

The Last Photo

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Summary

In *The Last Photo*, Martin and his sister Pam are spending a day in Cambridge, England. Pam likes taking photos. At the end of the day, she takes one last photo of Martin.

As Pam takes the photo, a strange man with a rucksack walks in front of Martin. Pam is cross. Later, Pam and Martin see the man get on a bus to Scotland.

Three days later, Pam and Martin look at the photos. The last photo shows the man. Martin thinks he looks like a man in the newspaper. The police are looking for the man because he took £100,000 from the bank that he works at.

Pam and Martin take the photo and the newspaper to the police station. They tell a policeman that they saw the man get on a bus to Scotland. Finally, the police find the man and the money.

The people in the bank are pleased to have the money back, and they give Pam and Martin £1,000 as a reward. Pam has enough money to buy a new camera!

Background and themes

Chance: Pam accidentally takes a photo of someone who is wanted by the police. By chance, they see the man get on a bus. Pam believes that the last photo is a mistake, but in the end, it brings her luck.

Appearances: By paying careful attention to appearances, Martin is able to see the same face of a stranger – even though the stranger looks different.

Crime: Crime doesn't pay. People who break the law often make mistakes and end up getting caught by the police. In *The Last Photo*, the man with the rucksack is caught because he makes the mistake of walking in front of Pam's camera.

Discussion activities

Pages 1–7

Before reading

- Discuss:** Ask students to look at the picture on the cover of the book. *What two things can you see on the cover? What does the headline in the newspaper say? What do you think happens in the story?*
- Discuss:** Ask students if they are interested in photography. *Have you got a camera? What do you like taking photos of?*

After reading

- Role play:** Ask students to work in pairs and role-play the conversation between Pam and Martin on pages 1–3.

Pages 8–15

Before reading

- Write:** Have students look at the picture on page 9. *What is the man in the newspaper wearing? What colour is his hair? What is the man in the photo wearing? What colour is his hair? What is on his face? How do the men look the same? Get students to write two short paragraphs describing the "different men".*
- Guess:** Write several words (*bank, newspaper, photo, rucksack, etc.*) on the board and have students predict which ones will appear in the story. Make sure to include some words that don't appear in the story (*car, dog, tree, etc.*).

After reading

- Discuss:** Get students to describe what happens to the man at the end of the story.