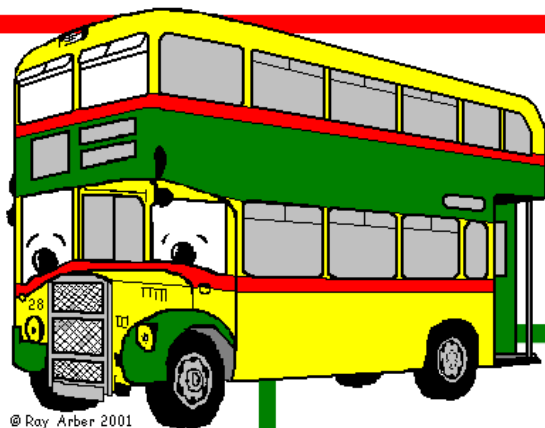


The Buses of Sunnydown Garage



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The Old Timer

The Old Timer



Dennis is one of the newest buses at the Sunnydown Garage. He has made many new friends, including Grumpy Geoff.

Dennis loves to listen to his friends telling about all their adventures and his favourite storyteller is The Old Timer.

The Old Timer's adventures happened many, many years ago.

Do you like to listen to stories?



The Old Timer lived in a corner behind the Sunnydown Garage.

He had been used to store things in until one day there was no more room and then he was forgotten about.

Over the years, his windows had been broken, a wheel had gone missing and panels removed from his bodywork. He even had birds nesting in his engine and mice living in his seats.

He rusted away in this corner, ignored by all the other buses until Dennis became his friend.



The Old Timer had some exciting stories to tell of majestic trams and silent trolley buses.

He made Dennis shiver as he told stories of air raids during the war that left holes in the ground so large a bus could fall right into them.

“I had so many friends,” he sighed, “but they have all gone away. I wish I could find somewhere I could be taken care of,” he said sadly. Dennis wished he could help.

Do you think it is important to help other people?



One day, Dennis was in the bus station when he overheard a conversation between two passengers.

“I have been searching for a really old bus to add to the collection at our museum,” a smartly dressed man was saying. “I know there is one in this town somewhere, but I cannot find it,” he continued.

Dennis smiled to himself because he knew just where such an old bus was. All he needed to do was take the man to the place.

Do you know which bus Dennis is thinking of?

However, The Old Timer was at the garage and it was against the rules to take passengers there.



Dennis came up with a plan and held his breath until one of his engine warning buzzers started to sound. His driver had to take him round the garage for a drink of water.

As Dennis drove around the back of the garage, a loud voice shouted, “Stop! Open these doors immediately!” The man jumped off and ran towards the Old Timer.

“I want this bus for my museum,” he was shouting excitedly.

Do you think Dennis was wrong to break the rules?



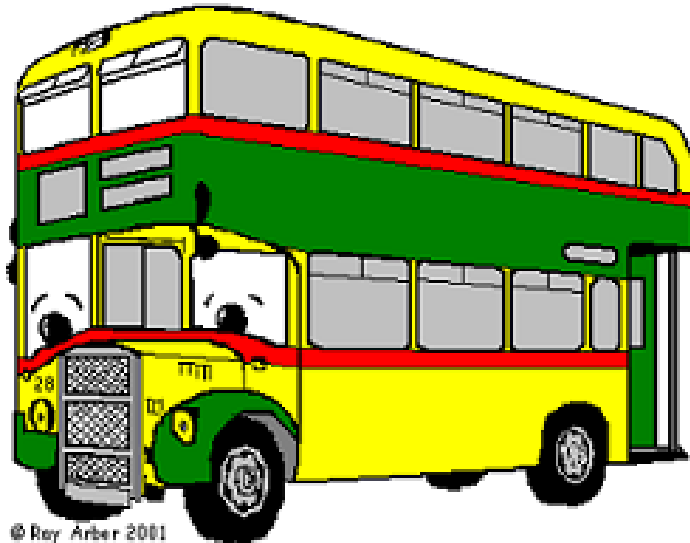
The Old Timer remained where he was for many weeks, hidden behind a large green sheet.

All Dennis could hear when he passed by was the sound of banging, drilling and sawing.

Dennis missed talking to his friend and he especially missed his wonderful stories.

