



PENGUIN READERS

Mike's Lucky Day

Leslie Dunkling

'Do you like your new job, Mike?'

A van is going down the road. The van driver is talking to a young man.

'Yes, I do, Bill,' the young man says. 'And do you like your new assistant?' he asks.

'He's not bad.'

'Thanks!'

They laugh. Then Bill asks, 'Is this your first job?'

'No,' Mike says. 'I always get a summer job. We have a long holiday in the summer.'

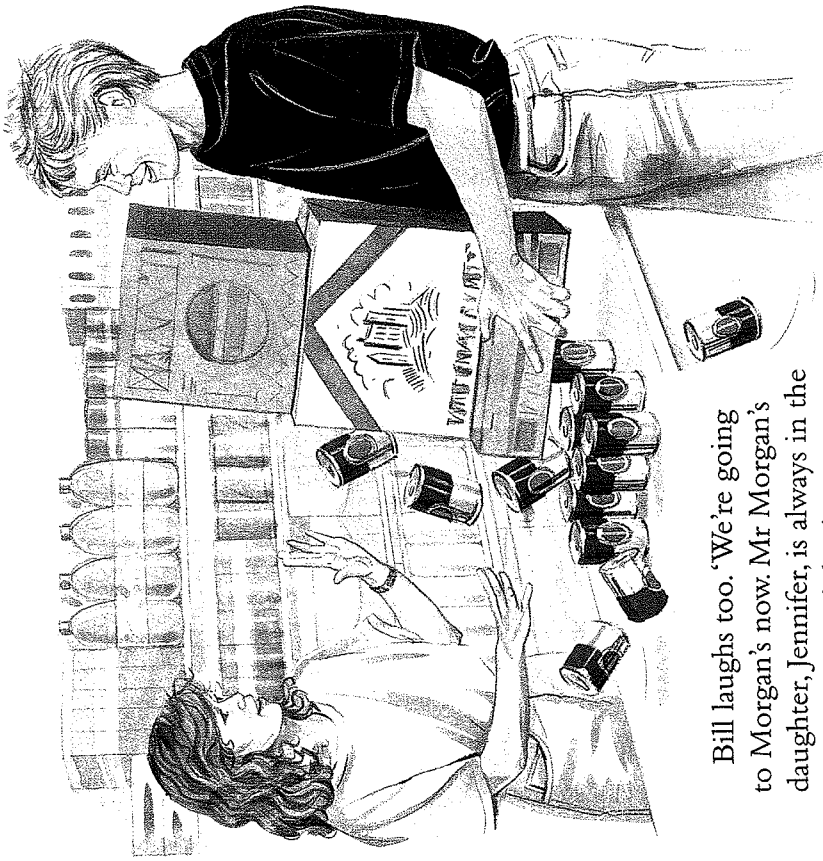
Bill laughs. 'Students! You're lucky.'

'Yes, but van drivers are lucky too. Look at you. You've got a very good assistant.'

'Oh,' Bill says. 'And what do the girls think about you? Do they like you too?'

Mike laughs. 'I don't know.'





Bill laughs too. 'We're going to Morgan's now. Mr Morgan's daughter, Jennifer, is always in the shop. We can ask her.'

Bill and Mike drive to Morgan's shop. They take boxes from the van and go into the shop. Mike walks across the shop with three boxes. The boxes are big, and he can't see well. But he can see a girl – a beautiful girl. She is standing behind the counter. Mike smiles at her, but she doesn't smile at him.

'Stop!' she says. But Mike doesn't stop. There are some cans on the counter, and he walks into them – CRASH!

The girl runs to him. 'Oh!' she says. 'Are you OK?'

'Yes, thanks,' Mike says. He is sitting on the floor with the

cans and boxes. He looks up at her. Now she smiles, and Mike smiles. She laughs, and he laughs too. Bill and Mr Morgan come from the back of the shop.

'This is Mike,' Bill says to Mr Morgan and Jennifer. 'He's my new assistant.'

