



Time After Time

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Judi Curtin

Teaching Guide

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RATIONALE & THEMES

Molly and Beth are best friends. Molly's parents have separated and she and her mum find the trauma of that difficult to deal with. Beth, whose mother died when she was an infant, lives with her father.

The girls are unaware that their close friendship has also drawn their parents into their orbit and that a relationship has developed between them until Beth's dad and Molly's mum announce that they are all going to move into the same house to live together. The transition is not as smooth as their parents hope.

As Molly and Beth attempt to identify what it is they really want, they are tumbled into an adventure in time that sees them come face to face with the past that their parents experienced as children and Beth takes the opportunity to engage with the mum she never had the opportunity to know.

The themes explored are:

- Friendship
- Bereavement and loss
- Loyalty
- Marriage breakup
- Parental relationships
- Change
- Family bonds
- Time travel

SUMMARY

When Beth's father and Molly's mum develop a relationship and decide to move into the same house to live together, moving the girls to live in adjoining rooms, their friendship is tested as they adjust to the practical and emotional demands of having to spend every waking moment in each other's company.

When the girls duck into a quirky little shop in an alleyway where they were hiding to avoid being seen by Molly's mum, the eccentric-looking owner directs them through the

back of the shop with the advice that the exit will take them to 'the other side'.

Stumbling through the darkened shop, they find the door to the 'other side'. Gradually it dawns on them that the 'other side' is more than 30 years in the past and that they are now trapped and unable to find their way back.

As the novelty of their surroundings and strange fashions wanes, they decide to explore.

When Molly encounters her teenaged mum Beth decides to search for the person who would one day become her mum; the mum who died before Beth could create any memories of her.

The search tests their ingenuity, as they must travel to Kilkenny with no way to buy either a train ticket or food for the journey.

Tentatively approaching Fiona, the girl who will be her mum. Beth is initially overwhelmed by emotion, however she manages to recover her composure and spends an idyllic day that allows her to harvest all the memories and feelings that were denied to her by her mum's untimely accidental death.

Reluctantly Molly and Beth wrench themselves away and return through their time portal entry point to their own time to discover that no time has passed for them and things remain the same.

Contented they assimilate their experience and Beth glows with joy at the gift from Fiona / her mum that Molly had persuaded Fiona to prepare.

APPROACH

Written in Judi Curtin's unique style, the story breathes a gentle blend of pathos and teenage humour, softening the sharp edges of loss and bereavement for Beth and Molly as they attempt to deal with their parents' new relationship.

The themes sit firmly within the remit of the SPHE and PDMU guidelines. Development can be more effectively facilitated with either class or small group discussion.

The guide has been divided into 4 sections to reflect the development of the story.

Section 1 Be Careful what you Wish for Pages 5 - 72

SUMMARY

Molly and her mum try to cope with the swirl of emotion and grief left in the wake of her father's sudden desertion, when he leaves to make a life for himself elsewhere.

Gradually they come to terms with their loss and adjust to their new situation.

Molly finds support in her friendship with Beth and begins to notice that her mum is beginning to grow comfortable with Jim, Beth's widowed father. Initially suspecting that this is a consequence of her friendship with Beth, both girls are stunned to discover the true extent of the friendship when the parents announce that they intend to move in together and live as one family.

The transition for Molly and Beth from close friends who share everything to housemates who share the same space is not without its challenges and Molly discovers the depth of loss Beth feels for the mother who died before she had the chance to know her.

Planning an illicit trip after school to watch a rock band in concert, Molly has to deliver an apology to her mum to ensure the return of her mobile phone, confiscated earlier for a temper tantrum.

With a change of clothes concealed in their bags, the girls leave for school and later make their way to town, transformed in their 'coolest' outfits.

When Beth suddenly pulls her into an alleyway to hide, Molly realises that her mum almost spotted them. Both girls groan in dismay as her mum meets a friend and takes up a position in the entrance to the alleyway for a long conversation.

With time ticking, they have no alternative but to duck into a strange looking shop to escape and then follow the advice of the even stranger-looking owner through to the darkened rear of the premises.

Exiting into the bright lights and jangling music of a shopping centre, they try to recover their bearings only to discover that they have been time shifted back to July 1984 and the door they came through has now disappeared.

