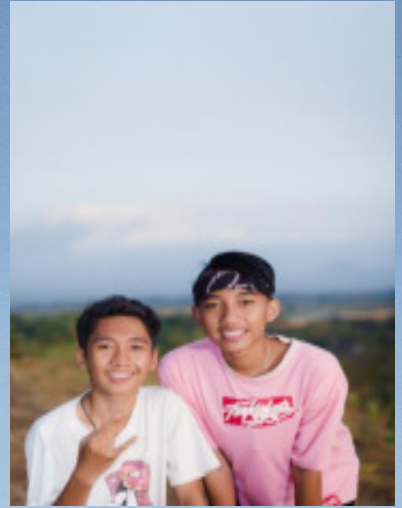




Look at the images, what do you think our story is about?

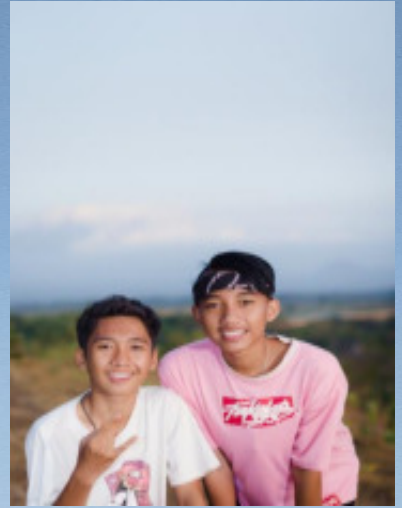
1. Who is the old man?
2. Who are the boys?
3. Whose house is that?





Listen and read the story
and check your predictions!

1. Who is the old man?
2. Who are the boys?
3. Whose house is that?



The story is about 2 small children aged 8 who are best friends and live only a few doors away from each other. Bill is slim, short and bold and Jack is tall, carries a few extra pounds and is often called a sissy or a crybaby. They're always up to something... playing football, basketball, long walks in the forest but some days they get into mischief and get into trouble.

On this particular day, Bill and Jack meet up in the village square.

You are now going to listen to a conversation between the two boys. It is 3 o'clock in the afternoon on a beautiful summer day...

J: Hi Bill! Looks like we are in for another hot afternoon. I don't feel like playing football under this scorching sun.

B: Mmmm... you're right.. what I'm thinking about is... What about going and having a look into Mr Lock's house?

J: You mean the Mr. Lock who passed away in February? They say his house is haunted Bill hahaha!! I think I'll skip this one with you... not into ghosts... hahahaha!

B: Stop being a coward! Of course, ghosts don't exist! Come on. Let's go!

J: I give you my word, Bill, that if Mr Lock's ghost appears, I will run a mile and I'll leave you behind... and what if our parents find out? We will be scolded and punished! Remember last time?

B: Stop being such a baby! If we get caught, we'll deal with it.

Both boys were standing in front of this magnificent, abandoned house. It was a two storey house with a front garden, now full of weeds and abandoned fruit trees bursting with ripe oranges and apples.

J: Hey! Let's cut some apples. Help me climb up the tree, Bill.

B: Hang on.. ok, get on my shoulders and cut a few apples for me too.

J: Mmmm...These apples are delicious.. Help me get down Bill, come here!

B: Stay calm.. I'm coming.. I can't take this heat, too hot under the sun. Let's go into the house!

J: Still not keen on going into the house. Doesn't look like we can go in anyway, look the doors are locked.

B: Well Jack, sorry to disappoint you, but the back window is open. I've been here many times, never told you as I knew you would tell on me. Get down from there and let's go...

Eventually, the boys find themselves in the kitchen, start looking around and curiously open cupboards and wardrobes. They laugh at some of Mr Lock's suits, all one colour - black! They talk about the time he stopped them and gave them a pound each. They become quiet and sad reminiscing fond memories of Mr Lock.

B: In a way, I miss Mr Lock. I wonder if he can see us. Look! What's that in the corner?!

J: Stop it! I've got this eerie feeling that he is watching us!

B: Hey... let me show you something! Let's have a peep in the attic.

Once in the attic the boys start looking around hoping to find something interesting.

B: What do you think of this old treasure box? It's full of old comic books. Ancient as he was... but sooo cool.

J: What's this now?

B: Jack.. Come heeeere!

Too late! Suddenly the floor of the attic collapses Bill goes down with the wooden floor and lands on the lower floor. Jack looks down and shouts.

J: Are you ok? Bill, can you answer, please!

B: Aaaaaarrrrrrrrr!!! Help, help I'm stuck!!!

J: Ohhhh noooooo!!! I'm coming, I'm coming!!! Wait!

Jack runs down the stairs and finds Bill lying on the floor, there's blood on his knee. Jack is scared to death and doesn't know what to do. He rushes to his friend and sits next to him on the floor.

B: I can't move, Jack... I think I broke my leg!

J: Hey, don't worry I'm here. You'll be fine. Wait a second. Let me think! ... I know what to do! I need a stick, some cloth and some water. Don't move, I'll be back.

20 Years later...

J: Bill, do you remember our adventure at Mr Lock's house?

B: Of course I do! How could I forget? You've changed a lot, you know?! I still can't believe how you found the courage and strength to carry me on your back all the way to the hospital. You had never believed in yourself before that incident, you said you listened to your inner voice...hmm...now look at you! You've made a name for yourself!

J: Well... it was always you taking the decisions, my friend, at that time you just needed my help and all I thought about was helping you get to the hospital.

I think I realised that we are capable of doing anything we believe in, we just need to listen to our inner voice.

B: Do you still think that it was Mr Lock who had something to do with it?

Comprehension questions:

Play the listening again and answer the questions below.

ANSWER SHEET

1. What time of the day did the boys meet?

2. What types of fruit were growing in Mr Lock's garden?

3. Who suggested to go to Mr Lock's house?

4. What were they laughing at inside Mr Lock's house?

5. What was hidden in the treasure box?

6. Who fell in the hole?

7. What did Jack do after the incident?

8. How did Jack find the courage?

9. Have you ever experienced something similar?

Which title would you choose for this story?

- 1. Your inner voice**
- 2. Two boys on an adventure**
- 3. Mr Lock and his haunted house**

Can you think of a better name for the story?

Share your ideas in the comment box below this lesson.

Things to remember



Some verb tenses used in the text:

Present simple – *The doors are closed.*

Present continuous – *What I'm thinking about...*

Past simple – *You listened to your inner voice.*

Present perfect – *You've made a name for yourself.*

Past perfect – *You had never believed in yourself before that incident*

Future 'will' - *I'll be back.*

1st Conditional – *If Mr Lock's ghost appears, I'll run a mile!*

T h a n k y o u

References:

- **Boys:**<https://www.pexels.com/search/two%208%20year%20old%20boys%20friends/>
- **House:** <https://www.pexels.com/photo/brown-wooden-house-near-trees-2364698/>
- **Old man:**<https://www.pexels.com/search/old%20man%20in%20a%20suit/>
- **Sky :** <https://unsplash.com/photos/-qGKIX1VxTk>