

ANTOINETTE MOSES

A NEW HOME  
FOR SOCKS

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with  
**NEW ACTIVITIES**



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## Meet the Author



### **Hello. Antoinette. Can you tell us a little about yourself?**

Hello. Well, I'm a writer. I write books like this book and I write plays, too. I also teach students at a university in England. I teach writing and I love doing that. The students write really good stories. Maybe one day some of them can write stories like this.

### **How do you get the ideas for your stories?**

I write about the world I live in. And I write about myself. I see Antoinette not as she is today but when she is eleven years old. She is in a new school. All her friends are a long way away. She is not very happy and she wants to run away. So this is where I begin. Then I give the girl a name, Penny in this case, and I ask "What if?" - "What if Penny has got a dog?" "What if Penny goes to a new city and her dog stays at home?"

### **Do you always know the end of the story when you start writing it?**

No. I know if it's a sad story or a happy story. But I don't always know the ending.

### **This story is about a young girl who loves animals. Have you got any pets?**

No. I don't. I like cats a lot, but I'm not always at home. I go away and I can't take a cat with me. But a lot of my friends have cats and I like them very much.

### **Have you got any advice for young people who want to become writers?**

Yes. You have to want to write. And you have to write. Always have some paper and a pen with you. Write down what you see and what you hear. There are stories all round you. You can find them.

# Before Reading

## 1 Read about Anna's work. Then answer the questions.

Hello, I'm Anna and I work for a dog rescue group. I love my job but it sometimes makes me very sad. Every year, we find thousands of unwanted dogs on the streets. People leave them on motorways, in public toilets, in rubbish bins or outside shops and restaurants. The group finds the most dogs around Easter time. People buy puppies for Christmas presents. The puppy grows. It is difficult to look after. It chews the rugs and it runs round the house breaking things. Dogs need a lot of space and they need a lot of exercise. They are also expensive. It costs around £10,000 to keep a dog for its lifetime. Think with your head and not your heart when you buy a puppy.



a Who does Anna work for?  
.....

b Where do people often leave dogs?  
.....

c When does the dog rescue group find the most abandoned dogs?  
.....

d Why do people abandon dogs?  
.....


e How much does it cost to keep a dog?  
.....

## 2 Read the title of the book. Look through the pictures in the book. Who is Socks? Why is he called Socks? Discuss with a partner.

### GLOSSARY

- **chews:** bites something into small pieces
- **rescue:** act of saving somebody from a dangerous situation
- **rubbish bins:** containers for things you throw away
- **rugs:** small carpets

## A DIFFERENT LIFE

 Do you like sad stories? Good, because this is a sad story. Oh, some of you don't like sad stories. That's OK. This is also a happy story. The beginning is sad; but the ending is happy.

This is a story about a girl called Penny Cooper. That is Penny in the picture. She leaves school and walks down the road. She gets on a bus and goes along a busy road. She gets off the bus and goes inside a big building. Inside the building are apartments. She goes into one of the apartments. It has three rooms. Penny walks round the apartment. The apartment is empty. It is January and the apartment is cold. Penny is on her own. She is often on her own. She's on her own at school and she's on her own at home. Penny often feels lonely.

Penny lives in this apartment with her mother and her father. But her father is out. He is looking for work. Penny's mother is out, too. She is working in a café. Penny eats some bread and jam and drinks some water. Then she goes out again. There is a park near the apartments. Penny likes the park. There are people in the park and dogs. Penny likes dogs.



### GLOSSARY

- **busy:** with traffic
- **empty:** there is nobody inside
- **lonely:** unhappy because she has no friends
- **looking for:** in search of
- **on her own:** alone; without other people
- **out:** not in the house

Now look. This is Penny again. But this is Penny six months ago. It is July. Penny lives in a small village. The village is beside a lake and there are hills and woods. Penny is with her friends. They run along a path beside the lake. There are houses beside the lake. One house is white; it has a big garden. There is a dog playing in the garden. Penny lives in the white house and the dog is waiting for her. The dog's name is Holly.

Penny and her friends often play with Holly. Sometimes they throw sticks into the lake and Holly brings them back. Then she makes everyone wet. Penny and her friends laugh at Holly.

## Pets

Do you like animals?  
Have you got a pet?

What is your favourite pet? Tick (✓) below.

- |                               |                                  |                                |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> dog  | <input type="checkbox"/> cat     | <input type="checkbox"/> fish  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> bird | <input type="checkbox"/> hamster | <input type="checkbox"/> horse |



What does this say about you?

Check on our website and find out.

