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# The Secret of the Stones

Victoria **Heward**



Illustrated by Daniele Fabbri



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**UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT** 12, 18, 25, 32, 40, 46, 52, 62, 69, 75

**AFTER READING** 77

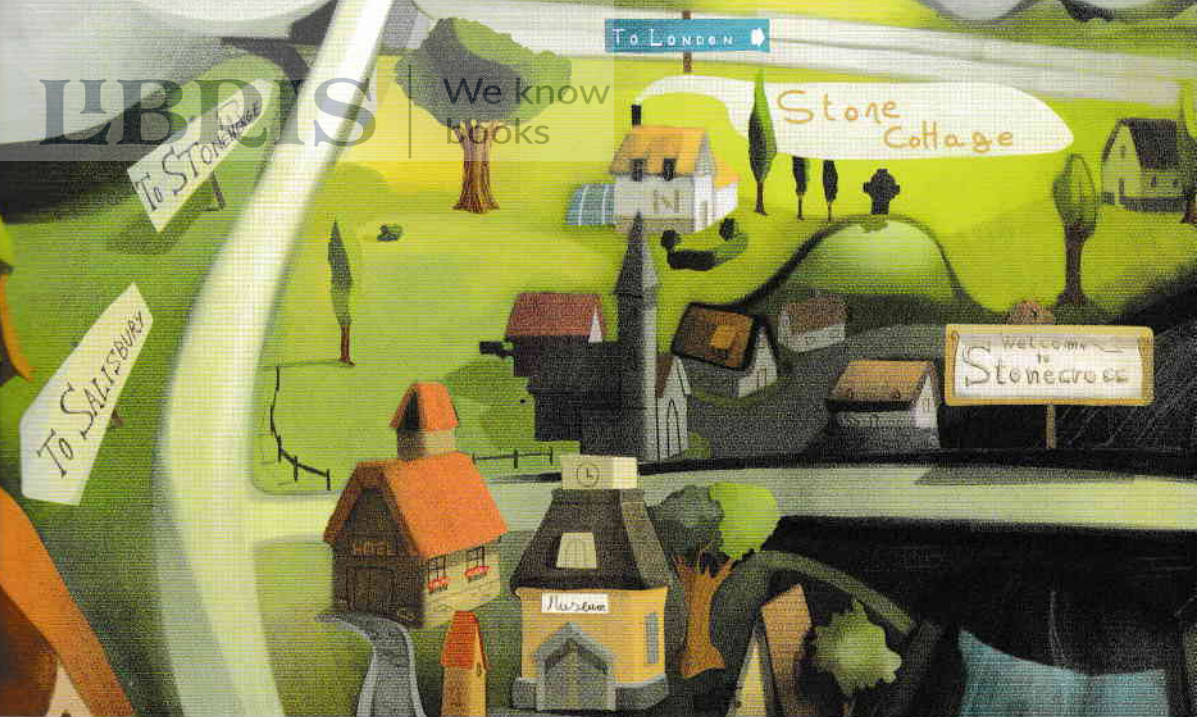
**KEY** KEY-style activities 8, 12, 20, 25, 26, 27, 32, 52, 53, 62, 63, 75

**T: GRADE 2** Trinity-style activities (Grade 2) 41, 62

The text is recorded in full.

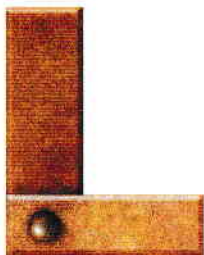


These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.



## CHAPTER ONE

# Holiday Time



Laura and Max are twins. They live in London with their mum and dad. They always have interesting adventures on holiday. They visit different cities and countries.



track 03

This summer they are going to stay in a small cottage in the country. The cottage is in a village called Stonecross, near Salisbury. Max and Laura aren't very happy.

'Boring!' says Max. He looks at the map. 'The cottage is in the middle of a field. What can we do in the middle of a field?'

'Why are we going there?' asks Laura.

Their dad is very tired. He says he wants to relax and to sleep a lot. Their mum loves the countryside. She wants to walk and paint.

'It's a very beautiful part of England,' she says. 'Full of culture, tradition, mystery...'

'Mystery?' say Max and Laura together. 'Mystery! OK, let's go!'

The next day Uncle Stephen arrives with lots of bags. This year they are all going on holiday together.

Mum drives the family car. Dad sleeps... Dad always sleeps! Uncle Stephen follows in his old car.

Two hours later they arrive at Stonecross and find their cottage in the middle of a field. There are green hills, beautiful cottages, flowers, sheep and cows everywhere.

'It's lovely!' say Max and Laura.

