the others thought God was on their side. He couldn't have been on both sides.

Billy - Granddad says God has no favourites, so He wouldn't have wanted any of them to be fighting.

Michael - I can understand that Christians shouldn't fight each other, but there's plenty of other religions.

Jackie - Well, Moslems and Christians and Jews shouldn't fight each other either.

Jim - Why them, particularly?

Jackie - Dad says they're all "People of the Book". That's the way the Moslem Faith puts it. Their traditions all go back to Abraham and the same God and the Bible and the prophets. They're all brothers and Moslems are not supposed to fight each other either.

Margaret - I didn't know that.

- Michael -** Well, if Christians shouldn't fight each other – and Moslems and Christians and Jews shouldn't fight each other and Buddhists don't believe in killing anything, that should take care of a fair bit of the world.
- Gary -** How come they're still fighting all over the place then?
- Billy -** I guess it's this thing about taking revenge for the past.
- Jim -** If we don't stop it's going to cause a terrible lot of trouble in the future. There'll be more past to take revenge about.
- Caroline -** It makes me feel really depressed. I can't see any way out.
- Billy -** Like Granddad says, we can make a start here.
- Caroline -** How?
- Billy -** I'll forgive you for all the nasty things you've said to me.
- Caroline -** I see, and I'll forgive you for all the horrible little tricks you've played on me.
- Jim -** And you both promise not to do it again.
- Margaret -** Who knows, you might even become friends.
- Gary -** That might be a bit ambitious to start with, but at least they could stop being enemies.
- Jackie -** I wish it could be as simple as that for governments.
- Michael -** Why shouldn't it be, if all the people want it?
- Margaret -** When you grow up you can be our representative at the United Nations.
- Michael -** I might just do that too.
- Billy -** Well, we'd better fix our own country, before we start telling the rest of the world what to do.
- Everyone -** That's true!!!!

END

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION

- What was the main point the Anzac Day speaker was trying to make?
- What happens if people continue to take revenge for the past?
- Name some places where there are quarrels over the ownership of land
- Why is it difficult to put things right by going back?
- Why did Jackie's father say that Christians, Moslems and Jews should not fight each other?
- Why do countries need to stop fighting over the past?
- What would be the best thing to do for the future?
- Do you think it would be possible? Where should we start?

THE BRIDGE

Characters – Susan, Sharon, Steven, Louise, Anne, Colin, Douglas, Mark and Reader

- Reader -** A group of children are in the grounds of the local High School waiting for the bell to ring.
- Louise -** It's electives this afternoon. I'm really looking forward to practicing that new action song with our Maori Culture Group. What are you doing Colin?
- Colin -** I'm doing cross-country running. I'm not too keen on it, but I couldn't get into any of the things I really wanted to do, so I had to take that.
- Susan -** You're good at singing, I've heard you in school. Why didn't you ask to join the Maori Culture Group? There's room for some more and you'd really have enjoyed it.
- Anne -** Yes, we could do with a few more boys for the hakas.
- Colin -** I thought of that, but I didn't think they'd want me. I'd look a bit silly with my white skin in the middle of you lot.
- Douglas -** That's why I didn't ask to join. I thought the Maoris would think I had a bit of a cheek wanting to do their thing. Why didn't you ask me before?
- Louise -** I didn't think you'd be interested, that's why I didn't ask you.
- Steven -** What idiots you are. Our All Blacks all learn the haka and do it together before their matches. No-one cares if they're black, white or brown.
- Susan -** They're usually all the same colour before they're finished anyway, brown with mud.
- Mark -** That's one of the good things about sport. No-one cares what colour you are. It's how well you play the game that matters.
- Louise -** I was watching New Zealand play Australia the other day, and really the New Zealanders are a lot darker than the Australians on the whole, even though it's hotter in Australia.
- Sharon -** That's because so many New Zealanders are part Maori anyway. My skin is pretty fair, but I'm part Maori and proud of it. I love going to stay with all my Maori relations down the East Cape.
- Steven -** I'm part Maori too.
- Susan -** And so am I.
- Douglas -** Are you really? I didn't know that.

- Sharon -** Yes, I am, and I go to the Maori Culture Groups and I don't worry that my skin isn't as brown as some of the others.
- Susan -** They all know that we're only part Maori and they don't worry about the colour of our skin. Come along with us. You're our cousins too you know.
- Steven -** Yes, we've got brown cousins and white cousins. That puts us in the middle like a bridge between two islands, and anyway, my grandfather says it's what's in a person's heart that matters.
- Anne -** Well, I'm one of his brown cousins, and I say you should come and join us.
- Colin -** I wonder if it's too late to change. It would certainly be better than cross-country running.
- Mark -** That doesn't sound exactly polite, but I think I understand what you mean. Could I come too? I'm stuck with Mr Johnson for choir, and you know the sort of ghastly things he makes us sing.
- Louise -** The more the merrier. Of course you'll have to learn the songs in Maori.
- Douglas -** That won't be too hard if I want to learn them. At least you can explain in English what they mean.
- Steven -** And sometimes we go to other places to perform and there's always a jolly good feed.
- Colin -** That settles it, I'll see if I can change.
- Douglas -** And so will I.
- Susan -** That's great. It will be much more fun with you lot along.
- Everyone -** That's true

END

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION-

- Most of us in this class have parents or grandparents who have come from different countries and have what we call a mixed heritage Examples?
- How many people in this class have relations of mixed race? .
- In a multicultural society what is an advantage of being of mixed race?
- How difficult would it be for a person of mixed race if he/she was made to choose one side or the other?
- What is more important than race?

VOTE FOR ME

Characters – Claire, Joanne, Jarrod, George, Sam

Scene – *Year 13 at the local college are having lunch in their common room*

Jarrod – I'm getting sick of all this political stuff we're getting on the TV at the moment. All Dad and Mum talk about is politics.

Claire – Well, the election is next week, and you'll have a vote yourself at the next election.

Joanne – Yes, so will I. You should take an interest. How will you know who to vote for if you don't listen to what the politicians are saying?

