

People in the story

Jo Fisher: a fifteen-year-old schoolgirl

Martha Fisher: Jo's mum; she works and looks after her two daughters

Amy Fisher: Jo's younger sister; she goes to a different school from Jo

Merlin: Jo's dog; he's a German Shepherd dog and is very intelligent

Mikey: a friend of Jo's; he's a year older than Jo and goes to the same school as her

Sean: a nineteen-year-old boy that Jo meets

Gus: a man from Newcastle in the northeast of England

Sam: Amy's best friend; he lives in the house next door

BEFORE YOU READ



- 1 Look at the cover and the pictures in the first two chapters. Answer the questions.

1 Where do you think the story happens?

.....

- 2 Can you predict three things that happen in this part of the story?

.....

LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answers to *Before you read* on page 4.

ACTIVITIES

- 2 Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Jo wants to stay at home tomorrow night. ☒ F
- 2 Jo decides to go into school after the first class. ☐
- 3 Mikey isn't interested in bees. ☐
- 4 At first Mikey drives too fast. ☐
- 5 Jo's mobile phone is in Mikey's pocket. ☐
- 6 Jo waits high in a tree for the ambulance. ☐
- 7 There are some apple trees near the farm. ☐
- 8 Jo finds some food in her pocket. ☐
- 9 Jo sleeps in the car that night. ☐

- 3 Match the two parts of the sentences.

- 1 Jo thinks about going ☒ e
- 2 Jo waits for the dark ☐
- 3 The woman, children and dog drive away ☐
- 4 Jo hears rats ☐
- 5 Jo finds some breakfast ☐
- 6 The man sees Jo and she runs ☐
- a in the farm kitchen.
- b to the woods.
- c during the night.
- d to go to the farm.
- ~~e~~ to London.
- f without the man.

4 Underline the correct words in each sentence.

- 1 Jo likes / *doesn't like* Mikey.
- 2 Jo is *older* / *younger* than Mikey.
- 3 Mikey *dies* / *doesn't die* in the accident.
- 4 Jo calls *her mum* / *an ambulance* after the accident.
- 5 The paramedics *don't know* / *know* who called them.
- 6 Jo *sleeps* / *doesn't sleep* well that night.
- 7 The next morning Jo *doesn't want* / *wants* to go home.
- 8 The *woman* / *man* finds Jo in the farmhouse.

5 Answer the questions.

- 1 Why does Jo have to go back to the house in Chapter 1?
To get her English homework.
- 2 Whose car does Mikey drive?
.....
- 3 What does Jo find in her pockets?
.....
- 4 How does Jo get out of the farm building?
.....

LOOKING FORWARD

.....

6 What do you think? Answer the questions.

- 1 In Chapter 3, Jo finds someone she knows. Who is it?
.....
- 2 In Chapter 4, Jo goes on a long journey. Why?
.....

LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answers to *Looking forward* on page 19.

ACTIVITIES

- 2 Underline the correct words in each sentence.

- 1 Jo sleeps the second night away from home *at the farm / in the woods.*
- 2 She sees *a few / doesn't see any* people on her way back to her house.
- 3 When she gets home, she goes to the *fridge / bathroom* first.
- 4 The first time Jo opens the back door, she sees *her dog / a soldier.*
- 5 Jo gets on a truck to *go back to the farm / escape from the bees.*
- 6 Jo has to meet her mum in *Inverness / Oxford.*
- 7 The killer bees escaped from a place in *England / Scotland.*
- 8 The bees *have already killed some people / haven't killed anyone yet.*
- 9 The bees *can / can't* live in cold weather.

- 3 Tick (✓) the things that Jo takes on her journey.

- 1 a radio ☐
- 2 warm clothes ☒
- 3 a sleeping bag ☐
- 4 water ☐
- 5 a kitchen knife ☐
- 6 food for her ☐
- 7 food for Merlin ☐
- 8 a book ☐

- 4 Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?
- 1 Jo isn't hungry when she gets home. ☒
 - 2 There are no messages on Jo's phone. ☐
 - 3 The truck can move faster than the bees. ☐
 - 4 The truck is taking everyone to Scotland. ☐
- 5 In the truck, the soldier asks Jo to complete a form.
Complete it for her.

**HOME OFFICE FORM 6B:
CHILD (under 18) WITHOUT PARENTS**

Name: Surname: Age:

Parents:

Brothers and sisters:

Where are you travelling to?

.....

Who are you travelling with?

.....

- 6 Answer the questions.
- 1 Why does Jo decide to go back home?
.....
 - 2 Why is Merlin with Jo?
.....
 - 3 Why is everyone going to Scotland?
.....

