

RUBBISH

They had seen the piece of chain lying in a heap of rubbish in the scrap yard a few days previously. It was just what they needed to complete the camp they had made – to secure the door and keep those not in the group out. All that was required was for one of them to climb the wire mesh fence, drop into the yard and retrieve it.

All eyes were on Josh, who was a tall, strong boy with an athletic body and straight, brown floppy hair.

“Go on, Josh, you could do it easily,” they urged him.

He didn't want to; he knew it was wrong, but he also knew he would get no peace until he did.

Keeping his toes in the small mesh holes was tricky; however, he was soon at the top and dropping down to the ground into a crouch. It was as he landed that he heard it . . . a faint growl that swiftly grew to a furious barking. As he dived behind an old, wrecked van, he heard footsteps and then an angry voice shouted at his friends,

“Clear off out of here the lot of you! If I see you hanging round again, I’ll let the dog loose on you.”

There was laughter and running footsteps then silence.

Not knowing where the man was, Josh edged round the other side of the van where he had a good view of the site office. He could see a small room with two men. No, wait, was that a third on the floor? Something was wriggling and appeared tied up like a parcel with lots of tape. The voices were muffled but Josh could just make out what they were saying.

“If we’re going to do it, we better get on with it.”

“Where will we dispose of it?”

“Weighed down in the quarry, it’ll never be found.”

At that moment a man (it must have been the one who had chased away the other children) arrived blocking Josh’s view of the proceedings. He was happy not to see and soon wished he was deaf.

Not long later, a car started and Josh crept closer to the gateway. As it opened and the car left, he

sprinted out, pursued by the sound of barking and shouting as they realised his presence. He ran for his life, dodging down streets, and as he ran, thought about what to do if he escaped without being caught.

1. Where was the chain? (1)
2. What surrounded the scrap yard? (1)
3. Why did they want the chain? (1)
4. Why did the gang think Josh could easily get over the fence? (2)
5. Why didn't he want to do it? (1)
6. Why did he do it? (1)
7. How do you know the dog was chained?
(1)
8. Where would they dispose of the parcel?
(1)
9. Why do you think it says 'he soon wished he was deaf'? (2)
10. What do you think Josh should do if he escapes and why? (3)