'New? I can see that!' Mr Morgan says.

Jennifer helps Mike with the cans.

'Let's go now, Mike,' Bill says.

'Are you going to come again next week?' Jennifer asks Mike.

Mike smiles. 'Yes,' he says.

'Don't walk into the cans next week,' Jennifer says, and she laughs again.



Monday comes, and Bill says, 'We're going to Morgan's this afternoon. You can see your girlfriend.'

Mike says, 'Jennifer? She isn't my girlfriend. But she's got beautiful eyes and beautiful hair.' Bill smiles.

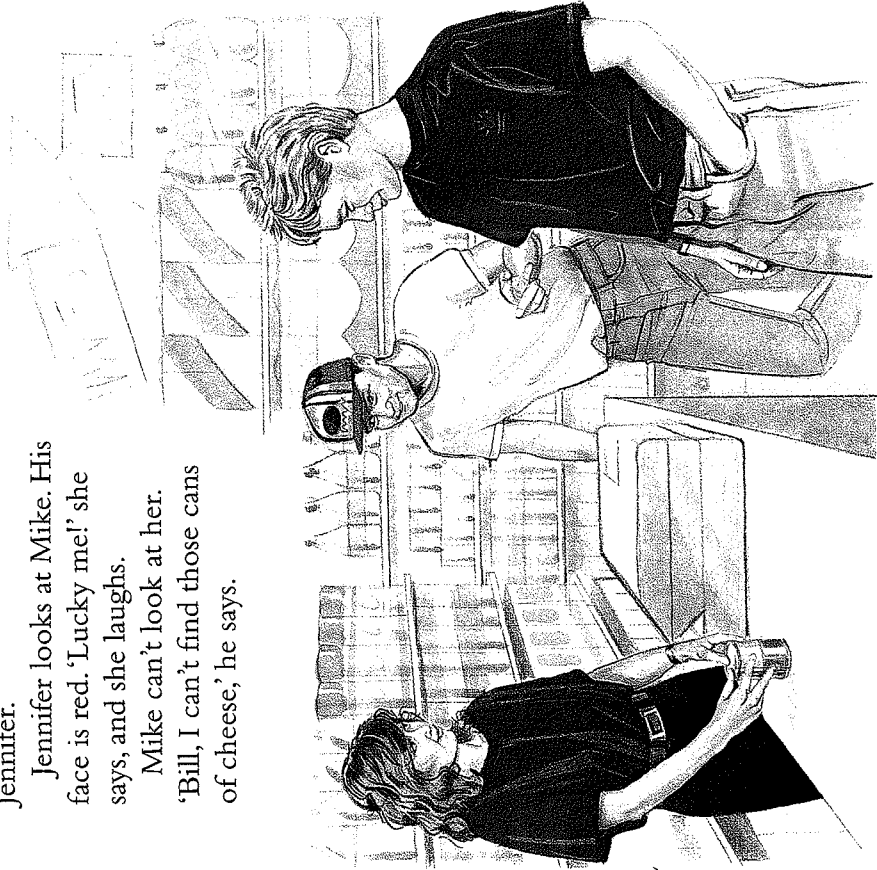
They go to Morgan's in the afternoon, and Jennifer is there again.

'You're right, Mike,' Bill says. 'Jennifer *has* got beautiful eyes! And Mike likes your hair,' Bill says to Jennifer.

Jennifer looks at Mike. His face is red. 'Lucky me!' she says, and she laughs.

Mike can't look at her.

'Bill, I can't find those cans of cheese,' he says.



'Cans of cheese? What cans of cheese?'

'The cans of cheese for Morgan's,' Mike says. 'I can't find them.'

'Mike, we don't have cheese for Morgan's. We have *peas* – cans of *peas*.'

Bill and Jennifer laugh again. Mike goes to the van and comes in again with the peas.

He puts the box on the counter. 'Here are your peas,' he says to Jennifer. His face is red again.

