# What triggers cruelty stories (1)

Read these stories about young people and animals.

### Jarek buys a dog

#### The characters

- Jarek,15
- Jarek's cousin, 20
- Fil, 18
- Kasia, 18
- Kasia's baby
- RSPCA inspector
- Rasta the dog, 4

### The story

1. Kasia and Fil are sitting in a play area, surrounded by blocks of flats, with their baby in a buggy. Fil is throwing a ball for their dog, Rasta.

"I'm telling you now, that dog has got to go," says Kasia, looking cross.

"Now the baby's here, there's no room for us all in the flat. Plus, it's too big to be around a newborn baby. You shouldn't have took it on in the first place. Get rid of it!"

"Okay, okay. I guess I'll have to find someone to give him to," says Fil, looking fed up.

2. Then Jarek turns up and comes over. Rasta goes up to Fil, panting and drops the ball at his feet. He looks like a nice friendly, healthy dog.

"Hi Fil, hi Kasia. What you up to?" he says

"Fil's just working out who he's gonna give Rasta to," says Kasia

"Who's Rasta?" asks Jarek.

"He's my dog," says Fil. "I got given him by that Frankie bloke down the pub a few weeks ago. Kasia says he's got to go now the baby's here."

**3.** 10 minutes later, Jarek and Rasta are playing with the ball. Kasia and Fil are watching from the bench.

"Are you thinking what I'm thinking?" says Kasia.

"Hey, Jarek – get over here!" shouts Fil.





# What triggers cruelty stories (2)

4. Jarek and Rasta come over.

"He loves you Jarek!" says Kasia. "Tell you what, you should have him. He really likes you – look at him."

Jarek pats Rasta's head and Rasta holds up a paw.

"You can have him for 20 quid - that's including his collar and lead," says Fil. "He doesn't need much else. He just eats our leftovers. Looking after a dog's easy – you just take him for a walk."

"You mean it? I can have him?" says Jarek, happily. "I've always wanted a dog but I was never allowed!"

**5.** Jarek goes off towards the flats with Rasta on the lead, carrying the ball. He's really happy, but Rasta looks back and pulls his lead tight, as if he wants to get back to Fil and Kasia.

"Come on Rasta – I'm gonna take you to meet my cousin," says Jarek. "You'll love it at our place."

**6.** The next week, Jarek's cousin is sitting on a chair in his small flat, eating a burger. Jarek is on a chewed up sofa, which is also used as his bed. There's hardly any other furniture, and no dog bowl, bed or toys. Rasta is on the sofa too, eating chips from a takeaway carton. There are more fast food cartons on the floor.

"I'm well itchy, and I've got these horrible red marks on my ankles," says Jarek, scratching.

"I bet that dog's got fleas," says his cousin. "What you doing getting a dog anyway? You don't even know how to look after 'em."

7. After a month, the flat is even messier, and there's dog mess on the floor. Rasta is sitting on the sofa scratching, looking very uncomfortable. He's got a few bald patches with raw skin underneath. He looks thinner now, and his coat isn't as shiny.

"Are you gonna get rid of those fleas or what? State of him..." says Jarek's cousin.

"Nah, he'll be alright. Fil says all dogs have fleas anyways," shrugs Jarek.

**8.** In the flat a few months later, Rasta's curled up on the floor, with lots of raw, bleeding bald patches. He looks very sad, scratching his sore patches and wincing. An RSPCA inspector has knocked at the door, and Jarek and his cousin have answered it. Jarek looks sad and ashamed.

"We've had a call about your dog, sir," says the inspector. "Do you mind if I come in and take a look at him?"

"You should never have took that dog off Fil," says Jarek's cousin. "You just didn't think, did you Jarek?"



# What triggers cruelty stories (3)

### Jon tries to score

#### The characters

- Jon, 13
- James, 13
- Adi, 13
- Alex, 13
- Yasmine, 13
- Jules, 12
- Cat
- Cat owner, 40

### The story

1. After school there's an important football match. In the last minute, the school is 1-0 down, when Jon gets the ball and lines it up for a goal.

