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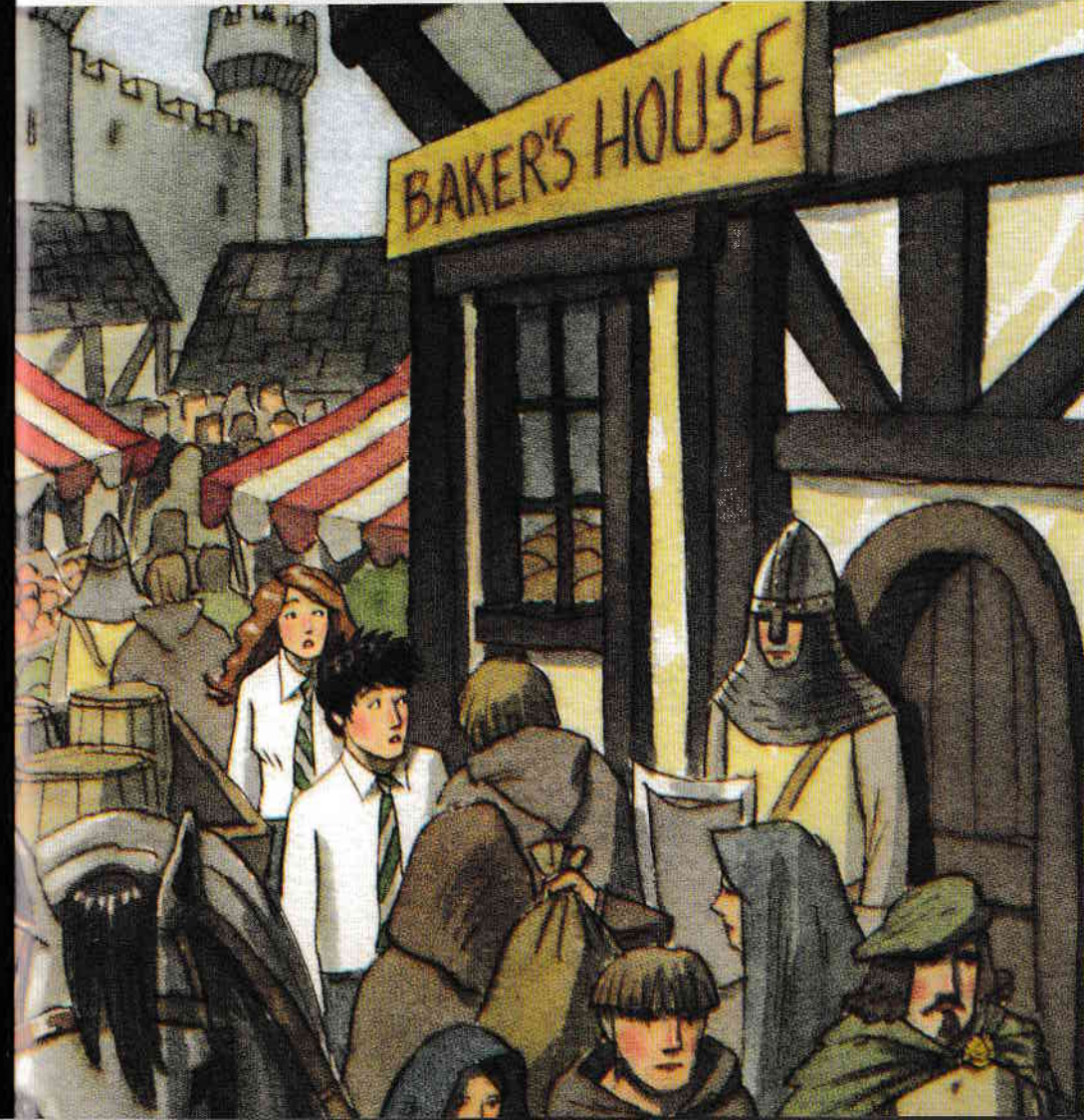
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Victoria Heward

