



An Unexpected Meeting

Scene: A wood in Narnia on the other side of the wardrobe.

Lucy: Good evening.

Faun: (*bowing*) Good evening, good evening. Excuse me – I don't want to be inquisitive – but should I be right in thinking that you are a Daughter of Eve?

Lucy: (*not quite understanding*) My name's Lucy.

Faun: But you are – forgive me – you are what they call a girl?

Lucy: Of course I'm a girl.

Faun: You are in fact Human?

Lucy: (*puzzled*) Of course I'm human.

Faun: To be sure, to be sure. How stupid of me! But I've never seen a Son of Adam or a Daughter of Eve before. I am delighted. That is to say – (*hesitates*). Delighted, delighted. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Tumnus.

Lucy: I am very pleased to meet you, Mr Tumnus.

Faun: And may I ask, O Daughter of Eve, how you have come into Narnia?

Lucy: Narnia? What's that?

Faun: (*waving his arm around*) This is the land of Narnia, where we are now; all that lies between the lamp-post and the great castle of Cair Paravel on the eastern sea. And you – you have come from the wild woods of the west?

Lucy: I – I got in through the wardrobe in the spare room.

Faun: (*sadly*) Ah! If only I had worked harder at geography when I was a little faun, I should no doubt know all about those strange countries. It is too late now.

Lucy: (*almost laughing*) But they aren't countries at all! (*turning round*) It's only just back there – at least – I'm not sure. It is summer there.

Faun: Meanwhile, it is winter in Narnia, and has been for ever so long, and we shall both catch cold if we stand here talking in the snow. Daughter of Eve from the far land of Spare Oom, where eternal summer reigns around the bright city of War Drobe, how would it be if you came and had tea with me?

Lucy: (*Lucy shakes her head*) Thank you very much, Mr Tumnus, but I was wondering whether I ought to be getting back.



Adapted from *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, C S Lewis

Understanding the text

- 1 Where is the scene set?
- 2 Who are the characters in the play?
- 3 Where does the land of Narnia stretch from and to?
- 4 What is the weather like in Narnia?
- 5 What does Mr Tumnus invite Lucy to do?

Looking at language

- 6 Explain the meaning of these words as they are used in the playscript. Use a dictionary to help you.

a inquisitive **b** delighted **c** eternal **d** reigns

- 7 Explain these phrases in your own words.

a right in thinking **b** to be sure **c** ever so long

Exploring the playscript

- 8 How can you tell which character is speaking?
- 9 Give an example of a stage direction that:
 - a** tells the actor what to do.
 - b** tells the actor how to say the words.
- 10 How do you know that Mr Tumnus is very polite?
- 11 Think of at least two reasons why Lucy thought she ought to be getting back.
- 12 How do you know that Mr Tumnus did not understand what 'wardrobe' and 'spare room' meant?
- 13 What stage directions would you write to show the actors how to say these lines?
 - a** Of course I'm a girl.
 - b** I am very pleased to meet you, Mr Tumnus.
 - c** Narnia? What's that?
- 14 What stage direction would you write to show the actor what to do while saying: '...how would it be if you came and had tea with me?'

Taking it further

▶ **RB, Unit 9, Extension**

- 15 Lucy goes back with Mr Tumnus and has tea. What do you think they talk about? What might Lucy want to know about him and Narnia? What might Mr Tumnus want to know about Lucy?

The Threat

Davy is being bullied by Webbo and his mates. Mr Clarke, the teacher, senses that something is wrong.

Scene: A classroom. The lesson has just ended and the class are leaving.

Mr Clarke: Davy? Pop over here a sec.

Mr Clarke looks at Davy. Davy remains silent.

Any problems, Davy?

Davy: What do you mean Mr Clarke?

Mr Clarke: Is somebody giving you a hard time?

Davy shrugs.

You don't seem very happy. You're not taking much care with your work, either. I've noticed a change over the last couple of weeks. Would you like to tell me about it?

Davy sees Webbo peering through the classroom window. He lowers his eyes.

Mr Clarke: Davy?

Davy: Yes, Mr Clarke?

Mr Clarke: I asked if you'd like to tell me about it? I want to help.

Davy remains silent.

I can't do anything unless you tell me what's wrong, you know.

Webbo and his mates are jabbing their fingers at Davy behind Mr Clarke's back.

Davy: *(mumbling)* There's nothing wrong.

