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## Mum's new baby

I threw my school bag onto the floor in my room, changed into jeans and a T-shirt and then ran back down the hall.

Mum called me. 'Jenna, I need you for a minute.'

I looked at my watch. 'Mum, I'm late!'

'It's important,' she said.

I went over to the door of the small bedroom. Mum was standing on a ladder. She is quite short, and at the moment she was almost as round as a ball. She was wearing Dad's red T-shirt and black trousers. She had a tin of paint in one hand and a paintbrush in the other. She was painting one of the bedroom walls. They were pink, but she was painting one wall yellow. She'd painted another one white.

'Mum, you shouldn't be on that ladder. Dad will be cross. He said he'd paint the baby's room at the weekend.'

Mum smiled at me and climbed down off the ladder. She put the paint tin and paintbrush carefully on paper on the floor. 'Should the walls be yellow or white?'

It was hard to be cross with Mum. She was very happy about the baby she was going to have. Her eyes were shining and she couldn't stop smiling.

'Why don't you have three white walls and one yellow one?' I said. 'That will be better than all yellow or all white.'

'Good idea, Jenna,' said Mum.

'But wait for Dad to paint the other walls,' I said. 'It's taken a long time for you to become pregnant. Be careful!'

Mum's face was sad for a moment. For sixteen years I had been Mum and Dad's only child. This one was very special – for them.



## Celia's baby

Celia sits in the baby's room with the cat at her feet. She doesn't eat very much. She doesn't go to work. She tells them she's sick and has to rest at home. Jeff calls sometimes but she doesn't answer the phone. She's waiting for her baby. It doesn't come.

After a week she drives to a toy shop. She wears the padding under her dress. She buys a beautiful baby doll.

The woman in the shop smiles and says, 'Your baby won't be able to play with the doll for a while yet!'

Celia smiles back at her.

Inside her house she takes the padding off and throws it away. She takes some blue baby clothes from a cupboard in the small bedroom and dresses the doll in them.

Celia looks after the doll very well. One day she takes it downstairs and puts it in the pram in her garage. The cat tries to jump into the pram. Celia pushes it away. She covers the doll with blankets and pushes the pram out of the garage and down the street. She takes the doll for a walk in the afternoon sunshine.

'My baby,' she says softly. 'My little baby boy.'

The next time I saw the woman I was walking the dogs towards the park along Northwood Road. She was on our side of the road, quite a long way away from us, and she was pushing a pram towards us.

*Oh, she's had the baby, I thought.*

Then she saw me with the dogs and began to push her pram faster and faster. She began to run towards us.



*What's she doing?* I thought. *If she doesn't slow the pram the baby will fall out.* I walked more slowly and then she suddenly turned into the driveway of Number 164 and rushed up the path to the garage. *She's really scared of the dogs,* I thought. *We weren't going to go near her baby.*

Back at home I tried to go to my room without talking to Mum. She was always waiting for me these days. She'd stopped working now, and she sat at home and sewed clothes for the baby.

'Jenna!' she called from the living room.

I stood in the doorway and looked at her. She was sitting in Dad's armchair. Her feet were up on another chair. She was sewing some blue material.

'I thought you were going out for dinner with your friends tonight,' I said to her.

'I decided not to go,' she replied. 'I look as big as a house. I hope the hospital doors are wide enough for me!'

'You *are* the biggest pregnant woman I've seen,' I said. 'Some women don't get very fat at all.' I was thinking about the woman in Northwood Road.

'Thanks, Jenna,' said Mum. She put down the material she was sewing. She held out her hand to me. 'Come here.'

*Oh, no,* I thought. *She wants to have a 'talk'.*

Mum talked and I listened. She said a lot of things about love. She told me she and Dad loved me. They wanted me to be happy about the baby.

'I *am* happy,' I said. It was a lie.

I have a friend, Tegan, who works in a dress shop after school. Tegan didn't like the woman who owned the shop and she wanted to find another job.

