

Series 8

Places

Book 5

The School

The School

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The School

The summer holidays were nearly over.

There was not much time left. Amy and Tom would soon be back at school. Tom wasn't sure how he felt about this. He was to go to a new school for children who were very musical, as he was such a good violinist. Tomorrow he was off

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to boarding school, sixty miles away.

A few weeks ago, Tom had longed to go to his new school. Now he didn't think it was such a good idea!

"I'll miss you," he told the family.

"We'll all miss you too," said Mum.

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"But don't forget that you will be coming home every weekend. The days will soon pass."

On his last evening at home, Dad helped Tom to lay out all the things he needed on his bed, and mum helped him to pack his case.

The next day Tom came downstairs

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wearing his new uniform.

"You look very smart and grown up,"
said Amy. "I wish I could go with you."

Tom helped Dad to load the car, then
they were off. "It's a very big school, Dad.
What if I can't find my way around?"

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"You needn't worry. Lots of you will be new, and the other children and teachers will help."

One hour later they drew up at the school. There were children, mothers and fathers all around. Dad helped Tom carry his cases upstairs. They were shown into a long room

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called a dormitory. It had six beds in it. A boy of around Tom's age sat on the bed next to Tom's, tuning a cello.

"Hi. I'm Andrew. I'm new here too.

Shall we look around together when you've unpacked?"

Soon it was time for Dad to leave. Tom

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and Andrew set off to explore. They went down a long passage. There were classrooms on both sides. At the end was a big hall.

Next to that was a gym and swimming pool.

"Wow, this is good," said Andrew. "Do you like swimming, Tom?"

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"Yes. I was in a swimming club and went every week at home," said Tom.

They went down a corridor and found the library, and at least twelve music rooms.

"Good," said Andrew. "Lots to read."

The best thing they found was a games room.

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There was table tennis and snooker, as well as lots of board games and puzzles.

"We're going to have plenty to do in the evenings," said Tom. "Let's come tonight."

Just then a bell rang. A teacher told them that all new children had to go to the hall.

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She showed them the way.

In the hall, the Headteacher spoke to them. He told them that every day, when school ended, they would have homework and music practice time. "When all the work is done, you are free.

In the evenings there are clubs you can

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join, if you would like to." He told them they could choose from football, swimming, art club, choir, computer club, drama, judo and lots of others.

"I'd like to do them all!" whispered Tom.

The Headteacher told them about the weekly

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trip to the shops. Tom's dad had given him three pounds to spend there.

By now it was time to eat. All the children were taken to the dining room. There were long tables in there. Tom was pleased to find that it was his favourite meal, pizza, chips and

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salad, followed by apple pie.

When they had eaten, Tom and Andrew went to play snooker, and met some of the other new children. They all seemed nice.

"Did you bring any food with you?" asked Andrew. "My sister made me some cakes."

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Mum had packed some crisps and chocolate for Tom, so the boys decided to have a midnight feast. Tom felt quite happy.

Later that night, when they were supposed to be asleep, Tom crept out of bed. As he did so, the other boys in the dormitory sat up.

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"Who wants to join in our feast?" asked

Tom. All the boys crept out of bed.

Most of them had food to share too.

**The feast was nearly over when the boys
heard a sound. The door creaked open and a
member of staff came in.**

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"What's going on here?" he asked, pretending he was cross. "In to bed this minute! Save your feasts for playtime!" The boys shot back into bed very fast.

Next day lessons started. When school was over and homework done, there were lots of

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things to do, including orchestra practice.

In no time at all it was Friday. To

Tom the time had flown. Mum came to pick

him up. Tom talked all the way home.

"It sounds as if you are having a good time,"

said mum.

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"I'm so glad I went," said Tom.

"There's such a lot to do at school, much more than at home. I do love you all, but I'm longing to go back on Monday!"

Fun Page

True or False?

- 1. Amy went to boarding school.**
- 2. Tom's friend was called Scott.**
- 3. The school had a swimming pool.**
- 4. Tom's friend played the cello.**
- 5. Tom hated his new school.**