Penny's father, Mr Cooper, works at a factory and Penny's mother, Mrs Cooper, is at home. This is Penny's life six months ago. Six months is a long time. Six months ago Penny has friends and a dog and she lives in the country. She is happy.

### GLOSSARY

- **beside:** next to; at the side of
- **factory:** building where things are made



- **path:** a small road for walking
- **sticks:** thin pieces of wood





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## GOODBYE TO THE VILLAGE

2 But something terrible happens. The factory closes. There is no work in the village or the little town near the village. Penny's mother and father decide to sell their white house. They have to go to the city to look for work.

'The city is great,' they tell Penny. 'The city is fun. Young people love the city. There are lots of shops. There are lots of things to do.'

Penny's mother smiles at her. 'And lots of new friends for you,' she says.

Penny doesn't want new friends. She likes her old friends. Penny looks at her mother. The smile is not there now. Her mother looks sad. 'I'm sorry, Penny,' she says.

'Why are you sorry?' asks Penny.

'I'm sorry because things are difficult now. The apartment in the city is very small. And you can't have dogs in the apartment.'

'I don't understand,' says Penny.

'Holly is happy here in the village,' says her mother.

'I'm happy here in the village,' cries Penny. 'I can't live without Holly.' She cries and her mother cries with her.

Penny says goodbye to Holly. She cries for a week. She hates the city. She hates the apartment and she does not have any friends in the city. In the new school there are hundreds of boys and girls. They see Penny, but they do not talk to her. She goes to school and works. She sits in her classes and she comes home, but Penny does not talk to anyone. She thinks about Holly and her old friends and she is very sad.

### GLOSSARY

- **cries:** shouts; has tears in her eyes because she is sad
- **hates:** dislikes very much; detests





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## The village and the city

Do you prefer life in a village  
or in the city?


Where do you live?

In a house or in an apartment?

Have you got a garden?



## IN THE PARK

 Penny eats her bread and jam and washes the plate and the knife. Then she leaves the apartment and walks to the park. Penny likes the park because there are always lots of dogs. Penny sits and watches the dogs. She thinks about Holly. Penny really misses• Holly.

Today the park is cold. She looks around and sees a dog she knows in the park. His name is Bruce. He runs over to Penny when she arrives. Penny feels happier now. She throws a stick for Bruce and he brings it back to her. Bruce's owner• is a lady called Jane. Jane lives close to the park in a big house with a garden. She is friendly and she talks to Penny. Penny tells her about Holly.

'That's very sad,' says Jane. 'You can play with Bruce here in the park. I come here every day.'

'Thank you,' says Penny. She likes Bruce, but he is not her dog. He is not the same as Holly.

When Penny arrives Jane is talking on her mobile phone. She talks on her phone for ages• and then she gets up and calls Bruce. They go home and Penny is alone• again. She walks round the park. There are no dogs or people now. And it is very cold. Then Penny hears a noise•.

'Rrrrr! Rrrrr!' It sounds like a small dog, a small frightened dog. Penny looks around but she can't see a dog. She calls gently and then she hears the noise again. 'Rrrrr!' It is coming from a bin• at the entrance to the park.

### GLOSSARY

- **alone:** without any friends
- **bin:** a large container for rubbish
- **for ages:** for a long time
- **misses:** is sad because Holly is not there
- **noise:** sound
- **owner:** proprietor; person who has a thing



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‘There can’t be a dog in the bin!’ Penny thinks and she walks over. Penny lifts<sup>•</sup> the lid<sup>•</sup>. Inside the bin is dark and the smell is very bad. There is something moving under all the rubbish<sup>•</sup>. Penny sees a very small puppy<sup>•</sup>. The puppy is very dirty and it smells very bad. Penny lifts it out. The puppy is frightened.

‘Oh you poor, poor little thing,’ cries Penny. She wipes<sup>•</sup> some of the dirt off the puppy. ‘You need food and a bath,’ says Penny.

- 
- **lid:** cover (of a container)
  - **lifts:** raises
  - **puppy:** baby dog

- **rubbish:** things you throw away
- **wipes:** removes; takes away

# After Reading

## Vocabulary

**1 Unscramble the words below with the help of their meaning.**

- a** KTISC = thin piece of wood
- b** TOBO = space in the back of the car used for luggage
- c** ITPNOFTSRO = marks of a person's feet or shoes
- d** KODLCE = closed with a key
- e** NOTONCNEIC = relation between two things
- f** WRGO = cultivate; plant food to eat
- g** HIWEL = a very short period of time
- h** FCNEEONREC = meeting to inform the public and the press about a particular situation

**2 Complete the word formation table below with words from the text. Make sentences with a partner.**



ADJECTIVE	NOUN
HAPPY	HAPPINESS
DIRTY	.....
.....	SENSIBILITY
KIND	.....
.....	WORRY
SAD	.....
.....	COLD
DIFFICULT	.....
.....	LONELINESS
DARK	.....
.....	POVERTY

**3** **Make sentences with a partner with the words from Exercise 2.**

**4 Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.**

washing jealous towel expensive bark lonely  
trouble rubbish

- a Penny often feels ..... because she's on her own at school and at home.
- b There is ..... in the bin and the smell is often bad.
- c When our clothes are dirty we put them in the ..... machine.
- d You need a lot of money if you want to buy ..... things.
- e Jane's dog, Bruce, is ..... of Socks.

