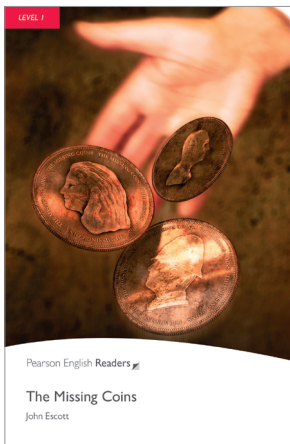


# The Missing Coins

John Escott



## Summary

*The Missing Coins* is a mystery story. Pete and Carla are students, visiting the city of Bath in England. While they are walking around looking at the shops and buildings they hear music in a quiet street. A man is playing a flute. He is standing next to the window of a shop which sells coins and stamps. They go into the shop and have a look. Pete wants some stamps, but they are expensive and the girl shop assistant is unfriendly. Pete and Carla then go to a café for a drink.

To their surprise, the shopkeeper comes to find them there. He says that some of his coins are missing. He thinks Pete and Carla have stolen them. He looks in Carla's bag and their pockets in front of a policeman, but it turns out that they have not taken them.

Later, Carla hears the music again. She realises how the coins were stolen: The girl in the shop has made a plan with the flute player. She drops the coins into the flute player's hat through the open window. Carla explains this to the policeman. The policeman finds the missing coins in the flute player's hat.

The shopkeeper is so pleased with Carla and Pete that he, in return, gives Pete the stamps that he wants.

## Background and themes

**Mystery:** The story has a mystery, which the students can try and work out by looking at the picture on page 2.

**Tourism and crime:** Crime is often found in big cities, where tourists and other visitors stay for a short time.

**Feelings:** When they are in the shop before the coins are stolen, Carla feels that there is something wrong about the shop.

## Discussion activities

### Before reading

- Discuss:** Talk about visiting a new city. Put students into small groups. Have them discuss the following questions.
  - *What do you like doing when you visit a city for the first time?*
  - *Where is your favourite city? Why?*
  - *What is good to see in your favourite city?*
 When students are ready, ask some groups to share their opinions with the rest of the class.
- Describe:** Divide the class into two groups, A and B. Group A chooses a picture from the book but doesn't tell B which it is. The students in Group A take turns to describe the picture. Group B discusses and decides which picture it is by saying the page number. Then it is Group B's turn to choose another picture and describe it to Group A. Group A says which it is.
- Guess:** Divide the class into two groups again. This time, Group A chooses another picture from the book. Group B must find out which picture it is by asking Group A questions, e.g. *Is there a car in the picture? How many people are in the picture?* After Group B guesses the picture correctly, they swap roles. It's Group B's turn to choose another picture, and Group A guesses which one it is.
- Predict:** Have students look at all the pictures in the book. Ask them to think what the story is about. Encourage them to guess the answers to the following questions.
  - *Who is the main character?*
  - *What is the name of this place?*
  - *What is he or she doing?*
  - *What is happening?*
  - *Is it a happy ending or sad ending?*

### After reading

- Retell:** Put students into groups. Have them choose to be one of the following characters: the policeman, the shop owner, the shop assistant, or the man with the flute. Have them discuss how to re-tell the story from their point of view.
- Research:** Have students work in groups. Ask them to use resources from outside the classroom, e.g. the Internet, library books and travel agencies to get some information about the city of Bath. Encourage them to find out what you can do, see, eat and buy there. You could ask them to find out about the famous people who lived in Bath or the history of Bath. When they are ready, ask each group to make a presentation to report on what they found out about the city.

# The Missing Coins

Photocopiable

## While reading

### 1 Choose the right answers.

- a What is the name of the city in England in the story? .....
  - 1) Bath.
  - 2) Carla.
  - 3) London.
- b Who likes looking at the beautiful old buildings? .....
  - 1) Pete.
  - 2) Carla.
  - 3) The flute player.
- c What is the first question Carla asks when she saw the flute player? .....
  - 1) 'What does he want?'
  - 2) 'Can we go into the Abbey next?'
  - 3) 'Why is he playing here?'
- d Where do they go after they watch the flute player? .....
  - 1) The Abbey.
  - 2) A café.
  - 3) A shop.
- e What does the shop sell? .....
  - 1) Coins.
  - 2) Stamps.
  - 3) Both coins and stamps.

