

Cambridge Discovery Readers

Starter Level

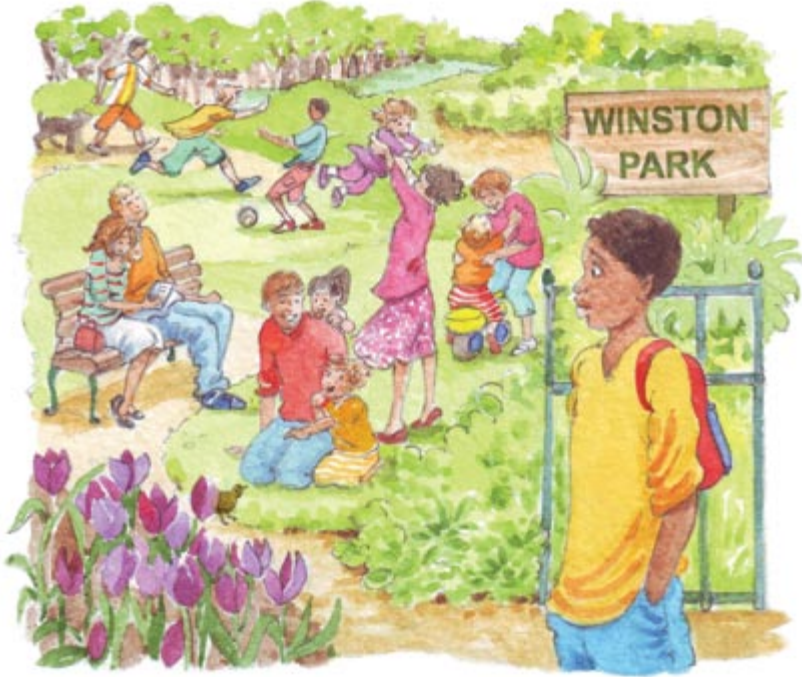
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Gone!

Margaret Johnson



The camera



Tom leaves the house and walks to Winston Park. He doesn't like football, but he wants to be with people.

It's a hot day. In Winston Park, there are lots of mothers and fathers with their children. Boys and girls are running and laughing. Everyone looks happy. Tom sees Neil and some other boys. They're playing football.

Tom goes over. Neil sees him. He smiles. 'Hello, Tom!' he calls. 'Happy birthday!'

'Thank you!' Tom calls, but Neil is running to get the ball.



Tom watches the game for ten minutes, but Neil doesn't speak to him again. Neil's good at football and he's enjoying the game. Tom starts walking across Winston Park.

He sits down on a seat and takes a drink from his bag.



He puts his bag on the grass. There is another bag under the seat.

‘What’s this?’ thinks Tom. The bag is black. Tom opens it. He’s looking for a name. There is only one thing in the bag: a camera.



Tom takes it out. Then he looks in the bag again, but there is nothing in it. No name.

Tom looks at the camera. There are four buttons: PHOTO, DELETE, ON and OFF. Tom puts his finger on the ON button and presses it. The camera makes a noise.



The black bag is on the seat. Tom can see it in the camera. Tom puts his finger on the PHOTO button. He presses it. The camera makes another noise. Tom looks at the photo of the bag. It's OK, but he doesn't want a photo of a bag, so he presses the DELETE button. The photo goes away.



‘This camera is OK,’ Tom thinks. ‘But it isn’t my camera. I must take it to the police. I can buy a camera with my birthday money.’

Tom puts out his hand to take the camera bag from the seat. But the bag isn’t there.

He looks under the seat. No bag. He looks behind the seat. No bag. Tom doesn’t understand. ‘Where is the bag?’ he thinks.

A squirrel runs in front of the seat. Tom wants a photo of it. The squirrel stops.



‘It’s looking for food,’ Tom thinks. He smiles and presses the PHOTO button. But when he looks at the photo, it isn’t good.

‘Squirrels are too fast for photos,’ Tom thinks.

He presses the DELETE button. The photo of the squirrel goes away.



When Tom looks for the squirrel, he can’t see it.

‘Squirrels run fast,’ Tom thinks. ‘But not that fast. Where is it?’



Tom looks at the camera. He doesn't understand. Something is wrong. He wants to try the camera again. There are some flowers next to his seat. Tom looks at the camera again. He can see the flowers. He presses the PHOTO button and takes a photo of the flowers.

Then he presses the DELETE button to make the photo go away. Tom takes the camera away from his face. He looks for the flowers. They aren't there.

'The flowers are gone,' he thinks. 'Gone!'