

Michael Lacey Freeman
Dot to Dot

Tom visits the house he lived in when he was a little boy, and he finds an old newspaper in the wardrobe. He picks it up, and becomes that little boy again. He's standing in front of a mirror, and is confused by what he sees. What does he see in that mirror? Read on to find out.

In this reader you'll find:

- Focus on: Elvis Presley, Jimmy Carter and the British school system
- Glossary of difficult words
- Comprehension and grammar activities including A2 Key style exercises and 21st century skills activities
- Final test

Tags

Family | School | Feelings & Emotions | Rooms & Furniture

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STAGE 1	600 headwords	Elementary	A1	Movers
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STAGE 3	1000 headwords	Intermediate	B1	Preliminary

Original

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A2

Michael Lacey Freeman

Dot to Dot

Readers

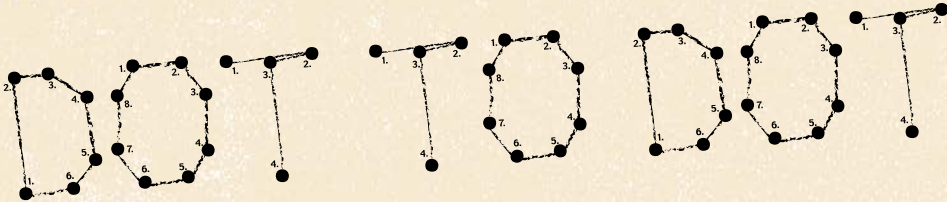


Teen

Teen
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TEEN ELI READERS
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Book brief

- 1** This is the story of Tom Evans and his memories of when he was a boy when everyone called him Tommy.
- 2** Tommy loves music and has a band with his friends, but suddenly his life changes.
- 3** The story shows us how Tommy and his dad learn to help each other.
- 4** Tommy has to face all the normal problems of growing up and there are lots of funny moments in the story.
- 5** The story shows us how music can help bring people together.

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Illustrated by
Marta Pantaleo

For Review Only

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Main Characters

Dad

Tommy's dad loves songs by Elvis Presley. He finds it hard to talk about his feelings.

Mum

Tommy's mum is good at listening to him when he needs to talk about something important.

Lorenzo

He comes from Italy.
He plays the guitar and sings in the band.

Colin

Tommy's best friend.
He also plays the guitar in their band.

Simon

He plays the drums in the band.

Kim

A girl whom Tommy likes but he doesn't know if she likes him.



Pamela

*A lonely girl at school.
Tommy finds it easy
to talk to her.*

Tommy Senior

*Tom sits in his old room
and thinks about when
he was a boy.*

Tommy Junior

*This is Tom when he was
a boy when everyone
called him Tommy.
Tommy loves reading
and music and he's the
singer in a band with his
friends.*

Reading A2 Key

- 1 Complete the text about the game 'dot to dot' with one word in each space.**

A dot to dot is a drawing game that children play.

(1) _____ the beginning of the game, you see a (2) _____ of numbers. You take a pen (3) _____ pencil and draw a line from the number one (4) _____ the number two. Then you join the line to number 3 and so on. When you (5) _____ joined all the numbers, you'll see a picture. Do you remember playing this game (6) _____ you were a child?

Reading Comprehension

- 2 Read the conversation and match the questions to the answers.**

1 ☒ What are you reading?

2 ☐ Is it a new story?

3 ☐ What does 'dot to dot' mean?

4 ☐ What's the story about?

5 ☐ What's the boy's name?

6 ☐ When does it take place?

7 ☐ What other characters are in the story?

a It's about a boy, and how he and his father learn to understand each other.

b Tommy's friends at school, and his mother.

c A dot to dot is a drawing game that children play.

d Most of the story takes place in 1977.

e Yes, it was written in 2017.

f His name is Tommy, but when he's a man he's called Tom.

g It's a story called *Dot to Dot*.

Grammar

- 3 Read the descriptions of some of the main characters and choose the correct word.

Tom is a married man ~~who~~ / which is going to move to Italy.

- 1 Tommy is Tom when he was / were a young boy.
- 2 Tommy's dad loves listen / listening to rock 'n' roll music.
- 3 Tommy's mum has / have a friend called Derek.
- 4 Kim is a girl at / to Tommy's school.
- 5 Lorenzo is Tommy's friend and he is coming / comes from Italy.
- 6 Pamela is another girl by / at Tommy's school.

