

Maureen Simpson In Search of a Missing Friend

No one knows where Wills, a young inventor, is. Best friends, the twins, Harry and Camilla, are very worried. The last time they saw him, Wills was with the Black Hand Gang – and he looked very unhappy! Read and see what the twins do to try and find their friend Wills.

In this reader you will find:

- Focus on: Great Inventions, The Regent's Park
- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and grammar activities including A1 Movers style exercises and 21st century skills activities
- Final test

Tags

Friendship | Adventure

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● STAGE 1	600 headwords	Elementary	A1	Movers
STAGE 2	800 headwords	Pre-intermediate	A2	Flyers/Key
STAGE 3	1000 headwords	Intermediate	B1	Preliminary

Original

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A1

Maureen Simpson

In Search of a Missing Friend

Stage 1 A1

Teen Readers



Teen



Readers

Original

Maureen Simpson

In Search of a Missing Friend

Illustrated by ANDREA GORONI



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Book brief

- 1** *In Search of a Missing Friend* is a story about twins, Harry and Camilla, who try to find their friend Wills.
- 2** Wills is very clever and invents useful things.
- 3** The Black Hand Gang kidnaps Wills because they want his special pen.
- 4** The twins need to try and solve lots of clues to find their friend.
- 5** Readers can enjoy doing the many activities included in the story as the twins try to find Wills.

Maureen Simpson

In Search of a Missing Friend

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Main Characters



Camilla

*Harry's twin sister.
She loves painting.*



Wills

*Harry and Camilla's
friend. He's very clever
and invents lots of things.*



Harry

*Camilla's twin brother.
He loves riding his bike.*

THE BLACK HAND GANG



Charlie



Eddie



Andy

*A group of bad boys.
They kidnap Wills because
they want his special pen.*



Before you read

Vocabulary

1 Label the picture with the words.

flowers

- 1 tree
- 2 girl
- 3 ducks
- 4 lawn
- 5 boy
- 6 bench
- 7 bush
- 8 pond

2 Match the words to their definitions.

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☒ kidnap (v) | a impossible to find |
| 1 ☐ rescue (v) | b make something new |
| 2 ☐ invent (v) | c save someone from a bad situation |
| 3 ☐ missing (adj) | d take someone away and hide them from their friends and family |
| 4 ☐ search (v) | e look for something or someone |
| 5 ☐ escape (v) | f get away from something |

Reading and Writing **MOVERS**

3 Choose the correct word for each sentence about the story.

Harry and Camilla are twins, so they have the same birthday.

~~are~~ am is

1 Wills is _____ best friend.

him them their

2 Wills likes _____ new things.

making make makes

3 Harry and Camilla _____ great parents.

has have is

4 The Black Hand Gang is _____ bad.

much very many

Speaking

4 Wills likes making new things: he's an inventor.

What do you think these people invented?

Talk to a partner and look for help online.

- The Wright brothers
- The Montgolfier brothers
- Sir Tim Berners-Lee
- Jacob W. Davis and Levi Strauss
- John Logie Baird

**21st
Century
Skills**



Chapter 1

Wills Disappears¹

- 2 It's a beautiful, sunny day in London. The twins are in the garden. Harry is mending² his bicycle and Camilla is busy with her favourite hobby - painting.

Harry and Camilla are in the garden when they see some bikes. Something isn't right. Wills isn't pedalling his side-bike.

'Finished! Now my bike is ready. Camilla, let's go for a ride! Camilla! Camilla? Why are you so angry? What's wrong?'

'Look! My painting is terrible!

Suddenly³, they hear a bell ringing⁴. They look to see where it's coming from. They see some bikes coming along the road. They're in a hurry⁵.

'Look! That's Wills' bike,' says Harry.

'And he's not pedalling⁶!' says Camilla, 'Strange⁷, very strange!'

¹ **disappear** when something or someone disappears, you can't see it or them any more

² **mend** to make something good again so that you can use it

³ **suddenly** when something happens quickly and you're surprised

⁴ **a bell ringing** a noise: 'ding, ding, ding'

⁵ **in a hurry** going fast

⁶ **pedal** what you do with your feet to make a bike move

⁷ **strange** not something you usually see, hear or do

In Search of a Missing Friend

‘Hello!’ yells¹ Harry. The bikes don’t stop. They’re going even faster. ‘Wow! They’re really in a hurry,’ says Harry. ‘Maybe² they’re escaping from something.’

Harry and Camilla are very worried. They run to Wills’ house. When they open the door to his room, Harry says: ‘What a mess³!’

‘Oh no! I think the Black Hand Gang has Wills! They often kidnap people!’ says Camilla. Then she sees⁴ a page in the newspaper and says: ‘Look at this!’