"Come on Jon – get this goal and we can still win!" shouts Jon's mate, James.

- 2. The goal goes wide and Jon drops his head in his hands. The crowd shouts, "Booo!" and some of the girls supporting the other team are laughing at him. He can't believe he missed it.
- 3. The ref blows the whistle and the other side's won.
  - "You idiot! We lost the game because of you!" sneers Adi to Jon.
  - "Loser! You can't do anything you can't even kick a ball," adds Alex.
  - "Get lost! I CAN kick a ball!" yells Jon.
- **4.** On the way home, Adi, Alex, Yasmine and Jules are on one side of the road, and John and James are on the other. On Adi and Alex's side of the road there are a couple of parked cars with a gap between them and a house behind them. There is a cat on Jon's side.

"Look – there's that lad who lost us the game," says Yasmine. "He can't even kick a ball straight."

"What a loser!" says Jules, laughing.

"Bet they're laughing at me," thinks Jon.



# What triggers cruelty stories (4)

5. Suddenly Jon gets ready to kick the cat.

"Hey you lot!" he shouts over at everyone. "Think I can't kick? Watch this – bet I can kick this cat between those two cars!" "Go on then, I'll film it," says James, laughing, and holding up his mobile. "Stop it!" shouts Yasmine.

**6.** The cat lands between the cars near Alex and Adi. The boys kneel next to it, and Yasmine rushes over.

```
"How is it?" she asks.
```

"Who cares if you can kick a ball or not? You're a lunatic!" says Jules to Jon. "I'm phoning the police!"

7. The owner comes out of her house. She starts to cry. The police arrive, and while a policeman interviews Jon, a policewoman talks to the other young people and takes notes.

### Tyrone gets it wrong

#### The characters

- Tyrone, 14
- Dexter, 15
- Hedgehog

### The story

1. Tyrone and Dexter are having a great time on the dodgems at the fair.

"Take that, Tyrone!" says Dexter, bumping him with the dodgem car. "Dexter's so cool," thinks Tyrone. "I can't believe he wants to hang out with me."

2. After they've left the fair, Dexter and Tyrone are walking down the street in the dark, drinking vodka. Tyrone's finished his, and throws his bottle away.

"How much of that vodka you got left?" he says to Dexter. "I've drunk all mine and I'm well p\*\*\*\*d."



<sup>&</sup>quot;It's hurt!" says Adi.

## What triggers cruelty stories (5)

- 3. Tyrone spots something under the streetlight, where his bottle landed.
  - "What's that under the light?" he says, and they move closer to have a look. "Hang on, it's moving," says Dexter.
- 4. They see a hedgehog rolled up into a ball next to the broken bottle.
  - "It's a hedgehog!" says Tyrone excitedly. "Look it's made itself into a ball." "So what?" shrugs Dexter. "I'm going..." Dexter heads off to the other side of the street.
- **5.** Tyrone gets ready to kick the hedgehog.
  - "I know what will impress Dexter," he thinks. "He'll think I'm really hard..."
- **6.** Tyrone kicks the hedgehog across the street, so it hits the wall beside Dexter. "Goal!" he shouts.
- 7. The hedgehog has been killed, and Dexter looks really shocked.
  - "You killed it!" he shouts.
  - "So what?" says Tyrone, laughing. "It's only a hedgehog."
- **8.** Dexter turns on Tyrone and pushes him away.
  - "What you done that for, you psycho?" he says, angrily.
  - "I thought you'd think it was cool..." stammers Tyrone.
- **9.** Dexter starts to walk away, leaving Tyrone behind.
  - "What gave you that idea?" he says, over his shoulder. "I'd never do anything like that. It never did owt to you. You're a right psycho."
- **10.** Next morning, Tyrone wakes up feeling rough.
  - "I can't believe what I did last night, just to try and impress Dexter," he groans. "Now he thinks I'm a psycho..."



# What triggers cruelty stories (6)

## Jocelyn's problem

#### The characters

- Rachel, 15
- Frankie, 19
- Jocelyn, 15
- Tegan, 15
- Leroy, 17
- Frogs

### The story

1. Leroy and Frankie are having a few cans beside a pond.

"Come on Frankie, phone your Rachel up and get her down here with that fit mate of hers, Jocelyn," says Leroy. We can give 'em a few beers and have a good time."