Jennifer smiles at him. 'Thank you,' she says. She has a beautiful smile.

Then a woman comes into the shop. Jennifer says, 'Hello, Mrs Smith,' and helps her.

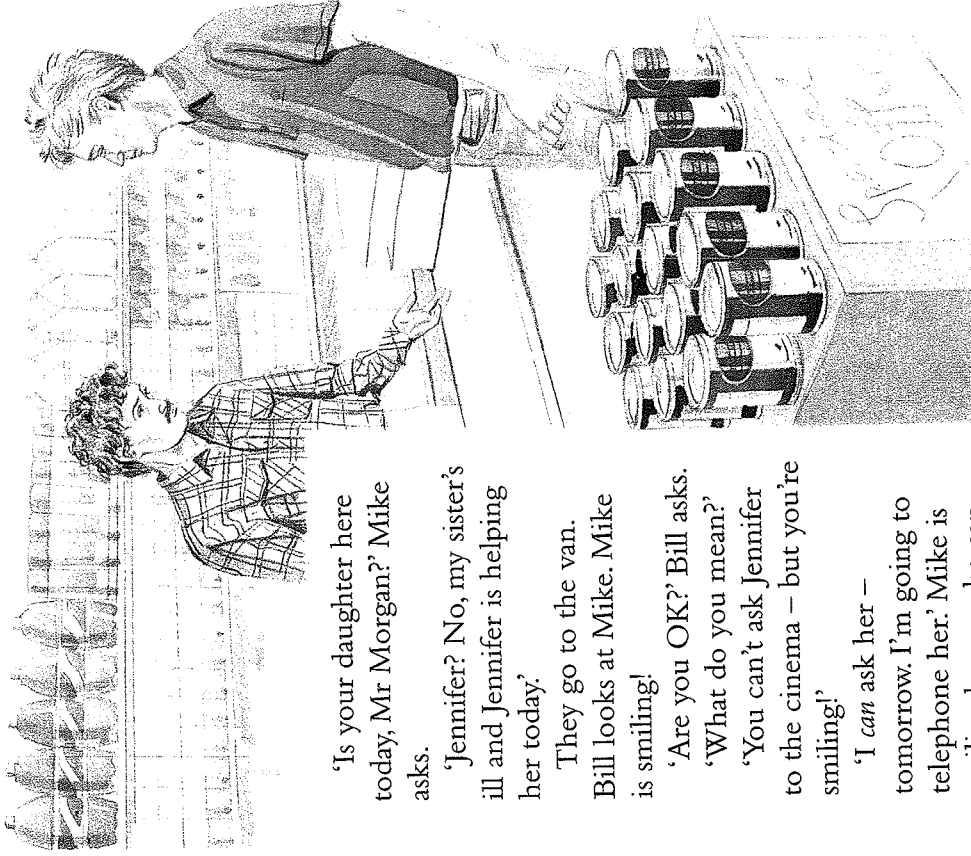
'Let's go, Mike,' Bill says.

Mike wants to talk to Jennifer, but she is talking to Mrs Smith. He goes to the van with Bill.

'She likes you,' Bill says. 'Now what are you going to do?' Mike thinks about this. Then he smiles. 'Next Monday I'm going to go into the shop and say, "Jennifer, can you come to the cinema with me?"', Bill smiles. 'Good,' he says.



Monday comes again. Mike is happy. Today he is going to see Jennifer. But there is one problem. Mr Morgan and Bill are going to be there too. They arrive at Morgan's. Mike runs into the shop, but he doesn't see Jennifer. She isn't there!



'Is your daughter here today, Mr Morgan?' Mike asks.

'Jennifer? No, my sister's ill and Jennifer is helping her today.'

They go to the van.

Bill looks at Mike. Mike is smiling!

'Are you OK?' Bill asks.

'What do you mean?'

'You can't ask Jennifer to the cinema – but you're smiling!'

