



PENGUIN READERS

The Missing Coins

John Escott



Bath is a very old city in England. It has a beautiful Abbey. A lot of people visit the city every year. And in the summer there are always a lot of tourists in the streets.

Pete and Carla are students in Bath. They like the city. Pete likes looking at the beautiful old buildings. Carla likes walking in the little streets. She often finds pretty little shops there and goes into them. Or she sits with Pete in a café and watches the tourists.

It's a Saturday in summer and a hot afternoon. There are a lot of tourists in the city today. People from many countries are going into the Abbey.

'Let's find a quiet street, away from the tourists,' Carla says.

'OK,' Pete says. He likes being with Carla.

They walk away from the Abbey.

After some time, they are in a little street behind the Abbey.

'This is pretty,' Carla says.

There are only two or three tourists in this street. The shops have small windows. Some houses have pretty little gardens.

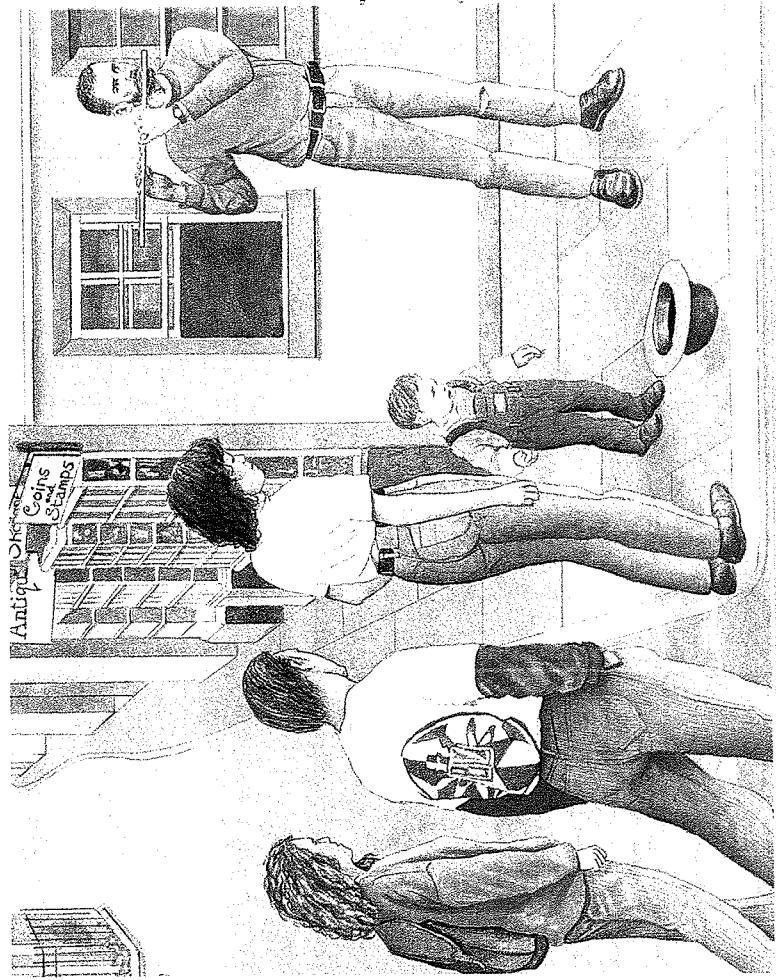
It's quiet here, but Pete and Carla can hear music.

'Look,' Pete says. 'That man is playing a flute. Let's go and listen.'

They walk across the street and watch the man. Four or five people are listening.

'Why is he playing here?' Carla asks. 'There aren't many tourists in this street.'

'No,' Pete says. 'And there are only three or four coins in his hat.'



Pete and Carla listen to the flute player. The tune is *Greensleeves*.

'I know that tune!' Carla says.

And she puts a coin in the man's hat. Pete takes her hand.

'Let's go, Carla,' he says to her. 'Let's see the shops in the next street.'

'OK,' Carla says. They walk away.

