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The Drop-In Series

The books in the Drop-In Series are based around a Community Drop-In Centre in the town of Pably in Dorset. It is a non-profit making business, run for the community, by Sam and Liz Dobson and a group of volunteers.

Sam is the general manager. He oversees everything but is a little disorganised and relies on Liz's quiet efficiency. For anything to do with the computer, Sam relies on Rima. She used to be PA to the boss at a local IT company, so she is a great asset.

Liz runs the kitchen and is helped by Fran and Gwen, who are retired but enjoy the company at the Drop-In and are really appreciated for their baking!

Bill is in charge of the grounds. There is a garden, with a pond and play area for the children. He is helped by Raf, a young Polish lad. Raf works part-time in a pub but he likes to keep busy so he works at the Drop-In between his shifts.

Scott is the handyman. He looks after the general maintenance of the building. He does the decorating and mends things when they break.

The Drop-In provides a meeting place for people who want company during the day. People can go there for a meal or just a coffee and a chat.

It is a great place to make new friends and be fed well at the same time!

Characters in the Drop-In Series



Sam Dobson

Sam runs the Drop-In Centre with his wife, Liz. Sam is 59. He retired early from his job as the manager of a DIY store. He was happy when it was a small store and he knew most of the customers. When it was taken over by one of the big companies, the job became very different. He had to meet targets each week and each month and it became very stressful. He decided to help Liz fulfil her dream of helping people in the community by opening a Drop-In Centre.

Sam is a kind, friendly man and enjoys making people welcome at the Centre. He is much happier chatting to people, than doing all the paperwork necessary to run the Centre. He is rather disorganised and forgetful. He needs to make lists to remember the jobs he needs to do. He relies on Liz to be the organiser. He has the help of Rima, who comes in 3 days a week to keep on top of the accounts.



Liz Dobson

Liz is 53. She was the cook at the local primary school for 25 years. She loved her job. She enjoyed making meals that the children liked to eat and would often treat them with a special pudding or cake. They all loved her. When the school had to close its kitchen and buy the meals in from the local secondary school, Liz decided to leave and open up the Drop-In Centre. She knew there was a need for somewhere for people to go during the day; people who need company, want to make friends and have a purpose to their life. It is a non-profit making business because its prime aim is to serve the community.

Liz loves cooking. She likes to be busy. She is very hard working and has lots of energy. She loves organising things and people, especially her husband!



Bill

Bill is in charge of the grounds and garden. He is 72. He was once a farm hand, working mainly on arable farms in the area. He does not care about his appearance. He is always in old clothes and often covered in mud. That's the way he likes it. He has grey, rather untidy, hair, wears glasses and is unshaven. He works hard but can't do the heavy jobs so easily now. He has Raf, a young Polish lad to help him. He takes pride

A Day at the Shops

1. Who suggests the shopping trip?

2. Why is Rima fed up?

3. What does Jess want to take back to the shop?

4. How many go on the shopping trip?

5. What time did they meet at the Drop-In?

6. How do they get to the station?

7. Why does Gwen want to sit down?

8. What does Liz have for lunch?

9. Why do Flick and Jess have a salad but no chips?

10. Does Liz have an expensive watch?

Practice reading and writing these words from the story:

Write each syllable and say the sounds as you go, then write the whole word:

hus-band _____ _____ _____ _____

shopp-ing _____ _____ _____ _____

chick-en _____ _____ _____ _____

sta-tion _____ _____ _____ _____

diff-i-cult _____ _____ _____ _____

ex-pen-sive _____ _____ _____ _____

The Spring Clean

Find the missing word in the story:

