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BEFORE READING

- 1 Read the sentences and write the correct name under each picture.
- a Anne Banks is Gus and Ellie's mother. Her husband Harry is dead.
 - b Gus is fifteen. His favourite team is Manchester United.
 - c Rose Stanway is the Banks's neighbour. She is almost ninety.
 - d Ellie is Gus's sister. She is seventeen and sings in a local band.



- 2 Who is it? Read the sentences and ask and answer questions with a friend. Then think of an extra question you would like to ask the character.
- a She likes music and her hair is green.
 - b She wears glasses and lives next door to Anne, Gus and Ellie.
 - c He is Ellie's younger brother and he likes football.
 - d She has light brown hair and lives next door to Rose.

BEFORE READING

-  **1** Read and listen to Anne talking about her life. Then listen again and circle the correct word.

We lived in the **country** / **town** but then my husband Harry lost his job at the **car** / **jam** factory, so we moved to a small **house** / **flat** in a village. But then we had a huge shock – Harry **died** / **left**. Things were never the same again. Now I have a **full-time** / **part-time** job at the local **primary school** / **cinema**. I don't have much money but I have two children, Gus and Ellie, and a lot of bills to pay. But I buy **lottery tickets** / **expensive shoes**. I dream of **winning** / **watching** the lottery one day, even though the chances are fourteen million to one!

- 2** Anne and her family live in a village now, but they lived in a town before that. Write lists of things you find in a town and in the country. Choose from the words in the box. Add two words of your own to each list.


supermarket green fields discount shops
traffic lights farmers' market cottage

Town

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
supermarket

Country

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
green fields

-  **3** Work in a small group. Discuss which is best, town or country? Is it cheaper or more expensive to live in the town or in the country?

1 Gus



Rose Stanway walked slowly and carefully to the door and opened it. She smiled as she looked up at her favourite neighbour, young Gus Banks.

‘Gus! Come in, love, and have a cup of tea – I’ve just made some.’

‘I can’t stop, Rose, but thanks anyway,’ the boy said apologetically. ‘My mum wants to know if you need anything from the shops – we’re going to town this afternoon in the car.’

‘No thanks, Gus, but wait a minute,’ said Rose with a wink. ‘I’ve got something for your mother.’

Rose went to the kitchen and came back with a jar of dark red jam.

‘I made this with the raspberries you picked for me last week,’ Rose explained. ‘It tastes lovely with some nice, fresh bread. Ask your mother to buy some when you’re in town. This is one of my best jams.’

‘You always say that, Rose,’ Gus smiled. ‘And your jam is always brilliant. I’ll tell Mum but I’ll have a taste first. Thanks.’

Rose smiled and watched Gus run back into his house, his brown hair falling down his neck and his legs too long for his trousers again. He was a nice boy – just like his father, bless his soul. Just like his poor father.

Neighbours

Do you have a favourite neighbour?

 Tell a friend.

- **apologetically:** showing he was sorry
- **bless his soul:** kind exclamation remembering a dead person
- **have a taste:** eat a little
- **jar:** glass container
- **picked:** took from plant
- **raspberries:** red summer fruit
- **wink:** closing one eye