"Go on then," says Frankie, pulling out his phone. "I'll give her a ring."

2. Three girls turn up. Rachel goes over to Frankie, and Jocelyn and the other girl come over to Leroy.

"Hiya Leroy," says Jocelyn.

"Nice one," thinks Leroy. "She's brought Tegan as well – she's well fit."

**3.** They all sit down and start drinking cans. Suddenly there's a splashing sound from the pond, and Rachel looks round.

"What was that?" says Rachel.

"It was one of them frogs jumping in," says Jocelyn.

"Ugh – I totally hate frogs," shudders Tegan. "They're dead slimy.

Makes my skin crawl, just knowing they're there. Let's go!"

"I'll sort them out for you babe," says Leroy. "My brother did this cool thing with one once. Hey Frankie, watch this..."

**4.** Leroy catches a frog and sticks a straw into it. Then he begins to blow up the frog, while the others watch.

"That's so funny!" laughs Tegan. "That'll sort them out."

"Gimme that straw, Rachel," says Frankie. "I'm well up for a go."



# What triggers cruelty stories (7)

- **5.** Frankie catches a frog and does the same thing. Everyone is watching with interest, but Jocelyn looks a bit sick.
- 6. Frankie tries to give Rachel a frog and a straw.
  - "You do one, Rachel," he says. "Let's see you blow it up."
  - "Nah, I don't think so," says Rachel, backing away.
  - "This is horrible," thinks Jocelyn.
  - "I'll catch you one, Tegan, so you can have a go," says Leroy.
  - "No way I'm not going near it," says Tegan. "I hate them.
  - Rachel I wanna see you do it. You're not soft are you?"
- 7. Frankie makes Rachel take the frog he's caught.
  - "Go on babe, do it for me," he says.
  - "Chicken!" jeers Leroy.
  - "I don't really wanna do this, but they'll all think I'm soft..." thinks Rachel.
  - "This is awful," thinks Jocelyn. "Is she gonna do it? I should say something..."
- **8.** Finally, Rachel starts to blow into the straw, while Frankie films the whole thing on his phone, and Leroy and Tegan laugh. Jocelyn has gone very quiet and looks ill.
  - "Absolutely classic," says Frankie, holding up his phone.
  - "Nice one," says Leroy. "You've nearly finished it off keep going."
  - "Cool you're not so soft after all," says Tegan.
  - "If I keep quiet, maybe they won't make me do it..." thinks Jocelyn.





# What triggers cruelty stories (8)

### Mark loses it

#### The characters

- Mark, 16
- Mark's dad
- Bobbie the puppy, nine months

#### The story

- 1. Mark's dad is putting up a shelf in the kitchen. Bobbie is running around excitedly.
- 2. Mark comes in and takes off his new trainers.
  - "That dog's driving me mad," says Mark's dad. "He's ready for a walk, but I've got to get these shelves up before your mum gets home."
- 3. Mark looks really fed up. His dad keeps working on the shelf.
  - "How's your day been?" he asks.
  - "Rubbish," says Mark. "Claire dumped me. I think she's seeing that Sam."
- **4.** While the two are talking, Bobbie is getting very interested in Mark's new trainers. He starts to nibble them.
  - "Just help me with this last shelf, and then we'll have a chat about it," says Mark's dad. "It takes two people to finish it off."
  - "Fine, whatever," mumbles Mark.
- **5.** Bobbie starts to really chew at the trainers now.
- **6.** Suddenly Mark notices what Bobbie is doing.
  - "My new trainers!" he shouts. "Get off them, you stupid mutt!"
- He dashes over to Bobbie and starts kicking him really hard in the head, over and over.
  - "Mark!" shouts his dad. "Stop! Stop it now!"
- **8.** Mark and his dad both look shocked, as they look down at Bobby, who isn't moving.
  - "Mark, what have you done?" gasps Mark's dad.
  - "I don't know...I'm sorry..." stammers Mark.