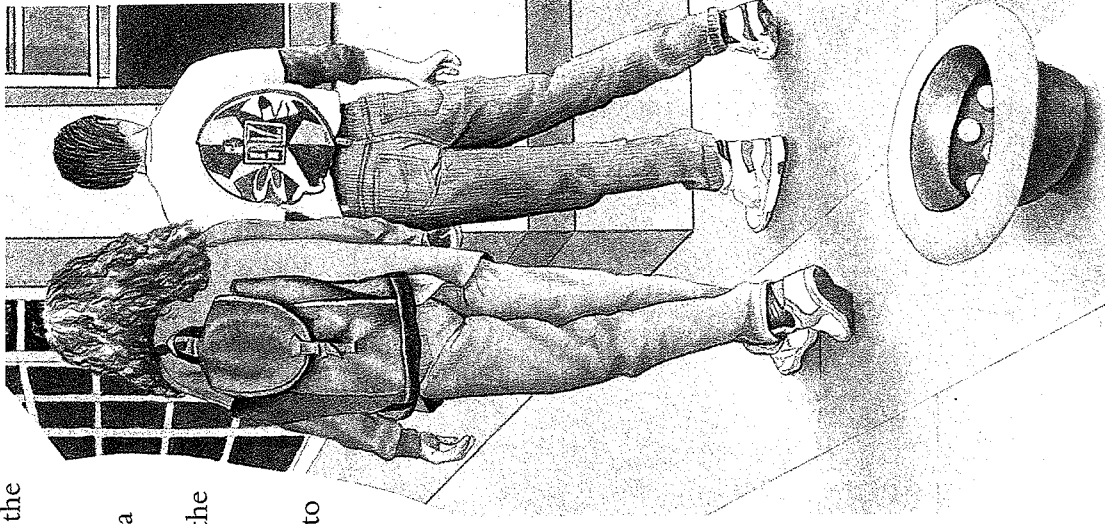
The flute player watches them but his tune, *Greensleeves*, doesn't stop.

'He isn't a very good flute player,' Pete says. 'But it's a good tune.'

'There were only four coins in his hat,' Carla says.

'That's because he isn't very good,' Pete says. 'And he's playing in the wrong street. The tourists are near the Abbey.'

They walk to the next street.

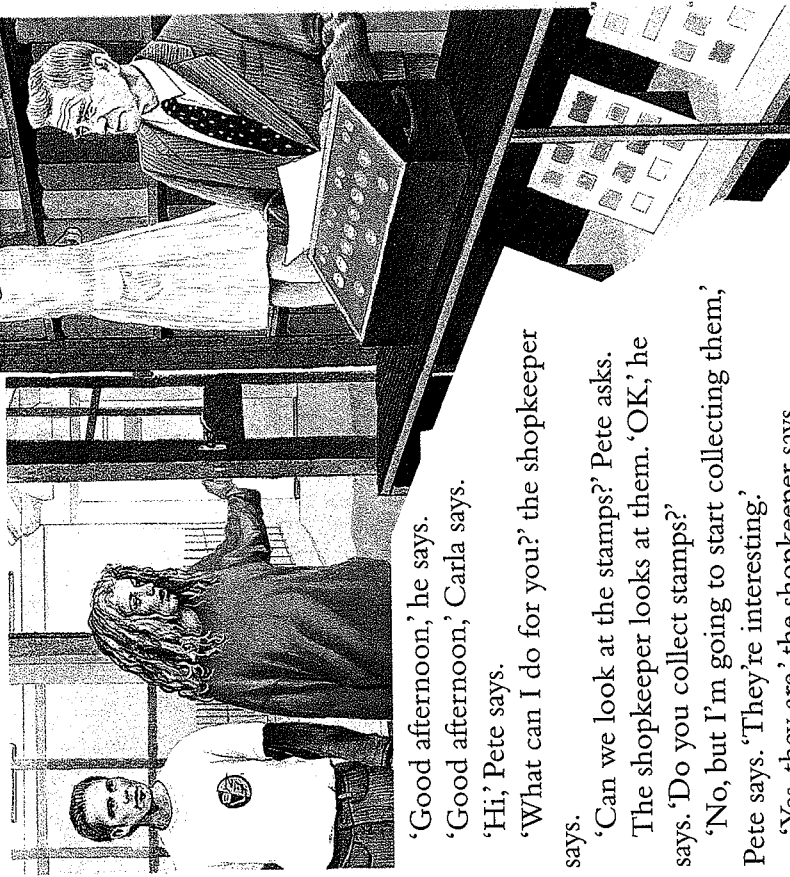


They find a little shop there. There are some old coins and stamps in the shop window. They come from many countries.