# Time Games

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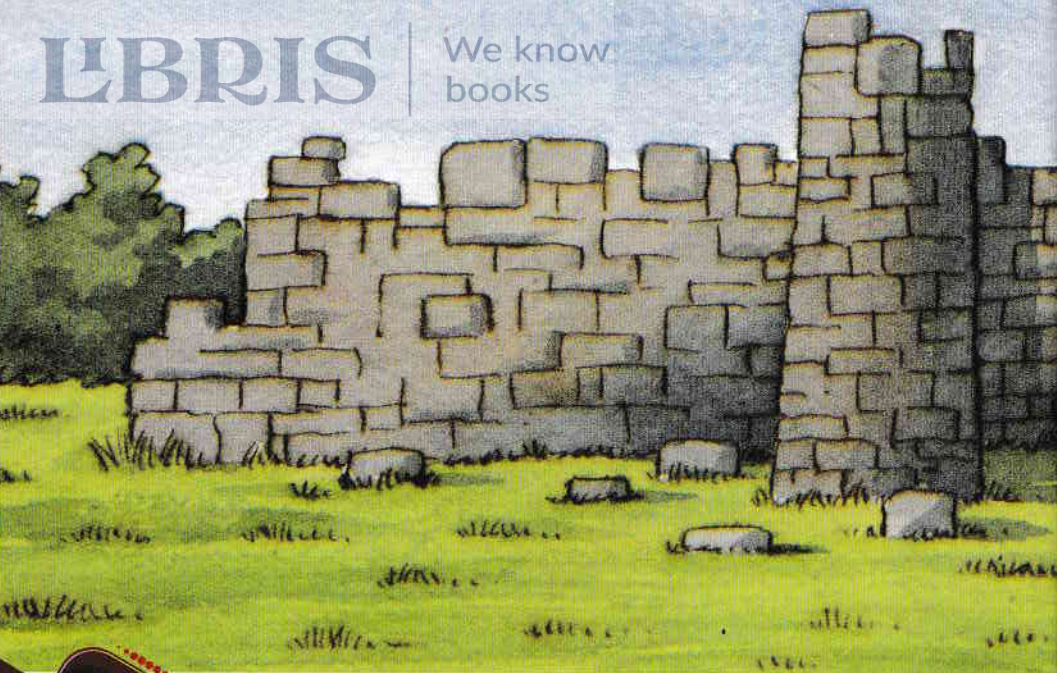
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The text is recorded in full.



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



## CHAPTER ONE

## My world

I watched Jack Longshanks as he took the sword quickly and lifted it high above his head. Silently he turned round. He wanted to surprise the dwarf hiding behind a tree. With a single movement he jumped towards the creature and cut its head off. Then he ran as fast as he could.

“Yes!! Excellent, Jack Longshanks,” I said. Another ten points flashed onto my screen. I was getting stronger and more powerful every time I played. I moved Jack north towards the forest and past the dwarf who lay headless on the grass. The quest to find the key was more difficult than I imagined but that was why the game was so good.

“Adam?”

Oh no, now what?



track 02

“Adam!” It was my eldest sister Lucy so I turned the music on my stereo up and pretended that I couldn’t hear her.

My bedroom door burst open and Lucy walked in. Nobody respects privacy in this house.

“Didn’t you hear me? Turn that music down. I was calling you. Dinner’s ready.”

“Yeah, well, I’ll come down when I’ve finished this game.” I looked back at the screen where another one of the dwarves was about to attack Jack Longshanks.

“Right! Well, when you’ve finished playing with those dwarves the rest of the family is ready to eat.”

She went out of the room angrily.

“And close the door behind you!” I shouted.

I’ve got two sisters. Lucy’s 18, that’s 3 years older than me. She goes to college and thinks she’s fantastic. Stella’s nearly as bad as Lucy. She’s 16.

“Hey, what’s going on?” I couldn’t believe it!! I took my eyes off the screen for ten seconds and Jack wasn’t there. He was now moving off in a completely different direction towards the castle. I pressed the right keys on my keyboard and made him run north again.

“Adam!! Dinner!” This time it was my mum.

“Yeah! I’m coming,” I said and went downstairs to join the rest of my family.

