Some Dog!

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Illustrations by Craig Smith



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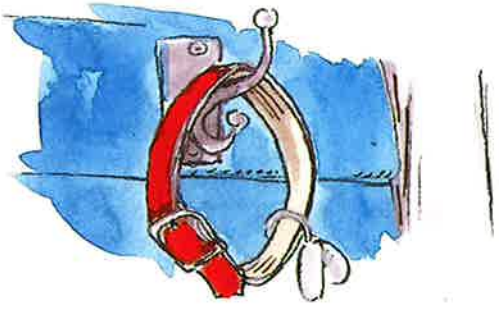


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Chapter 1

Pete's Arrival



"Have you got any pets?" asked Pete.

For a moment, Josh didn't answer. He glanced around the kitchen, quickly, then looked away. "No, no pets."

"Not even a dog? I thought I saw a collar."

Josh shook his head.

"Tell him about Jimpy," said Emmie.

Josh frowned at his sister, and felt his cheeks redden with anger and hurt. She knew he didn't want to talk about it.

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"Go on, Josh," Emmie insisted.

"Who's Jimpy?" asked Pete.

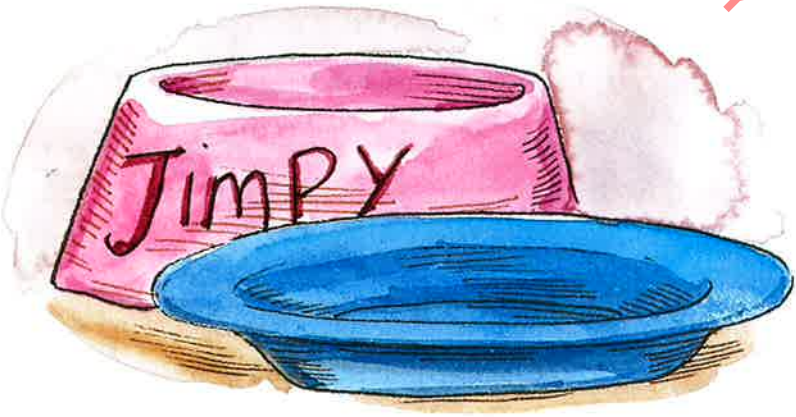
Josh turned away. Why had Mum asked this cousin from the country to stay? He and Emmie barely knew Pete, and here he was asking all these questions. Josh didn't want to tell him about Jimpy. He was trying to forget. It hurt too much to remember, and to see the places where Jimpy used to sit. All empty now.



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Chapter 2

Six Months Ago

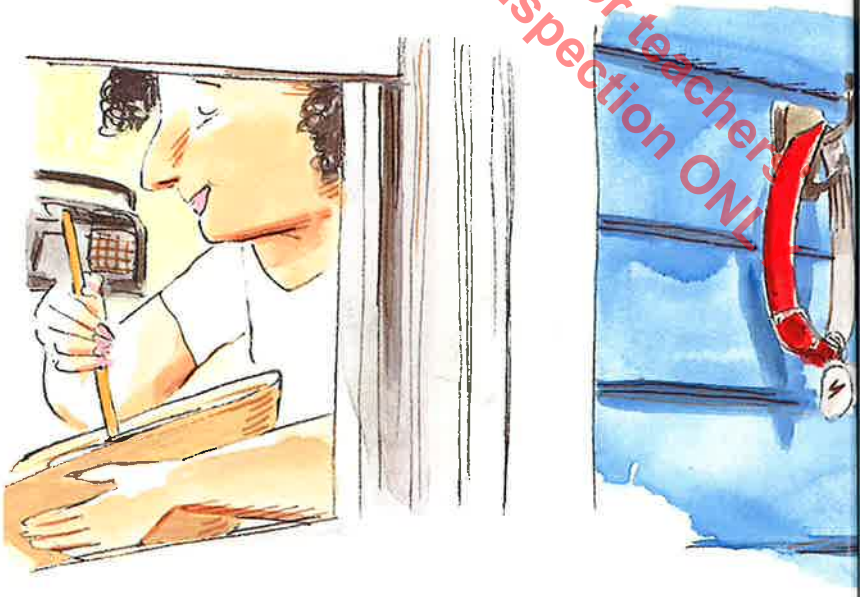


Josh hadn't mentioned the dog's name since... It must be six months ago now. Mum had put away Jimpy's food dish and drinking bowl. They'd thrown out his worn rug, but somehow they couldn't part with his collar. Mum hung it on a hook outside the back door. "We might get another dog one day," she'd said. But Josh knew she just couldn't bring herself to throw it out. None of them could.

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How could any other dog replace Jimpy? Josh didn't know how his mother could even think of it. He'd never have another dog. You didn't go out and buy another, just like that, as if your previous dog had never existed.

Nothing seemed fun any more. Mum kept telling Josh to stop moping around, that it was time he pulled himself together. It was all right for her to talk like that, but it only made him feel worse. She didn't understand how much he missed Jimpy.