**Big Hair Day**  Margaret Johnson

**Summary**

Sophia Reynolds goes to Norwich to be an extra in a film. The film stars the famous actor Fabio Facelli. Sophia thinks he has beautiful eyes. As she walks to her hotel to leave her bag, she meets a woman who asks her the way to Bank Street. As she opens her map, the wind takes it away, and when Sophia comes back with it, the woman isn’t there; also, the bag on the floor isn’t her bag. She goes to the police station and has to wait thirty minutes for the policeman. She calls him ‘Mr Sit Down’ because he tells her and others to sit down all the time. She notices that he has beautiful dark eyes. He writes the information down and tells her to come back later.

As Sophia leaves the police station, she meets a little boy called Peter who doesn’t know where his mother is, so she takes him to the police station, and talks to ‘Mr Sit Down’ whose real name is PC George Cooper. The boy’s mother arrives and takes him away, and then Sophia leaves again. As she waits to cross the road, a red car crashes into another car and the drivers start shouting. She goes back into the police station and tells George about the crash and that there’s going to be a fight. He goes outside to stop the men, and Sophia runs off because she doesn’t want to arrive late at Chapelfield Park for her work in the film. She and the other actors dress as people in the 1960s and she gets ‘big hair’. They have to shout ‘Ricky!’ as Fabio Facelli plays the singer Ricky Burns. Sophia forgets, and shouts ‘Fabio’, so they have to start again. Later she runs into Fabio and makes his trousers dirty. He is angry and she decides that he isn’t nice and has cold eyes. After the film, she goes to the police station to collect her bag, and meets George Cooper on his motorbike. She thinks he looks great in his black clothes. He asks her to go for a drink with him and they talk and laugh and kiss. She feels as if she is in a film with George Cooper as the star.

**Before reading**

1. It’s very ‘big’, i.e. full of volume/height.
2. She feels surprised.
3. A camera, a director’s chair. In a film studio.
4. Student’s own answer. (‘Big’ hair was very popular in the 1960s but is still a popular style for special events, e.g. weddings. So the title may suggest a special day for the main character or one when she has ‘1960s hair’. (NB This comes from the common phrase ‘To have a bad hair day’, meaning a day on which someone can’t make their hair look nice.)
5. Sophia. She’s going to be in a film. A famous actor.

**Check your reading**

**Chapter 1**

1. She’s in Norwich.
2. She’s going to be in a film.
3. No, she isn’t. She’s an extra in the film.
4. 1 – d; 2 – a; 3 – f; 4 – c; 5 – g; 6 – b; 7 – h; 8 – e

**Chapter 2**

1. a) The policeman. b) Because he asks everyone to sit down and wait. c) His eyes. d) Thirty minutes.
2. mp3 player; necklace; bracelets; belt; shoes; dress; jeans
3. He keeps it.
4. Go back to the police station or phone.

**Chapter 3**

1. a) Sophia; b) the policeman; c) the boy (Peter); d) the policeman; e) the boy’s mother
2. George Cooper.
3. Because she told the boy that the policeman was ‘Mr Sit Down’ and then the boy asks the policeman if that is his name. (She feels embarrassed.)

**Chapter 4**

1. 1 – d; 2 – b; 3 – f; 4 – a; 5 – e; 6 – c

**Chapter 5**

1. True: b / c / e / h

**Chapter 6**

1. 1) tired; 2) big; 3) black; 4) cold; 5) famous; 6) good