LOOKING FORWARD



- 7 Tick (✓) what you think happens in the next two chapters.
- 1 They get to Oxford safely. ☐
 - 2 The bees kill some more people ☐

LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answer to *Looking forward* on page 33.

ACTIVITIES

- 2 Put the sentences in order.

- 1 A soldier finds bee suits for Jo, the boy and the woman. ☐
- 2 Jo tells Sean about her family. ☐
- 3 Jo and Merlin escape from the Metro station. ☐
- 4 Sean sees people with guns outside the truck. ☐
- 5 The army truck arrives at Oxford. ☒
- 6 They begin the journey to Newcastle. ☐
- 7 Jo goes to the supermarket with Gus. ☐
- 8 They are driving out of Newcastle when suddenly the truck stops. ☐
- 9 Everyone follows Gus into the Metro station. ☐

- 3 Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 There's no one in the streets when the truck gets to Oxford. ☒
- 2 The bees don't sting people at night. ☐
- 3 The bees can't sting people through the bee suits. ☐
- 4 The woman with the red jumper is Sean's mum. ☐
- 5 Jo was a baby when her dad died. ☐
- 6 The man in the black coat has got a gun. ☐
- 7 People can take anything from the supermarket. ☐
- 8 Jo takes her bee suit to Inverness. ☐
- 9 The next night, Jo and Merlin don't sleep in the Metro station. ☐

4 Match the questions with the answers.

- 1 How did Jo's dad die? ☒
- 2 Why is Scotland safer than England? ☐
- 3 Why does the woman in the red jumper want to stay in the Metro station? ☐
- 4 What does Gus do with the bee suits? ☐
- 5 Where does Jo find the bike? ☐
- 6 Where do Jo and Merlin spend the next night? ☐
 - a In a room under a hotel.
 - b The weather is colder there.
 - c He puts them in a cupboard.
 - ~~d~~ In a car accident.
 - e She feels safe.
 - f In the supermarket.

5 Answer the questions.

- 1 Where does Jo meet Sean?
.....
- 2 What problems have there been in the big cities?
.....
- 3 Why does Gus need the truck?
.....
- 4 Why is there a bad smell in the supermarket?
.....

LOOKING FORWARD

.....

6 Tick what you think happens in the next two chapters.

- 1 Gus and the others try to find Jo and Merlin. ☐
- 2 Jo arrives in Inverness. ☐

LOOKING BACK

- 1 Check your answer to *Looking forward* on page 49.

ACTIVITIES

- 2 Put the sentences in order.

- 1 Jo and Merlin find her mum and sister. ☐
- 2 Merlin finds Amy's friend, Sam. ☐
- 3 Jo and Merlin arrive in a village two hundred kilometres from Inverness. ☒
- 4 Jo finds a scooter in a garage. ☐
- 5 The bees try to get into the garage. ☐
- 6 Jo and Merlin travel all night to Inverness. ☐
- 7 A honey bee stings Jo. ☐
- 8 Jo and Merlin arrive at the camp. ☐

- 3 Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Jo is happy because she has found a scooter to go to Inverness. ☒
- 2 Jo can't find the key to the scooter. ☐
- 3 Jo is badly hurt by the bee sting. ☐
- 4 When Jo and Merlin get to Inverness, it starts to snow. ☐
- 5 Everybody in the camp knows Jo's mum. ☐
- 6 Jo can't find a message for her in the information tent. ☐
- 7 More people come to the camp every day. ☐
- 8 The snow is going to fall across all of Britain. ☐
- 9 The snow is only going to stay for a few days. ☐
- 10 Jo says sorry to her mum. ☐

4 Match the days of the story with the events.

- 1 Thursday (day 1) ☒
- 2 Friday (day 2) ☐
- 3 Saturday (day 3) ☐
- 4 Sunday (day 4) ☐
- 5 Monday (day 5) ☐
- 6 Tuesday (day 6) ☐
- 7 Wednesday–Sunday (days 7–11) ☐
- 8 Monday (day 12) ☐

- a Jo and Merlin travel to Inverness.
- ~~b~~ Jo and Mikey crash Jo's mum's car. Jo spends the night at the farm.
- c Jo finds her mum and sister.
- d Jo goes home.
- e Jo goes to Oxford in the army truck. That evening they leave for Newcastle.
- f Jo walks all day and spends the night in the woods.
- g In the evening, Jo escapes from the Metro.
- h Jo and the others have to stop their journey to Scotland.

5 Answer the questions.

- 1 Why is the snow a good thing?
.....
- 2 Where is the cold weather coming from?
.....
- 3 Who does Merlin find first?
.....
- 4 Why doesn't Jo tell her mum everything?
.....
- 5 Eighteen months later, what does Jo see in the cupboard?
.....