Storylines are lively, original stories with contemporary themes, illustrated in full colour. They are carefully graded at four levels to encourage students to read for pleasure.

Cassette available

A SONG FOR BEN

Sandra Slater

Katie Brown, an American rock singer, visits London, where she makes friends with eight-year-old Ben. One day, while Katie is teaching him her latest song, Ben is snatched from under her eyes by kidnappers. Katie sees the kidnappers again on her way to the TV studios, and her song for Ben becomes the means to save his life.

Cover illustration by Stephen Player

400 headwords **1** 2 3 4

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS

Oxford English

ISBN 0-19-421953-4

9 780194 219532

1 Storylines

SONG FOR BEN

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Storylines **1**

Look! That's Katie Brown!
USA Today
KATIE BROWN IS IN ENGLAND TODAY!
Her new album 'Hello, Goodbye' is number 1!
Katie Brown, the famous American rock singer is flying to England today! She is going to be on television on Tuesday night. Her new album is Number One in England, France, Spain, Japan, Italy and the United States. She is only 19, but she is a very rich young woman.

In the afternoon at the hotel...

The next day...
Hello, Katie! Are you going to sing with me today?
Ben! Hi! Sorry, I'm not singing today. I'm going to rest.
That's the boy, but who's that woman?
I don't know, but she isn't looking. She can't see us.

Stop! Stop! What are you doing?
Katie! Help me! Help!
Be quiet!

1
What's the car number? P832 BCA...P832 BCA... P832BCA...P832BCA...
2
Quick! Where's the telephone? Two men are kidnapping a little boy.
RECEPTION
3
Here. Phone 999 and ask for the police.
P832BCA...P832BCA...
4
Hello? The police, please, quick! ...Hello? I'm Katie Brown, and I'm at the Star Hotel in Green Street. Two men are kidnapping a little boy. His name is Ben. ...Yes. They're in a black car. The number's P832 BCA. Please be quick!

1
Hello. Do you know our son, Ben Jones? We can't find him.
Yes, I know him, but he's not here. I'm sorry. He's in a car with two men. They're probably kidnapping him.
2
What?!
On, no!
Don't worry, the police are coming.
3
Are you Katie Brown? Who is this boy? Do you know him?
Yes, he's Ben Jones... here are his mother and father.
4
Now I understand! You're Steve Jones, the famous film star! These men are probably going to ask you for a very big ransom.
Our police officers are looking for the car now. We've got the number.

There's a black car… and the number's P832 BCA! That's it! Stop!
P832 BCA
1
2
This is the right car, but the little boy isn't here. Where is he?

WHERE IS BEN JONES?
WHERE is little Ben Jones? Nobody knows. He is the son of the famous film star, Steve Jones. Ben is with two kidnappers. They are asking for a very big ransom: £500,000. The police are looking for these men, but where are they? Who are they? Nobody knows.
'Please bring back our little boy,' says Ben's mother. 'He is only ten.'
The police say
Ben Jones

The next day. Tuesday afternoon... Katie is driving to the television studios. She's on television tonight.
That's him! The man in the next car. What can I do?
He's driving away. I can't stop and call the police. There isn't time. But he's not looking at me. I'm going to follow him.
Where is he? I can't see the car and there isn't a telephone.
QUEEN STREET
Right or left? I don't know... Try left.

This is the wrong road. The man isn't here. There's nobody here.
Where can I telephone the police... and the television studios? The music show starts at seven o'clock! I can't arrive late.
♪ I like your face, I like your smile... ♪
That's my song! It's my new song! Ben's in that room!

Ben! It's me, Katie! Are you OK? SSSSH...!
What are you doing here?
I'm lost! Can you help me, please? I'm Katie Brown. I'm on television tonight, and they're waiting for me now at the television studios. Where are the studios? Do you know?
Katie Brown? The rock singer? I don't usually like rock music, but I love your songs!
Thank you. But can you ...

Jim! That's the woman from the hotel! She isn't lost! She's looking for the boy. She can't go. Bring her in the house. Quick!
Put her in this room. Lock the door. She can't get out.
How can I get out? And how can I help Ben? Those men have guns. What can I do? Maybe I can...Yes! I know...

1
Here's some… Hey, what's wrong?
I'm sick. I'm very sick. Please help me.
2
Aah, I'm...
CRASH!
3
Now! Quick! Where's the telephone?

1
It's Katie Brown. Ben's OK, but we can't get out. Tell the police...
2
We're in a house near…
You're stupid! She's not ill!
3
I'm going to put her in the room with the boy and lock the door. She's not going to get out again.
I'm going to phone the boy's father again now. We want his money tonight. We can't wait now.

1
It's OK, Ben. Cheer up! We're going to get out.
2
There's nobody outside, Ben. But I think... Yes! We can probably get out! Bring me my bag.
3
Where is Katie Brown, the famous rock singer? Is she going to be on the music show tonight? She's with Ben Jones, but where are they? Nobody knows. Watch the news before the music show tonight at seven o'clock.

1
What are you going to do, Katie? I don't understand!
This lock's very old, Ben. I can open it, I think. Watch me!
2
But how...?
With this! My credit card!
3
Watch...
KLIK
4
Oh Katie! You are clever!
SSSSH! Where are the men?

1
Katie! What are they doing with your car?
2
My car! It's a very new, very special, American car… wait here, Ben!

1
It has a remote control. There! Now they can't get out!
BUZZZZZZZZZ
!!**??
2
OK! We're going to the studios. We're all going to be on television! Wait in the car, Ben. I'm going to call your parents.

1
Hi! Its Katie Brown. Everything's OK - Ben is with me. We're driving to the television studios now. My show's at seven o'clock. Meet us there at six thirty.
Oh, Katie! That's great! Thank you... thank you!
2
Hi! It's Katie Brown. Ben Jones is with me, and I have the kidnappers, too! I'm taking them to the television studios now.
You can't do that Miss Brown!
On, yes I can, inspector! Meet us there at six thirty. Bye now!
3
Hi, Gerry! This is Katie. Meet me at the front door at six thirty!
But Katie...
I'm sorry, I can't talk now. Bye!

1
We're waiting for Katie Brown's car. Is she bringing Ben? We don't know. But who's this? Is it...?
LTV
2
Hi! Ben and I are OK! The kidnappers are in the car.

The show...!
I'm going to be late!
BONK!
**!!!*

And now I'm going to sing my new song. It's for my friend, Ben Jones.
♪I like your face. I like your smile... ♪