My family is a pretty normal sort of family really. My dad, Steve, is a busy man. He works in an architect’s studio in the city somewhere. Nobody really knows exactly what he does there and none of us ever ask. People don’t usually like working so far from



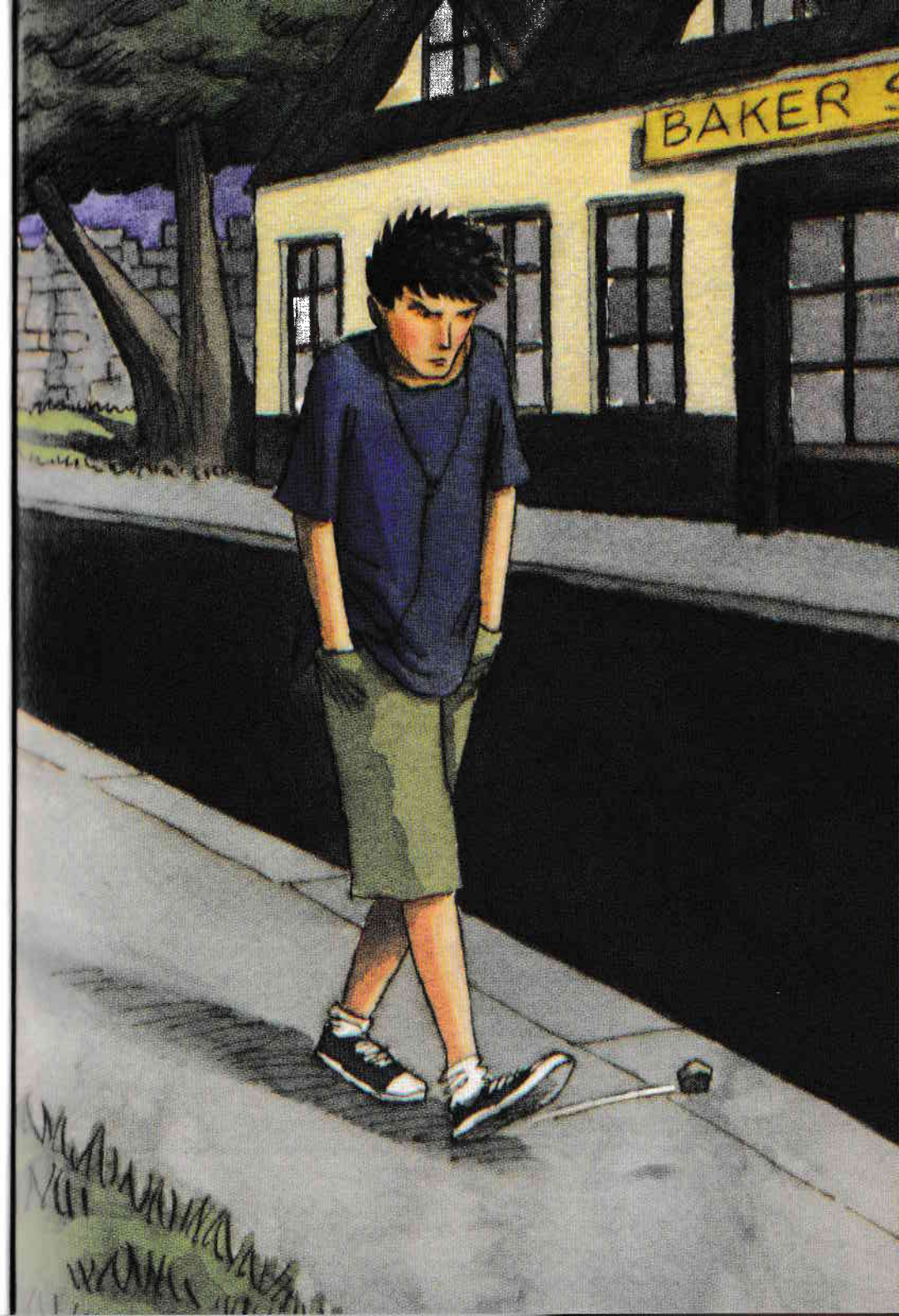
end



home but he says he enjoys the peace and quiet of the journey to work. He's often late home in the evenings and never feels much like talking when he comes back. My mum, her name's Gill, is just like my sisters. She's a housewife.

After dinner I told my mum that I was going out for a walk. It was 7 o'clock and the sun was still strong. She reminded me that I had to study for my exams but I just said, "Yeah, yeah! I know!" I went out the back door into the garden and then out into the little lane where my house was. One thing I do like is the village where I live. You might think it's strange that a boy like me likes a small place like Castleton but I do, especially in summer time. The countryside in the summer always makes me feel free, like I've got nothing to worry about. It's really peaceful. I like playing football in the fields, I like sitting under the tree and just thinking. I said, 'The Tree', because there's a tree in our village, an enormous oak tree, that everyone just calls The Tree. Sometimes they say things like, "See you at The Tree at 3 o'clock," and you know exactly where they mean.

