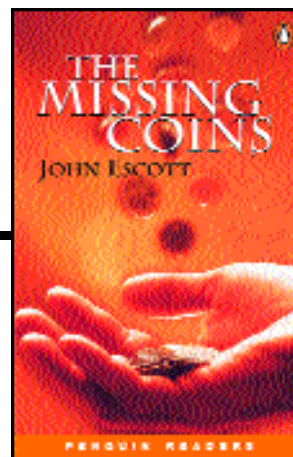


Penguin Readers Factsheets

Teacher's Notes

The Missing Coins

by John Escott



Level 1 The Missing Coins

Summary

The Missing Coins is a mystery story. Pete and Carla are students visiting the city of Bath in England. While they are walking around looking at the shops and buildings they hear music in a quiet street. A man plays a flute. He is standing next to the window of a shop which sells coins and stamps. They go into the shop and have a look. Pete wants some stamps, but they are expensive and the girl shop assistant is unfriendly. Pete and Carla then go to a café for a drink.

To their surprise, the coin shop owner comes to find them there. He says that some of his coins are missing. He thinks Pete and Carla have stolen them. A policeman proves that they have not taken them.

Later, Carla hears the music again. She realises how the coins were stolen: The girl in the shop is friends with the flute player. She drops the coins into the flute player's hat through the open window. Carla explains this to the policeman.

The shop owner is so pleased with Carla and Pete that he gives Pete the stamps that he wants.

About John Escott

John Escott is an experienced EFL writer, who lives in the south of England. He has written many original stories for both Penguin Readers and Penguin Young Readers and also for other publishers.

Background and themes

Mystery: The story has a mystery, which the students can try and work out by looking at the picture on page 2.

Tourists: Crime is often found in big cities, where tourists and other visitors stay for a short time.

Feelings: Before the mystery starts. Carla feels that there is something wrong about the shop when they go in.

Communicative activities

The following teacher-led activities cover the same sections of text as the exercises at the back of the Reader.

BEFORE YOU READ

- What do students like to do when they visit a city for the first time?
 - Which are the students' favourite cities? Why?
 - Ask students in groups to think of a city they know and tell the class what is good to see there.
- Do one of the following activities, a or b, with the students.
 - Divide the class into two groups, A and B. Group A chooses a picture but doesn't tell B which it is. They describe it. B decides which page it is. Then B chooses another picture and describes it to A who then say which it is.
 - The class are divided into two groups, A and B. Group A choose a picture. B must find out which picture it is by asking Group A questions. Examples of questions are: Is there a car in the picture? How many people are in the picture?

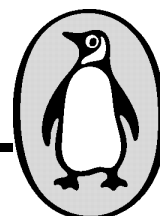
AFTER YOU READ

Students should choose to be either the policeman or the man with the flute and tell the story from their point of view.

Extra words

There are twenty extra words, in addition to the 300 headwords used in each Penguin Readers Level 1 title. The extra words used in this title are:

abbey city coin flute pocket shopkeeper stamp tourist tune collect valuable speak pretty surprised outside missing last next minute steal



Penguin Readers Factsheets

Student's activities

Level 1 The Missing Coins

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

- 1 Match the words in list A, with the meanings in list B.

A

- (a) valuable (b) pretty (c) last (d) minute (e) surprised
(f) collect (g) missing (h) tourist (i) tune (j) steal
(k) outside (l) next (m) city

B

- (i) a visitor who is on holiday
(ii) a song or piece of music
(iii) there are sixty in an hour
(iv) the opposite of first
(v) good to look at
(vi) not in the place where you think it will be
(vii) costs a lot of money
(viii) immediately after
(ix) to take something from a shop and not pay for it
(x) not inside
(xi) get things and bring them together
(xii) when something happens that is different, it makes you this
(xiii) a large town

ACTIVITIES WHILE READING THE BOOK

- 1 Find these things in the pictures. Write down the page number(s) where you see them.

abbey flute hat coin shopkeeper pocket stamp

- 2 Answer the following questions.

Pages 1-4

- (a) What is the name of the city in England in the story?
(b) Who wears a green sweatshirt?
(c) What is the first question Carla asks?
(d) Where do they go after they see the man and his flute?
(e) What does the shop sell?
(f) Which does Pete like in the shop, the coins or the stamps?

Pages 5-9

- (g) How old are the coins in the shop?
(h) Why does the shopkeeper leave Pete and Carla alone?
(i) Pete likes some stamps. Which countries are they from?
(j) Do Pete and Carla sit outside or inside the café?
(k) Why does the shopkeeper come to find Pete and Carla?
(l) Who says "What's wrong?"
(m) A student is working in the shop. What is the name of the student?

Pages 10-15

- (n) Where does the shopkeeper look for the coins?
(o) At first, where does the policeman think the coins are?
(p) Why does the music tell Carla what happened?
(q) Who do Carla, Pete and the policeman look for?
(r) Where are the missing coins?
(s) How does the shopkeeper thank Pete?

- 3 Choose 'Which? Who? Where? When? Why?' for these answers and make questions.

eg Peter wants the stamps from South America.

Which stamps does Peter want? Or Who wants the stamps from South America?

- (a) Peter and Carla go into the shop. (who or where)
(b) The missing coins are in the hat. (where)
(c) The shopkeeper is angry. (why)
(d) A police car came after some time. (when)

- 4 Choose the correct word.

- (a) Old coins are very valuable/surprised.
(b) Bath is an old stamp/city.
(c) The missing coins are in his pocket/flute.
(d) It is raining inside/outside.
(e) The policeman looks for the coins in her pockets/shoe.

- 5 Put the sentences in the right order to describe how the stolen coins got out of the shop.

- (i) She drops the coins into the hat
(ii) She puts the valuable coins in her pocket.
(iii) She opens the window.
(iv) He plays his flute next to the shop window.
(v) He stands next to the shop.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

- 1 In pairs, imagine you are in a shop. One of you is a shopkeeper. Your stamps are valuable. When people touch them, they make them dirty. They sometimes steal them. But you want to sell them and make some money. Your partner is a student. She/He has no money, but he/she wants to look at the stamps, because they are pretty. What do you say to each other. Use pages 4-5 to help you.
2 Write a letter to one of your friends telling them about the city of Bath
3 Write five headlines for the newspaper, e.g. 'Shopkeeper says "students steal coins".'