Dennis was also worried about his friend and hoped he had done the right thing.

Do you think Dennis should worry about what he did?



Early one morning, Dennis was sleeping in the garage.

“Did I ever tell you about the day Lord Charles the tram came off the rails?” he heard The Old Timer say.

Dennis thought he was dreaming. He missed his friend very much.

Then Dennis opened his eyes and standing before him was his friend, The Old Timer.

The Old Timer looked as good as he did on his first day at the Sunnydown Garage all those years ago.



The Old Timer told Dennis he was going to live in a museum where it was dry and warm and he would be looked after properly.

“And many of my old friends are there as well,” he said. “It will be good to see them again after so many years.”

Dennis was glad for The Old Timer, but he was sad because his friend was going away.

“Thank you for helping me and being my friend, and I will be able to visit you in the garage as often as I like” The Old Timer said to Dennis.

“But before I go,” he continued, “there is time for one more story.”

Do you like visiting museums?

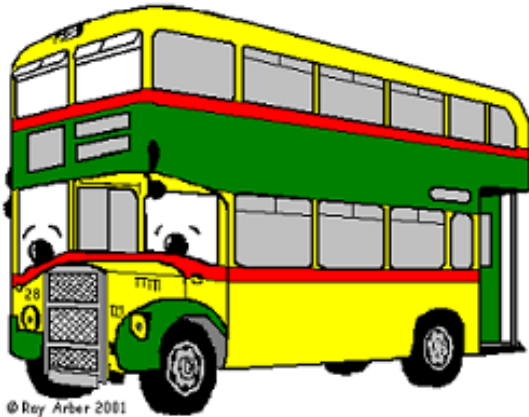


The Old Timer kept his word to Dennis and often visits the Sunnydown Garage.

He also takes many of his friends from the museum with him on these visits and together they share stories with Dennis and the other Sunnydown Buses.

The Old Timer and Dennis are both very happy.

What does this story teach us?



Being kind and helping others.

In this story, Dennis makes friends with a very old bus parked behind the garage, where it had been for many years. One by one, all his old friends had left the garage and he had been left behind.

Dennis loved hearing his stories and often stopped for a chat, which the other buses never did.

Dennis also knew that his friend needed looking after properly, and set about making sure that happened.

If you know of older people who live on their own and are lonely, perhaps you might like to spend some time with them listening to their stories. Let your parents know what you intend to do so they can make sure it is all right for you to do that.



Words that describe things.

Some words in this story describe how something feels or looks.

There are '**majestic** trams', which makes me think of something very graceful and important.

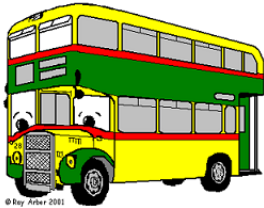
There are '**silent** trolley buses', which suggest to me that you would not hear these buses, so be careful crossing the road!

There is also the man '**shouting excitedly**' – what do you think this means?

Try to find descriptive words in this story and see if you can replace them with any other words.

Use your phonics grid to help you with any words in the story that you do not know.

Use these pictures to write your own story.



Title picture



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3

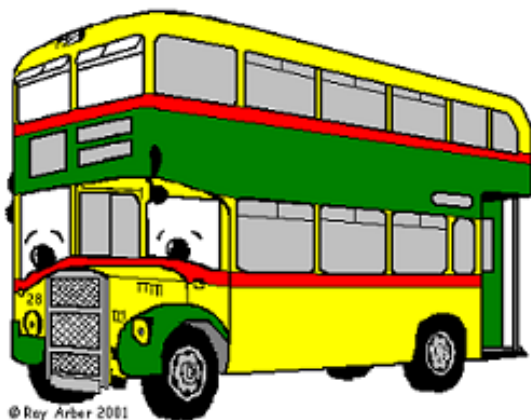


Picture 4



Picture 5

Additional notes for parents, carers or teachers.



Being kind and helping others.

The focus of this story is about taking time to help vulnerable members of the community. They may be vulnerable for many reasons including age, religion, race or language and it can make people feel lonely, sad or sometimes angry.

Explore the reasons why people are vulnerable and possible results. Perhaps there are examples that have happened in class, school or community that you can use. In particular, talk about how to provide help and especially about involving adults as soon as possible.