'I *can* ask her –

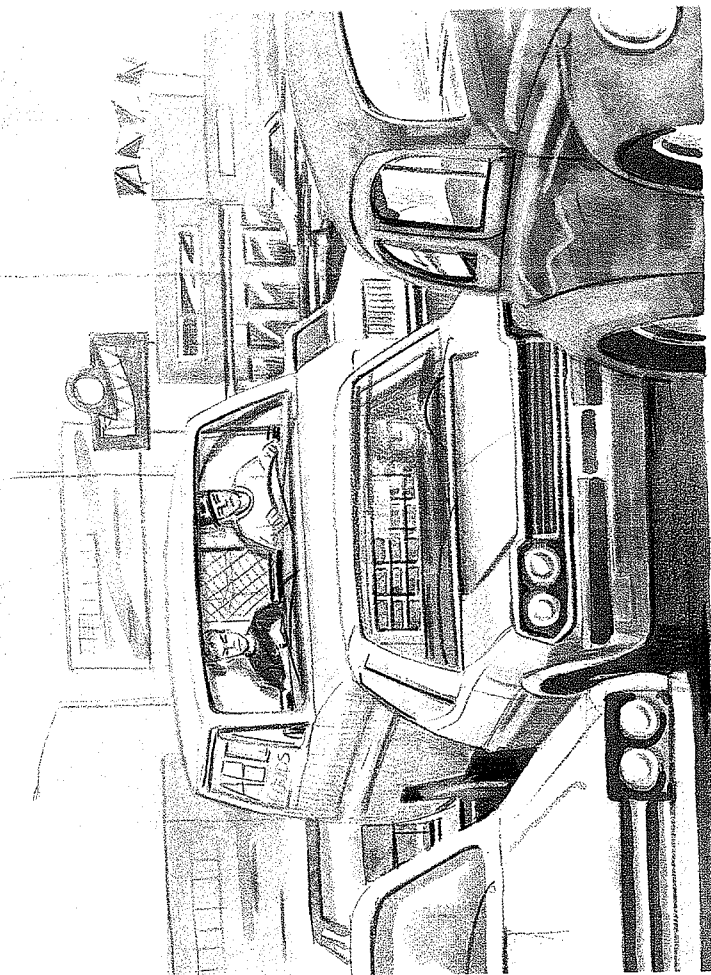
tomorrow. I'm going to telephone her.' Mike is smiling because he can talk to Jennifer on the

telephone. Bill and Mr Morgan aren't going to listen.

Mike telephones the next afternoon and Jennifer answers.

'Hello, Jennifer! This is Mike. Listen, *Casablanca* is at Cinema One this Friday,' Mike says. 'Can you come with me?'

'Yes, Mike,' Jennifer says. 'Thank you.'



'Hmmm! – You're happy,' Bill says to Mike later that day.

'I'm going to the cinema with Jennifer.'

