

## GRANDPA AND A CAT CALLED ALICE

Here is a story in which you have to work some things out for yourself.

### SARDINES FOR ALICE



My grandpa has a cat called Alice. Funny that. My grandma was called Alice. In fact, the cat used to be called Kitty, but now it's Alice.

There's a lot of funny things about Grandpa. When I go to see him, the front door is always open. The TV is on. The cat is usually on top of the TV or the kitchen table, eating last week's cake. Grandpa will say it was lovely cake, even though he hasn't eaten any. He never says it was delicious, though I tell Mum that's what he said.

I go out into the back garden. Flower scent, deckchair, buzzing bees, and grass that needs cutting. At the far end is the shed where Grandpa will be humming a tune to himself. Knock on the door... and here he is.

"Hello, Grandpa. You all right?"

"Hello, Tommy. Yes. Looks like I'm still here. Oh, that was a lovely cake you brought last week. A real smasher. Say thanks to your mum."

It's cosy in his shed. Some of his drawings are pinned to the wall. Some photographs of him with Grandma. Some of the cat. And loads of tubes of paint everywhere, paintbrushes, empty jam jars and oily rags. I love the smell. Paint is all over his hands or drying on his trousers. He doesn't care. He doesn't care that the front door is open. Not now that he's on his own. He's painting a picture of Alice among the flowers.

"Secretive, isn't she? There and not there. Now, she'll always be there waiting for sardines."

"Not so secretive when she's sitting on the television."

"Hah!" says Grandpa, ruffling my hair and shaking with laughter.

1. Whose grandma was called Alice?

Tommy's

2. Why does the narrator use the word 'was' when he says: "My grandma **was** called Alice"?

She's no longer alive.

3. Why do you think Grandpa has changed the cat's name?

To remind him of his wife.

4. Why does Grandpa never say the cake was delicious?

He never eats it. He feeds it to the cat.

5. Why do you think the narrator always tells his mum that Grandpa said the cake was delicious?

He knows his mother would be upset if she knew the cat ate it.

6. What time of year do you think it is?

spring / summer

7. How do you know? Write down one piece of evidence.

scent of flowers / deckchair / bees buzzing / grass needs cutting

8. What evidence is there to suggest that Grandpa is happy working in his shed?

He is humming a tune to himself.

9. Write down **three** things that tell you Grandpa is an artist.

drawings are pinned to the wall / lots of paint materials / the smell of paint/  
dry paint on his hands and trousers / he's painting a picture of Alice among  
the flowers

10. How do you know Grandpa enjoys Tommy's visits?

He ruffles his hair and laughs at his joke.