

For ever and ever and ever...

'Hello, Lob,' she whispered.

Of course he was here. Of course he was real. Now, and for ever and ever and ever.

August

In the summer holidays, Lucy went to stay with Granny and Grandpa by herself. She loved that. She liked London and home, but she loved Clunny Cottage. Dawn crept early through her bedroom window, and the air outside was full of birdsong and baaing. Hedges ran greenly between fields dotted with sheep. When she looked out, she saw the trees all hazed with mist.

She heard the laughing yaffle of a woodpecker, invisible in leafiness. Or was that Lob?

Later she went down into the garden with Grandpa to pick peas, choosing the plumpest pods. She liked to slit them with her thumb, and see the peas packed inside, like little green baubles.

The stream, close by, ran along the bottom of the garden. Sometimes it was

a full brown swirl, sometimes just a shining thread. Lucy thought of all that water, how it knew which way to go. How it made its own pathways, deep and sure.

'Where does the water keep coming from?' she asked Grandpa. 'Won't it run out one day? What if it does?'

She heard a chattering laugh from the bushes that fringed the stream.

'Don't take any notice of Lob,' said Grandpa. 'He's being rude.'

'But will it?'

'No, Lucy-Lu. It never runs out. It comes from the rain on the hills. It trickles down the hillsides and into the stream, and the stream flows into the river, and into the sea. And the winds pick up water and make clouds and then it rains some more. And so it goes on.'

'For ever and ever and ever?'

1. How many months have gone by between the last chapter and the new chapter?

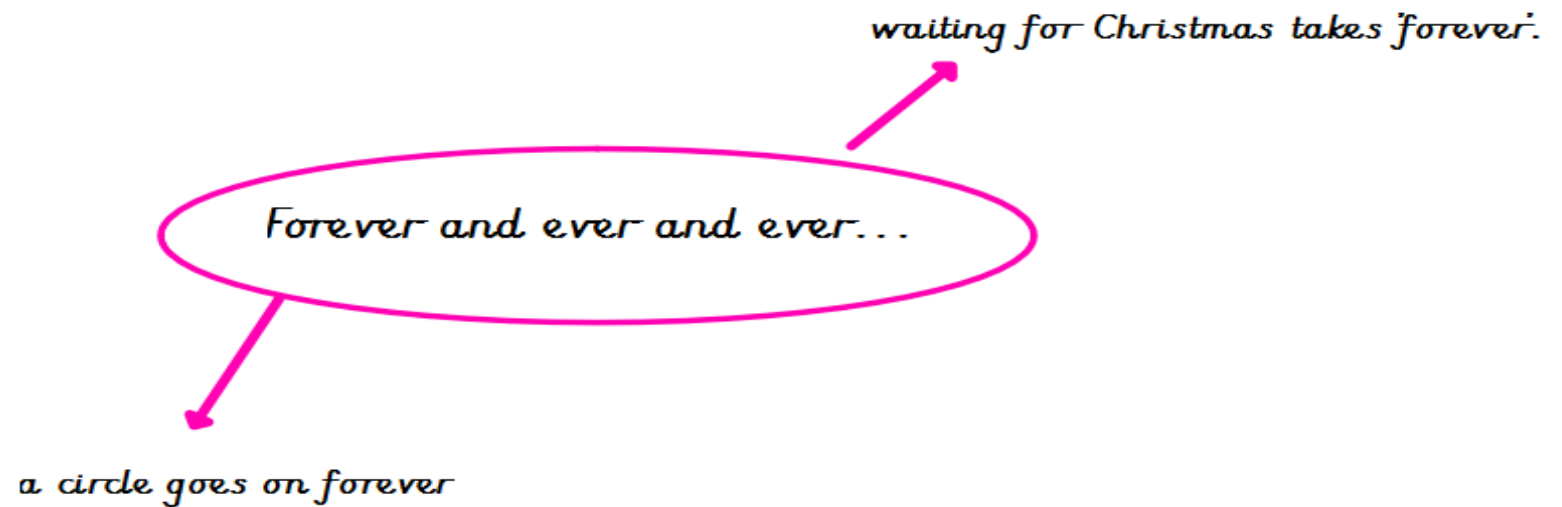
2. Find where Lucy says 'For ever and ever and ever.' (Does she say it more than once?)

3. What does she mean by that?

4. What do you think 'forever' means?

Name some things that last 'forever':

It could also be something that just feels like forever.



How many 'FOREVERS' can you come up with?