'Let's go in here,' Carla says. 'It's an interesting little shop.'

'OK,' Pete says.

The shop is small. Pete and Carla go in, and an old man watches them. He is the shopkeeper.



'Good afternoon,' he says.

'Good afternoon,' Carla says.

'Hi,' Pete says.

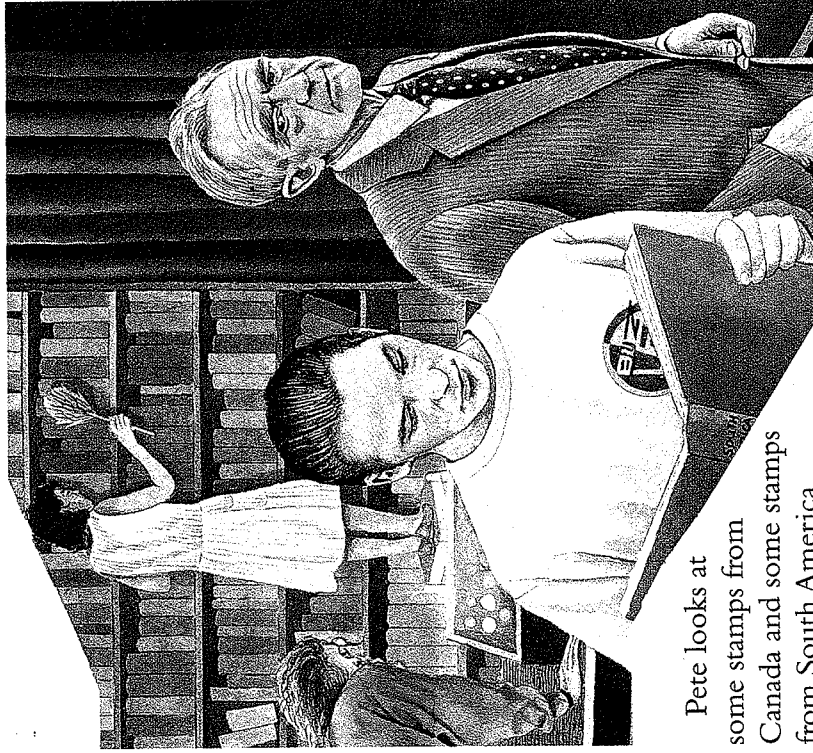
'What can I do for you?' the shopkeeper says.

'Can we look at the stamps?' Pete asks.

The shopkeeper looks at them. 'OK,' he says. 'Do you collect stamps?'

'No, but I'm going to start collecting them,' Pete says. 'They're interesting.'

'Yes, they are,' the shopkeeper says.



Pete looks at some stamps from Canada and some stamps from South America.

'These are beautiful stamps,' he says.

The shopkeeper stands near Pete and watches him.

'He isn't happy,' Carla thinks. 'Why? We aren't going to steal his stamps.'

She looks at some coins.

'Are these coins very old?' Carla asks the old man.

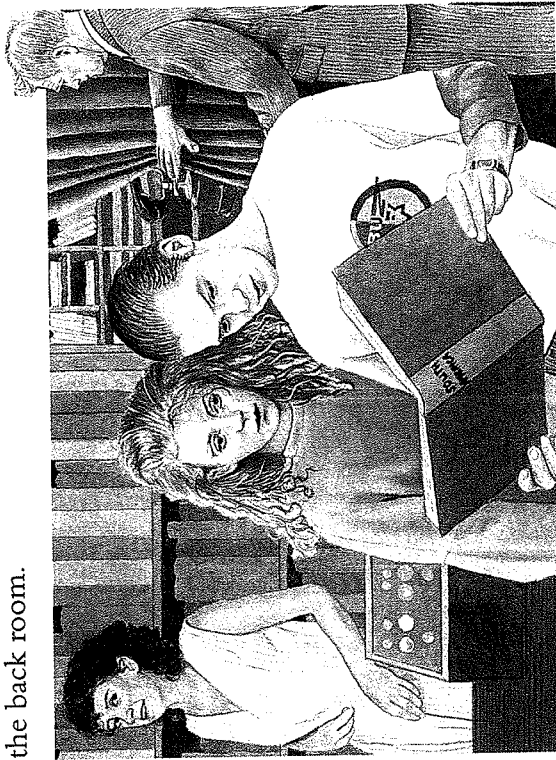
'They're 300 years old,' says the shopkeeper. 'They're very valuable. Every coin in my shop is valuable.'