Jarrod – What does it matter what they are saying? They get into Parliament and do something different anyway. That's what Mum and Dad are always going on about.

George – Granddad gets really het up about politics. He says when he was young the politicians had to come to the towns and talk to the people. The people could question them and really give them a hard time if they didn't keep their word. You can't get at them on a TV set. He reckons everyone was interested in politics then.

Claire – Same with my Grandparents. They say it wasn't that long since everyone had got a vote, and they all wanted to have their say.

Sam – Well, we don't seem to get much of a say now. Dad says the big political parties take their turn in doing as they please and pushing their own ideas when they get into power.

Joanne – They are supposed to be representing the people. We do live in a democracy you know. Each person over eighteen has an equal say with everyone else.

George – Granddad was telling me how our system started. Over 2000 years ago, all the citizens of the state went along to one place and listened to the speakers. Then they voted on the issues. Now there are too many people to do that, so each area elects one person to go to Parliament to speak for them.

Claire - Grandad says they go to represent the people in the area and that's why Parliament is the House of Representatives.

Sam – In that case, they would have to vote for what the majority of the people in their area want. Fair enough.

Jarrod – I can see that we couldn't all get into the Beehive to speak for ourselves, but I'm not so sure that the people we do elect do speak for us.

- Claire** – Granddad says they put their own political party's ideas before the wishes of the people now, and don't really represent the people at all.
- Joanne** – Well, what's the use of bothering to vote if they're not going to take any notice of us anyway?
- George** – My grandmother would really get upset if she heard a girl say that. New Zealand was the first country in the world to give women equal voting rights with men. She's really interested in politics. She reckons we need to take an interest in what the politicians are doing so we can use our vote wisely.
- Jarrold** – I still don't see that my one vote is going to make any difference so why should I bother myself with what politicians are telling us? I've got better things to do.
- Sam** – If everyone thought like that, different political groups really could do exactly as they choose, and we wouldn't have a democracy at all.
- George** – Even in a democracy a small group in any major political party could be much the same as a dictator.
- Jarrold** – How do you work that out?
- George** – It's simple mathematics. If a group within a party pushes their ideas through by a small majority and makes an issue into party policy, then all the MP's in that party are supposed to vote for it in Parliament, even though they may not have agreed with it before.
- Sam** – I see. All a group would need would be to have more than half the votes in the party, and then if their party was the majority in the whole government, an issue could be pushed through by just over a quarter of the MP's, even though nearly three quarters were against it.
- Claire** – That doesn't sound much like democracy to me. I thought democracy was one person, one vote. No wonder Granddad gets het up about it.
- Joanne** – Perhaps we should have compulsory referendums, where the people vote on each issue themselves and the government has to do what they say.
- George** – That seems sensible, but the trouble nowadays is that if the people don't know much about a problem, a party with a lot of money to spend could easily influence the way people vote. Lots of people only watch the T.V. news.
- Claire** - They don't get much accurate information from a couple of minutes of T.V. news.
- Sam** - And that's already influenced by the reporters, camera men, editors and news-readers by the time it gets to the screen anyway.

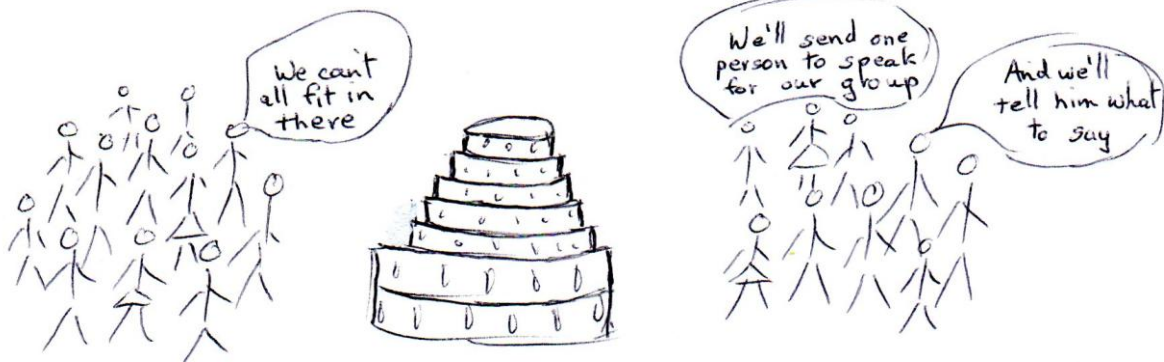
- Jarrold** – Yes – did you see the way the newsreader on T.V.1 raised his eyebrows when he was talking about the Auckland mayor the other night. He didn't need to say anything more than his script, but you could see what he meant.
- Joanne** – Well, there's no system that seems to be perfect.
- George** – At least the one thing you can do in a democracy is to vote a government out if enough people don't like what they're doing, and we have to keep that power to do that.
- Joanne** – That's better than having a dictator, or having an army in charge of the country, and having no say at all. That's what we could get if we don't take an interest.
- Sam** – If enough people take a real interest in what the politicians are doing, we could make them do what we want.
- Jarrold** – How could we know what was the right thing anyway? I can accept that we ought to go along and vote, and that each vote is important, but I could be wrong in what I want to vote for. Maybe it would be better not to vote if I'm not sure of what I'm doing.
- Claire** – That Greek philosopher, Plato, said democracy didn't work because people weren't educated enough. Ordinary people didn't deserve to vote because they were too easily swayed by clever talkers.
- George** – It seems that it is up to us to see that we do educate ourselves enough so we can't be swayed by the clever talkers – or slick advertising campaigns.
- Joanne** – You know George, you've got plenty of common sense, and I like your ideas. I think you'd want to do the best for all the country. I'd vote for you if you stood for Parliament.
- George** – Maybe I will some day, but I think I need to get a bit more experience of real life first myself.
- Sam** – What about it, you lot? Is it George for Prime Minister some day?
- Everyone** – Hooray for George! You'd get my vote George! *Etc, etc, etc*

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- Most of you will be able to vote at the next election. Will you?
- How much interest do you take in politics? Why?