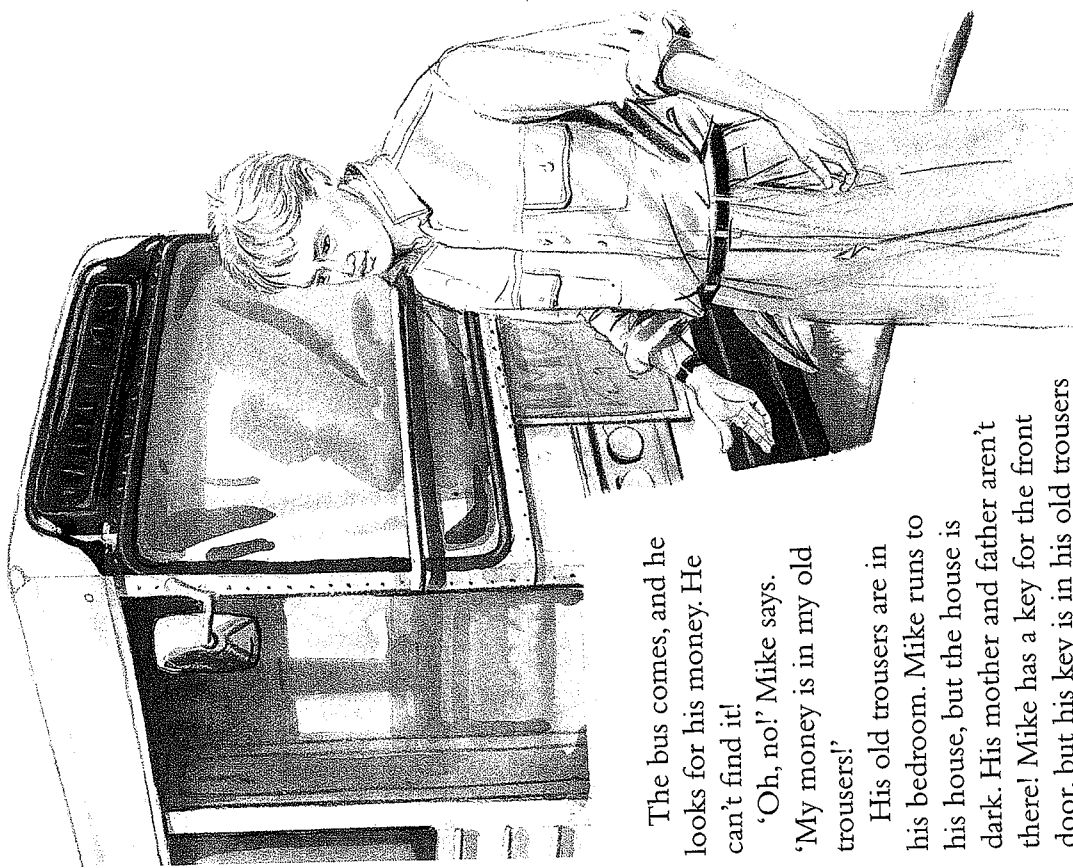
'Good.'

'Good? Very good! She's beautiful, and I'm going to the cinema with her!' He laughs.

Friday evening comes, but now Mike isn't laughing. He is in the van with Bill, and they aren't moving. No cars or buses in the street are moving.

'Oh, no,' Mike says, 'I'm late! I'm meeting Jennifer at 8.00.'

At 7.30 Mike runs into his house. He goes to his room and puts on clean trousers and a clean shirt. He runs to the bus stop. He is late, but the bus can take him to Cinema One quickly.

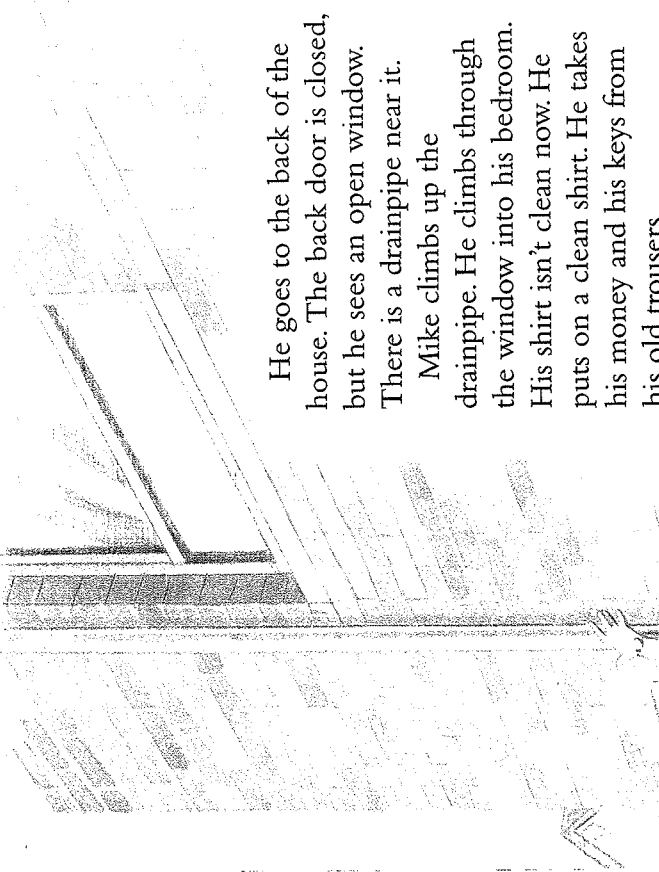


The bus comes, and he looks for his money. He can't find it!

