

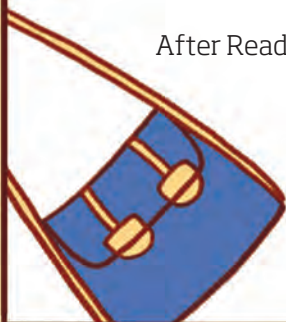


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Before Reading



- 1 Look at the people then listen. Who is speaking in each group? Write the name and draw arrows. What are the other people called?



a
.....
.....




b
.....
.....



c
.....



d
.....

- 2  Which people are the thieves (people who steal things)? Do they look like thieves? Why?/Why not?

- 3** Look at the picture of the London Underground and match the letters with the correct words.



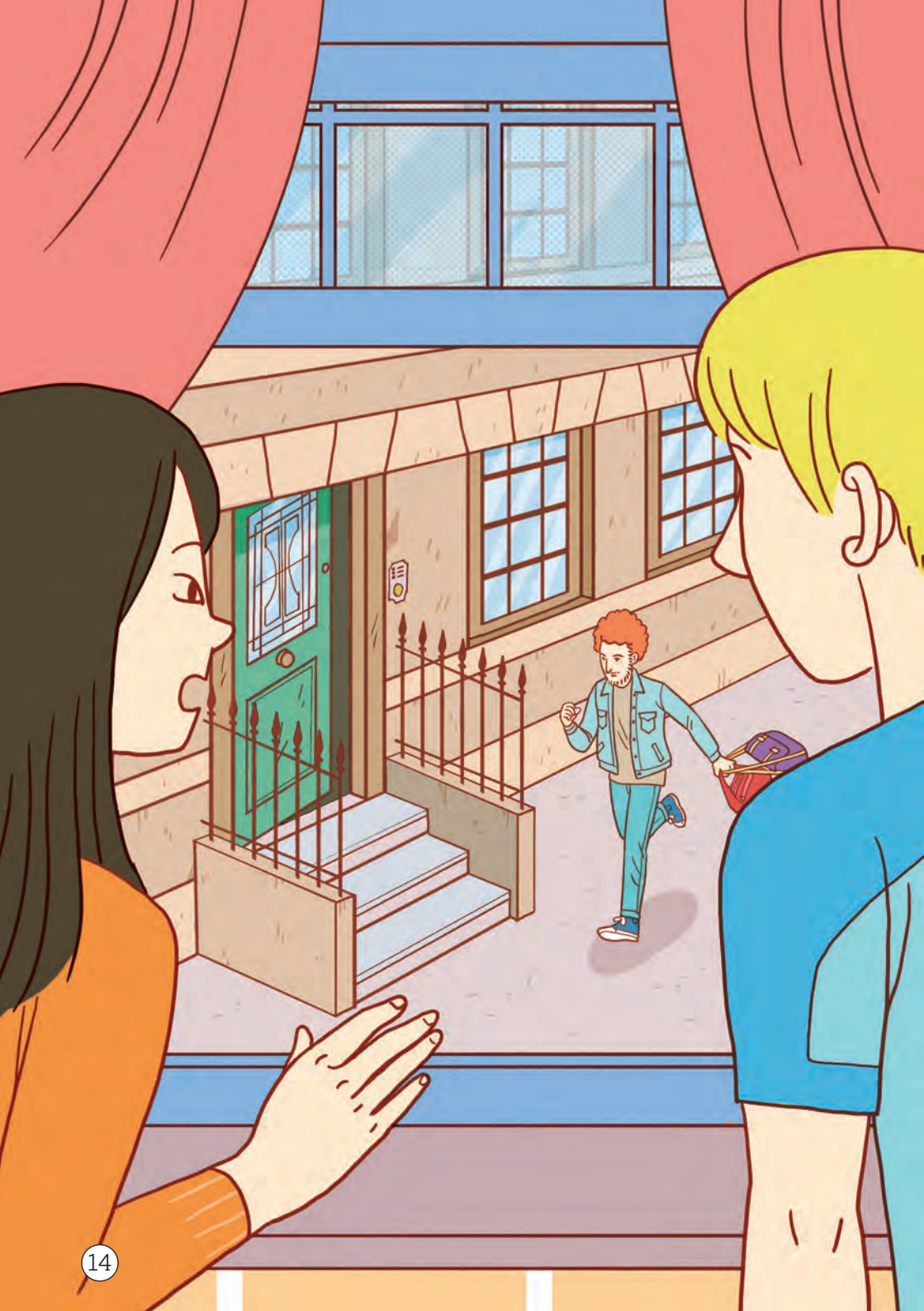
- ☐ passengers ☐ escalator ☐ train ☐ platform ☐ station

- 4** Use Exercise 3 to complete the sentences.