A girl is working in the shop, too. She looks at Carla. Carla smiles, but the girl doesn't smile at her.

'She isn't very friendly,' Carla thinks.

Suddenly they hear a telephone in the room behind the shop. The shopkeeper doesn't answer it for a minute. Then he looks at the girl and she looks at him. They don't speak, but Carla understands. The shopkeeper doesn't speak, but he is saying to the girl, 'Watch these students.'

'Excuse me,' he says to Carla and Pete. And he goes into the back room.



Pete is looking at the stamps. 'Come and see these, Carla,' he says. 'They're from South America. I want to start collecting them.'

But Carla doesn't like the people in this shop. They aren't very friendly, and she wants to look at the city.

'They're very expensive,' she says. 'Let's go, Pete.'

The girl watches them, and then she smiles.

'She's happy because we're going,' Carla thinks. 'But why?'

Pete and Carla go back into the big streets with the tourists. Carla is happy now because they are not in the shop.

But the sun is hot and Pete wants a drink. 'Let's go to a café near the Abbey,' he says. He wanted the stamps from South America, but he doesn't say this.

There are tables outside the café. Pete and Carla sit down. There are a lot of people in the café.

'Can we go into the Abbey next?'

Carla asks. 'He wants the stamps from South America,' she thinks.

'But they're very expensive.'

'I want a drink first,'

Pete says.

'OK,' Carla says, and she smiles at him.

Pete smiles at her, too.

After a minute or two they hear,

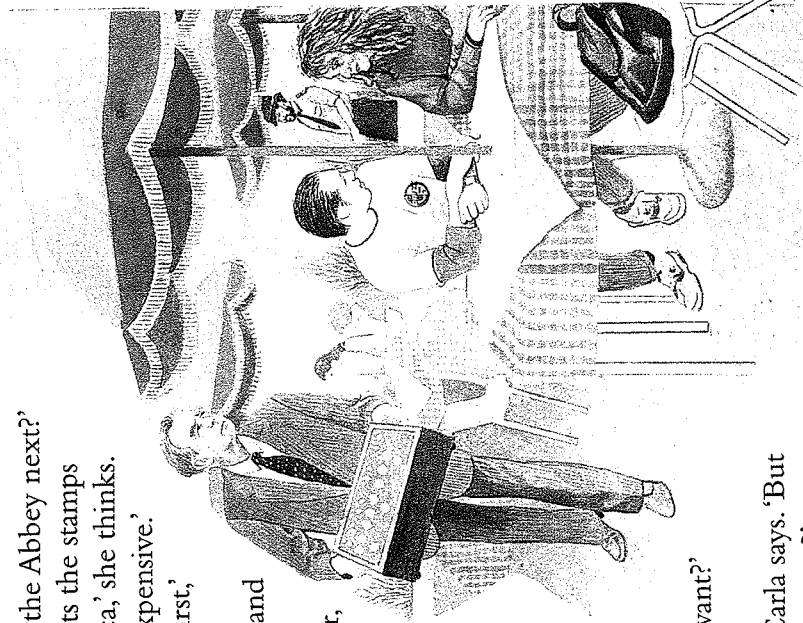
'Hey! There you are!'

Pete and Carla look up. It's the old man from the shop.

'What does he want?'

Pete says.

'I don't know,' Carla says. 'But he's angry. What's wrong?'



The shopkeeper comes to the café. He is very angry.

'Where are my coins?' he says.

'Your coins?'

Carla says. 'I don't understand.'

'They're missing!' the shopkeeper says. 'Did you steal them?'

Carla and Pete are surprised. The people at the tables near them are surprised, too. They watch the two friends and the old man.

'Steal your coins? No!' Carla says. Her face is hot and red. 'We didn't steal any coins or stamps!' Pete says. 'What are you saying?' He is angry now.