'Oh, no!' Mike says.

'My money is in my old trousers!'

His old trousers are in his bedroom. Mike runs to his house, but the house is dark. His mother and father aren't there! Mike has a key for the front door, but his key is in his old trousers too. He can't open the door.



He goes to the back of the house. The back door is closed, but he sees an open window. There is a drainpipe near it.

Mike climbs up the drainpipe. He climbs through the window into his bedroom. His shirt isn't clean now. He puts on a clean shirt. He takes his money and his keys from his old trousers.

A police car stops in the street in front of Mike's house. 'That's the house,' one of the policemen says.

The front door opens, and they see Mike. He doesn't see them. He runs to the bus stop.

'That's the man!' the policeman says. He drives the police car to the bus stop. 'Stop!' he says to Mike. 'You're coming with us to the police station!'

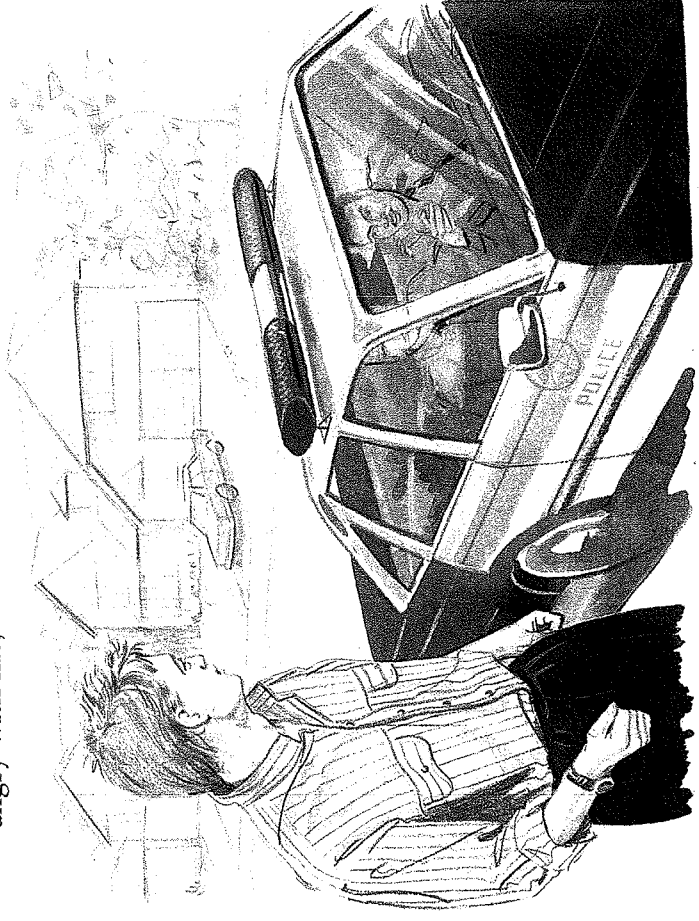
The policemen take Mike to the police station. There they ask him, 'Do you often climb through windows into houses?'

'No,' Mike tells them, 'and I don't often climb through the window of that house. I live there. It's my house.'

But the policemen ask a lot of questions. Mike tells them his story again and again. Then the policemen say, 'OK, you can go. But don't climb into a house again. People see you and then there's a problem.'

One of the policemen smiles. 'Come with me in the police car,' he says. 'I can take you into town.'