Speaking and Writing

- 4 In the exercise above, it says that Tom wants to move to Italy. Discuss these questions with a friend and write your answers.

- 1 Why do some people move to other countries?
- 2 What problems can adults have when they move to a new country?
- 3 What problems can students have when they have to start a new school?
- 4 How can you help a new student who joins your class?
- 5 Do you like where you live? Why? / Why not?
- 6 Would you like to move to another country? Why? / Why not?

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Listening

- 2 5 Listen to the start of the story. Where's the man?

Prologue

My Old Room

▶ 2 I sit on the bed and look around the room. There's nothing special about it. There are some posters on the wall, a wardrobe¹ and a bookshelf. But once, this was my room and it was special to me. To be honest², it was more than a room. It was a place to dream, and sometimes, when things weren't going well, it was a place to hide. ■

▶ 3 How many dreams have I had on this bed? How many of them have come true? And how many will come true³ in the future?

Tom is sitting in what was once his bedroom, thinking about his life. He says life is like a dot to dot, where you have to wait to see what the picture will be.

I think of my life so far, of what has passed and what will be. Sometimes I think that life is like a drawing game I played when I was a small child. Life is like a dot to dot, where you draw a line from one number to the next. You have to wait to see what the picture will be. The picture gets clearer and clearer as you push the pen forward, and then you say:

‘Look! Look at my picture!’

¹ **wardrobe** where you keep your clothes

² **to be honest** actually

³ **come true** happen, become a fact

Dot to Dot

While you're drawing you don't know exactly where you're going. You're not sure what the picture will be. You just follow the numbers.

I'm following the numbers now. I'm moving on to the next one. The next number. A big step¹. My wife and I are moving to Italy. Not for a holiday, not for a week or so, but forever!

I have no idea what my picture will be. I have no idea what forever means. But I'm excited about this move. New people, new places, and new things to learn. But before saying hello to my new life, I've come here to say goodbye to my old one.

My dad has left the room just as it was when I lived here, when I was a young boy.

I look at myself in the mirror, and then I open the wardrobe and see something there, underneath² some clothes - something that I don't want to leave behind³. It's an old newspaper.

I pull it out carefully and look at the date:

August 17th 1977

Then I look at the headline⁴.

Tom and his wife are moving to Italy forever. Before leaving, he's come to see his old room. In the wardrobe he finds an old newspaper from 1977 that he wants to keep.

¹ **step** when you walk, you take one step after another

² **underneath** under

³ **leave behind** not take

⁴ **headline** the title at the top of a story in a newspaper, usually written in bigger letters

ELVIS IS DEAD!

The headline says 'Elvis is Dead'. This is Tom's dad's favourite singer. Tom starts to read the article and he hears a voice from the past: his voice when he was a boy and everyone called him Tommy.

Elvis Presley was my dad's favourite singer. I smile to myself as I think of dad, dancing to 'Jailhouse Rock' in the kitchen. My dad called Elvis Presley, 'The King'. He was The King of Rock 'n' Roll. I start to read the article¹, but then I hear something.

I hear a voice that's whispering² in my ear. I recognise³ who it is immediately. The voice⁴ belongs to me. It belongs to my past. I close my eyes to hear it better.

It's August 1977. August 17th.

I listen to the voice.

And I remember.

...

'Dad! Dad!' 

Think

What do you know about Elvis Presley?

¹ **article** a story in a newspaper

² **whisper** speak really softly

³ **recognise** know

⁴ **voice** you use your voice to speak or sing



Tom reads the article about Elvis Presley and he starts to remember that moment in his past.



Half a Photo

▶ 4 ‘Dad!’

‘What Tommy?’

‘Look! It’s in the newspapers. I’ve just read it. It’s Elvis, Elvis Presley. He’s dead!’

‘No!’ cried my father as he took the newspaper from my hand. He couldn’t believe it. He had to read the newspaper with his own eyes.

It was my job every morning to go out and get the newspaper. When I saw that day’s headline I ran home. ‘When Dad sees this he won’t believe it,’ I thought. It was strange really. In some ways, I was even quite excited to tell him the news. I had something to say to Dad, something that he was going to listen to. Dad didn’t often listen to me.

‘That’s not possible. That’s ...’ he said.

The word ‘That’ remained¹ there in the air, and was followed by silence², as he began to read the article.

