

# Disability

## (Visual)

It was a lazy Saturday. Chloe and Haydon were walking down the High Street, bored.

'I'm fed up,' Chloe said. 'There's nothing to do and we haven't got any money.'

'I know,' Haydon added, kicking stones as they went down the road.

Walking up to a zebra crossing, Haydon and Chloe waited for the traffic to stop. Haydon looked down.

'Why have they put these silly bubbly things in the pavement? They hurt my feet,' he said.

'Yeah, they're annoying,' Chloe replied.

Just then an old man came to stand by the crossing with them. They stared at him. In one hand he had a white stick and was tapping the ground with it and, in the other hand, he had a dog on a special lead.

Haydon nudged Chloe and smiled. As the traffic stopped they started to cross the road. The man and the dog followed. Haydon started to walk into the dog, forcing the man towards the stationary cars. With the side of her foot Chloe joined in nudging the dog. Accidentally she stepped on the dog's paw. It let out a yelp and moved suddenly back. The old man wasn't ready and tumbled backwards, hitting the bonnet of a car as he fell heavily on the road.

Chloe and Haydon looked at each other and started to run. They had got to the other side of the road but a man and woman, who had seen what had happened, stopped them. Chloe and Haydon looked around. Everyone was watching them – people in cars, in shop windows and on the pavement.

*Note: What should they do? Should they talk to the man and woman, even though they were strangers? One possible ending follows ...*

The man and woman stood in front of them, stopping Chloe and Haydon from going anywhere. A lady had got out of one of the cars and was talking to the old man. She carefully helped him up and over to the other side of the road. She sat him down on a nearby bench and after making sure he was all right, she returned to her car and slowly drove off, staring at the children. Haydon and Chloe looked at each other. They were relieved the man was not seriously hurt. They slowly walked up to him, with everyone still watching them.

'Um ... s ... s ... sorry,' Chloe eventually mumbled.

The old man said nothing. He was holding on to his leg. They looked up and saw a small boy with his mum pointing at them.

'Are you OK?' Haydon asked.

'I have been better. Why did you do it?'

'I don't know. It seemed funny,' Haydon said.

'Are you totally blind?' Chloe asked.

'Yes, and I have been for the past ten years. I knew what it was like to see all the things you can, but now I need Tara, my dog, and this stick.'

After making sure the man was OK they apologized again and walked away.

## Follow-up questions

- ◆ How do you think Chloe and Haydon felt?
- ◆ Should they have spoken to the man even though he was was a stranger?