- Why did George say his grandmother would have been upset to hear that a New Zealand girl was not going to bother to vote?
- The word “idiot” comes from the notion of citizenship originally formulated by Aristotle who suggested that those who lacked political knowledge should be labeled “idions.”
- Why do you think he saw them as idiots?
- What did Plato believe was necessary if democracy was to work?...
- Do you think politicians do what the people want them to do?
- What can happen to democracy in the process of party politics?
- Why do you think some political parties are not in favour of binding referendums?
- What can T.V. news be influenced by?
- Do you think merely watching the T.V. news is likely to produce an educated public?
- How can groups with more money than others influence public opinion?
- What do you think could be done to see that the general public are not “idions?”



THE BUDGET

Characters – Mr Smith, Mrs Smith, John, Mary, Joanne, Billy, Geoff, Reader.

- Reader** – The Smith family have had their tea and are settling down for the evening in front of the fire.
- Billy** – Gee, its cold outside. I'm looking forward to just sitting here and watching all my favourite programmes tonight.
- John** – Well, you won't be watching "Superman" because Dad will be watching the Treasurer present the Budget at that time..
- Billy** – The stupid budget! Gosh Dad, why do you want to hear all that rubbish?
- Mr Smith** – It isn't rubbish son. It makes a big difference to all of us.
- Mary** – What difference does it make to us kids? Only John is working. We don't pay taxes.
- Mrs Smith** – No, but you want to go to college next year and some of the money from our taxes goes towards education.
- Joanne** – Not enough I reckon. Our teachers say we could do with a lot more visual aids.
- Billy** – Our headmaster reckons our school needs twice as much money as we get.
- John** – And our sports club wants a grant for more equipment.
- Mrs Smith** – Uncle Bart is out of work again. He says he needs more money for his unemployment benefit.
- John** – Uncle Bart is out of work more than he's in it. Why can't he stick to a job?
- Mary** – Dave's getting just like him. I don't think he really cares whether he has a job or not.
- Mr Smith** – Our welfare system used to be called "Applied Christianity", but I think we should go back to that verse "By the sweat of your brow you shall earn your bread."
- Billy** – Uncle Bart certainly doesn't do much sweating.
- Geoff** – Some people who really want to work can't get jobs though.
- Mr Smith** – That's true, and the government should see that there is work for everyone. People need to work.
- Billy** – I could do without it.
- Joanne** – You do without it now if you can get away with it.

Billy – Yes, but Dad usually sees to it that I don't.

Geoff – Mum says she needed more money when my Dad left us. That's why she has to go back to work.

Mary – The government should have given her enough so she could have stayed home and looked after you all.

Mr Smith – We're all the same. We keep saying "The government should do this or that." Let's face the truth. Who is the government.

Mrs Smith – Well, Mr ----- is our MP. He's part of the government.

Mr Smith – This electorate voted for him to go to parliament to speak for us because we can't all go to speak for ourselves.

Joanne – There's be an awful squash in the Beehive if we did.

John – I get a vote this year, so I help decide who goes to speak for the people in this area.

Geoff – So the government is really all of us if our MP's are supposed to be speaking for us.

Mr Smith – And government money is money that belongs to all of us, and is collected from all of us.

Mrs Smith – And is spent on all of us. So if we all want more and more spent on us, then more and more has to be collected.

Mary – I suppose the government can't spend more than it gets. I can't anyway.

John – You do sometimes, you know. You borrowed \$5.00 off me last week, when you wanted that new dress.

Mary – Yes, but I'll pay it back when I get my cleaning money..

Mr Smith – Governments borrow money when they don't get enough in taxes to pay for what the people want, and that has to be paid back too, maybe by you children.

Billy – Well, I don't want to pay back money just because you lot have borrowed it.

Mrs Smith – We have to borrow for some things, like a house or things we really need, but it has to be things we need, and not just things we want.

Billy – Like Mary's dress eh?

Joanne – Mary did need that dress.

Mary – I was going to Kate's party. I haven't had a new dress for ages!

Mr Smith – That's the problem. How to get all the country to agree on what we really need, and how much tax we should all pay.

John – Everyone hates paying taxes. I know a chap who has two jobs, but he gets cash for the second one so he doesn't pay tax on it.

Mary – Kate’s father is an accountant, and she tells me most people try to get out of paying taxes if they can.

Mr Smith – It is one thing to make sure you don’t pay any more tax than you have to, and a very different thing to hide the truth about your income and not pay your share of tax.

Mrs Smith – It’s like a big pot isn’t it? Everyone is putting in and taking out. If we take out more than we put in, the pot will be empty before everyone gets their share.

Mr Smith – The most important thing for the government is to see that there is enough for what is really needed.

Joanne – It’s like your cream sponges Mum. If Billy takes as much as he wanted before it got to us, there wouldn’t be much left.

Mary – No, and if he took as much as he needed, he wouldn’t get any at all.

Billy – Oh, you girls are very funny aren’t you?

Geoff – That makes up for your crack about Mary’s dress Billy.

Mrs Smith – Well, you’re even now, so no more cracks.

Mary – OK Mum. It would probably be better for us if we all took a bit less anyway.

Joanne – Well, maybe our school doesn’t need all those new visual aids and we could make some ourselves.

John – I suppose our sports club could work to get that new equipment for ourselves.

Billy – What about Uncle Bart and Dave?

John – Maybe they could do a bit more about putting something into the pot instead of taking out all the time.

Mrs Smith – It wouldn’t take much from each one of us to put a little bit more in and take a little bit less out.

Billy – Yes, the pot would soon be overflowing, and by the time I grow up I wouldn’t have to work at all.

