

Cambridge English Readers

Starter Level

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Book Boy

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People in the story



David

is seventeen. He lives in Hampstead, London, with his cat.



Steve

sells drugs.



Ella

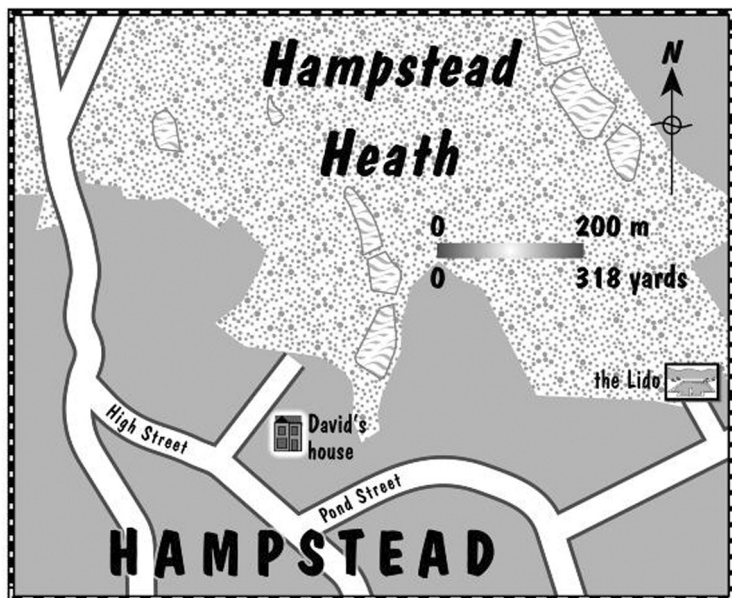
is sixteen and she lives on the street.



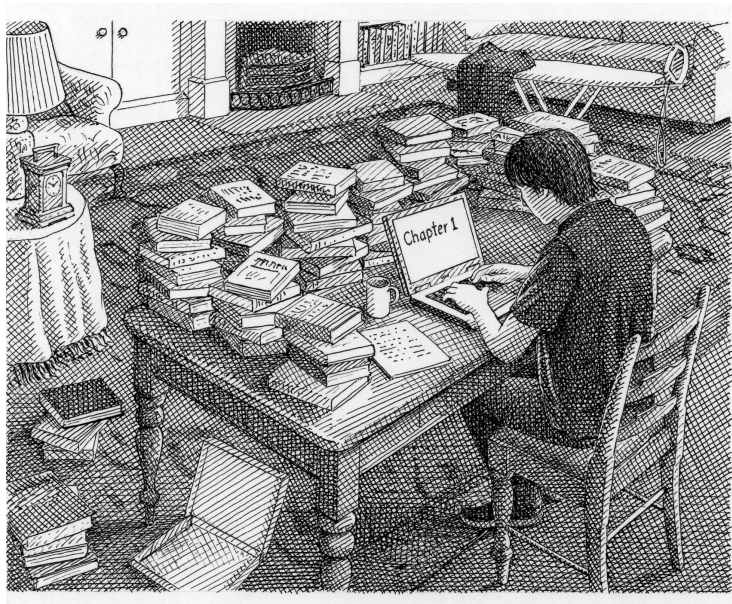
Socrates

is David's cat.

Places in the story



Chapter 1 *Books are my life*



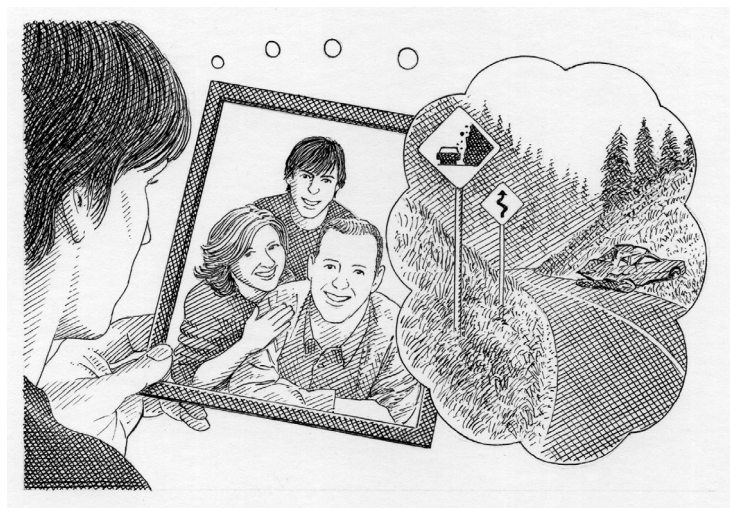
My name is David and this is my room. There are lots of books in the room. And a cat. His name is Socrates. Why? Because he thinks all day.

No. Again.

This is a book about books. My name is David and books are my life. There are so many worlds in books. In books, I can be anybody. Books are my friends.

Friends? No. That's not good. Books are my world? Again. This is my house.

Well, no, it isn't. It's my mother and father's house, but they're dead.



So, it's my house, but nobody knows that. Everybody here thinks that my parents are in Canada. My aunt knows that they're dead, but she's not here. She lives in Canada.

My aunt thinks I'm at a friend's house. She thinks there's no-one in this house. She gives me money. It's not a lot, but I can buy food for Socrates and pizza for me. My aunt is going to come here in September. Now it's June.

But all this isn't important. In a book you need a story.

David Sims is seventeen. His mother and father are dead. He lives in Hampstead with his cat, Socrates, and three thousand books.

Is it three thousand? I don't know. Four thousand? This is stupid. I'm going to start again.

My name is David and I'm writing a book about my life.

No. This is wrong. I don't have a life. My life is: I read books and I talk to my cat. And I eat pizza every day and ... and ... my life is books. No, that's really stupid. I want to write a book. But I need a story and I don't have a story. I'm going to start again. No, I'm going to get a pizza and then I'm going to find a story.

'Is that OK?' I ask Socrates.

Socrates says, 'I want fish.'

No, he doesn't. He's a cat; he can't talk. But he says, 'Miaow' and 'Miaow' is 'I want food.' 'Miaow' is also 'I want your bed.'

'OK,' I say to Socrates. 'I'm going to get some cat food. Then I'm going to get my pizza.'

I like pizza. I eat it every day.

I buy the cat food and then I go to a bookshop. They have lots of old books and sometimes I buy one. Then I go to a café in the High Street.

Today I see a girl outside the café. I think she's sleeping. I walk into the café. I'm hungry and I want a pizza.