'It's perfect!!' says Mum.

Dad says nothing. He is sleeping in the car.

'What do you think Stephen? Do you like it?' Uncle Stephen doesn't answer. He is looking into the distance. His eyes are very black and strange.

'What's the matter, Stephen?' asks Mum. 'Don't you like the cottage?'

'Err... yes. It's wonderful,' he says. 'Come on everyone. Let's take these cases inside. Wake up, Andrew!' Dad wakes up.

'Oh... err... where are we?'

'We're here at Stonecross. Come and help us. We must take the cases into the cottage.'

They take the cases and go inside, but Uncle Stephen waits. He looks around him and his face is very serious. Nobody hears him when he says, 'This place... It's in my book... the old book of mysteries! Finally I am here! Now I can find the answer to the mystery of Stonehenge.'

'Stephen!!?' calls Mum from the cottage.

'I'm coming,' he replies. He takes a last look around him and goes to the cottage.

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### KEY

#### 1 COMPREHENSION CHECK

Read the summary of Chapter One. Choose the correct word – A, B or C – for each space and complete the text.

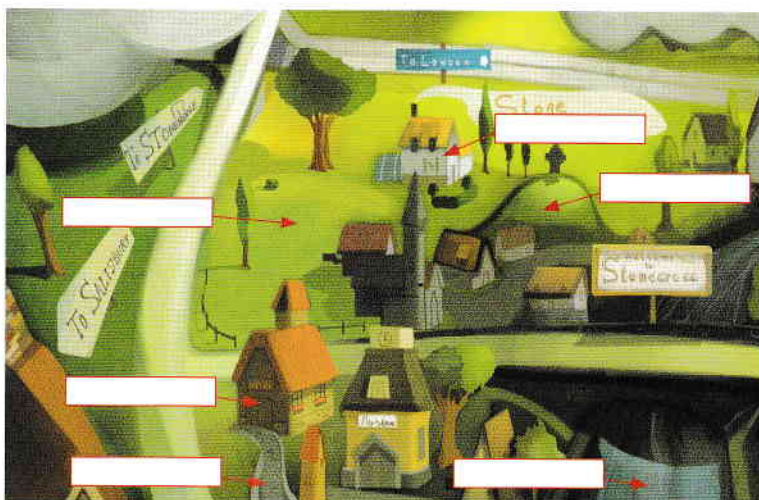
Max and Laura (1) ..... in London but this summer they are going to stay in a small (2) ..... with their family. Max doesn't think the idea is very (3) ..... because there is nothing to do. The cottage is (4) ..... the middle of a field. Dad is happy because he (5) ..... to sleep and to relax. Mum says that Stonecross is in a beautiful (6) ..... of England. It is also very (7) ..... Max and Laura love mysteries and hope (8) ..... them there.

- |   |             |               |            |
|---|-------------|---------------|------------|
| 1 | A living    | B lives       | C live     |
| 2 | A country   | B city        | C cottage  |
| 3 | A boring    | B interesting | C relaxing |
| 4 | A in        | B on          | C at       |
| 5 | A does      | B wants       | C likes    |
| 6 | A area      | B field       | C part     |
| 7 | A different | B mysterious  | C modern   |
| 8 | A find      | B finding     | C to find  |

#### 2 VOCABULARY

Look at the map. Can you find the place where Max and Laura are going to stay? Label the map with the words here below.

hill field river path cottage hotel



## 3 WORD SEARCH

Complete the sentences. Then search the words in the word square. Use your dictionary to help you.

- 1 In the summer children don't go to .....
- 2 If you go to a different country, don't forget your ..... . It's a very important document!
- 3 Everyone loves ..... in the sea in the summer.
- 4 Do you prefer visiting old cities or ..... ones?
- 5 I love hot, ..... days at the beach.
- 6 Most people go on holiday in July or .....



## PRESENT SIMPLE AND PRESENT CONTINUOUS

### The Present Simple

- describes habits and routines. (Remember to add an **-s** to the third person singular): *Dad always sleeps*
- describes things that are always true: **They live in London**

### The Present Continuous (subject + **be** + **-ing**)

- describes actions happening now: **Dad is sleeping**
- describes actions happening in this general period: *The book I am studying*

## 4 GRAMMAR

Put the verbs into the correct form, present simple or present continuous.

- 1 'Where are the twins?' 'They ..... (play) in the garden.'
- 2 I ..... (watch) TV every day after school.
- 3 Tommy usually ..... (sleep) a lot on Sunday.
- 4 Please be quiet. I ..... (study).
- 5 We ..... (go) to violin lessons on Monday and Thursday.