Mr Clarke: *(not convinced)* Sure?

Davy nods.

OK, off you go.

Outside the classroom. Webbo and his mates are waiting.

Webbo: What did Clarkey want?

Davy: He asked me if anything was wrong.

Webbo: What did you say?

Davy: I said no.

Vincent: You took a long time to say no.

Davy: He kept asking me. I didn't say anything, honest.

Webbo: *(menacingly)* Well, keep your mouth shut or you'll really get it.



Adapted from *Chicken*, Alan Gibbons

Understanding the text

- 1 Who is Mr Clarke?
- 2 Why does he want to talk to Davy?
- 3 Who is peering through the classroom window?
- 4 What does Davy say is wrong?
- 5 What did Webbo want to know?

Looking at language

- 6 Explain the meaning of these words as they are used in the playscript. Use a dictionary to help you.

a shrugs **b** mumbling **c** not convinced **d** menacingly

- 7 Explain what these phrases mean in your own words.

a a sec **b** a hard time **c** couple of weeks **d** really get it

Exploring the playscript

- 8 Where is the scene set?
- 9 Who are the characters?
- 10 Pick out a stage direction that tells you:
 - a how a character says something.
 - b what a character does.
- 11 What impression do you get of Mr Clarke?
- 12 Why do you think Davy doesn't tell Mr Clarke what is wrong?
- 13 Why do you think Webbo and his mates are 'jabbing their fingers' at Davy through the classroom window?
- 14 Write stage directions to show how the characters say these words:
 - a Any problems, Davy?
 - b What did Clarkey want?
 - c I didn't say anything, honest.

Taking it further

▶ **RB, Unit 9, Extension**

- 15 Imagine Davy goes back to Mr Clarke and tells him what is wrong. Mr Clarke tells Davy what he is going to do about it. Write, practise and perform the scene.

Staying Together

During the Second World War, many cities were bombed so children were sent away to the country for safety. Carrie and Nick and other children have been sent to Wales.

Scene: A village hall, somewhere in Wales during the Second World War.

The children have been told to stand by the wall and wait for someone to choose them.

Carrie: *(bewildered)* What's happening?

Albert: *(sounding disgusted)* A kind of cattle auction, it seems.
Albert sits on his suitcase and begins to read a book.

Woman: Nice little girl for Mrs Davies, now?
Carrie and Nick hold hands tightly. They do not want to be separated.

Carrie: *(to Nick)* Why don't you smile and look nice!
Nick blinks in surprise.

Oh, it's all right, I'm not cross. I won't leave you.
A few minutes pass and children are chosen and led away.

Woman: *(stopping in front of Carrie and Nick)* Surely you can take two, Mrs Evans?

Mrs Evans: Two girls, perhaps. Not a boy and a girl, I'm afraid. I've only one room, see, and my brother's particular.

Carrie: *(shyly)* Nick sleeps in my room at home because he has bad dreams sometimes. I always look after him and he's no trouble at all.

Mrs Evans: *(looking doubtful)* Well, I don't know what my brother will say. Perhaps I can chance it.
She smiles at Carrie.

There's pretty eyes you have, girl!
Like green glass!

Carrie: *(smiling back)* Oh, Nick's the pretty one really.



Adapted from *Carrie's War*,
Nina Bawden

Understanding the text

- 1 When is the scene set?
- 2 Where is it set?
- 3 Who are the characters?
- 4 Why do Carrie and Nick 'hold hands tightly'?
- 5 Why does Nick sleep in Carrie's room at home?

Looking at language

- 6 Explain the meaning of these words as they are used in the story. Use a dictionary to help you.

a bewildered **b** auction **c** separated **d** doubtful

Exploring the playscript

- 7 Pick out a stage direction that tells you:
 - a how a character says something.
 - b what a character does.
- 8 How do you know that Albert is not impressed with what is happening?
- 9 Why do you think that Carrie wants Nick to 'smile and look nice'?
- 10 How does Carrie try to persuade Mrs Evans to take her and her brother?
- 11 What impression do you get of:
 - a Mrs Evans?
 - b Mrs Evans's brother?
- 12 How do you know that Nick is usually the one people take notice of?
- 13 If you had been one of the children waiting to be chosen, explain how you think you would have been feeling.

Taking it further

▶ **RB, Unit 9, Extension**

- 14 Imagine you are Carrie. Write a letter to your mother describing what happened in the village hall and how you felt about it.