‘I have to sit down,’ said Dad when he finished

Now, the story is back in 1977. Tommy tells his dad about Elvis dying. Tommy’s dad doesn’t often listen to him. This time he does, so Tommy is excited about that.

¹ **remain** stay

² **silence** if there’s no noise or nobody speaks, there’s silence

Dot to Dot

reading, and he went into the living room. I didn't follow him. I got the feeling that he wanted to be alone.

He always wanted to be alone.

'Why's he so sad?' I asked myself. 'Elvis was only an old pop star.' I knew he liked Elvis Presley a lot, but it wasn't like he was a friend. It wasn't the end of the world.

'No,' I thought. 'The world has already ended for Dad. It ended a few months ago.'

The end of the world began with a phone call.

...

I was on my own in the house. Mum and Dad were out visiting some friends, and I was alone. I liked being alone in the house. I was happy. 'Now I can listen to my music, and watch whatever I want on the television,' I thought to myself.

'Tommy, we're going out for a while¹. We'll be back before you go to bed,' said Mum. Did she really mean it when she said those words?

Tommy can't understand why his dad is so sad about Elvis. Then he says his dad's world ended a few months before, after a phone call.

Tommy's mum and dad go out and leave him at home on his own. His mum says they'll be back before he goes to bed, but Tommy isn't sure that she really meant what she said that day.

¹ **for a while** for some time

'We'll be back before you go to bed.'

Well, all I know is that she didn't come back.

Mum and Dad didn't tell me where they were going. They didn't even say goodbye. But I didn't think much about it.

Tommy's mother never comes back, but he doesn't know this at the time. He's happy to stay at home and pretend to be a pop star.

Now I could turn up my music¹ really loud. I chose one of my favourite songs and started to dance in front of the bedroom mirror. I liked to pretend² that I was a rock star, and that I was on *Top of the Pops*, my favourite TV programme.

Sometimes I was the singer, and sometimes the guitarist³. But most of the time I was both. I was on my own, and I could be whoever I wanted to be.

It was great fun.

There is no speeding ticket,

There is no parking fine,

We are feeling free.

There is no name or number,

No way, no road, no wonder,

We are feeling free.

¹ **turn up** (music) make music louder

² **pretend** when in your head you're someone else and do the things they do, but it's not real

³ **guitarist** a person who plays the guitar

Reading Comprehension

1 Look at these sentences. Tick (✓) the ones that you think are true.

- ☒ Tommy is in his old bedroom.
- 1 ☐ Tommy finds a book in the room.
- 2 ☐ Tom was called Tommy when he was a boy.
- 3 ☐ Tom's dad liked classical music.
- 4 ☐ Tommy's mum and dad went out one morning.
- 5 ☐ Only Tommy's dad came back.
- 6 ☐ The next day Tommy saw a photo of his father.

2 Match the questions to the answers.

- 1 ☒ What does Tommy say life is like?
 - 2 ☐ When did Elvis Presley die?
 - 3 ☐ What things were in the room?
 - 4 ☐ What voice did Tommy hear?
 - 5 ☐ What was Tommy doing when he heard the phone?
 - 6 ☐ What did Tommy find on the road?
 - 7 ☐ What's the name of Tommy's band?
-
- a In 1977.
 - b A dot to dot drawing game.
 - c He was dancing in front of the mirror.
 - d The Sad Road.
 - e Half a photo.
 - f His voice, when he was a boy.
 - g Some posters, a wardrobe and a bookshelf.



Reading A2 Key

- 3 A** Read what Tommy says about his band again, and fill in the gaps.

'One day I'll sing this song with my band,' I'm in
(1) _____ band with (2) _____ friends. We're called,
'The Sad Road' and we only play once a week (3) _____
my friend's garage. We don't play (4) _____ anyone else.
We just play for ourselves, but it's (5) _____ much fun.

- 3 B** Now check this part of the chapter again to see if you got it right.

Speaking and Writing

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- 4** Match the emoticons to the adjectives below then talk to a friend about yourself. Write a sentence with each adjective. Start like this: I feel _____ when ...



1 happy _____



2 sad _____



3 angry _____



4 afraid _____

Before-reading Activity

Listening

- 5** Listen to the first part of Chapter 2, and decide if the sentences are true (T) or false (F).

1 Tommy's dad is at home.

2 Both Tommy and his dad miss Tommy's mum.

T F

☐ ☐☐ ☐