

- BERNARD:** They've found out about you stealing apples from Mr Henshaw's orchard.
- SID:** Shut up, Bernard, or I'll belt yer.
- JOHN:** 'Wonder who they are, then.
- ROY:** Perhaps it's those people what go to homes and check them out.
- JOHN:** Oh, yeah.
- ROY:** Joan says that places like this have to be visited, to make sure the children are being looked after.
- TOM:** Bet that's it then.
- SID:** I'll tell them about Sister Angela always telling me off.
- TOM:** And I'll ask them for more food.
- BERNARD:** If you eat any more food, Tom, you'll explode - just go bang!
- TOM:** I can't help it if I have a healthy appetite.
- ROY:** Think I'll ask them to tell Joan to keep away from me.
- JOHN:** They won't do that, she's your sister!
- ROY:** She's always following me around, tidying my clothes up and bossing me about.
- BERNARD:** It's dead funny to watch! *(In a 'girlie' voice)* Come here, Roy, let me put your tie straight.
- TOM:** *(Also in a 'girlie' voice)* Roy! Pull your socks up and don't wipe your nose with your hand!

*The BOYS all laugh, except ROY.*

- ROY:** *(Muttering angrily)* I'm definitely going to get them visitors to keep Joan away now.
- SID:** *(To the others)* Come on, let's go and tell Joan!
- TOM:** Yeah!

*SID, TOM, BERNARD and JOHN run off with ROY chasing them.*

**ROY:** *(Shouting after the others)* No, don't tell her! She'll go mad at me.

*They all exit. CATHY, MAVIS, LIZZIE, STELLA and JANE enter from a different direction.*

**CATHY:** Who do you think the visitors are, then?

**STELLA:** I was hoping it might be my mam.

**JANE:** *(Sadly)* Me, too.

**MAVIS:** Do you think it might be someone coming to look at the home?

**JANE:** Who do you mean?

**MAVIS:** I mean like people wanting to send children here.

**LIZZIE:** *(Realizing)* Oh, you mean people wanting to send children here coming to have a look what it's like?

**MAVIS:** Yes.

**CATHY:** I bet it's new teachers or something like that.

**JANE:** But we don't need any new teachers.

**CATHY:** Oh. *(Pause)* No.

**STELLA:** I'm a little bit frightened.

**JANE:** *(Sympathetically)* Don't be scared. It's all right. *(Pause, then to STELLA)* Would you like me to read you a story?

**STELLA:** *(Cheering up)* Yes, please.

**JANE:** *(Begins to exit with her arm around STELLA)* Come on, then.

**LIZZIE:** *(Following)* Can we listen too?

**JANE:** Yes. Come on. I'll read some of Peter Pan.

**CATHY:** Oh, I like that! What's that fairy called?

**MAVIS:** Crystabell, no, Bluebell, no... *(She thinks)*

**CATHY:** *(Laughing)* Bluebell?! That's a cow's name!

*They are all laughing as they start to exit.*

**MAVIS:** *(With relief and pleasure)* Tinkerbell! That's it. The fairy's called Tinkerbell!

*They all exit.*

*GEORGE and HENRY enter.*

**GEORGE:** Do you think the Sunday uniforms will itch like these ones?

**HENRY:** I expect so.

**GEORGE:** *(Defiantly)* Then I don't want to wear it!

**HENRY:** We have to, for the visitors.

*There is a pause.*

**GEORGE:** How long have we been here now, Henry?

**HENRY:** Five days.

**GEORGE:** That's a long time. *(Pause)* Will Mam be coming for us soon?

**HENRY:** *(Shrugs)* Don't know. *(Pause, then with irritation)* Look, George, don't keep asking me! You ask me that every day. Mam promised that she'd fetch us back and she will.

**GEORGE:** I don't like it here, though.

**HENRY:** Me neither.

**GEORGE:** She won't forget us will she? We will go home again won't we?

**HENRY:** *(More sympathetically)* Of course we will. We've just got to be brave and wait for Mam to come.

*There is a pause.*

**GEORGE:** Bernard's nice, isn't he? And Roy's really funny, he makes me laugh ever so.

**HENRY:** Yeah. The others are all right, too. *(Pause)* I wish Fred was here, though.

**GEORGE:** Yeah, and I never did see Frankie's catapult.

**HENRY:** *(Trying to be brave)* Oh, well, not long now.

**GEORGE:** No. *(Thinks about asking how long and then thinks again)*

**HENRY:** Shall we go and see if John will let us look at his comics?

**GEORGE:** *(Happier)* Yeah!

*A bell rings offstage.*

**HENRY:** Oh no, that's the bell for supper. No comics, then. Come on.

*They both exit quickly.  
The lights fade to blackout.*