

## January

Everything was changing, all the things Lucy had thought would always be the same. Granny Annie decided that she didn't want to stay at Clunny Cottage by herself.

'I'd be lonely without Will, all by myself. And the garden's too big to manage.'

Instead, she moved to a smaller cottage in the village, with friendly neighbours on each side, and a shop across the street. Early in the new

As you read through the next chapter, I want you to look for the descriptive language. Which words or phrases that are good at letting you know what Lucy is thinking and feeling.

year, Mum and Dad and Lucy helped her to pack up and move.

Lucy hated seeing Clunny Cottage bare and empty. All her Grandpa Will thoughts had nowhere to be.

'We could come and live here!' she told her parents. 'Couldn't we? It'd be nice and close to Granny.'

Mum gave her a cuddle. 'Sweetheart, you know we can't. Yes, it'd be lovely, but Dad and I have to be in London. We couldn't get jobs here, miles from anywhere.'

But what about Lob?

Lucy needed to know, but there was no one to ask – no one who understood. There's only Grandpa, she thought. So Grandpa was the person she asked, silently, standing outside the back door.

The weather had turned so cold and wintry that summer seemed impossible. The dug beds were frozen into hard clumps. Every leaf, every blade of grass, had a rim of frost, like icing sugar.

*Grandpa Will*, Lucy said, in her thoughts, *what will Lob do when spring comes and you're not here?*

What do you think Lucy should do? How will she get her questions answered?

*He'll walk*, said Grandpa's voice in her head. *He'll walk the roads. He'll look for his special person. When he finds that person, he'll stay.*

It was a comfort, the way she could bring Grandpa back. Hear his voice so clearly, and the things he'd said. But she hated to think of Lob finding someone else.

*But I want to be Lob's special person! I don't want him to find someone new!*

And this time Grandpa didn't answer.

‘Lob,’ she whispered, and her breath plumed up in a cloud. ‘Are you there? Are you listening? Come to London. I’ll be your person.’

But what if Lob was hibernating? Not there to listen? When he woke up, he might think she’d gone away without even saying goodbye.

### Your Task

You are going to write a letter, from Lucy, to Lob, encouraging him to follow her back to London. Think about the questions Lucy is asking in the text above. Think about the thoughts and feelings she might have about Lob, now that her grandpa has died and how desperate she is to have Lob with her.

Don’t forget all the features of a letter that you will need to include!

- Who the letter is to.
- Writing in first person using ‘I’.
- Paragraphs. Each new idea must be on a new paragraph.
- Who the letter is from.

Continue reading below

'Lob,' she whispered, and her breath plumed up in a cloud. 'Are you there? Are you listening? Come to London. I'll be your person.'

But what if Lob was hibernating? Not there to listen? When he woke up, he might think she'd gone away without even saying goodbye.

In her rucksack she had a little notebook with a pen attached. She sat on the bench to write a letter. Her fingers were almost too cold to grip the pen, but she wrote as neatly as she could.



Dear Lob,

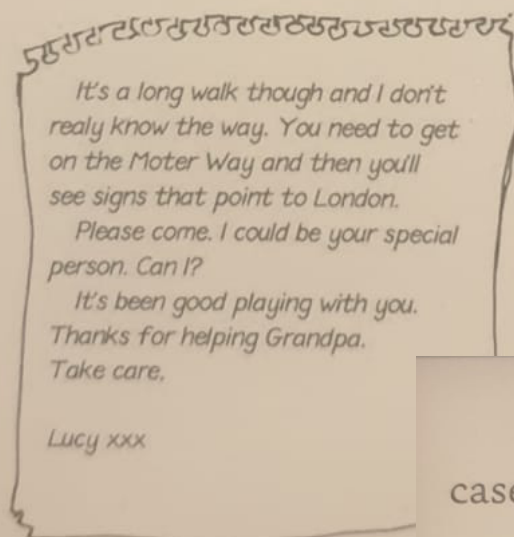
You must be lonely without Grandpa. I miss him too. Why don't you come and live in London? That's where I live. It's not as green as you're used to and we haven't got a garden. But there's a park near our house with a lake. There's trees and grass and bushes too. It's called Leaside Park and it's near the station. I'll look out for you there.

Here she stopped and thought. Lob could come with them in the car, but she



was quite sure he wouldn't – Grandpa said he'd walk the roads. Besides, he had a habit of flicking and darting away when you tried to look at him properly – you couldn't get nearer than he wanted. He'd never let himself be trapped in the back seat of a car.

She wrote:



*It's a long walk though and I don't  
really know the way. You need to get  
on the Mote Way and then you'll  
see signs that point to London.  
Please come. I could be your special  
person. Can I?  
It's been good playing with you.  
Thanks for helping Grandpa.  
Take care,  
  
Lucy xxx*

She whisper-read it aloud, just in case Lob was listening.

Then, carefully, she pulled the page loose from the notebook, folded it up very small, and tucked it under<sup>20</sup> one foot of the bench, where no one but Lob would find it.

Grandpa's ash tree was bare, but already its coal-black buds were about to burst into leaf. The yearly miracle, Grandpa called it.

'Lucy! Are you out there? We're ready to go,' Dad called from indoors.

'Goodbye, Lob,' Lucy whispered. 'I'll be looking for you.'



## Task 2

We have now reached the end of the first part of the book. Have a go at these questions to help us remember the story so far.

What do we know about Lucy so far?

What words would you use to describe her?

Have a look at your Role on the Wall pictures for Lucy and add anything new that you have learnt about this character.