'You've got my coins!' the shopkeeper says. 'The coins are missing, and this isn't the first time. Some coins were missing last week. Some students had them, too, I think.'

'Did you see the students with the coins?' Pete says.

The old man doesn't answer.

A policeman walks down the street to the café. He watches Carla and Pete and the shopkeeper. Then he says, 'What's wrong?'

'These two students came into my shop,' the shopkeeper says. 'I went to the back room and answered the telephone. Then I went back into the shop. Some valuable coins were missing, and the two students were not in the shop.'

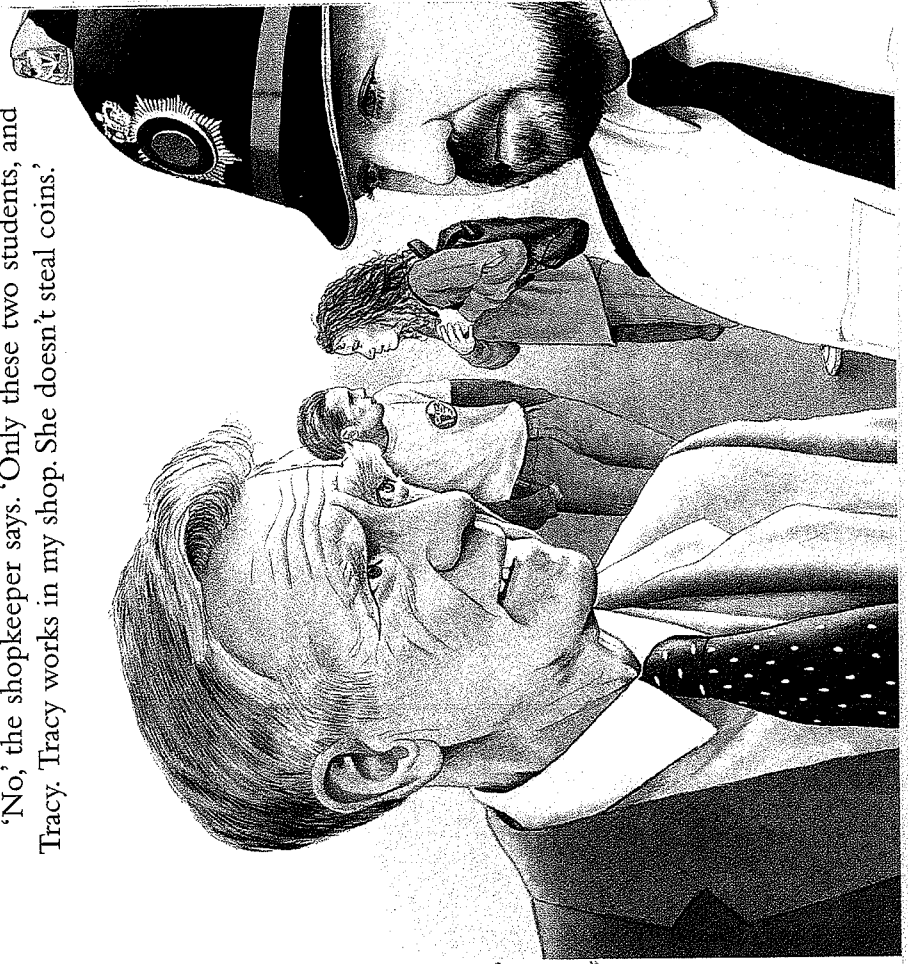
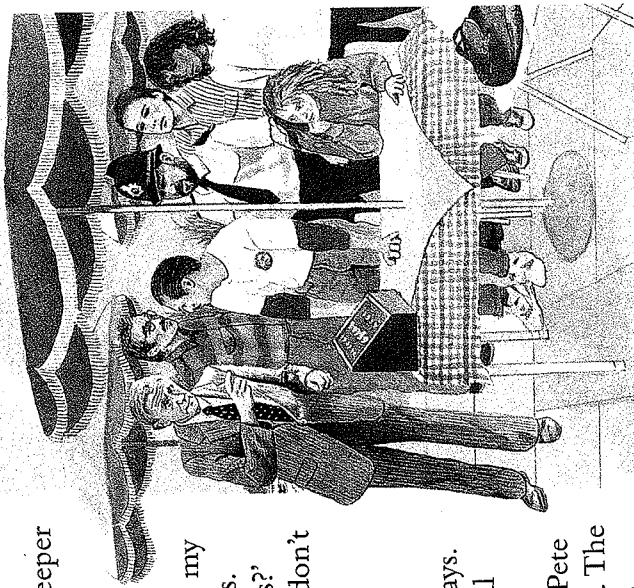
The policeman looks at Pete and Carla. 'What do you say?' he asks.