- a** The London Underground is also called the
- b** The picture shows a called Tower Hill.
- c** The goes up and down to the Underground.
- d** The stand on the to wait for the

- 5**  **Work in pairs. Discuss these questions.**

- a** What different ways can you travel in the capital city of your country?
- b** Are there underground trains? If so, are they good to travel on? Why?/Why not?
- c** Which way do you prefer to travel? Why?
- d** What problems are there travelling in the capital?





1 What's happening in the street?



'What's happening down there?' asked Dan. He was half-talking to himself.

'Where?' asked Sue. She got up from the sofa in front of the television and went over to the window.

They were in London, in Dan's parents' hotel room. Dan's parents, the Parks, and Sue's parents, the Barringtons, were spending a few days in London. They were shopping, visiting museums and art galleries[•], going to the theatre, having a short holiday with their teenage children. The parents were all good friends. Dan and Sue were good friends, too. They went to the same school and spent a lot of time together.

Dan and Sue looked down at the street below.

'A man just ran along the street and up the steps[•] into the house with the green door,' said Dan. 'That one over there.' He pointed across the street, a wide west London Street with tall houses on each side. Once the houses were homes to rich Londoners, but now most of them were small inexpensive[•] hotels.

'Look! Here comes someone else!' he said.

A man with red hair, in jeans and a blue jacket was running down the street, with bags in his hand.

'He's carrying two handbags,' said Sue. 'That's strange.'

'Yes, it is,' agreed Dan. 'The other man had a backpack.'

The man arrived at the top of the steps, the green door was open.

'There's the other one,' said Dan.

'The first man?' asked Sue.

'Yes,' replied Dan.

GLOSSARY

- **galleries:** rooms or buildings with works of art
- **steps:** see illustration on page 14
- **inexpensive:** not expensive; cheap

The first man was tall with long blond hair, wearing black trousers, a black T-shirt, and a black jacket. He was smiling and laughing. He took a handbag with one hand, and patted his friend on the back with the other. He looked like he was saying, 'Well done!'

Then they both went inside and closed the door.

Dan and Sue watched all this. Then they looked at each other. 'I don't understand that at all,' said Sue. 'What are those men doing?'

'I've no idea,' replied Dan.



They looked out of the window, and the green door opened again. The man with long hair came out with the backpack in his hand. There was a grey rubbish • bin • further down the street. The man opened the bin; then he opened the backpack. He started taking handbags out of the backpack and putting them in the bin. Finally he went back into the house, came out with a bag of rubbish, and put that in the bin as well.

‘That’s very strange,’ said Dan, again half-talking to himself. ‘I want to know what they’re doing. I really do.’

Sue said nothing. Dan didn’t really have to know. But, well, he was Dan.

Dan and Sue looked out of the window for a few minutes longer but nothing else happened.

Dan

Why do you think he wants to know what the men are doing?

Do you often want to find out what people are doing and why?



Tell a friend.

GLOSSARY

- **bin:** place to put things you don’t want
- **rubbish:** things you don’t want
- **patted:** hit lightly with an open hand

Sue went back to watching TV. Dan sat down and started playing with his tablet.

A few minutes later the door of the hotel room opened, and Dan and Sue's parents came in.

'Are you two ready?' asked May Barrington, Sue's mum. May was Chinese. She was from Hong Kong. Peter Barrington, Sue's dad, was English. So Sue was half-Chinese. Her real name was Su Fei, but everyone called her Sue.

'We have to leave in five minutes,' said Andrew Parks, Dan's dad. 'The play starts at 7.30 and we want to be at the theatre in good time.'

There was a new play at the National Theatre. Both families wanted to see it.

'I'll just go to our room and get the tickets,' said Peter Barrington.

Sue turned off the TV, and put her shoes on. Dan put his tablet away.

'We saw the strangest thing,' he said.

'What was that?' asked Janet Parks, Dan's mum.

'Well, I was looking out of the window...' began Dan, and he told his parents what he and Sue saw out of the window.

'Hmm,' said Andrew. 'It sounds very strange. But I'm sure there must be a simple answer to it all.'