## Seaview Street

I called Dad and left another message. I told him about Celia's new address. Where was he? I rode to the railway station. There were trains going through Pinewood to Portsea. I bought a ticket and waited for the next train. It came soon. I put the bike onto the train and stood the whole way to Portsea. At Portsea Station I bought a map of the area and studied it carefully. Seaview Street was near the beach. I had to stop twice to check the map. It was a sunny day and there were lots of people in the streets. I thought, *She's clever. No one will notice a strange woman with a baby around here.*

I wasn't certain what to do when I got to Celia's. I stood across the street and watched Celia's house. It was white with a yellow door and yellow windowsills.

Celia's car was outside. She was home. Timmy! He was there, I was certain of it. I took my bike across the street and left it against the low fence. I pushed open the gate and walked up to the front door. My hands were shaking. I knocked on the door. I could hear a baby crying inside. Timmy! I could hear his pain. I knocked again and again.

The door opened. Celia stood there. She stared at me but didn't speak. I pushed my way inside.

Then she said, 'Hey! You can't come in here!'

I began to run. I was following the sound of Timmy's cries. I found him in the kitchen in his pram. It was next to a table. There was a knife on the table. There were pieces of orange on a plate. I picked Timmy up quickly and turned. Celia was in the doorway.

the cot then took a chair and leaned it against the door, with the top of the chair beneath the door handle. Celia turned the handle and pushed hard against the door, shouting, 'My baby! My baby!' over and over. She was strong and the chair wasn't going to hold the door shut for long. Now Timmy was screaming. The window looked out over the street. I ran and opened it and started to shout as loudly as I could, 'Help! Up here! Help!' A couple of people looked up.

Just then I saw a police car drive into the street. And another. They stopped in the middle of the road and lots of police officers got out. For a moment I was surprised – they had arrived very quickly. Then I thought, *Dad got my messages.*

I could hear the police knocking on the front door below. Celia was still trying to get into the nursery. I went and pushed back hard against the door. Couldn't she hear the police? There was a loud noise downstairs. The police were coming in the front door.

I could hear voices on the stairs and then Celia stopped pushing the door. I picked up Timmy and held him close to me. I said 'Sh! Sh! We'll soon be home with Mum.'

After a minute two police officers pushed the door open. Then Dad ran into the room and threw his arms around us. His face was wet against mine.

'Jenna, my brave girl!' he said.

'Where were you, Dad?' I asked. 'I left a lot of messages.'

Dad took Timmy from me and looked at him carefully. 'She's looked after him,' he said at last.

'Dad, please?'

Dad looked straight at me then. 'Your grandmother





# Activities

## Chapters 1 and 2

### Before you read

A. *Look at the picture on page 5 and circle the correct answers.*

1. What is the woman standing on?  
a. a ladder   b. a chair   c. a table
2. What is she holding in her left hand?  
a. a painting   b. a paintbrush   c. a painter

B. *Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.*

pregnant   patted   cot   mirror

1. The baby was asleep in his \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Lana looked at herself in the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Tom's dog is \_\_\_\_\_. Tom can't wait to see the puppies.
4. The old woman \_\_\_\_\_ her cat and gave it some milk.

C. *Listen to Track 3 on the CD and answer these questions.*

1. Where could the dogs run off their leads?  
a. on the street   b. at the park
2. What was their part of the city called?  
a. Pinewood   b. Pocket
3. Who was walking with the girl telling the story?  
a. her mother   b. her father

### After you read

#### COMPREHENSION

A. *Circle the correct answers.*

1. In Chapter 1, who was painting the baby's room?  
a. Jenna   b. Jenna's mother   c. Jenna's father
2. How did Jenna's mother feel about the baby?  
a. very happy   b. very sad   c. very scared
3. In Chapter 2, who finished painting the baby's room?  
a. Jenna   b. Jenna's mother   c. Jenna's father
4. Who did Jenna talk to about her family?  
a. her mother   b. her father   c. the dogs

B. Circle T for true or F for false for these sentences.

1. Celia was baby Ryan's mother. T / F
2. A man confessed to stealing baby Ryan. T / F
3. Jenna took nappies when she took Timmy to the park. T / F
4. At the supermarket there was a special place for prams. T / F

C. Complete these sentences.

1. The woman at the upstairs window at Number 164 was holding a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Before Jenna took Timmy to the park Jenna's mum dressed him in warm \_\_\_\_\_.
3. At the supermarket Jenna spoke to an old \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Sometimes sick people confess to things they didn't \_\_\_\_\_.