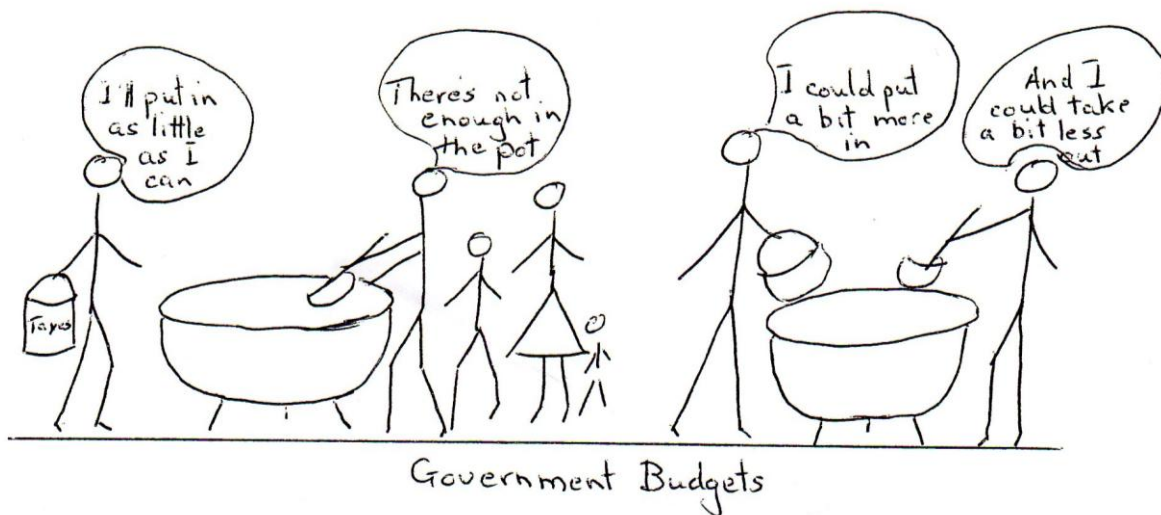
Everyone – Oh brilliant Billy!!! Trust you!!!

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- What does a government put in a Budget?
- What happens if there is not enough money to do everything that is needed?
- Where does a Government get its money from?
- When people say, “The Government should pay,” who is going to have to pay?

- What is the difference between things we need and things we want?
- Using credit cards to buy things we cannot pay for is expensive. Why?
- Would it be the same for a country if a government borrows money?
- Who will have to pay in the end?
- Why do people try to avoid paying taxes?
- If people take more money out of the pot than they actually need, who are they taking it from?



THE PUBLIC SERVANT

Characters – *Sarah, James, Mrs Mills, Mr Mills, Public Servant, Reader*

Scene 1

- Reader* – The Mills family live in a small settlement four miles from the nearest town. It is Saturday afternoon.
- Sarah* – I've run out of milk. I wish our local shop was still open. It's such a drag having to go four miles if you want some silly little thing on the weekend.
- James* – Or decide you can't live for two days without an ice-cream.
- Mrs Mills* – There used to be five shops here you know until the supermarkets opened in Newtown. It's four years since our last shop closed.
- James* – The shop's still here though. There are a lot more people living here now. You could run it Mum.
- Sarah* – And I could work in it on the weekends, and so could some of my friends.
- James* – The school is much bigger now too, and it's just across the road. Lots of kids and their parents would shop there.
- Mrs Mills* – Actually, Dad and I have been thinking about that ourselves when we've been looking at the empty shop next door.
- Mr Mills* – I've been thinking of going to see someone at the Council about it. I think I'll go on Monday.

Scene 2

- Reader* – Mr Mills is at the Council Office. He speaks to a man behind the counter.
- Mr Mills* – I've come to see about the possibility of reopening the shop at Grassmere. The locals seem to want it open and I could buy it and my family could run it.
- Public Servant* – Yes, there is certainly a need for a shop there. It's a pity it ever closed. A lot of the older people find it hard to be without a local shop.
- Mr Mills* – That's what I thought. There are a lot more young parents too with children at the school. So you think there'd be no objection to my starting the shop up again?

Public Servant –No objection at all –in principle. Of course now that the license has lapsed you would have to comply with the new regulations.

Mr Mills – What are they?

Reader – The public servant goes out and brings back a large pile of books and papers. He and *Mr Mills* spend half an hour looking at various regulations. *Mr Mills* is starting to look frustrated.

Mr Mills – You have shown me about two hundred regulations on what I can't do. Haven't you got any regulations that tell me what I can do?

Public Servant – I'm afraid that is entirely up to you. It is not our job to tell you how to go about your business. We are only here to administer the rules.

Mr Mills – But you're a public servant.

Public Servant – Yes, that's right.

Mr Mills – But a servant is someone who serves others. You are a public servant so you're supposed to serve the public.

Public Servant –I'm sorry, but our department doesn't quite see it like that. I am responsible to my superiors, not to you.

Mr Mills – But you said we needed a shop.

Public Servant – Yes, and so you do.

Mr Mills – But you can't tell us how to go about getting one.

Public Servant – I can give you the forms you have to fill in and a copy of all the regulations. Then it's over to you.

Mr Mills – But I can't understand all that jargon.

Public Servant – Then you'll have to pay someone who can, Mr Mills.

Mr Mills – You're a public servant and I'm already paying you.

Public Servant – My department doesn't see it like that. Our time is valuable you know and the government pays us, not you.

Mr Mills – And where does the government get the money from?

Public Servant – Taxes, I suppose.

Mr Mills – Taxes I pay.

Public Servant – That would be true, but of course everything has to go through the proper channels, so really I am the servant of the government, and the government pays me.

Mr Mills – But the government is me. This is a democracy. We can't all sit in the Beehive and pass laws, there wouldn't be room, so we send people to speak for us. That

still makes you my servant, so how about telling me how to go about getting the shop you admit we need?

Public Servant – I can't do anything except through the proper channels. I suggest you take it up with your Member of Parliament.

Mr Mills – He's no better than you. He doesn't work for me. He works for his party first and his electorate last.

Public Servant – Why did you vote for him then?

Mr Mills – There was no-one any better standing.

Public Servant – Well, you seem to have a lot to say for yourself. Why don't you stand yourself? They you'd really be my boss, and then maybe you'd tell me to tell you how you can get your shop open again.