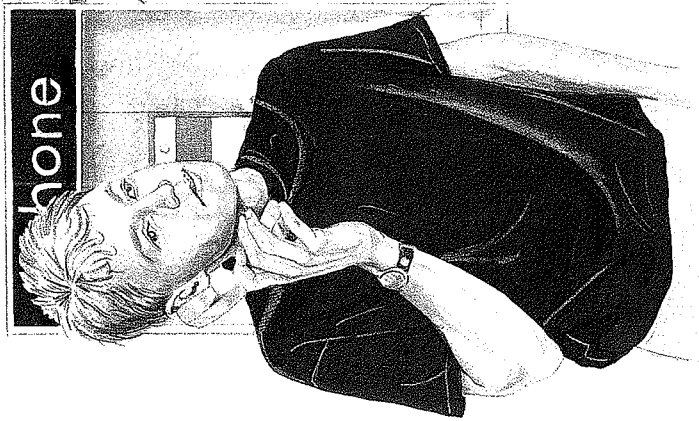
Mike goes in the car with the policeman. He is very late, and Jennifer isn't at the cinema. 'She's going to be angry with me,' he thinks.



The next day Mike telephones the shop. Mr Morgan answers. Mike asks, 'Can I talk to Jennifer?'

'I'm sorry, Mike, but Jennifer doesn't want to talk to you.'

That afternoon Mike telephones again,



and Mr Morgan answers again. Mike thinks quickly. Then he says in a girl's voice, 'Hello. Is Jennifer there, please?'

'Yes. Who is this?' Mr Morgan asks.

Mike doesn't think. 'Mike,' he says. 'No, no!' he says in a girl's voice again. 'Mary. It's Mary.'

'Mike, stop this,' Mr Morgan says. 'Jennifer doesn't want to talk to you.'



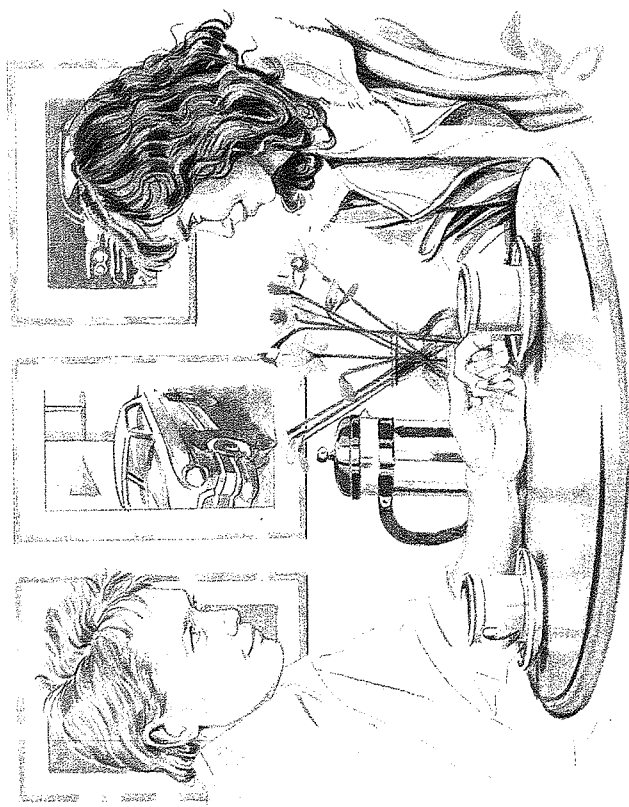
On Sunday night Mike writes to Jennifer. He tells her about the money and the key in his old trousers. He tells her about his climb up the drainpipe. He tells her about the policemen.

'I'm sorry,' his letter says. 'Can we start again? I'm going to be at the Broadway Coffee House this evening at 8.00. Can you meet me there? Please!'

On Monday he takes the letter to the shop with Bill. Jennifer is there, but she doesn't look at Mike. She goes into the back of the shop. Mike puts the letter on the counter.