D. Write short answers to these questions.

1. Who found the baby who was left at St Peter's Church?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Which dog did Jenna take to the park with Timmy?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What was the name of the manager of the supermarket?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What was the name of the police inspector?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## LANGUAGE ACTIVITIES

A. Circle the correct verb in each sentence.

1. Tegan had **found** / **finded** a little dog to walk.
2. Someone has **stole** / **stolen** Timmy.
3. Pocket **sat** / **sitted** beside the pram.
4. Perhaps someone had **taken** / **taked** the wrong pram.

B. Use these letters to make words from Chapters 5, 6 and 7.

1. rtyos: s \_\_\_\_\_
2. droia: r \_\_\_\_\_
3. wsperpane: n \_\_\_\_\_
4. soteivinel: t \_\_\_\_\_

## WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think that baby Timmy will be found safe and well?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Gone!

### Activities: Answer Key

#### Chapters 1 and 2

##### Before you read

A. 1. a, 2. b B. 1. cot, 2. mirror,  
3. pregnant, 4. patted C. 1. b, 2. a, 3. a

##### After you read

##### Comprehension

A. 1. b, 2. a, 3. c, 4. c B. 1. T, 2. F,  
3. F, 4. T C. 1. mother, 2. lead,  
3. pocket, 4. baby ducks  
D. 1. Mrs Grafton, 2. black, 3. blue,  
4. Celia

##### Language activities

A. 1. c, 2. d, 3. a, 4. b B. 1. jeans,  
2. T-shirt, 3. trousers, 4. skirt

##### What do you think?

Students' own answers

#### Chapters 3 and 4

##### Before you read

A. 1. c, 2. a B. 1. wonder, 2. born,  
3. wrapped, 4. pram C. 1. b, 2. a, 3. a

##### After you read

##### Comprehension

A. 1. b, 2. a, 3. a, 4. c B. 1. T, 2. T,  
3. F, 4. T C. 1. school, 2. Snow,  
3. baby, 4. window D. 1. her mother,  
2. Tegan, 3. a shoe, 4. a bag

##### Language activities

A. 1. on, 2. into, 3. across, 4. under  
B. 1. rush, 2. walk, 3. jump, 4. run

##### What do you think?

Students' own answers

#### Chapters 5, 6 and 7

##### Before you read

A. 1. b, 2. a B. 1. else, 2. camera,  
3. confess, 4. check C. 1. a, 2. b, 3. a

##### After you read

##### Comprehension

A. 1. b, 2. c, 3. a, 4. c B. 1. F, 2. F,  
3. F, 4. T C. 1. baby, 2. clothes,  
3. lady, 4. do D. 1. Mr Bob Lee,  
2. Pocket, 3. Sam, 4. Inspector Shaw

##### Language activities

A. 1. found, 2. stolen, 3. sat, 4. taken  
B. 1. story, 2. radio, 3. newspaper,  
4. television

##### What do you think?

Students' own answers

#### Chapters 8 and 9

##### Before you read

A. 1. a, 2. c B. 1. windowsill, 2. to let,  
3. map, 4. message C. 1. a, 2. b, 3. b

##### After you read

##### Comprehension

A. 1. a, 2. c, 3. b, 4. a B. 1. T, 2. T,  
3. T, 4. F C. 1. Shaw, 2. message,  
3. handle, 4. street D. 1. the bathroom  
window, 2. Celia, 3. a police car,  
4. Inspector Shaw

##### Language activities

A. 1. b, 2. d, 3. a, 4. c B. 1. husband,  
2. wife, 3. grandmother, 4. baby

##### What do you think?

Students' own answers