### 2 Finish these sentences.

- a The coins in the shop are 300 .....
- b The shopkeeper leaves Pete and Carla alone because .....
- c Pete likes some stamps from .....
- d Pete and Carla sit outside the .....
- e The shopkeeper come to find Pete and Carla because .....
- f The policeman says, 'What's .....?'

### 3 Answer these questions.

- a How does the shopkeeper know that Tracy doesn't steal coins?  
.....
- b After the shopkeeper looks in Carla's bag and Pete's pockets, where does the policeman think the coins are?  
.....
- c What does Carla remember when she hears *Greensleeves*?  
.....

- d Who do Carla, Pete and the policeman look for?  
.....
- e Where are the missing coins?  
.....
- f Where does the police car take Tracy and the flute player to?  
.....
- g Who says, 'What can I give you?'  
.....

### 4 Write questions for these answers.

- a Peter and Carla go into the shop.  
Who .....?  
Where .....
- b The shopkeeper is angry.  
Why .....
- c A police car came after some time.  
When .....
- d The missing coins are in the hat.  
Where .....
- e Peter wants the stamps from South America.  
Who .....?  
Which .....

## After reading

### 5 Find these things in the pictures. Write the page number(s).

- a an abbey .....
- b a flute .....
- c a music player's hat .....
- d a coin .....
- e a shopkeeper .....

### 6 Underline a mistake in each sentence and make it right.

- a Bath is a very old country.  
.....
- b Pete and Carla are tourists.  
.....
- c Pete and Carla sees a man playing a flute in a busy street.  
.....
- d The man is a very good flute player.  
.....
- e The girl in the shop is very friendly.  
.....
- f The policeman thinks Pete and Carla took the coins.  
.....

# The Missing Coins

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**1 Put the words from the box in the sentences.**

Abbey back room Bath shop street window

- a An old man has a coin and stamp shop in the city of .....
- b His shop is in a quiet .....
- c A lot of tourists are going into the .....
- d A man with his flute is playing *Greensleeves* near the .....
- e The shopkeeper hears the telephone, and he goes to the .....
- f The girl in the shop goes to the ..... with the coins.

**2 Choose the correct words in italics.**

- a Bath is an old *stamp* / *city*.
- b The shopkeeper finds Pete and Carla *inside* / *outside* the café.
- c The man is playing the *guitar* / *flute*.
- d Old coins are very *valuable* / *surprised*.
- e The shopkeeper looks for the coins in Carla's *hat* / *bag*.
- f The missing coins are in the man's *pocket* / *hat*.

**3 Are these sentences right (✓) or wrong (X)?**

- a A lot of tourists are listening to the flute player.
- b Pete thinks the flute player is in the wrong street.
- c Pete wants the stamps from Canada.
- d Carla wants to steal the old coins.
- e The missing coins go back to the shopkeeper at the end of the story.
- f Pete gets the stamps from South America at the end of the story.

**4 Write the words from the box in the right places.**

city coins collect last minute missing  
next outside pretty steal surprised  
tourists tune valuable

- a Bath is a very old ..... in England.
- b It is nice to look at some ..... little gardens.
- c Carla wants to find a quiet street, away from the .....
- d Pete and Carla listen to the flute player. The ..... is *Greensleeves*.
- e Pete takes Carla's hand and says to her, 'Let's see the shops in the ..... street.'
- f Pete doesn't ..... the stamps, but he wants to start.
- g Everyone can hear a telephone in the back room of the shop, but the shopkeeper doesn't answer it for a .....

- h The shopkeeper thinks that two students took some ..... coins.
- i The coins are missing. Some coins were missing ..... week as well.
- j Pete and Carla didn't ..... the coins.
- k Pete and Carla are ..... to hear the shopkeeper's question.
- l Carla knows where the ..... coins are.
- m The flute player was ..... the window.
- n The girl in the shop went to the window with the .....

