Jelly

The Promise at the Gate

LITTLE READERS



BEFORE YOU READ

Look and Wonder

1. How many gates does your school have?
2. What makes a meeting place clear?
3. What could go wrong with a short plan?
4. Share an idea with a partner.



Ben and Max planned a library visit.
They would go after their club finished.
"Meet me at the gate," said Ben.
Max nodded and picked up his bag.



Ben's art club ended first.
Dad waited outside the classroom.
Ben told him about the library plan.
They walked to the big front gate.



Max finished his building club soon after.
His mum met him by the hall.
"Ben will meet us at the gate."
They walked toward the small side gate.



Ben stood beside the brick front pillars.
He could see the main road.
Cars passed a tall bus stop.
Dad checked the time on his watch.



Max waited beside the metal side gate.
It opened onto a quiet lane.
A gardener pushed a green wheelbarrow past.
Mum stood beside Max in the shade.



Ben looked back along the school path.
There was no sign of Max.
"Maybe his club is still working."
Dad suggested waiting a few minutes.



Max watched the side door close.
The last club children walked away.
"Maybe Ben had to wash his brushes."
Mum looked toward the art room window.



At the front, a bus arrived.
Ben watched people step onto it.
Still, Max did not come.
Ben stayed beside Dad by the pillar.



At the side, the gardener returned.
His wheelbarrow held a brown plant pot.
Max watched him turn into the yard.
Still, Ben did not come.



Dad checked his phone beside Ben.
He had Max's mum's number.
"I will ask where they are."
Ben kept watching the school path.



Max's mum answered Dad's call.
"We are waiting by the gate."
Dad looked up at the brick pillars.
"So are we," he said.



Ben heard Dad ask another question.

"Which gate are you beside?"

Max's mum looked at the narrow lane.

"The small one by the garden."



Dad turned toward Ben and smiled.
"They are at the side gate."
Ben looked toward the school building.
He had not thought of that gate.



Mum told Max about the front pillars.
Max looked back at the green wheelbarrow.
"I thought he meant our usual gate."
Mum finished the call with Dad.



The adults agreed on one place.
Max and Mum would walk to the front.
Ben and Dad would stay where they were.
Nobody needed to search alone.



Max followed Mum along the school path.
They passed the garden and the hall.
The brick pillars appeared ahead.
Ben waved when he saw them.



"I was waiting for you," said Ben.
Max stopped beside the front pillar.
"I was waiting for you too."
The two boys looked at each other.



Ben pointed toward the main road.

"I saw a bus stop here."

Max pointed toward the garden lane.

"I saw the gardener's wheelbarrow."



"We could not see the same road."

Ben looked around the solid school wall.

Max could not see his side gate now.

The school stood between their gates.



Dad asked about their first plan.
Ben repeated the words he had used.
"I only said to meet at the gate."
Max nodded beside him.



Stop and Think

WHAT HAVE YOU READ SO FAR?

1. Which gate did each boy choose?
2. What could Ben see nearby?
3. What could Max see nearby?
4. How did the adults find the problem?



Make a Prediction

USE THE CLUES

1. What details could improve their plan?
2. Should they both search at once?
3. What could they draw to help?
4. What else should they agree on?



"I use the side gate after club."
Max pointed back along the path.
"I use the front one," said Ben.
Both gates belonged to their school.



Mum looked at the library opening time.
They still had time for their visit.
The four of them crossed at the lights.
Ben and Max walked side by side.



At the library, they found a table.

Max took out his little notebook.

Ben drew the school as a square.

They added two gates around its edges.



Ben drew brick pillars at the front.

Max drew the garden by the side.

They added a bus stop and a lane.

The two waiting places were clear now.



"Next time, we need more words."

Ben drew a small star by the pillars.

"We can say the big front gate."

Max added a clock beside the star.



"And we need a time as well."

Max looked at the end of their clubs.

They chose ten minutes after both finished.

Dad wrote the time beneath their drawing.



Mum asked Max to repeat their plan.

He named the time and front gate.

Ben pointed to the star on the page.

They were thinking of the same place.



Then they found books to borrow.

Ben chose a book about bridges.

Max found one about building houses.

They showed each other their favorite pages.



At the desk, the librarian checked them out.

Ben put his book in his bag.

Max tucked the notebook beside his own.

The adults waited near the exit.



On the walk home, Max looked back.
The library had two doors as well.
One faced the road by the steps.
Another opened beside a flat ramp.



"We should name the door here too."
Max pointed to the one they had used.
Ben noticed the wide steps outside it.
"The road door by the steps."



Dad nodded at the clear description.
"People can check a plan like that."
Ben remembered the word gate on its own.
It had meant two places that afternoon.



The next club day, Ben packed early.
He looked at the drawing in his bag.
Dad came to meet him as usual.
They walked to the brick front pillars.



Ben checked the clock with Dad.
They were a few minutes early.
He could see the bus stop again.
This time, he knew Max would look for it.



Max and Mum appeared along the path.
Max pointed at the brick pillars.
"The big front gate," he said.
Ben lifted his hand to wave.



Both boys reached the star's real place.
Dad checked the agreed time.
They had arrived just as planned.
Nobody had waited by the garden today.



Max opened the little notebook again.
He put a tick beside their star.
Ben added a tiny drawing of Max.
Their two drawn figures stood together.



"What if a club finishes late?"

Max looked up at the adults.

Mum showed him her phone.

"We can tell each other."



They walked toward the library together.

Ben wanted another bridge book.

Max wanted to renew his house book.

Their parents crossed at the lights with them.



At the steps, Ben pointed ahead.
"The road door is right there."
Max held it open beside Mum.
They all went through the same door.



Talk About the Story

LOOK BACK AT THE WHOLE STORY

1. Why did both boys have to wait?
2. What details made the next plan clear?
3. Why did they add a time?
4. What could they do if a club ran late?



Think and Discuss

CONNECT THE STORY TO YOUR LIFE

1. How would you name a meeting place?
2. What landmark could you mention?
3. How can you check a shared plan?
4. Who can help if a plan changes?



Put the Pictures in Order

Look at the four pictures.

Write 1, 2, 3, and 4 in the boxes.



A ☐



B ☐



C ☐



D ☐

Point to the pictures and tell the story.

Tell the Story

USE THE FOUR PICTURES ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE

First ...

Next ...

Then ...

Finally ...



Make a Clear Meeting Plan

Draw a meeting place and a landmark.

Add a time and check it with an adult.

We will meet at _____

We can check _____



The End

Thank you for reading.

Look closely and share your ideas.

What would you like to explore next?

