

## What to do today

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.*

### 1. Read the start of a story

- Read *Opening*. This is the start of a story. What do you think might happen in the rest of the book? Why do you think that?

### 2. Choose some memorable phrases

- Read the six phrases that have been chosen on *Memorable Phrases*.
- Use lines to match the reasons to the phrases.
- Read *Further Extract*. Choose 3-5 memorable phrases from here and write reasons for why they are memorable on *My choice of phrases*.

Well done! Now show a grown-up the phrases that you chose and explain why you thought that they were memorable.

### 3. Make an illustration

- Look at the illustrations from the start of the story.
- Make an illustration that will fit the *Further Extract* part of the story.
- Write your memorable phrases around your illustration.

### Try this Fun-Time Extra

- Imagine a city that is the exact opposite of the one described in this story. What would it be like? What would the people be like? Write about it and make an illustration of it.

## Opening



When I was young, I lived in a city that was mean and hard and ugly. Its streets were dry as dust, cracked by heat and cold, and never blessed with rain.

A gritty, yellow wind blew constantly, scratching around the building like a hungry dog.

Nothing grew. Everything was broken. No one ever smiled. The people had grown as mean and hard and ugly as their city, and I was mean and hard and ugly too.

I lived by stealing from those who had almost as little as I did. My heart was as shrivelled as the dead trees in the park.

*from **The Promise** by Nicola Davies*

## Memorable phrases

*The reasons are muddled. Draw lines to match the reason to the phrase.*

Memorable phrase
When I was young I lived in a city that was <b>mean <u>and</u> hard <u>and</u> ugly.</b>
A <b>gritty</b> , yellow wind blew constantly
Scratching round the buildings <b>like a hungry dog.</b>
<b>Nothing</b> grew. <b>Everything</b> was broken. <b>No one</b> ever smiled.
The people had grown as <b>mean and hard and ugly</b> as their city, and I was <b>mean and hard and ugly</b> too.
My heart was <b>as shrivelled as the dead trees in the park.</b>

<u>Reason it's memorable</u>
<i>This is an unusual adjective to have chosen. It makes the phrase vivid and memorable</i>
<i>Simile. The character's inner condition is as desolate as the setting.</i>
<i>Three dramatic short sentences. Nothing, everything and no-one = hyperbole/possible exaggeration.</i>
<i>Repetition giving emphasis and echoing: mean, hard, ugly.</i>
<i>A simile. The dog sounds wild and uncared for which fits the description of the city.</i>
<i>The extra 'and' emphasises all three words in this list.</i>

## Further extract



And then, one night,  
I met an old lady down a dark street.  
She was frail and alone, an easy victim.  
Her bag was fat and full,  
but when I tried to snatch it from her,  
she held on with the strength of heroes.

To and fro we pulled that bag until at last she said,  
“If you promise to plant them, I’ll let go.”

What did she mean? I didn’t know or care,  
I just wanted the bag, so I said,  
“All right, I promise.”  
She loosened her grip at once and smiled at me.

I ran off without a backward look,  
thinking of the food and money in her bag.

*from **The Promise** by Nicola Davies*

## My choice of phrases

Choose 3-5 phrases from **Further Extract**. Explain why each phrase is memorable.

Memorable phrase

<u>Reason it's memorable</u>



# Illustrations



*from **The Promise**, illustrated by Laura Carlin*