'Maybe there is,' said Dan, 'but I can't think of one.'

Janet took her coat from the back of the door and started to put it on.

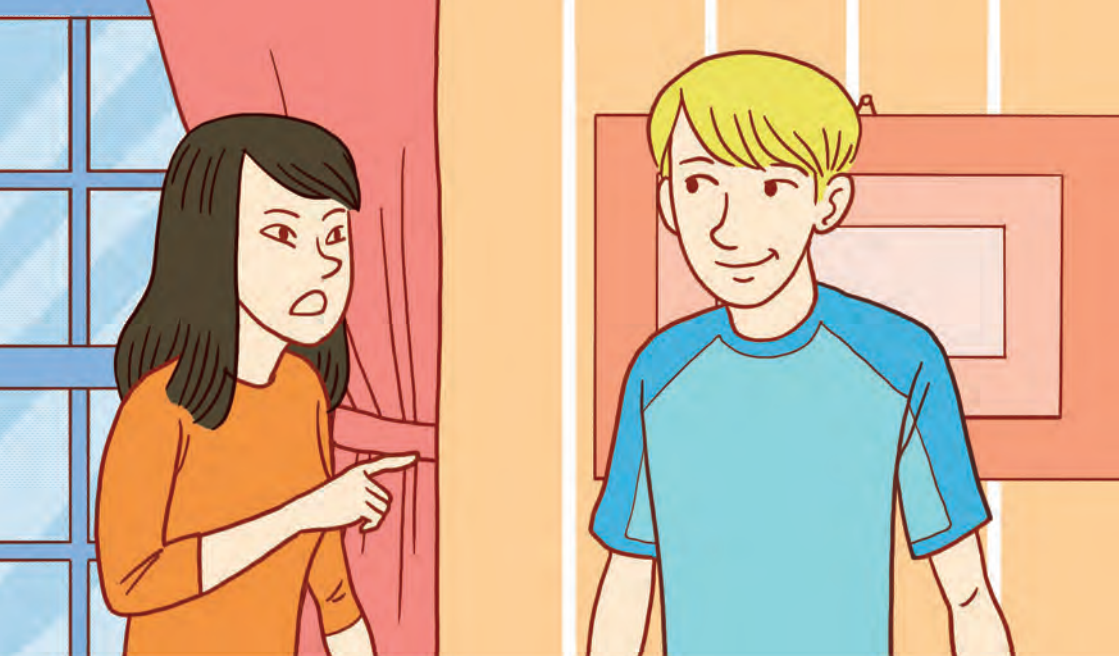
'Anyway,' she said, 'it's none of our business[•], is it?'

'Maybe not,' said Dan.

GLOSSARY

- **none of our business:** (here) nothing we need to know





‘Uh-oh,’ thought Sue. ‘I was worried about this. I know what Dan is thinking. He wants to know what’s happening and he’s going to find out.’

Dan liked to think that he was a detective. A few months ago Sue’s dog disappeared• and Dan found it for her. But he did get into trouble• when he found the dog. Some men caught Dan and, well, Sue didn’t want to think about what they planned to do with him.

‘No, Dan,’ she said, and looked him straight• in the eye. ‘It’s none of our business.’ She didn’t want him getting into trouble again. Dan smiled at her. But Sue didn’t smile back. She knew Dan.

Just then Peter Barrington came back with the tickets.

‘OK,’ he said. ‘Let’s go.’

They all left the room and set off• for the theatre.

GLOSSARY

- **disappeared:** got lost; was no longer there
- **set off:** started a journey
- **get into trouble:** have problems
- **straight:** directly; honestly

After Reading

Language

1 Use these words from the story to complete the sentences.

straight frightening inexpensive huge normally nervously

- a Tom knew he was in trouble. He waited outside the headteacher's office.
- b Susan's new dress looked as if it cost a lot of money but actually it was quite
- c I walk to school but it was raining today so I caught the bus.
- d It was really walking home through the forest in the dark.
- e You've got an eye test at four o'clock this afternoon so you must come home from school.
- f Did you see the size of that ice cream? It was !

2 Complete these sentences with the correct prepositions from the box.

in along to at behind off

- a The Parks and the Barringtons were spending a few days London.
- b Dan took Sue's hand and pulled her the train.
- c The men were walking the street.
- d Frank moved out of a doorway them.
- e Sue put her hands her face.
- f May Barrington swung her bag Frank's legs.