Wills’ room is a mess. The twins think the Black Hand Gang has Wills. They often kidnap people.

Complete the text with the words about Wills’ new invention.

~~winner~~ computer ~~problems~~ notebook invention pen

NEW INVENTIONS TODAY AT THE GENIUS ACADEMY

Wills, the winner of last year’s Genius Meeting, is presenting⁵ his latest **(1)** _____.

It’s a very special⁶ pen! ‘It looks like a normal **(2)** _____’, says Wills, ‘but inside there’s a tiny⁷ **(3)** _____ that reads maths problems in your **(4)** _____ then it solves⁸ the **(5)** _____!’ This is a very useful⁹ invention.

¹ **yell** speak loudly

² **maybe** it’s possible

³ **mess** when everything is everywhere

⁴ **sees** notices something

⁵ **present** show people something for the first time

⁶ **special** better than what you usually see

⁷ **tiny** very small

⁸ **solve** find the answer

⁹ **useful** that can help you

Wills' new invention is a special pen that can solve maths problems. The Black Hand Gang kidnap Wills because these bad people want his special pen.

'They want the pen! That's why they have Wills!' says Harry.

Camilla is very worried. 'But where are they now?' she asks.

'Maybe they're looking for the prototype' ... at the Genius Academy!

'Let's go there!' says Camilla.

The twins take the Genius Kit before they leave. It's one of Wills' many inventions, but they can't open it. It has an anti-theft device²!

Do you think you're a genius³?
Crack⁴ the code to open the kit.

How many times can you find the word
'Genius' in the box below?

G	E	E	N	I	U	E	N	G
S	E	G	E	N	I	U	S	E
N	I	N	S	G	N	I	U	N
N	I	U	I	N	I	U	S	I
G	E	N	I	U	S	G	G	U
N	U	I	S	G	E	N	U	S

¹ **prototype** model

² **anti-theft device** something to stop people taking something that isn't theirs

³ **genius** a very clever person

⁴ **crack the code** understand, find



Harry and Camilla don't know the code to open the Genius Kit.



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Harry and Camilla pedal towards the Genius Academy in Regent's Park, but Camilla can't stop worrying. 'We need to get there before they do,' she says. 'Don't worry, I know a shortcut¹ to get to Science Street,' says Harry.

¹ **shortcut** a shorter and quicker way to go somewhere



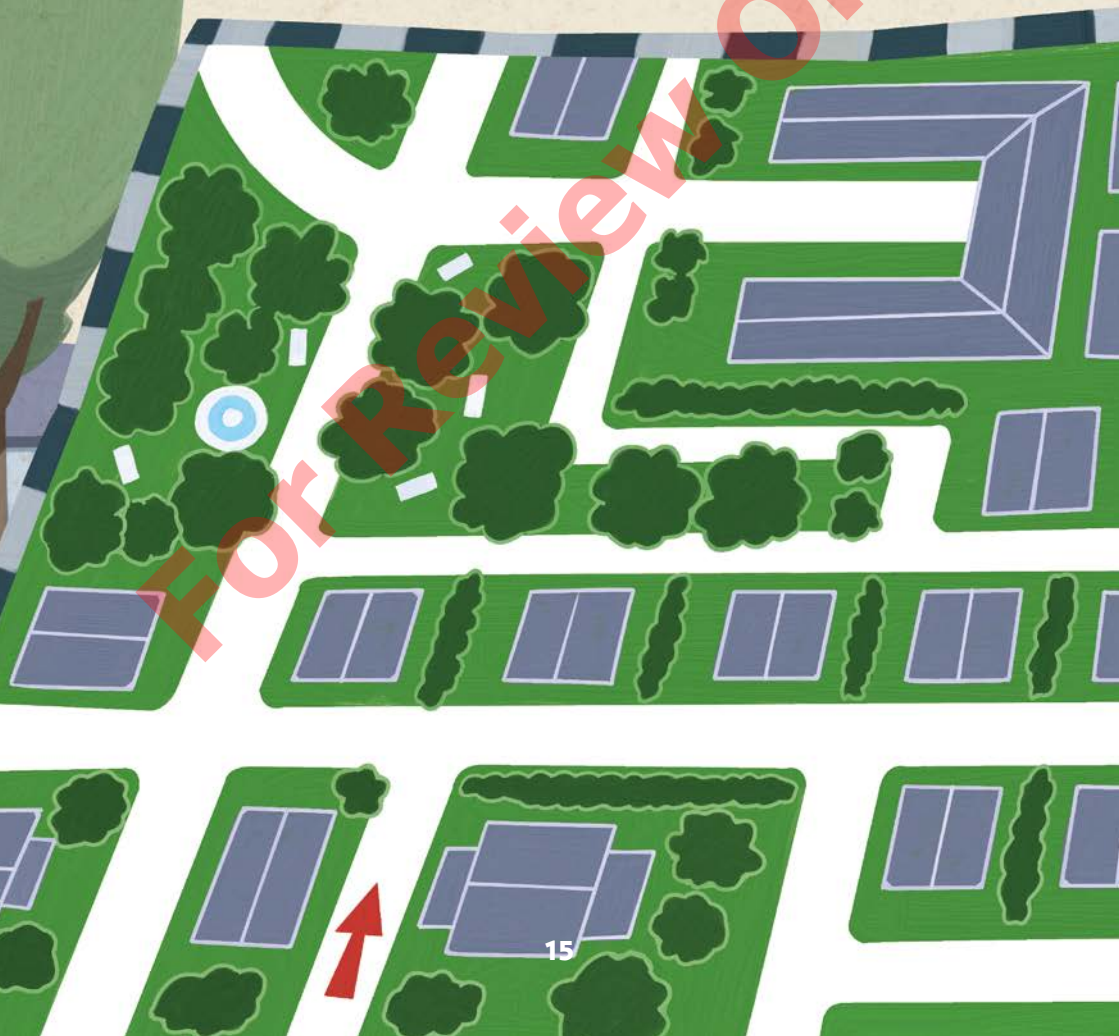
Harry and Camilla are riding fast to the Genius Academy. Harry knows a shortcut so they can get there before the gang.

