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Hi, I'm Jack
and this is my story.
What do I do during the summer?
Look through the book
and find out!



Before Reading

1 Look at the picture and answer the questions on pages 8 and 9.

Jack's room



Jack's back garden





 Some summers never end.
Every day is the same. It is hot before the sun rises. It is hot after
the sun falls.
And between morning and night, when the sun burns in the sky...
birds stop singing...
dogs stop barking...
cats stop creeping...
fish stop swimming...
and even time seems to stop.

You look at your watch. You study the clock. You check your mobile
phone. You wait and wait for a minute to pass. But it is hot.
Very hot. And it seems to be three o'clock forever.



Jack lies on his bed in his room. His window is open but his curtains are closed, to keep out the bright sunshine. His curtains don't move. There isn't a breath of air. The world is hot and still.

Jack lies on his bed in the dim[•] quiet of his bedroom. He is only wearing shorts and a T-shirt but his body feels heavy and sticky[•] and hot. His bed feels hot, too. And his pillow is like a heater.

He lifts a heavy hand and looks at his mobile. There are three new messages. There are people in the world with the energy to send text messages. But not here. Not in Westbourne on this hot summer day.

Who are the messages from?

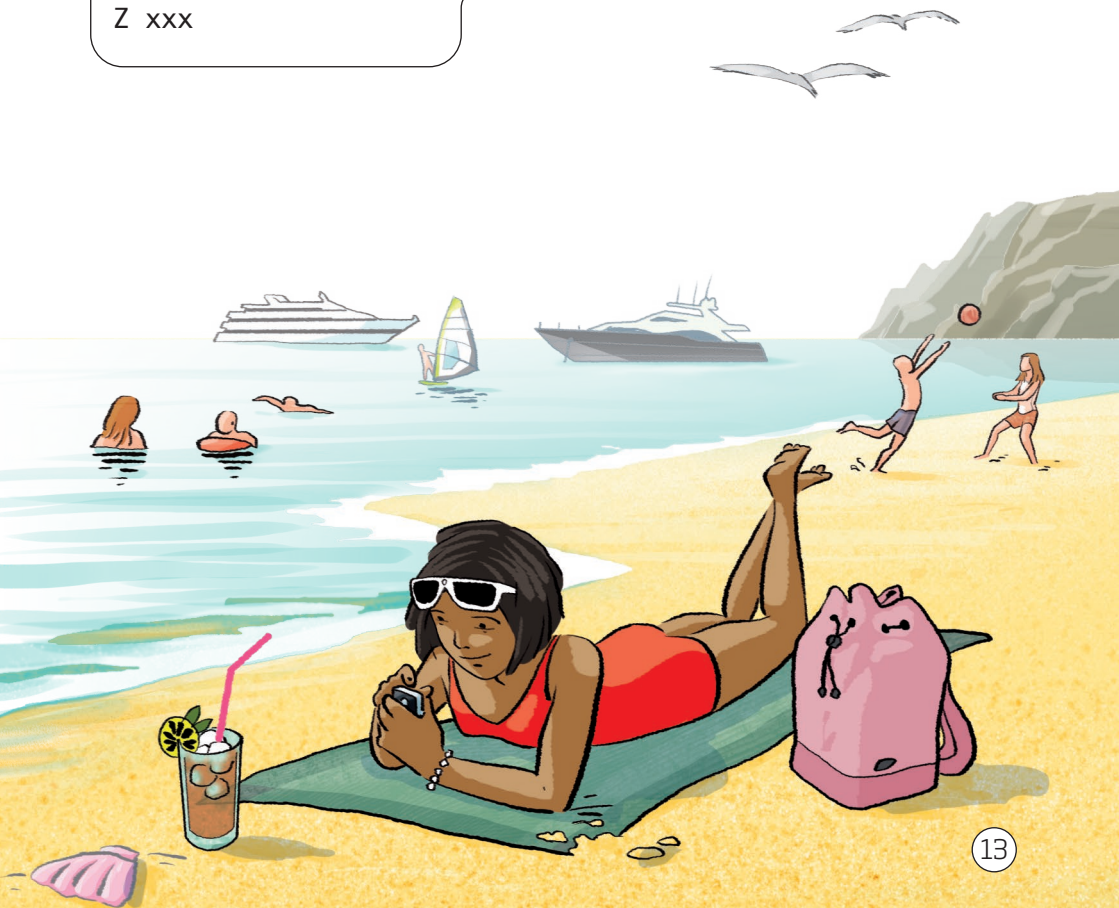
He clicks on the first one. It is from Zadie.



Hey Jack,

How are you? What are you doing? I'm lying on the beach drinking a long cold fruit juice with loads of ice. The sun's shining but it isn't too hot – there's a beautiful cool breeze coming from the sea. The water here is fantastic. I go swimming every day and sometimes I go surfing. It's amazing! And every morning I go for a really long run on the beach. It's brilliant here. I don't want to come home. I hope you're having a great summer too!

Z xxx



The second message is from David.



Hi Jack,

I'm staying with my aunt up here in Edinburgh. It's my first time in Scotland, and it's fantastic! The buildings are tall and there are lots of narrow streets and strange little squares. I'm staying on the top floor

of a building in the centre of the city. I can see for miles!

I'm reading lots of books by a great Edinburgh writer – Robert Louis Stevenson. I love *Treasure Island*. But *Doctor Jekyll and Mister Hyde* is my favourite. It is a very scary story! So, what am I doing every evening? I'm writing a frightening story with a horrible character called 'The Scarecrow'. He is tall and thin and his skin is grey. He only comes out at night. You can read it when I come home!

See you soon,

David



The third message is from Holly.



Hello Jack

This is the best holiday ever. Pity it's nearly over. We're staying in a big wooden chalet high up in the mountains. It's so beautiful here. The mountains are amazing – there's snow on some of them! Every day I go for a long walk and take photos of all the wild flowers. Sometimes I make short video films on my mobile. Hope you're happy in Westbourne. I hear it's hot. It's cool here at night and I have to sleep under a lovely warm blanket!

Holly xxxxx

Jack shakes his head. His friends are so lucky!

He always meets his gang in the park in the afternoon. He gets up and looks for his cap and sunglasses. He can't see them. Maybe they are downstairs. So he picks up his bag and leaves his room.