Mr Mills – I think I've had enough for one day. I'll have to go home and sleep it off.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- Can anyone give examples of family members or neighbours being frustrated in this way?
- Who exactly would be a "Public servant?"
- Do you know what "passing the buck" means?
- Why do people "pass the buck?"
- Mr Mills felt that he should expect the public servant to be providing a service for him. Why?
- To whom did the public servant see himself as being responsible? Why?
- Who did Mr Mills think his Member of Parliament was working for?
- In a democracy, who should a Member of Parliament be working for?

THE NEW PHONE

Characters – Richard, Tom, Rebecca, David, Paul, Lisa, Gayle, Jason, Jenny, Reader.

Reader – Year 10 at ----- College are sitting around having lunch under the trees.

Jason – Did you hear that a new mobile phone is coming on the market? I can't wait to get one.

Lisa – I did hear, but I don't know that it does much more than the one you've got now. Yours is much newer than mine though.

Tom – And mine.

Gayle – And mine.

Rebecca – My model has been around for a few years. It belonged to my sister till she got a new one for her last birthday.

Richard – You've got a perfectly good phone now, Jason. Why do you need another?

Paul – Even if it does do a few more things, they're not exactly things you need to do.

Jason – Probably not, but I like to keep up with the latest technology.

Gayle – It will be very expensive. How can you afford to get one?

David – I certainly wouldn't be able to afford a phone like that. I'm saving up to get a car as soon as I can get my license.

Tom – And I'm starting to save towards our Christmas holidays in Aussie. Dad says he'll pay my fare and accommodation, but I'll have to save my own spending money. The phone I've got will do all I really need.

Jason – I've got my own credit card, and nobody really checks what I spend money on. I work at the supermarket after school, so I'll pay it off in time.

Richard – By the time you've paid it off, there'll be a new model out, and you'll have paid twice as much money in interest as well.

Lisa – And you won't be able to go with us on the school trip this year.

Jason – Oh yes I will. I'll be able to get around Mum for that. I know just how to get extra money out of her.

Paul – It's not the money I'm worried about Jason, but what happens to your old phone. Do you know that disposal of mobile phones is one of our worst environmental problems?

Jason – Oh No!! Not on your environmental crusade again are you Paul?

Jenny – You Greenies can be an absolute pain at times. Always on about things that *might* happen in the future. I like to live for today. You know the saying – live each day as though it was going to be your last.

Tom – Paul has got a point though. We may be all right at the moment, but what about future generations if we use up all the world’s resources and pollute the environment to the point where it can’t recover?

Jason – Not you too Tom!! Paul was bad enough. I agree with Jenny. Live for today and let the future take care of itself.

Gayle – Well, I intend to have children some day – and grandchildren – and I want them to have a decent world to live in. My Grandma says that when she was young the Waikato river was clear blue and the sand was white. Now look at it.

Rebecca – I intend to have grandchildren too, and clean water is going to be one of the problems in the future. I read an article the other day that said there was enough cadmium in a single battery from an old phone to contaminate a whole swimming pool of water.

David – I read that article too. It said a hundred million phones are discarded in Europe every year.

Lisa – And think how much water that would contaminate.

David – I thought that the worst thing was that many of the old phones were exported to third world countries for them to dismantle and dispose of.

Rebecca – How would you like it Jenny if we were being given stuff like that to dispose of in our country.

Jenny – I guess they get to use the phones for a while first.

Paul – Some of them possibly, but when they’re being recycled, the lead in the solder used for wiring can damage immune systems and growing brains.

Tom – Maybe Jason’s brain has already been damaged. You hardly see him without a phone stuck to the side of his head.

Jason – Why worry? I like talking to my mates, but you lot won’t remain my mates for long if you’re too tough on me. I still want one of those new phones though.

David – You’re a good mate Jason, but if you want to self-destruct, physically or financially, as good mates, at least we have to make an effort to warn you.

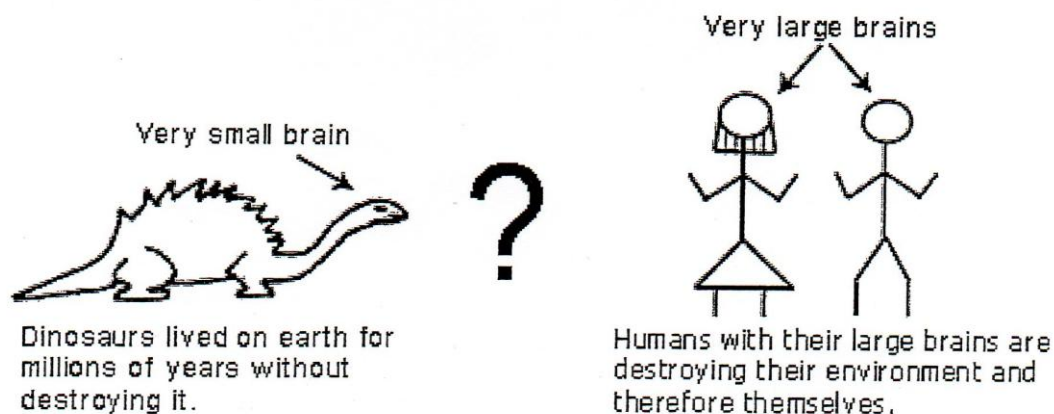
Richard – I’m not really a Greenie, but I can see their point. If the phones we’ve got do everything we really need, why get a new one if it’s going to cost money we can’t afford, contaminate the environment and use up the world’s resources? It doesn’t make sense.

- Rebecca** – If your brain is still working all right Jason, you should be able to see that.
- Jenny** – Jason's brain is O.K., but I know how he feels. I'd really like one of those new phones too. It makes you look cool to have the latest stuff like that.
- Paul** – I'm pretty sure Jason's brain is working O.K. - for now – and if we keep at him we *might* make a very pale Greenie of him in time.
- Jason** – You've almost convinced me. Perhaps I won't get a new phone after all, but don't expect me to go out and start hugging trees.
- Lisa** – What's hugging trees got to do with mobile phones?
- David** – Don't worry Lisa. That's another Greenie story. The bell's gone so it will have to wait for another day.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION - Using ethical principles

- Wisdom** – What are the consequences of updating our phones so often? Is it wise to go on producing so much toxic waste?
- Justice** - Is it fair that richer countries should use poorer countries to dispose of their toxic waste?
- Truth** – Has the information come from a reliable source? What will influence you most in your decision to update your mobile? (An honest answer please.) How much will you be influenced by your friends? What do you think you *should* do?
- Love** – Are we showing concern for other people or are we using them for our own ends?
- The Golden Rule** – How would we like it if we were on the receiving end of this waste?
- A better world** – What can we do as individuals to lessen the problem of toxic waste?