So I started walking towards the square in the centre of the village. There wasn't really anyone about at that time of evening, just a funny looking boy in strange clothes hanging out near the old castle wall. I almost forgot to tell you that we've got some real castle ruins in our village as well... some people think it's just a pile of bricks but in my opinion it's pretty cool. Anyway, the only person around was the boy, so I just kept walking and thinking. The problem is that if you think too much, you always end up thinking of your problems. And that's just what happened to me. I knew that I should go home and study because there really were exams. So I turned round and walked back home.



**1 Comprehension check**

Who or what do the following adjectives refer to?

- 1 Peaceful .....
- 2 Cool .....
- 3 Normal .....
- 4 Difficult .....
- 5 Powerful .....
- 6 Angry .....
- 7 Evil .....
- 8 Busy .....

**T: GRADE 4**

**2 Speaking**

Adam loves playing football and spending time outside in the country in the summer. What about you? Talk about these things with a partner.

- 1 Where do you live? In the countryside, in a small town or in a city?
- 2 What do you like doing there in the summer time?
- 3 What about in the winter?
- 4 What's your favourite time of year? Why?

**3 Adam's World**

Like many teenagers, Adam lives in a world made up of family, school, homework, and problems. Sometimes he even speaks in his own special way, using slang words that young (and sometimes not so young) people use every day in Britain.

When we speak we choose the words depending on who we are speaking to. In English there are no formal or informal forms so it's especially important that you choose the right words.

**A We can use all of these expressions to greet someone. Match the words (1-3) to the right situation (A-C).**

- 1 Hello.
- 2 Hi, Amanda.
- 3 Good morning, Mr Smith.



**B Talk with a friend. Answer these questions.**

- 1 Think of all the different people you speak to during the day. What different ways are there in your language to say 'hello'?
- 2 Why do we speak in different ways to different people?
- 3 What happens if we use the wrong words in the wrong situation?

**C Here are some more of Adam's expressions. Match them (1-3) to their more formal equivalent (A-C). What words do young people use in your language to say the same thing?**

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> Hanging out   | A Really interesting. |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Pretty cool   | B Unusual.            |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Funny looking | C Relaxing.           |

I told my mum that I was going out

Here are some examples of direct speech in Chapter One. Look how they are transformed into indirect speech.

Direct speech

Indirect Speech

- "Dinner **is** ready." → Lucy said that dinner **was** ready.
- "**I'm** coming." → He said that he **was** coming.
- "The family **is** ready to eat." → She said that the family **was** ready to eat.

We have to move the verb tenses one step backwards to change the sentence into indirect, or reported, speech. The present simple changes to the past simple in indirect speech. Look at these other examples and note how the verb tenses change.

- "**I will** come down when I **have finished**." → He said he **would** come down when he **had finished**.
- "Jack **can** run fast." → He said that Jack **could** run fast.

4 Direct and indirect speech

Change the direct speech into indirect speech.

- 0 "I am going for a walk."  
I told my mum that ..... I was going out for a walk .....
- 1 "I really love the countryside," said Adam.  
Adam said that .....
- 2 "I will answer the telephone," said Lucy.  
Lucy said that .....
- 3 "I don't usually do anything interesting at school," said Adam.  
Adam said that .....
- 4 "I have cut the dwarf's head off!" said Jack.  
Jack said that .....
- 5 "You can borrow my book," she said.  
She said that I .....
- 6 "I haven't got any homework," said Adam.

Before you read

1 Vocabulary

Match the verbs (1-4) from Chapter Two to the pictures (A-D). They are all noises. Use your dictionary to help you if necessary.

- 1 Shouting
- 2 Banging
- 3 Blaring
- 4 Muttering



- 2 Do you know these computer words in English? Use a dictionary to help you if necessary.



1  2  3

3 Speaking

In Chapter Two Adam plays his new computer game. Talk about computers with a partner.

- 1 How often do you use a computer?
- 2 Do you like playing computer games? Why/ Why not?
- 3 What other things do you use a computer for?
- 4 Do you think young people spend too much time using computers? Why/ Why not?