**5 All the following sentences contain one mistake. Circle it and then write the correct sentences.**

- a "We are tired and hungry. We need for food and a bed."  
.....
- b "We can go into the café and get something for eat."  
.....
- c Penny goes to home and then the next day she goes to school.  
.....
- d Penny washes the tin and puts it in the bin outside of the apartment building.  
.....
- e She gets up the bus and goes back to her school.  
.....
- f All the students says the same thing: "Penny doesn't have any friends."  
.....
- g The police is worried. They call a press conference to inform the public.  
.....

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# After Reading

## Cambridge English Exams

### Cambridge English: Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

#### 1 For each sentence, choose the correct missing word (A, B, or C).

a The city is ..... Young people love the city.

- A** fun                                      **B** funny                                      **C** funnier

b We now know that ..... is a reason. Penny is missing because of Socks.

- A** it    **B** this    **C** there

c The police take Penny ..... a police station.

- A** to    **B** at    **C** in

d Penny's mother and father decide to ..... their white house.

- A** live    **B** sell    **C** buy

e Six months ..... a long time.

- A** is    **B** are    **C** have

f Penny washes the puppy with warm water and ..... him in a big towel.

- A** dries    **B** dry    **C** dries

g Penny's crying. "What's the .....?" asks her mother.

- A** trouble    **B** crying    **C** matter

h There is food in the fridge. Penny ..... herself some breakfast.

- A** makes    **B** does    **C** takes

i Poor Penny! She ..... one dog and then she finds a new one but she can't keep him.

- A** loses    **B** takes    **C** has

j Mr and Mrs Cooper ..... nod their heads.

- A** together    **B** not    **C** both

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**Cambridge English: Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 5**

**2 Complete the following imaginary conversation between Penny and Pamela. Pamela has a puppy too, and she would like the two dogs to meet.**

**PAMELA** Hi Penny, I am so happy that Socks now <sup>1</sup>..... a real home!

**PENNY** And <sup>2</sup>..... am I!

**PAMELA** <sup>3</sup>..... he sleep in your room?

**PENNY** No, he doesn't live with me. My family's <sup>4</sup>..... is very small. He lives with Sara's family but I can play with him every day.

**PAMELA** That's great! Everything is fine now!

**PENNY** Yes, and not only at home! The school is starting a welcome programme for <sup>5</sup>..... students. They don't want my story to happen again.

**PAMELA** What story?

**PENNY** In my school, if you are a new student nobody <sup>6</sup>..... to you. This must not happen again. They want me to <sup>7</sup>..... them set up a programme to help new students.

**PAMELA** What about Sara? <sup>8</sup>..... you telling me that she doesn't speak to you?

**PENNY** Oh no. Sara's different, she really <sup>9</sup>..... to be my friend.

**PAMELA** Well, I want to be your friend, too. And I would like you and Socks to meet my puppy.

**PENNY** Sure! Does he <sup>10</sup>..... his tail when he's happy?

**PAMELA** Yes, he is very similar to Socks. But he <sup>11</sup>..... like training very much. He prefers slippers.....





ANTOINETTE MOSES

# A NEW HOME FOR SOCKS

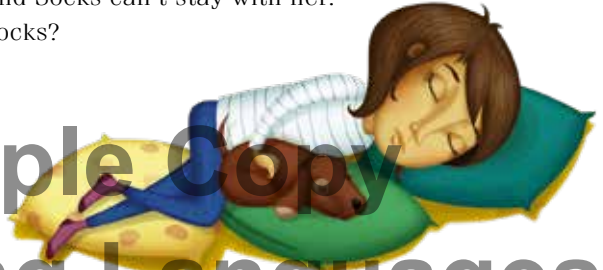
When Penny moves from her home in the village to a new house in the city she has to leave her friends and pet dog behind.

One day, after school, Penny finds a little puppy in the park.

He is small and dirty and very frightened. Penny calls him Socks.

But Penny's new house is small and Socks can't stay with her.

Can Penny find a new home for Socks?



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Recording in British English

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