'Yes, we went into the shop,' Carla says. 'We wanted to look at the stamps.'

'But we didn't steal them,' Pete says. 'And we didn't take the coins.'

'Were there many people in the shop?' the policeman asks.

'No,' the shopkeeper says. 'Only these two students, and Tracy. Tracy works in my shop. She doesn't steal coins.'



'How do you know?' asks the policeman.
 'I looked in her bag and pockets today,' the shopkeeper says. 'And I looked in them last week.'
 'You can look in my bag,' Carla says.
 'And you can look in my pockets,' Pete says.
 The shopkeeper is surprised. 'Can I?' he says.
 'Please look... please look now,' Carla says. 'We didn't steal any coins.' She gives him her bag.



The shopkeeper looks in Carla's bag and in their pockets. The people at the tables near them watch him. 'Is he going to find the coins?' they think. But he finds no coins or stamps.

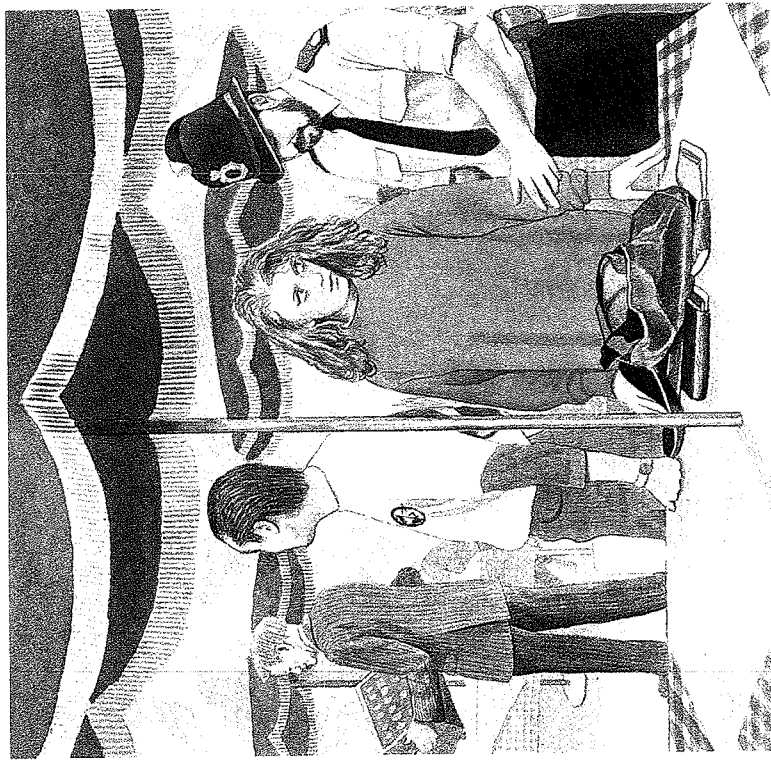
'We *didn't* steal the coins,' Pete says. 'And now you know that.'

'I - I'm sorry,' the shopkeeper says. 'I was wrong. But I don't understand it. Where are the coins?'

Then the old man goes back to his shop.

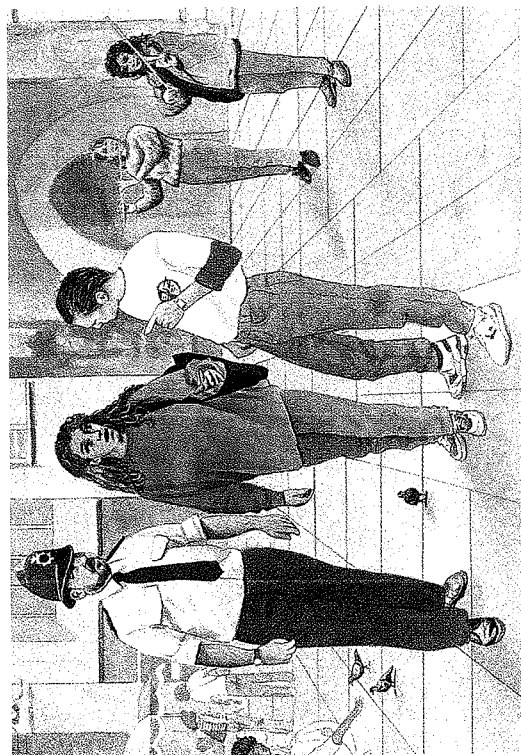
'He isn't very happy,' Pete says to the policeman.

