

# CONTENTS

|                                     |    |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| Characters                          | 6  |
| Steeple Compton                     | 8  |
| Before Reading                      | 10 |
| <b>1</b> Where's Basil?             | 15 |
| <b>2</b> Dan wants to help          | 21 |
| <b>3</b> Watch out for dog thieves! | 26 |
| <b>4</b> The thieves at work        | 33 |
| <b>5</b> Following the thieves      | 38 |
| <b>6</b> What can Dan do?           | 43 |
| <b>7</b> What can Dylan do?         | 48 |
| <b>8</b> Catching the thieves       | 54 |
| After Reading                       | 63 |



# Before Reading

- 1  Look at the dogs. They are called Dylan, Charlie, Bruiser and Basil. Listen to the people speaking. Write the name of each dog. Then write which person owns each dog.



a Mrs Jackson



b George Lucas



c Sue



d Dan



- 2  Work in pairs. Which dog do you like best? Why?

**3** What are these dogs doing? Complete the sentences with a word from the box.



**a** Charlie is .....



**b** Dylan is .....  
Basil's bed.



**c** Bruiser is .....



**d** Basil is ..... his tail.

**4** Work in pairs. Ask and answer these questions.

- a** What do dogs do when they are angry?
- b** What do they do when they are happy?
- c** What do they do when they want you to know something?
- d** What do they do when they want to find something?



## 1 WHERE'S BASIL?



'Basil! Basil!' shouted the little old lady standing in the middle of the road.

'Are you all right, Mrs Jackson?' asked Dan, looking at her. Mrs Jackson lived in a small house at the end of Dan's street. But now she was standing in the middle of the road, a strange look on her face. First she looked one way up the street. Then she looked the other way. She didn't hear Dan – or see him.

'Mrs Jackson,' said Dan again more loudly. 'Are you OK?'

This time Mrs Jackson heard him. She looked at him over the top of her small round glasses.

'Oh, Daniel Parks,' she said. 'It's you. No, I'm not OK. I can't find Basil. He went into the garden this morning and now I don't know where he is.'

'Basil!' she shouted again.

Basil was Mrs Jackson's dog. He was a Dachshund – a long brown dog like a sausage with little short legs. Dan thought that Basil was funny-looking<sup>•</sup> but he was quite sweet<sup>•</sup>.

Of course, Dan preferred Dylan, his dog. And right now Dylan was sitting by Dan's feet.

He was looking at Mrs Jackson, his head on one side.

He knew that something was wrong.

'It's not like<sup>•</sup> Basil to run away,' said Mrs Jackson, pushing her fingers through her hair. 'He's such a good dog usually. I don't know what to do.'

### GLOSSARY

- **it's not like:** it's not normal for
- **was funny-looking:** looked strange
- **sweet:** (here) nice

‘I’m sure we can find him,’ said Dan. ‘Dylan and me. We’re very good at finding things. My dad lost his car keys last week and I found them for him. My dad’s always losing things. And Dylan found my mum’s shoes under her bed – but she wasn’t too happy about that. He tried to eat them.’

Mrs Jackson gave a little smile.

‘Well, that’s very kind of you, Dan,’ she said.


‘OK,’ said Dan. ‘First of all, Dylan has to smell something of Basil’s. Perhaps he can sniff Basil’s bed – so he knows what smell to follow. Then we can have a look in your garden. Because that’s where you last saw him.’

## Dan

Read and tick (✓) the best answer.  
What does Dan offer to do?

- To help his dad look for his shoes.
- To use Dylan to look for Basil.
- To help Mrs Jackson in the garden.

Do you sometimes offer to help people?  
How?

 Tell a friend.

## GLOSSARY

- **sniff:** smell something



Mrs Jackson's house was on North Street in the small village of Steeple Compton near Oxford. All the houses on the street were different. Some had small front gardens with bigger gardens at the back, but Mrs Jackson's house only had a garden at the back. She opened her front door and took Dan and Dylan through to her kitchen. Basil's bed was in the corner of the room by the cooker.

'Come on, Dylan,' said Dan, pointing to the bed. 'Where's Basil?'

Dylan walked over to Basil's bed and had a good sniff.

'Where's Basil?' Dan asked again.



Dylan looked at Dan. Then he looked round the kitchen. First he sniffed some of the kitchen cupboards. Then he went and stood by the back door.

‘Good boy!’ said Dan. ‘Come on. Let’s go into the garden.’

Mrs Jackson opened the door, and she and Dan and Dylan went outside.

Mrs Jackson’s garden wasn’t big. There were flowers down each side and an apple tree at the bottom of the garden. Around the sides of the garden there was a thick hedge.

‘Where’s Basil?’ Dan asked Dylan again. And Dylan started sniffing round the edge of the garden.

‘What a clever dog,’ said Mrs Jackson.

‘I told you,’ said Dan. ‘We’re good detectives.’

Dylan sniffed the hedge down one side of the garden. Then he started sniffing along the bottom of the garden.

‘What’s behind the hedge down there?’ Dan asked Mrs Jackson.

‘That’s Adderley Road,’ replied Mrs Jackson. ‘It’s not a very busy road and there’s open farmland on the other side of the road. No houses.’

Just then Dylan lay on the ground, his nose pointing at the hedge.

Dan ran over to see what he was looking at.

‘There’s a hole in the hedge here,’ said Dan, pointing at the bottom of the hedge. That’s how Basil got out.’

He stood up again.

‘It’s too small for Dylan but I’m sure Basil can get through there. Let’s go round and have a look at the other side. Come on, Dylan!’

## GLOSSARY

- **edge:** side
- **hedge:**



- **hole:** opening
- **open farmland:** fields used for farming





Two minutes later they were in Adderley Road, trying to find the other side of the hole in Mrs Jackson's hedge.

Dan watched Dylan as he sniffed along the hedge. Suddenly he saw a different look on the dog's face. Dylan was interested in something. What was it?

'Stop!' said Dan loudly.

Dylan stopped, sat down and looked at something on the ground.

'Leave it,' said Dan.


Dylan didn't move.

## Dan

Dan stops Dylan. Why? Guess!  
Because Dylan found something...

- boring.
- pretty.
- dangerous.

Is it important for dogs to do what their owners say?  
Why?

 Tell a friend.



# After Reading

## Language

**1 Use the correct form of the verbs from the story to complete the sentences.**

disappear    break    sniff    wag    wave    bark

- a Dylan always ..... his food before he eats it.
- b Dylan ran up to Sue again and .....
- c Basil was the first dog from this village to .....
- d Dan ..... the lock to let the dogs out.
- e Steve ..... the knife in front of Dan's face.
- f Basil is such a happy dog. He's always ..... his tail.

**2 Complete these sentences with the correct prepositions from the box.**

to    at    in    to    of    of

- a Dan and Dylan are very good ..... finding things.
- b Dan is very interested ..... computers.
- c The fence round the Barringtons' garden is made ..... wood.
- d Dan needed something ..... break the lock.
- e The white van was in front .....  
the farmhouse.
- f Thanks ..... Dan and Dylan,  
everyone got their dogs back.

