

The Mystery of the Stolen FA Cup Medal

Pre-reading Activities

Part One

You are going to read a story about a boy called David Rooney.

What do these sentences from the beginning of the story tell you about David? Use your own words to describe David.

1. *Eight thirty. Time for bed.*
2. *David always listened to football in the evenings.*
3. *David's mum worked in a pub in the evenings and at weekends during the day.*
4. *He had until half past nine to read. Then it was lights out. That was mum's rule. And he always stuck to mum's rule.*
5. *David had never met his next door neighbour.*
6. *But mum saidshe didn't want David talking to strangers.*

Now imagine David's evening by answering these questions. You might find some of the answers above, but the best answers will be in your imagination.

1. What was David listening to on the radio?
2. What did he read when he got into bed?
3. What noises could he hear from the street?
4. What noises could he hear from the old man who lived next door?
5. Why did a posh car come and pick up the old man every Saturday?

Now read *Part One*.

Part Two

1. In the story, David is playing with a football in his little back garden. We learn that:

He practiced keepy-uppies. His record was 347.

What do you think 'keepy-uppies' are? Was he good at it?

2. What do you think happened when he accidentally kicked his ball over the fence into the next garden?

Now read *Part Two*

Dos and Don'ts

Mum doesn't want David to talk to stranger.

Don't talk to strangers.

Mum wants David to go to bed at 9.30

Do go to bed at 9.30

What else is on David's list of 'dos and don'ts'?

Part Three

- The next Saturday, David is watching television. What do you think he is watching?
- The posh car came and picked up the old man next door. Where do you think he went?
- When David looked into the next door neighbours garden, who did he see climbing the fence?
- What did David do? Did he tell anyone?
- What happened when the police siren was heard?

Now read Part Three

Part Four

1. David's Mum buys the local newspaper. The headline is:

UNITED HERO'S CUP FINAL MEDAL STOLEN

What connection does this headline have with the story you have read so far? Who is the 'United Hero'?

2. Do you remember what David saw when he was looking out of the window of his mum's room? Now that he has seen the headline, what does he want to do about it? Does his mother let him do it? What does his mother do?

Now read Part Four

Part Five

1. A week later and the medal is still missing. David remembers something about what he saw when the man with the baseball cap ran off. What does he remember?
2. Who did David want to tell about what he'd remembered? What did Mum say about this? Why did David get 'grounded'?

Now read Part Five

Part Six

The title of Part Six is: **Don't *talk* to strangers.**

Why is the word 'talk' in italics? What does David decide to do?

Now read Part Six

Part Seven

In this final part of the story, David and his mum are eating bacon sandwiches for breakfast, and they have this conversation:

'Where are we going today, then?' he asked his mum.
'It's a surprise,' Mum said, looking out of the window. 'You'll know soon enough.'

What do you think the surprise was? Why was Mum looking out of the window?
What happened next?

Now read the final part of the story

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After Reading Activities

1. Put all the events that happened in the story into their correct chronological order.

A posh car comes to pick up the old man next door.

David accidentally kicks the ball over the fence into the neighbour's garden

David and his mum have bacon sandwiches for breakfast.

David finds a way of 'talking' to the neighbour without speaking.

David remembers the man hiding something in the wall.

David sees a stranger in the next door neighbour's garden.

David's mum phones Crimestoppers.

The sound of a police siren makes the man in the baseball cap run away

There is a report in the local newspaper about a football medal being stolen

How many different Saturdays does the story mention?

What day did the surprise take place?

2. David has met his neighbour, the old football hero, and has been to see United play. Imagine what happens a week later. It is Saturday the weekend following the day of the surprise, and Mum has gone to work. What happens in your version of the story?

3. Crimestoppers. An important part of the story of David is an organisation called Crimestoppers. Here is the webpage for Crimestoppers in the UK.

- Do you have to tell Crimestoppers your name and address?
- Is Crimestoppers run by the police?
- Do you have to pay to use Crimestoppers?
- Does Crimestoppers only work in London?
- Do some research and find out if there is an equivalent of Crimestoppers where you live.