

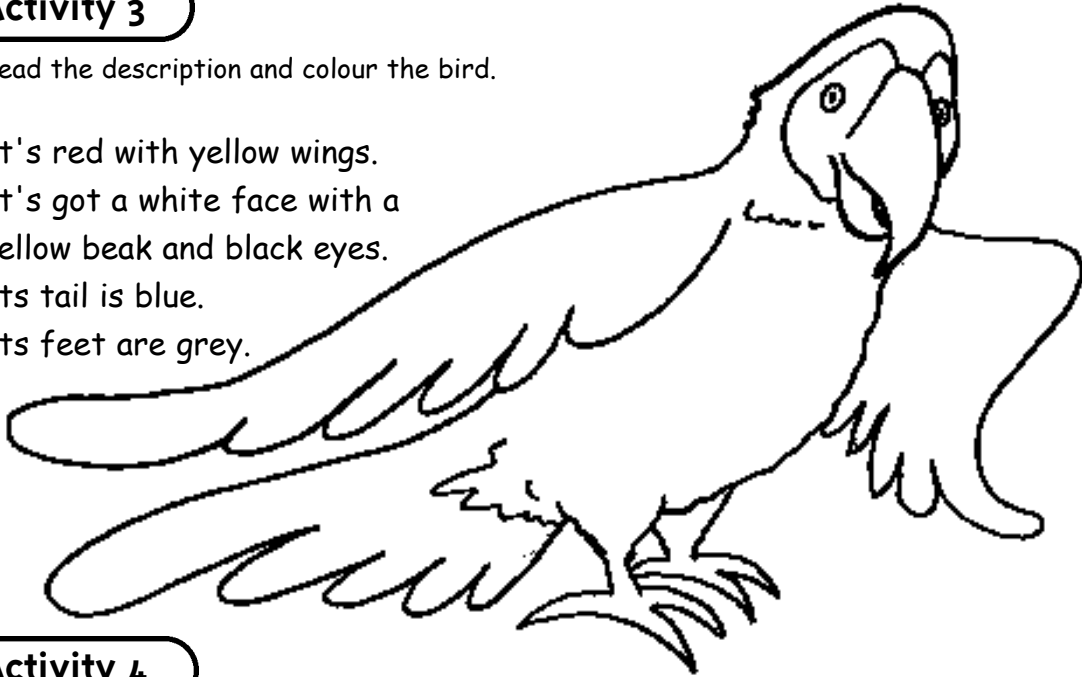
Happy Granny *and* The Wood Circle

Name.....

Activity 3

Read the description and colour the bird.

- It's red with yellow wings.
- It's got a white face with a yellow beak and black eyes.
- Its tail is blue.
- Its feet are grey.



Activity 4

Cut out the sentences and put them in order. Then retell the story.

a. They meet Simon on the beach.

e. They look up wood circles on the Internet.

b. They go down to the beach.

f. Simon says he wants the wood circle to be a secret.

c. Penny and Mira are bird watching.

g. They see a man digging in the sand.

d. They find a wood circle and take a photo.

h. Penny and Mira are worried because they put the wood circle on the Internet.



Level
3

Penguin Young Readers Factsheets

Teacher's Notes

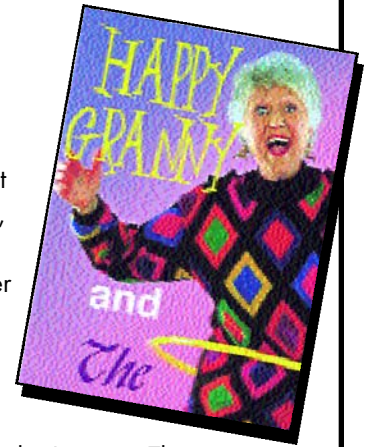
Happy Granny and The Wood Circle

Summary of the stories

Happy Granny Tim isn't looking forward to his grandmother's visit. She isn't like other grannies. She likes to be called Diana, she wears jeans and trainers, and she tries to ride Tim's skateboard! Tim enters a poster competition to win tickets to see his favourite band 'Black Dog'. He doesn't win because his poster is torn up by the school bully. His opinion of his grandmother changes when she gets him tickets to see 'Black Dog' in concert.

The Wood Circle Penny and Mira are bird watching from the cliffs when they see a man digging. They notice a circle of wood sticking out of the sand.

They go home to look up 'wood circles' and put a photo of the wood circle on the Internet. The next day they meet the man on the beach. He tells them that the circle has been there for thousands of years and that he is moving the path so that people won't find it. He wants it to be a secret. Later, Penny and Mira realise that the wood circle is no longer a secret as they have put the photo on the Internet.



Background to the stories

Both stories are written by Antoinette Moses. *The Wood Circle* is based on the story of an ancient tree ring found off the coast of Norfolk in 1999. The local population had known about it for many years but had kept it secret to protect the wildlife.

Topics and themes

Happy Granny

School Discuss which subjects pupils like and dislike. Discuss (with sensitivity) the issue of bullying at school, how wrong it is and what pupils should do if they are the victims of bullying.

Family Grandparents – grandmother, grandfather; Grandchildren – grandson, granddaughter. Ask pupils to describe their own grandparents and to talk about their relationships with them.