THE CRUNCH

Characters – Employees of James Brothers Ltd – Bill Smith, Mike Bassett, Jack Lee, Rod Duncan, Jim Taylor, Susan the tea lady, Owners of business – Harry and Ted James. Reader

Reader – It has been in the news that the economic situation in the country is looking bad and the men are talking about it while having morning tea.

Jim – I've just seen Harry James drive up in a huge new car. If he can afford that they can afford to give us a rise in pay.

Rod – I reckon we should go on strike. I feel like a few days off and a lie in the sun.

Bill Smith – I don't think we should strike. I heard that the firm is in a bad way financially. It could even go broke.

Mike – Who takes any notice of that? They're only hinting that to keep us quiet.

Jack – I want more money anyway. I'd like a better car too. I reckon we should strike!

Bill – But what if it's true and the firm really is in trouble?

Mike – Then we'll look after ourselves first and blow anyone else.

Bill – We won't be able to look after ourselves if we have no jobs, and we can do without extra money at the moment.

Mike – Speak for yourself. We may not need it, but I want it, and I'm going to get as much as I can squeeze out of them.

Bill – I think we should find out if it's true before we do anything.

Jim – How can we do that?

Bill – We can keep on working, but ask for a meeting to talk to them.

Jack – Harry James won't talk to us. He doesn't care about us – and just look at that new car! It's a Porsche! It must have cost a packet.

Bill – He will have to talk to us. It can't do any harm, and if the firm really is in trouble we don't want to make things worse. Let's vote on it.

Rod – Well, to tell the truth, I did hear that if we didn't get this order out in time, the firm could lose a lot of money and might have to close down.

Mike – That's a lot of rot. They're only saying that to fool us. Come on, let's walk out!

Everyone – Yes, come on!! Or - No. Wait a minute!!

Bill – Just a minute. Don't rush into this – and don't forget what your wives said last time you went home and told them you were going on strike.

Jim – Mmmmm yes! You've got a point there. My wife said if I wasn't going to work, I wasn't going to eat.

Rod – And mine said I could catch up on all the jobs that were waiting to be done around the house. I tell you – it was easier to be at work.

Susan – I'm only the tea lady here, but I wouldn't like to be in your shoes if your wives are anything like me. They still have to try to feed their families, so you'd better be sure you're doing the right thing.

Bill Smith - Just let's simmer down and look at the thing fairly. The bosses can't do without us and we can't do without them. I'm sure they can see that too. We need to talk to them and get at the truth.

Mike – I don't trust them!

Bill – They may not trust us either, but I vote we try. Who agrees with me?

Everyone except Mike – O.K. We agree to try.

Scene 2

Reader – Everyone is meeting in the lunch room that afternoon, including the two bosses, Ted and Harry James.

Bill – Some of the men want to strike for more pay. Is it true the financial position of the firm is very bad?

Harry – Yes it's true. We can't afford to pay you more.

Jack – But you've just bought a new car, and I need a new car too.

Ted – That's a fair enough statement Jack. You know you shouldn't have bought that car Harry.

Harry – Why not? It was going at a good price and I didn't want to miss it.

Ted – That is not the point. You know the business is not doing well and you can't afford it.

Harry – If you must know, I had to borrow money to get it. We can't afford higher wages either, or we'll go bankrupt, the business will have to close and you'll all lose your jobs.

Bill – So now we're getting at the truth. You bought a car you couldn't afford, and the business is in trouble. So what do we do now?

Ted – Bill's quite right. You shouldn't have bought that car and you've given the men a wrong idea about our position.

Jack – If it was good enough for him to have his new car, I demand more wages so I can have a new car.

Mike – I still reckon we should strike. Come on. Let's walk out!

All men – Oh shut up Mike!!

Bill – Jack, You don't need a new car any more than he needed a new car, and we all need to keep our jobs.

Ted – It seems we are all in this together. We can't do without each other, and you are right about Harry's car. I can see how you must feel. You will have to trade it in again and get a cheaper one Harry.

Bill – All we want is to be treated fairly, and to know you can see our point of view. Let's see if we can make an arrangement that is fair to us all. What do you think chaps? Are you all agreeable?

Everyone – Fair enough. O.K. etc.

Mike – I still reckon they're fooling us.

Everyone – Oh! Grow up Mike! Pipe down Mike! etc.

Harry – All right, I'll sell the car again. I must admit my wife wasn't too happy when she knew what I'd spent on it, but we still can't afford higher wages.

Ted – Right, now. If I were you men, I wouldn't like to think that someone was making a lot of money out of my work, but I also know that a business needs to make a profit to pay for new machinery, new research etc. and my family also needs enough to live on. We also need to find new markets. Apart from Harry's car, we live much the same as you do. We started this business from nothing you know.

Harry – We'd worked on wages ourselves until we took the risk of starting on our own, and we've been lucky until now, that there's been enough work to employ you all.

Ted – We do see your point of view because we have been in the same position ourselves, but you need to see ours as well. We have to be able to make a profit so we can keep the business going and keep all our jobs, but we give you our word that we only make a fair profit. If we survive now, we will give you all shares in the business as a bonus when we start doing well again.

Bill – That's something to look forward to, so no more talk of strikes. If we all pull together we'll end up with a stake in the business ourselves and we'll also be very interested in the profit it makes. When it comes to the crunch, we have no choice but to stick together. O.K.chaps?

