

The Railway Station



Fred spoke, "Mine's also a sort of ghost story. It's about something that happened to my Uncle Joe five years ago, when he used to collect scrap and sell it at the Scrap Yard.

One day he had left the Travellers' Site where we live. He was driving past the railway station on the way to the Yard, when a boy ran out in the road in front of him.

My uncle had to really slam on his brakes. The boy was chasing a baby fox that had run straight into the field next to the station and onto the railway line. There was a train coming and my uncle ran hard to where the boy was. The boy was O.K., but the baby fox had got trapped on the rail. She was still alive but in pain. Her mother was on the other side of the rail but with her two other cubs and unable to get to her.





My uncle took his coat off, wrapped the cub in his jacket and took her to the P.D.S.A. They had to put a breathing mask on her face. Anyway, when the cub got better my uncle took her back to the field and let her free. Just then, the cub's mother ran to her and led her away.

The boy lived in the block of flats opposite the station. Because of what happened, they built that fence next to the station, so that the children could not get onto the line. Everyone in those flats was so pleased that they got together and took my uncle for a drink.

Sometimes when my uncle is driving past the station, he sees a fox running across the road. It's not a real fox, it's a ghost and it always means good luck."



“Right, everyone, it’s playtime.”
Mr Barker cut in. “Out you all go.
Fred, Ebru and Annabelle make
sure that Rose knows where the
Tuck Shop is.”

The four went out to play
happily. Rose thought that she
was going to enjoy her time in
Ward Town. She wondered if she
would meet any ghosts!



TEACHERS' NOTES

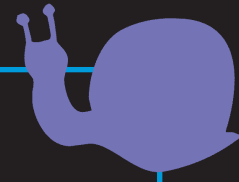
Suggestions for discussion and written work:

“The Haunted House” :

1. Why do you think that the grown-ups did not believe the little boy?
2. Why did they believe the boy in the end?
3. Has anyone ever disbelieved something you have said which was true?
4. Has a friend ever told you a story that you have disbelieved? If so has this raised problems for you? Write a story about this. (Yr. 4 Term 3)
5. Is there a message behind this story? (Yr. 3 Term 2)
6. Write the story in the form of a play script. (Yr. 3 Term 1 or Yr. 4 Term 1)
7. Pretend that you are the little boy and write the story from his point of view. (Yr. 3 term 3)
8. List the sequence of events in the story. (Yr. 3 Term 2)

“The School” :

1. Was Miss Stix a good teacher?
2. What did the children not like about her?
3. What did they do about this?
4. Could they have done anything else?
5. What do you think happened to Miss Stix?
6. Do you think that this story is true? Why or why not?
7. What message does this story give? (Yr. 3 Term 2)
8. Write a conversation between Miss Stix and Gran. (Yr. 3 Term 1)
9. Write a letter from Gran to a friend describing Miss Stix. (Yr. 3 Term 2)
10. Write the story from Gran’s point of view. (Yr. 3 Term 3)
11. Write a character sketch of Miss Stix. (Yr. 4 term 1)
12. Write a story in which the children find a different way of dealing with Miss Stix and the 7x’s table problem. (Yr. 4 term 3)



“The Railway Station” :

1. Why did the boy nearly get run over?
2. What should happen when there is an accident?
3. What does P.D.S.A. stand for?
4. How do you think Uncle Joe felt and why do you think he got out of the van?
Write a conversation between Uncle Joe and the boy. (Yr. 3 Term 1)
5. List the main events in the story, in the order they happened. (Yr. 3 Term 2)
6. Is there a message behind this story? (Yr. 3 term 2)
7. Write a story about a thing that brings people good luck, as in a traditional tale. (Yr. 3 term 2)
8. Write a character sketch of Uncle Joe. (Yr. 3 Term 2 or Yr. 4 term 1)
9. Write the story from the uncle’s point of view. (Yr. 3 Term 3)
10. What would have happened if Uncle Joe had not stopped?
Why might he not stop?
Write a story in which he does not stop. (Yr. 4 term 3)

“Ghosts of Ward Town” :

1. Why do you think that Mr Barker asks the children to talk about local places? Write a short description of 3 buildings in your area. (Yr. 3 Term 1)
2. Do you think that he chose particular children in the class to sit with Rose, and if so, why?
3. The book contains 3 stories within a story. Is there a message behind the main story in the book? (Yr. 3 Term 2)
4. How do you think Rose felt on her first day at school? Pretend that you are Rose and write a letter to Rose’s Granny describing her first day at school. (Yr. 3 Term 2). Write about Rose’s first day at school from her point of view. (Yr. 3 Term 3)
5. How do you and your teacher try to make new children feel welcome in your class? Write down ways in which your class, and teacher, could help a new pupil in their first week at your school. (Yr. 4 Term 1)
6. Write a story where a new child starts school and is not treated kindly. (Yr. 4 Term 3)