'Coins are very small,' the policeman says. 'Perhaps they're in the shop, but he can't see them.'



Some young people start to play music. A girl plays a flute.

'We didn't steal any coins,' Carla says to the policeman. 'I know,' the policeman says.



Carla listens to the music. It is *Greensleeves*.

'Where did I hear that?' she thinks. And then she remembers the flute player near the coin and stamp shop. 'He played that tune,' she remembers.

Pete is watching her face. 'What is it?' he asks her. 'What's wrong?'

'I know now!' she says. 'The missing coins – I know the answer!'

'Do you?' Pete says. 'What is it?'

'Come with me!' she says to Pete and the policeman.

'We're going to find the man with the flute!'



'Which man?' the policeman says.

'He plays in the street near the old man's shop,' Pete says.

Then Carla, Pete and the policeman run to the stamp and coin shop.

'Hey, you!' Carla says.

The flute player is going to walk away, but the policeman stops him.

'Wait!' the policeman says.

'We want to speak to you.'

The man wants to run now. 'I – I'm going home,' he says.

'No, wait,' the policeman says. He looks at Carla.

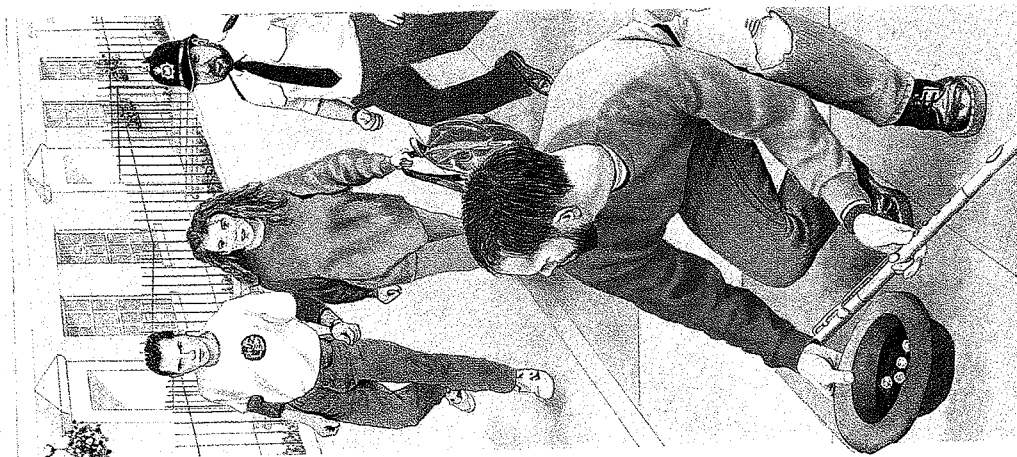
'You have the coins,' Carla says to the flute player.

'No!' the man says. He starts to run away, but the policeman stops him again.

'How did he do it?' Pete asks Carla.

'It was the girl in the shop,' Carla says. 'We looked at some stamps. Remember?'

And the shopkeeper was on the telephone in the room at the back.'



'But how did the flute player get the coins?' the policeman asks.

'Yes,' Pete says. 'I don't understand.'

'He was outside the window,' Carla says. 'The girl went to the window with the coins!'

'But there were people in the street,' Pete says.

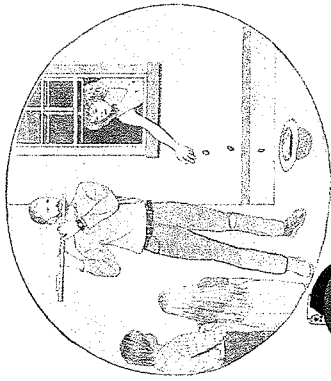
'Yes, perhaps people watched her,' Carla says, 'but the coins went *into the flute player's hat!* The coins were valuable, but the people in the street didn't know that.'