'She isn't going to read it,' he thinks. 'This job stops in two weeks. And then I'm never going to see her again.'

That evening Mike looks through the window of the Broadway Coffee House. Jennifer is there!



Mike goes into the coffee house. He walks across the room to Jennifer's table. She looks at him and smiles.

'Hello,' she says. 'You're late.'

'What do you mean?' Mike says. 'It's only 7.45.'

'You're *three days* late.'

'Oh — yes. I'm sorry, Jennifer.'

'No, Mike. *I'm* sorry.'

Mike sits down and looks at her. 'I'm here now,' he says.

'Lucky me!' Jennifer says.

Mike looks into her eyes. 'And *you're* here.'

'Lucky you!'

And the two lucky young people sit there and are happy.

ACTIVITIES

Pages 1-7

Before you read

- 1 Look at the Word List at the back of the book.
 - a What are the words in your language?
 - b Find these in the pictures on pages 1-7:
boxes cans a counter trousers a van
- 2 Look again at the pictures. Mike (in the dark shirt) has a new job.
What do you think?
 - a What is the job?
 - b Does he like it? Why (not)?
 - c Would you like that job? Why (not)?

While you read

- 3 Write the names.
 - a Who is the van driver?
 - b Who is his new assistant?
 - c Who is a student?
 - d Who works in her father's shop?
 - e Who walks into some cans?
 - f Who are going to go to the cinema?

After you read

- 4 Close the book and work with a friend.

Student A: You are Mike. Telephone Jennifer. You want to see a film with her.

Student B: You are Jennifer. You want to go with Mike. When and where are you going to meet? Ask questions.

Pages 8-15

Before you read

- 5 Look at the pictures on pages 8-11. What problems is Mike going to have on Friday? What do you think?

While you read

- 6 What does Mike do first on Friday evening? And then? Write the numbers 1-8.
 - a He goes to a police station.
 - b He runs home and puts on clean trousers.
 - c He climbs up a drainpipe and into his house.
 - d He sits in the van with Bill.
 - e He can't find his money.
 - f He runs to a bus stop.
 - g He runs home again, but can't find his key.
 - h He arrives at the cinema in a police car.
- 7 Answer the questions. Write Yes or No.
 - a Is Jennifer angry with Mike?
 - b Does she want to talk to him?
 - c Does he tell her about his problems?
 - d Does she read his letter?
 - e Do they meet in the coffee shop?
 - f Are they happy?

After you read

- 8 Jennifer telephones a friend after her visit to the cinema. What does she say? Write her words.
- 9 What is Mike going to do after this story? Is he going to be a student again? Write about him.

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

- assistant** (n) Her *assistant* does the difficult jobs!
- box** (n) My old photographs are in a *box* under my bed.
- can** (n) Would you like a bottle or a *can*?
- cheese** (n) Would you like some *cheese* or some fruit?
- clean** (adj) We aren't going to stay in this hotel again. The rooms aren't *clean*.
- climb** (v) Can you *climb* on the table and open that window?
- counter** (n) There are sometimes ten people in the shop and only one behind the *counter*.
- drainpipe** (n) There is a problem. The rainwater isn't running down the *drainpipe*.
- help** (v) Can you *help* me with my homework, please?
- key** (n) This is the *key* to the back door of the house.
- laugh** (v) She never stops *laughing*. She is a very happy child.
- lucky** (adj) His mother is taking him to Bali on holiday. He is very *lucky*.
- mean** (v) 'Madre' is a Spanish word, and it *means* 'mother'.
- next** (det/adj) I am going to start a new job *next* Monday.
- pea** (n) He doesn't like *peas*. He never eats them.
- tell** (v) They are going to *tell* us about their holiday in India.
- through** (prep) The sun comes *through* this window in the morning.
- trousers** (n pl) Those are John's *trousers*, and that is his shirt.
- van** (n) They are bringing the new chairs here in a small *van*.
- voice** (n) His *voice* is very quiet. Can you hear him?