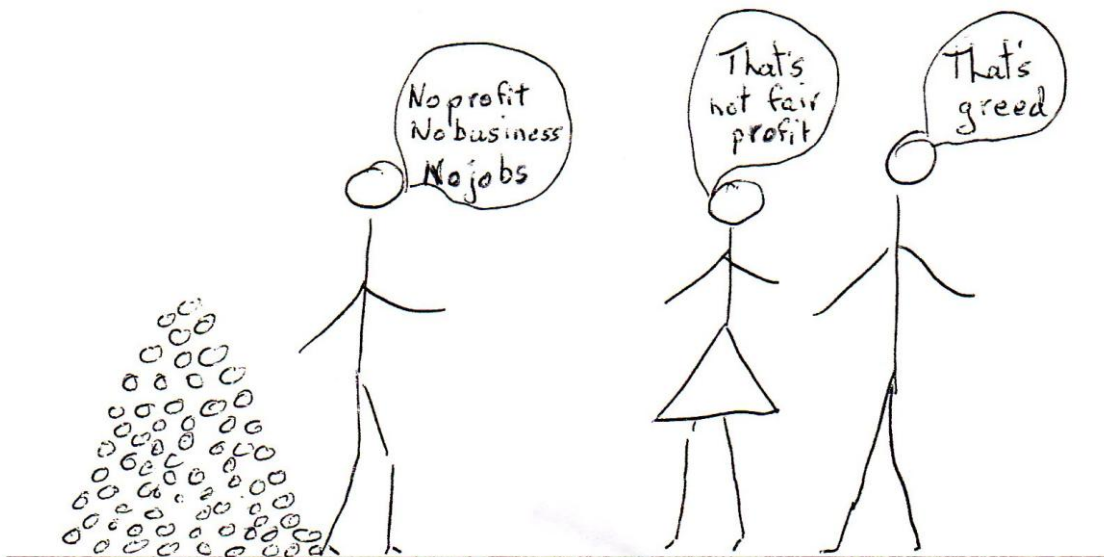
Mike – (muttering) I still don't trust them.

All men – Oh! Shut up Mike!!!

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- What would have happened to the employees if the firm did not make a profit and went bankrupt?
- Why does a business need to make a profit?
- Why were the men upset at the sight of the boss's new car?
- Do you think they were justified?
- Two of the men took very different attitudes. What were they?
- Who do you think was right?
- How did the tea lady look at their arguments?
- What did the boss offer the men if the firm was able to survive?
- Do you think that was a fair offer?



A WAY FORWARD

Characters – Harry and Ted James, Bill, Tom, Jack, Mike, Molly, Reader

- Reader -** It is six months after the last meeting, and Harry and Ted James have called everyone to another meeting.
- Harry -** I'm sorry to have to tell you this, but in spite of all our efforts the business is going down the drain. We just haven't got enough orders to keep us all working.
- Tom -** I told you all we shouldn't work so hard – now we've done ourselves out of a job!
- Mike -** If we're going to be fired I vote we go on strike now for good redundancy pay.
- Ted -** We can't pay for what we haven't got. If the firm goes bankrupt we'll all go down the drain together.
- Bill -** Isn't there any way we can keep going?
- Harry -** There is one way the firm could keep going. There might even be two if you men were agreeable.
- Everyone -** Come on – tell us then!!!
- Harry -** Well, the first way would be to put several men off and then there would be enough work to keep the rest going.
- Mike -** Last on – first off! That's the principle we use. I've been here for fifteen years so I'm safe.
- Bill -** Jack has only been here for twelve months, but he has three little children. You've only got yourself to look after Mike.
- Jack -** Yes, and I've just bought a house. I couldn't keep up the payments if I lost my job.
- Tom -** I wouldn't mind going on the dole. Then I could just lie in the sun all day and get paid for it.
- Bill -** You'd soon get sick of that, besides, where do you think your dole is coming from?
- Jack -** Yes, out of the taxes the rest of us pay.
- Molly -** Yes, and remember your wife! She won't be too pleased if you lose your job. She'll see you don't lie around the house either.
- Harry -** I did say there was another way.
- Mike -** Well, what is it then? I suppose it's something for you and nothing for us. You bosses are all alike!

Everyone - Oh, shut up Mike!!

Ted - Harry and I have talked this over. As you know, I've sold that car I bought. We've really tried hard to get new markets, but everyone is in the same boat. There just isn't enough money for us all to get what we have been getting.

Harry - And there isn't enough work here to keep us all busy five days a week. If we all worked four days a week there would be enough to keep us all going.

Tom - Great idea! Another day to put my feet up.

Mike - O.K. O.K. Where's the catch? That's too good to be true.

Harry - The catch as far as we're all concerned is that there would be less money coming in so we would all get less money.

Mike- That's no good. I'm not going to take less money. Someone will have to be fired.

Bill- Just so long as it's not you. Is that the idea?

Mike - I've been here longest and I get the highest pay. Last on, first off, that's the principle.

Harry - It may be yours, but it's not ours, Mike.

Ted - No. We've thought this all out. I've made mistakes in the past, but I can see who needs the work most.

Harry - If you men decide that some of you have to lose your jobs, it could be any of you, so before you vote, just think about that.

Molly - Yes Mike, it might be you. How would you feel then?

Mike - I've had enough of this! They're only bluffing. I vote we strike now and talk later.

Everyone - Cut it out Mike!

Bill - I'm sure they're not bluffing. I read the papers. Things are bad, and they will get less money too. If the business keeps going we keep our jobs.

Ted - He's right. We will all have to tighten our belts a bit, but I'm sure we'll be able to manage on what we get.

Molly - And then no-one would have to lose their job.

Tom - And I would have another day to rest up for the other four. Sound idea!

Harry - I'm sure we could all find plenty to do with an extra day at home.

Jack - I certainly could, I could have a bigger vegetable garden, and maybe find a few odd jobs to do to help keep us all.

Molly - Mrs Brent is always looking for someone to do a few jobs. She can't manage that big house and garden now, but no-one wants that sort of work because she can't afford to pay much.

Jack - Great! Every little helps. I'll go and see her this weekend.

Mike - I suppose I'll have to agree to it, but – last on first off is what it has always been.