**5 Put the sentences in the right order, 1–5.**

- a The girl in the shop drops the coins into the hat.
- b The girl in the shop puts the valuable coins in her pocket.
- c The girl in the shop opens the window.
- d The man plays his flute next to the shop window.
- e The man with a flute stands near the shop.

**6 Write the names from the box in the right places. You can use the same person more than once.**

Pete Carla the flute player Tracy  
the shopkeeper the policeman

- a This person likes looking at the old buildings. ....
- b This person likes walking in the little streets. ....
- c This person wants to collect stamps. ....
- d This person likes being with Carla. ....
- e This person has the coin and stamp shop. ....
- f This person works for the coin and stamp shop. ....
- g This person saw Pete, Carla and the shopkeeper at the café. ....
- h This person has the missing coins. ....
- i This person tells the policeman where the missing coins are. ....
- j This person gives Pete the stamps from South America. ....

## The Missing Coins

### Book key

- 1 Open answers
- 2 a They see some old coins and stamps.  
b Pete wants to buy some stamps.  
c He is a student and the stamps are very expensive.  
d The shopkeeper is looking for some missing coins, and Pete was in the shop.
- 3 a young  
b city  
c old  
d music
- 4 a ✓  
b ✓  
c ✗  
d ✗  
e ✗  
f ✓  
g ✗  
h ✓
- 5 a the shopkeeper  
b a policeman  
c Pete  
d the shopkeeper  
e Carla  
f the shopkeeper  
g Carla  
h Carla  
i Carla  
j the shopkeeper
- 6–10 Open answers

### Discussion activities key

- 1 Possible answers:
- *I like to visit some historical places.*
  - *I like to eat some local food.*
- 2 Example of description:  
(page 1) There's a girl with red hair. A boy is next to her, and he is looking at her. Three people are playing music. There's a hat on the ground in front of them. There's a big building behind them.
- 3–5 Open answers
- 6 Some facts about Bath:
- *Bath is a city in Somerset, England.*
  - *Bath is famous for its Roman Bath, Bath Abbey and Georgian Architecture, such as Royal Crescent.*

- *Jane Austen lived in this city.*
- *Sally Lunn's buns, a type of teacake, have long been baked in Bath.*
- *The University of Bath is a leading university in the United Kingdom.*

### Activity worksheet key

- 1 a 1  
b 1  
c 3  
d 3  
e 3
- 2 a years old  
b he answers the telephone in the back room  
c South America  
d café  
e he thinks they took some coins  
f wrong
- 3 a He looked in her bag and pockets.  
b He thinks that the coins are perhaps in the shop.  
c She remembers the flute player near the coin and stamp shop.  
d They look for the man with the flute.  
e They are in the flute player's hat.  
f The police station.  
g The shopkeeper.
- 4 a Who goes in to the shop? Where do Pete and Carla go into?  
b Why is the shopkeeper angry?  
c When did a police car come?  
d Where are the missing coins?  
e Who wants the stamps from South America? Which stamps does Pete want?
- 5 a 1  
b 1, 2, 12, 13, 14  
c 1, 2, 3, 13, 14  
d 3, 6, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14  
e 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11, 15
- 6 a country > city  
b tourists > students  
c busy > quiet  
d is > isn't  
e is > isn't  
f thinks > doesn't think

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### Progress test key

- 1 a Bath b street c Abbey d shop e back room  
f window
- 2 a city b outside c flute d valuable e bag  
f hat
- 3 a ✗ b ✓ c ✗ d ✗ e ✓ f ✓
- 4 a city b pretty c tourists d tune e next  
f collect g minute h valuable i last j steal  
k surprised l missing m outside n coins
- 5 a 5 b 3 c 4 d 2 e 1
- 6 a Pete b Carla c Pete d Pete e the shopkeeper  
f Tracy g the policeman h the flute player  
i Carla j the shopkeeper