Music Pupils can talk about their favourite pop stars or groups and any concerts they have been to.

The Wood Circle

Hobbies What are the pupils' hobbies? Have they ever been bird watching?

Media If you have access to the Internet, set up a project in which they have to use it to research something. They could try to find information about wood circles.

Environment Discuss the importance of archaeology in research into the lives of our ancestors. You could organise a class visit to a museum to look at archaeological finds.

Making use of the Readers

Happy Granny

Ask the pupils to look at the pictures and read the story again, noting down any information they can find about Tim's granny. Then get them to imagine she has gone missing and to make a 'Missing persons' poster. They should write the title, Missing, at the top of their posters. Then they should draw a picture of Tim's granny and write everything they know about her. They should include details of her age, what she looks like, what she wears, what she likes doing, where she was last seen, etc. Pupils can go on to make 'Missing persons' posters about members of their own families or friends.



Happy Granny and The Wood Circle

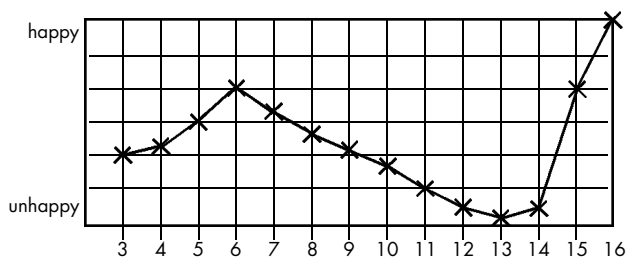
The Wood Circle

Ask pupils to work in pairs or small groups and discuss in mother tongue what might happen after the end of the story. Help them to write the possible endings in English. They might like to illustrate them too. Display the story endings for the rest of the class to read. Pupils can vote for the best ending.

Activities using the audio cassette

Happy Granny - while-listening activity

Ask the pupils what made Tim feel happy and what made him unhappy. Explain that they are going to map out Tim's moods throughout the story. Draw a simple graph on the board with 'unhappy' at the bottom of the vertical axis and 'happy' at the top. Write the page numbers 3-16 along the horizontal axis. Play the tape and pause at the end of each page to ask the pupils how Tim feels and to mark a cross on the graph. In pairs, get pupils to try to retell the story using their completed graphs as reference. The finished graph might look something like this:



The Wood Circle - while-listening activity

Once pupils have read the book, elicit the names of the characters: Penny, Mira and Simon. Write the following text from the speech bubbles on the board and ask the pupils if they can remember who said each one:

- 1 What! Bird watching. That's boring. (Penny)
 - 2 Let's look up old circles on the Internet. (Mira)
 - 3 Hello, there! Are you looking for something? (Simon)
 - 4 This circle's been here for thousands of years. (Simon)
 - 5 Why do you want the circle to be a secret? (Mira)
- Then play the cassette. Pupils put up their hands when they hear the sentences and check their answers.

Photocopiable activities

Happy Granny

Activity 1 The pupils look at the names of the characters and match them to the descriptions.

Activity 2 The pupils read the sentences about the story and decide whether they are true or false.

The Wood Circle

Activity 3 The pupils read the description of the bird and colour it accordingly.

Activity 4 The pupils cut out the sentences and put them in the correct order. Then they can retell the story.

Answers to the activities

In the back of the Reader

Before you read

1. Granny wears black clothes.
2. a. birds

After you read

4. a. John; b. Granny/Diana; c. Tim's mum/Mrs Johnson; d. Mr Marks; e. Tim
5. a. worst; b. best; c. kindest; d. nastiest
6. a. dangerous; b. beautiful; c. scared; d. clever

In the Factsheet

Activity 1

- 1.g; 2.c; 3.d; 4.e; 5.b; 6.a; 7.f

Activity 2

1. False. He hates Tuesdays; 2. True;
3. False. She's fifty-nine/going to be sixty soon; 4. True; 5. True; 6. False. It's in November; 7. False. He's big, ugly and horrible; 8. True; 9. False. John sent two tickets to Tim; 10. True.

Activity 4

- 1.c; 2.g; 3.b; 4.d; 5.e; 6.a; 7.f; 8.h



Happy Granny and The Wood Circle

Name.....

Activity 1

Who are these people? Match the names to the descriptions.

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Peter | a. Tim's mum |
| 2. Diana | b. Tim's teacher |
| 3. Mr Johnson | c. Tim's granny |
| 4. John | d. Tim's dad |
| 5. Mr Marks | e. a guitarist in 'Black Dog' |
| 6. Mrs Johnson | f. a bully |
| 7. Martins | g. Tim's friend |

Activity 2

Read the sentences and write True or False. Correct the false sentences.

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. Tim hates Wednesdays. | <u>False. He hates Tuesdays.</u> |
| 2. Tim can play the guitar. | _____ |
| 3. Tim's granny is sixty. | _____ |
| 4. Black Dog are Tim's favourite band. | _____ |
| 5. Tim's granny wears trainers. | _____ |
| 6. Tim's birthday is in March. | _____ |
| 7. Martins is a small boy. | _____ |
| 8. Mr Marks gave Tim a football book. | _____ |
| 9. John sent one ticket to Tim. | _____ |
| 10. John and Diana are old friends. | _____ |