Everyone - Oh, dry up Mike!!

Harry - I'd really like an extra day off myself. The doctor told me to take it easy, but the business has been such a worry and I didn't want to fire anyone.

Bill - You know, I reckon we'll all be far happier with a bit less money, and a bit more time to spend with the family.

Tom - Or sleeping in the sun.

Everyone - Trust you Tom!!!

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- There were two ways in which the firm was going to be able to survive. What were they?
- Which did Mike want and why?
- What sort of an attitude did Mike have?
- Would not knowing who would be the ones to lose their jobs, influence the decisions the men made? Why?
- Was the offer the bosses made a fair offer?
- Do you think people could be happier with a little less money and more time to spend at home with their families?
- Environmentally, it would be better for us to be a conserver society than a consumer society. Do you know what that means?
- Would you agree?

NEVER TOO LATE

Characters – Kathy, Mark, Jan, Brent, Adam, Pam, Billy. Reader.

- Reader** A group of students are having lunch together at Pukekohe College.
- Kathy -** What's the matter with Billy Smith lately? He's usually such fun, but he's hardly had a word to say for himself these last few weeks.
- Mark -** Didn't you hear? His Uncle Jack was killed a month ago. He was hit by a drunken driver.
- Brent -** He came right through a set of red lights and hit Uncle Jack's car, smashed the driver's side right in. they had to get that machine – you know – the jaws of life or something that the fire brigade have to get him out, but he was dead by then.
- Kathy -** How awful! No wonder Billy is so upset. He was always going off to talk to his uncle. He spent a lot of time with him.
- Mark -** He always said his uncle was the best one to talk things over with. With four kids at home it was hard to get any chance to talk privately.
- Jan -** Well, he's the youngest, and I think the older ones tease him a bit.
- Pam -** I know his father works long hours too, and his mother is always busy, so he liked to get off on his own with his uncle.
- Adam -** He must really miss him.
- Mark -** Yes and what's worse is that the one person he could have talked to, is not here any longer.
- Adam -** Why don't you have a go at talking to him Kathy? People always seem to be telling you their troubles.
- Kathy -** I don't know about that, but I'm really sorry for Billy. I know what it was like when my Grandma died last year. We were really close and I still miss her badly at times.
- Pam -** You walk home his way. He goes off home on his own every afternoon. You could sort of lie in wait for him.
- Kathy -** I might just do that. I'll see if I can catch him this afternoon.
- Reader -** Kathy gets out of school as fast as she can and is waiting when Billy comes out on his own.
- Kathy -** Hi Billy. I wanted to ask you if you had a C.D. of the ----- I'm trying to find ---- and someone said you had one.
- Billy -** I've got one at home you can borrow.

Kathy - I'm going your way. Do you mind if I walk along with you and pick it up tonight?

Billy - You can if you like.

Reader – They walk along talking about music and C.Ds until Kathy feels she can say something about his Uncle Jack.

Kathy - You must really miss him.

Billy - There'll never be anyone else like him. I don't see why he had to be killed like that. That drunken fool who killed him should be shot.

Kathy - I can see why you would be awfully angry about it all, as well as missing your uncle.

Billy - And I suppose when he gets had up for drunken driving, he'll just get off with a fine as though being drunk is some excuse.

Kathy - Surely he'll get sent to goal.

Billy - Maybe, but it could never be long enough as far as I'm concerned, and it won't bring Uncle Jack back to life.

Kathy - I felt really bad when my Grandma died last year, but she was old and she'd told me she was getting tired of not being able to get around. I miss talking to her though. Isn't there anyone you can talk to about Uncle Jack and how angry and upset you are?

Billy - All the family are really upset. You know someone came to what they call "counsel" us. It seemed to help John and Mary, but I hated it.

Kathy - Why was that?

Billy - I didn't know her, and she didn't really know us. I just didn't feel I really wanted to talk to a stranger.

Kathy - But it helped John and Mary. What about Joanne?

Billy - I think she's a bit like me, but her Guide Captain is great. I think she's been over and had a cry with her. Her eyes were very red when she came back one night.

Kathy - What about the school counselor?

Billy - To tell you the truth, I just don't like the thought of counselors. I feel they're watching you and trying out the right questions on you, and seeing if you give the right answers. I'd rather talk to a friend who really cares about how I feel. Like you Kathy.

Kathy - All your friends care about you Billy, but you haven't given them a chance to talk to you.

Billy - To tell you the truth, I'm a bit afraid of talking about Uncle Jack in case I blub like Joanne.

Kathy - That wouldn't matter really, but I can see how you feel.

- Billy -** What's really bugging me most is that I never told Uncle Jack how much he helped me. I wish I'd had a chance to tell him, but it's too late now.
- Kathy -** Well, you've told me - and all our friends know too. I bet Uncle Jack knew, even if you didn't talk about it.
- Billy -** Do you really think he did?
- Kathy -** Of course he would have. He understood most things didn't he? He'd have known you wouldn't put things like that into words. You wouldn't have gone to talk to him so often if you hadn't wanted to. He would have known that.
- Billy -** You're right there. Oh, here we are at our place already. Come in and Mum will give us something to eat before we go through those C.Ds. I feel a bit better now – and Mum will be glad to see me looking for food again.

ENDS

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION –

- Billy's uncle had been killed by a drunken driver. Was it reasonable for him to be angry?
- Is being drunk an excuse for the damage done while we are not in control of our actions?
- How would the person who had killed his uncle have been feeling afterwards? Sorry for himself - or sorry for the rest of the people who had been affected?
- Why do young people allow themselves to get drunk?
- Is it really cool to lose control of ourselves to such an extent?
- Why do people take "party pills?"
- How much courage would it take to go against "what every one else is doing?"
- What would the results be if a person decided not to go along with the crowd?
- Is it likely that others would be feeling the same, but not have the courage to say so?
- If you are hurt or upset, do you go to talk to someone special, or do you bottle it up?
- Who could you go to talk to?
- Would you notice if one of your friends was upset?
- Would you try to do something about it, or would you just mind your own business?
- Why