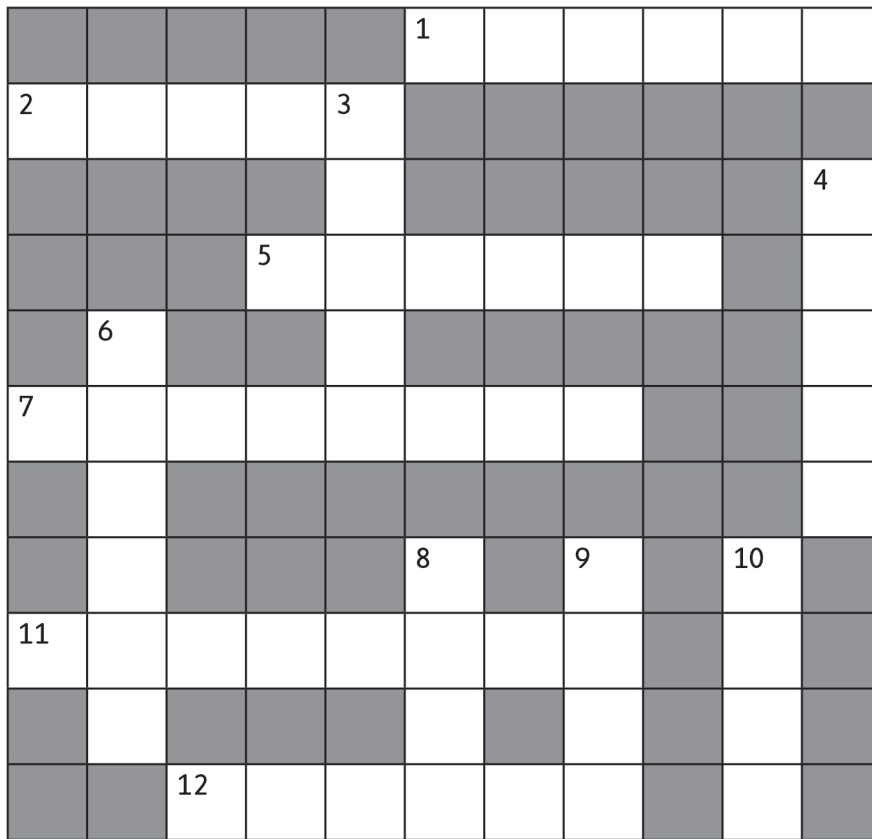
1. "I think we will give the Drop-In a _____ clean," says Liz.
2. Fran and Gwen begin in the _____.
3. They _____ the dishes in the sink.
4. They clean the _____ with a damp cloth.
5. "I shall _____ with this big brush," says Fran.
6. "I shall get the _____ and brush," says Gwen.
7. Sam gets the steps to reach the _____.
8. Taz gets a mop and _____.
9. Meg is _____ of the mop.
10. Flick takes the tablecloths off the _____.

Find a word in the story for each spelling for the sound /ee/:

<ee> _____ <y> _____ <e> _____ <ea> _____

Write a sentence for each word:

The Circus



Across

1. Meat in a roll (6)
2. Item of ladies' clothing (5)
5. A fact kept quiet (6)
7. The day of your birth (8)
11. Something not expected (8)
12. They join your leg and foot (6)

Down

3. We use them to bite (5)
4. 50 (5)
6. Seen in a tent (6)
8. Not a boy (4)
9. We stand on them (4)
10. Name of the circus (4)

Choose 3 words and write a sentence for each:

The Plant Sale

Use one of these words to join the two sentences below:

| | | | |
|-----|----|---------|-----|
| but | so | because | and |
|-----|----|---------|-----|

1. "I have far too many plants for the garden," said Bill.
"Let's have a plant sale."

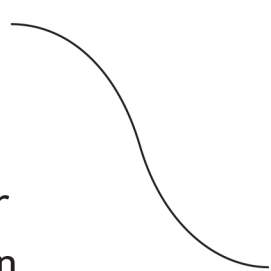
2. There were boxes of plants under the tables.
Some plants were too big to put on the tables.

3. Scott bought a wooden farmyard for Emma.
He bought a pack of cards and a toy car for Jack.

4. "I will have the dart board," said Ken.
"Do you have any darts?"

Join the words that rhyme:

| | |
|-------|---------|
| plant | short |
| raise | shown |
| sort | praise |
| under | calm |
| grown | grant |
| palm | thunder |



Think of a word that rhymes:

sale _____ tray _____ drink _____ car _____