

Something Happened in My Street

In this unit, you'll find out how characters cope when faced with different situations and then you'll write about it.

Arriving at Winklesea

There is much excitement as the Kane family arrives at their holiday home – Dolphin caravan.

Then, almost before they knew it, they rounded a bend, and there lay the higgledy-piggledy roofs and chimneys of Winklesea below them, and beyond the wide shine of the sea.

“Oh, magic, magic,” sang Mary. “We’re coming, Winkie, we’re coming!”

“A bit of hush now,” said Mr Kane, “while I find the caravan.”

“Straight to the sea front, Alfred,” Mrs Kane told him, “and then left, to the dunes. That’s what Fred said.”

And so it was. They drew up in a small field beyond the town and could see the caravans tucked among the dunes, three or four of them. They all climbed out and stood in the salt, different air and felt a million miles away from home.

“You go and find ours, Dan and Mary,” their mother said.

“Cream with a brown stripe, Fred said.”

“Fred said Fred said Fred said!” sang Mary. They were off in a flash, in among the dunes, their feet slithering in the soft sand.

“And called Dolphin!” Mrs Kane’s voice floated after them.

They didn’t have to look far. They both spotted it together, cream with a brown stripe, and Dolphin painted in red by the door.

“Oh Dan!” whispered Mary. “Look – we shall see the sea!”

*from Whatever Happened at Winklesea? by
Helen Cresswell*



1 Responding to the text

Answer the questions from the ,  or  section.

- 1 What could the children see as the car rounded a bend?
- 2 Why was Mary singing all the time?
- 3 Why do you think Mr Kane needed a *bit of hush*?
- 4 What feelings did they have as they got out of the car and smelled the sea air?
- 5 Describe Mary and Dan's caravan. What was it called?

- 1 What words describe the roofs and chimneys of Winklesea?
- 2 Why do you think Mary sang *Oh magic, magic*?
- 3 What could Mary and Dan see as the car rounded a bend?
- 4 What do you think the children planned to do in Winklesea?
- 5 Think about the whole family standing by their car, looking at the caravans and sniffing the sea air. Talk to a friend about what they might say to each other.

- 1 Why was this place called Winklesea?
- 2 Why was it a good idea to use the words *higgledy-piggledy* to describe the houses and chimneys?
- 3 Why did Mary call this place *Winkie*?
- 4 Why do you think everyone felt a *million miles away from home*?
- 5 Draw the whole family standing by their car, looking at the caravans and sniffing the sea air. Write a thought bubble for each character.



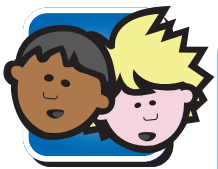


2 Making a map

Read the description of Winklesea again. Draw your own map of Winklesea. Start with the bend in the road that leads into Winklesea, and end at the sea. Label your map with the words from the word bank below.

Useful words

Winklesea	sand dunes
road	sea
caravans	small field
Dolphin caravan	



3 Using adjectives to describe settings

Adjectives are words that describe nouns. The author uses the adjective *higgledy-piggledy* to describe the roofs in Winklesea. Work in pairs. Think of some adjectives to describe each of the places on your map. Add them to the labels.

