READING AND SPEAKING

The tale of two silent brothers

1 Sometimes in families there are arguments and family members don't speak to each other for a long time. Has this ever happened to anyone you know?

2 You are going to read about two brothers who didn't speak to each other for many years. These expressions are in the text. Match the verbs and phrases.

get	a bachelor all his life
make	a coin
have	revenge
see	a will
remain	a quarrel
toss	and make up
kiss	a solicitor about something

3 Read the first part of the story.

PART ONE | A death in the family

There were once two brothers, John and Robert Hessian. John was 52 years old, Robert 49. They had never married and they lived together in a house in Oldcastle in the north of England. They lived together, they ate meals together but they never spoke a single word to each other. They hadn't spoken to each other for ten years, ever since they had had a quarrel. Whenever they wanted to communicate they wrote notes.

One evening the brothers were sitting together after supper. They were both wearing black because their older sister, Mary, had recently died. John wrote a note to Robert: *Mr Liversage is coming to visit.* (Mr Liversage was their solicitor.)
Robert wrote: *Why?*
John wrote: *I don't know. He phoned and said that he wanted to see us.*
At that moment there was a knock at the door. It was the solicitor, Mr Powell Liversage. He had been to school with the brothers and was an old friend. He too was unmarried.
'How are you, Powell?' asked Robert.
'Very well,' he replied. 'I've come to tell you about your sister's will. Did you know that she had left a will?'
'No,' answered John and Robert together. 'How much did she leave?'
'£12,000. But let me read you the will.'

What do you think?

Discuss these questions with a partner before you read part two.

Why do you think the brothers quarrelled? Do you think they quarrelled about:

- money?
- the house?
- a woman?

What do you think is in the will? Do you think:

- the sister leaves the brothers £6,000 each?
- she leaves all the money to one brother? Which one?
- she leaves them the money on certain conditions? What conditions?

4 Read part two and find out if your ideas are correct.

Part Two | The will

Mr Liversage took the will out of his pocket and began to read.

Last Will and Testament of Mary Hessian

To my dear brothers John and Robert:

You have both behaved very stupidly. I have never understood why you quarrelled about Annie Emery. You have been cruel and unfair to poor Annie. She has waited ten years for one of you. So, John, if you marry Annie, I'll give all my money to you. And Robert, if you marry her, I'll give it to you. And, if neither of you marries her, all my money will go to Annie, herself.

Your ever-loving sister

Mary

What do you think?

Discuss these questions as a class before you read part three.

- What do you think will happen?
- What will John and Robert do?
- Who will marry Annie?

5 Read part three and find out if your ideas are correct.

Part Three | To marry or not to marry?

The two brothers sat and thought for a long time. Ten years ago when Annie was a young woman of 27, both John and Robert had been in love with her. They had had a violent quarrel and some terrible things were said. Afterwards they had both wanted to make up and be friends again but by this time they had stopped speaking to each other, so neither of them learned that the other had decided not to marry Annie.

At two o'clock in the morning John spoke: 'Why don't we toss a coin for Annie? Heads or tails?'

'Tails,' said Robert. But it was heads. The next evening John went round to Annie's house. Powell Liversage was just leaving when he arrived.

So in the end neither brother married Annie. They are still bachelors to this day, but at least they are now talking to each other again. And Annie? Well, she got her revenge and now she's very happily married.

ADAPTED FROM A STORY BY ARNOLD BENNET

What do you think?

Discuss these questions with a partner. Then tell the class your ideas.

- What happened when John went to Annie's house?
- Why didn't Annie marry either brother?
- Who did she marry?
- Who got the money?

Your teacher will tell you what actually happened.

Language work

Complete the sentences using the Past Perfect.

1 John and Robert didn't speak to each other because …
2 They were wearing black because …
3 They didn't know that their sister …
4 Mary said in her will that …
5 When Annie was 27, both brothers …
6 Annie told John that she wouldn't marry him or his brother because …

LISTENING AND VOCABULARY

Talk to me

1 **T 14.8** Close your books and your eyes and listen to a song. What is it about?

2 Work with a partner. Complete the song, choosing the best word on the right for each line.

Talk to me by Bruce Springsteen

Well, every night I see a _____ up in your window	light	man
But every night you won't _____ the door	come to	answer
But although you won't _____ let me in	never	ever
From the street I can see your _____ sitting close to him	silhouette	shadow

What must I do?
What does it take
To get you to

Talk to me
Until the night is over
Talk to me
Well until the night is over, yeah yeah yeah

I got a full week's _____	pay	stay
And baby I've been working hard _____ day	all	each
I'm not _____ for the world, you see	asking	looking

I'm just asking, girl
Talk to me

Well late at night I hear music that you're playing _____ and low	soft	loud
Yes and late at night I see the two of you _____, so close	sitting	swaying
I don't understand darling, what was my _____ ?	mistake	sin
Why am I down here below _____ you're up there with him?	while	when

What did I do?
What did I say?
What must I pay
to get you to
talk to me

3 **T 14.8** Listen again and check.

EVERYDAY ENGLISH

Saying goodbye

1 Match the sentences with the correct photos.

1 [c] 'Goodbye! Have a safe journey. Send us a postcard!'
2 [ ] 'Goodbye. Thank you for a lovely evening.' 'You must come to us next time.'
3 [ ] 'Goodbye. It has been most interesting talking to you. We'll let you know by post.'
4 [ ] 'Bye! See you later. Are you doing anything tonight?'
5 [ ] 'Bye-bye! Thank you very much for having me.'
6 [ ] 'Goodbye. Here's my number. Please get in touch if you have any problems with it.'
7 [ ] 'Goodbye! Drive carefully and call us when you get there!'
8 [ ] 'Goodbye! Good luck in the future. I've really enjoyed our lessons together!'

2 T 14.9 Listen and check. Practise saying the sentences.

3 Make more conversations for these situations:

- parents saying goodbye to son/daughter leaving home to share a flat with friends
- saying goodbye to friends after spending a holiday with them
- saying goodbye to your teacher/boss after finishing school/work on Friday
- saying goodbye to teachers/schoolfriends when you leave school