

## About a Boy – Chap 5&6: New Trainers/Christmas

### Vocabulary

*The following lines are from the script. Can you remember the scenes in which they were used? Try to remember without looking at the textbook.*

- a) Oh, yeah. They give me a **hard time**, you know... (p.80)
- b) I can't make you invisible, but I can make you **blend in** with the crowd. (p.82)
- c) Dunno. Do you think I look **cool**? (p.82)
- d) Well, I was wondering why a single, childless man would want to **hang out** with a twelve-year-old boy everyday. (p.86)
- e) Because he's having the s\*\*t bullied out of him at school, and you **haven't got a clue**. (p.88)
- f) Will, you're **disturbing** the other customers. (p.88)
- h) Maybe you haven't had very much **contact** with kids before. (p.88)
- h) Yes, yes, there is. There's Marcus. You're **involved** now. (p.88)
- i) He's **none of my business**. (p.90)
- j) I had to hand it to the kid, he could be **enthusiastic** about some truly crap presents. (p.94)

*Complete the following sentences with the underlined words or phrases from above. Change the form of the words, or replace portions of the phrases so that they are grammatically correct and make sense. (do → did, me → him, etc.)*

- 1. Please turn your music down. You're ( ) the other passengers.
- 2. What are you doing after school? Do you want to ( )?
- 3. I like your new jacket; it's really ( )!
- 4. A: "I saw your son talking to the police yesterday, what was that about?"  
B: "Sorry, it's ( )."
- 5. He stays at home all day and has very little ( ) with the outside world.
- 6. His parents are giving him a ( ) because his school grades are bad.
- 7. The fans filled the stadium with ( ) shouts and cheering when their team scored.
- 8. I've just broken up with my boyfriend, so I don't feel like getting ( ) with anyone right now.
- 9. Chameleons can change the colour of their skin to ( ) with the background.
- 10. I think I'm lost. I ( ) where I am.

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**Comprehension & Discussion**

1. Why do the older boys give Marcus a hard time? Have you ever been given a hard time by someone?
2. What does Marcus do without noticing? Do you do anything without noticing?
3. How does Will try to help Marcus blend in? Do you try to blend in with your friends? How?
4. What does a 'natural high' mean? Why did Will feel a natural high? Have you experienced a 'natural high'? What is the opposite of a 'natural high'?
5. What information Marcus tells his mother about Will makes her worried? What does Marcus's believe Will is doing with Marcus?
6. How does Will usually spend Christmas? How do you usually spend Christmas? What do you think are the differences between Christmas in Japan and in the UK?
7. What do you think made Will change his mind and spend Christmas with Marcus's family?
8. What presents did Marcus receive and who gave them? What's the best and worst present you have received? What joke does Marcus play on Will?
9. How does Will defuse the argument between Marcus and his mother?
10. What do Marcus's family have for their Christmas meal? Why? Is there any food you cannot eat?

## Vocabulary (Answers)

1. Please turn your music down. You're **disturbing** the other passengers.
2. What are you doing after school? Do you want to **hang out**?
3. I like your new jacket; it's really **cool**!
4. A: "I saw your son talking to the police yesterday, what was that about?"  
B: "Sorry, it's **none of your business**."
5. He stays at home all day and has very little **contact** with the outside world.
6. His parents are giving him a **hard time** because his school grades are bad.
7. The fans filled the stadium with **enthusiastic** shouts and cheering when their team scored.
8. I've just broken up with my boyfriend, so I don't feel like getting **involved** with anyone right now.
9. Chameleons can change the colour of their skin to **blend in** with the background.
10. I think I'm lost. I **haven't got a clue** where I am.

## Comprehension

1. Because of his hair, his clothes and his singing.
2. He sings out loud.
3. He buys him a pair of new trainers.
4. A sense of well-being or euphoria caused naturally—without the use of stimulants. Because he had made an unhappy boy temporarily happy without any gain for himself.
5. The fact that Will doesn't have a kid. She believes Will is interfering with her son.
6. Watching videos, getting drunk and stoned.
7. He watched a video of Frankenstein which made him feel lonely.
8. Socks (His Dad), a tambourine (his Mum), A rap CD and CD player (Will)  
He gives him a book for single parents.
9. He makes a joke about Marcus killing a duck.
10. Nutloaf with parsnip gravy because they are probably vegetarians.