'The girl and the flute player were very clever!' Pete says.

'But now they're coming with me to the police station,' the policeman says.

He takes the coins from the flute player.

After some time, a police car arrives. It takes the girl and the flute player to the police station.



'Thank you,' the shopkeeper says to Carla. 'The coins are valuable. I want to say "thank you"'. What can I give you?'

Carla smiles. 'Give Pete the stamps from South America,' she says. 'Then he can start his stamp-collecting today!'

Pete gives her a big smile. 'Thanks, Carla,' he says. 'I love you!'



ACTIVITIES

Before you read

- 1 Look at the Word List at the back of the book. What are the words in your language?
- 2 Read about the story on the back of the book, and answer the questions.
 - a What do Pete and Carla see in a shop?
 - b What does Pete want to buy?
 - c Why can't he buy them?
 - d Why does the shopkeeper want to find Pete?
- 3 Look at the picture on page 1. What is the right answer?
 - a Pete and Carla are *young / old*.
 - b They are in a *city / small town*.
 - c The buildings are *new / old*.
 - d People are playing *games / music* in the street.

While you read

- 4 Are the sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?
 - a Pete and Carla live in Bath.
 - b A lot of tourists visit the city.
 - c A lot of people are listening to a man in the street.
 - d He plays the flute very well.
 - e Pete collects stamps.
 - f There are beautiful stamps and expensive coins in the shop.
 - g The shopkeeper is very friendly.
 - h Pete doesn't buy any stamps.

5 Who is talking?

- a 'Where are my coins?'
- b 'What's wrong?'
- c 'We didn't steal them.'
- d 'She doesn't steal coins.'
- e 'You can look in my bag.'
- f 'I was wrong.'
- g 'I know the answer!'
- h 'Hey, you!'
- i 'The coins went *into the flute player's hat!*'
- j 'What can I give you?'

After you read

- 6 Find a picture in the book and talk about it with a friend. What can you see in the picture? Who can you see? What are they doing? What are they going to do?
- 7 What do you collect? Why? Talk to your friends.
- 8 Work with a friend.

Student A: You write for a newspaper. Ask Carla questions about her visit to the shop and the missing coins.

Student B: You are Carla. Talk about the shopkeeper, the missing coins, Tracy and man with the flute.
- 9 Now write the story of Carla, Pete and the missing coins for a newspaper.
- 10 Is there an interesting little shop in your town or city? What can you buy there? Write about it.

Answers for the Activities in this book are available from the Penguin Readers website.
A free Activity Worksheet is also available from the website. Activity Worksheets are part of the Penguin Teacher Support Programme, which also includes Progress Tests and Graded Reader Guidelines. For more information, please visit:
www.penguinreaders.com

WORD LIST with example sentences

- abbey** (n) A lot of people visit Westminster Abbey because it is a beautiful building.
- city** (n) We live in a small town, but we like visiting big cities on holiday.
- coin** (n) He plays music in the street and people put coins in his hat.
- collect** (v) We collect old photographs of this town. Have you got any?
- flute** (n) My mother loves music and she plays the flute very well.
- last** (det) He stopped working because he was sixty-five last year.
- minute** (n) It is only five minutes on the bus from home to my office.
- missing** (adj) A child is missing and we are all looking for him.
- next** (adj/adv) She is working in Manchester this week, but her next job is going to be in London.
- outside** (prep) The children are waiting for me outside the school.
- pocket** (n) Have you got any money in your coat pocket?
- pretty** (adj) She is a pretty little girl, but not very clever.
- shopkeeper** (n) I like that shop; the shopkeeper is very friendly.
- speak** (v) He speaks and writes English well.
- stamp** (n) Can you buy some stamps for these letters, please?
- steal** (v) People are stealing bags from the trains at night.
- surprised** (adj) He is a doctor now. I am surprised because he wasn't a very good student at school.
- tourist** (n) Not all tourists want to stay in hotels; some like staying in people's houses.
- tune** (n) I know the words, but I can't remember the tune.
- valuable** (adj) You can't go near the pictures because they are very valuable.