In Search of a Missing Friend

Follow Harry and find the way to the Genius Academy.



'We have to go straight on, then turn left. Next, turn right. Then, go straight on until after the park. Turn right and go straight on to the Genius Academy', says Harry.



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The man at the Genius Academy doesn't remember seeing Wills.

At the Genius Academy, there's a man at the door. Harry tells him about Wills. 'He's about this tall, a little chubby¹, he has blond hair and wears glasses. Was he here?' But the doorman says, 'I see thousands of strange kids with strange inventions. They're all the same ... I can't remember your friend. You know, I have so many things to do. Look, I don't have time for this. I have to send out these letters today. I can't waste time² with you!' 🗨️

For Review Only

Think

What do you think the twins can do to find their friend Wills?

¹ **chubby** a bit fat

² **waste time** not use time well

In Search of a Missing Friend

Write the correct addresses on the doorman's letters.

Genius Way
Magic Street
Singer Street

Buckingham Palace
The Globe Theatre

1

Her Majesty
Queen Elizabeth

2

Mr Harry Potter

3

Mr William Shakespeare

4

Miss Beyoncé Knowles

5

Mr Albert Einstein

Reading Comprehension

1 Tick the sentences true (T) or false (F).

Camilla's favourite hobby is dancing.

1 Wills is pedalling.

2 Harry and Camilla are worried.

3 Wills is with the twins.

4 Camilla and Harry leave the Genius Kit at home.

5 The twins ride their bikes to the Genius Academy.

6 Harry tells the doorman about Wills.

7 The doorman remembers Wills.

T F

☐ ☒

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☐ ☐

☐ ☐

Grammar

2 Complete the questions with **What, Who, Why** or **Where**.
Then answer the questions.

Who is Harry?

He's Camilla's brother.

1 _____ are the twins?

2 _____ are the twins worried?

3 _____ is the Genius Kit?

4 _____ do they take a shortcut?

5 _____ do Camilla and Harry speak to at the Academy?

6 _____ does Harry ask the man at the door of the
Genius Academy?

Reading and Writing **MOVERS**

- 3 Look at this picture from Chapter 1. Complete the sentences and answer the questions.

- Harry and Camilla are in Wills' _____ *room* .
- 1 Harry's hair is _____ .
 - 2 Camilla is wearing white _____ .
 - 3 How many books are there on the desk? _____
 - 4 Why are Harry and Camilla looking at the Genius Kit? _____



Speaking and Writing

- 4 In Chapter 1, Harry and Camilla go to the Genius Academy on their bikes. Discuss these questions with a partner and write your answers.

- 1 How often do you ride your bike?
- 2 How do you get to school?
- 3 How long does it take you to get to school?
- 4 How do most people travel in your town or city?
- 5 What do you think of electric scooters and hoverboards?
- 6 Do you think it's a good idea to use electric or hybrid cars? Why? / Why not?

21st
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Before-reading Activity

Speaking

- 5 In Chapter 2, Camilla and Harry go to Giant's Supermarket. Tick (✓) the things you think they find in the supermarket then read and check your answers.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ☐ fruit | ☐ ear plugs |
| ☐ bread | ☐ ice cream |
| ☐ biscuits | ☐ chocolate |
| ☐ carrot juice | ☐ a hairbrush |
| ☐ books | ☐ milk |