

# Grandad and the Laundry Basket

## Talking Points

These Talking Points are suggestions designed to allow exploration and discussion of the story. You may wish to select from the range at various points in the unit or explore other aspects of the story which interest your class

### Getting the facts

- Why was Billy lucky? And why was he lonely?
- Why did Granddad come and live with the family? What happened on his first night at the house?
- What was it about Granddad that made Billy love him?
- Where did mum make Granddad eat his food?
- How did Billy's father plan to get rid of Granddad?
- How did Billy make his dad change his mind?
- What happened when Granddad died?

### Using the imagination

- What did the family have for Sunday dinner?
- How old is Billy? What games does he play on his play station?
- Draw a portrait of Granddad and of either Mum or Dad. What differences might there be in their expressions?
- What is the laundry basket like? How big? What is it made of?
- Why was Granddad in hospital? What do you think he brought in his suitcase?
- What kind of stories did Granddad tell Billy? Try making one up. It might be about when Granddad was a young boy, perhaps when he was naughty.
- What might have happened if Granddad *had* been left in the basket at the roadside?

### Using the senses

- What did Granddad see when he first came through the front door of the house? What did it smell like? What did it feel like?
- Draw a picture of Billy's room. What are the colours like? What has he got on the walls and the shelves?
- Imagine you are Billy when the family are eating soup. What can you hear? What does the soup smell like?
- What sounds could be heard in the street as Billy's Mum and Dad began to put the basket into the car?
- How would it feel to lift up the laundry basket with Granddad inside it?

### Using the emotions

- Have you ever felt lonely like Billy did before Granddad came? Did anything happen to make you feel less lonely?
- Was Billy's Mum happy? Why do you think she behaved as she did to Granddad?
- Granddad doesn't get angry at the way Billy's Dad and Mum treat him. Why do you think that might be?
- Imagine you are the next door neighbour who can hear and see the way Granddad is being treated. What might you say to a friend about it?
- Choose a part of the story that made you feel angry, sad or happy. Why did you feel like that?

### Philosophical enquiry

- Who should look after old people? Should it be their grown-up children or somebody else?
- Which is better – for parents to spend a lot of time working to get lots of money for the family, or earn less money and spend more time with them?
- What advice would you give Billy to help him deal with the way his Mum and Dad bully Granddad?
- Do old people always deserve respect?

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