Trying to make sense of their dilemma, they decide to try to locate some familiar connection point and set off to find Molly's granny without any real idea of what they will say when they meet her.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- **(Read p5):** Molly and Beth are close friends. They share feelings and support and understand each other. Do you think that boys rely on a friend to help them to cope in the same way that Molly and Beth seem to do? How do you think that close friendships between boys compare to those between girls?
- **(Read p9):** Although they find it difficult to remain together, Molly's parents both still love her very much and find their separation very distressing. When children are involved, family breakup causes terrible heartache for everyone. Do you think that parents should always remain together if there are children involved? What other solutions might help to reduce the distress for everyone?
www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/home-families/family-relationships/divorce-separation/
www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetailsKids.aspx?p=335&id=1660
- **(Read p13):** It is clear, though not to Molly and Beth, that their parents are attracted to each other. Molly's mum has begun to take more care with her appearance and Beth's dad is more generous with his compliments. What do you think attracts them to each other and what role do gifts and appearance play in this process?

(Read P24 & 36-38): Stacking a dishwasher is a trivial chore, yet it prompts a blazing row between Molly and her mum. Sometimes fierce arguments between teenagers and

their parents are common. Do you think that is the explanation in this case or is there another reason for Molly's outburst? How effective was the way Molly's mum chose to deal with it?

ACTIVITIES

1. Survival (Read pp6-8)

Molly's parents have separated and her dad has left causing anger and great distress for her mum. Molly is concerned and wants to help.

Could you help Molly to compile a list of 5 things she should say to her mum to help her? Molly has decided that she will write what she wants to say as 5 short notes, leaving them for her mum to read each day when as she leaves for school, calling each of them by a day of the week.

Can you help her to write the notes?

2. Moving In (Read pp20-21)

When Beth's and Molly's mum and dad announce that they will all live together as a family, the girl's reaction is not what they had expected. The announcement is a shock that they were unprepared for.

How do you think their parents could have managed it better and what preparations could they have made to involve the girls beforehand?

Work in small groups to make a list of 6 things they could have done to make sure the announcement wasn't such a shock?

3. Changes (Read pp28-30)

Now that Beth and her father have moved in and are living with Molly and her mum, there have been changes to the house routine and to the territory boundaries within the house. It no longer fully belongs to Molly.

Think carefully about your own home and identify 5 routines and 5 boundaries that you would never consider changing if you had people sharing your space permanently. Can you identify 3 changes that you would agree to?

4. The Certificate (Read pp40-41)

Beth finds it difficult that she never heard her mum praise her for any of her achievements. It is very important that our parents praise us.

If your mum were to give you an award for 3 of your achievements today, what might she write on the certificate?

Could you design the certificate and create the citation she might write?

5. The Jungle (Read pp57-58)

Molly and Beth peep cautiously from behind the huge plants, trying to make sense of what they see.

Could you create an illustration that would complement this section showing the girls and the view they had of the shopping centre?

6. It's Thursday (Read pp65-66)

Molly and Beth have time slipped to 1984 and find themselves at a different point in the timeline for the space where they live.

Could you create a brief time line for the space when you live? Try to identify 5 interesting points on the line, either in the distant or immediate past. Try to find artifacts (i.e. photos) to add colour to your line.

Choose one of the points on the line you would like to time slip to and describe what you think the experience might be like.

7. Looking at Me (Read p71)

Molly and Beth are surprised to realize that everyone is looking at their clothes, puzzled and amused by the strangeness of them.

For most of us, clothes serve two functions. They protect us from the elements and they also make a statement about how we want others to think about us when they see what we are wearing.

Draw an illustration of your favourite outfit and then explain what each item is intended to say about you to everyone who sees you.

8. Cool 4 1984 (Read pp70-71)

Molly and Beth have been catapulted back in time to 1984 without either preparation or basic information. They are in desperate need of your help.

Create a brief survival leaflet for them advising on dress, things to say and detailing the main differences between then and now.

You will have to rely on your parents for authentic research information.

Section 2 Kilkenny or Bust. Pages 75 - 143

SUMMARY

Negotiating a strangely familiar landscape, the girls find themselves outside Molly's granny's house in time to witness her teenaged mum conduct a raised voice argument that sounds very familiar to the exchange Molly had that morning 30 years in the future.

When her mum storms out of the house, the girls are unable to avoid meeting her and the encounter provides Beth with the opportunity for some hilarity at Molly's expense as she chats with her fourteen year old future mum.

The encounter has given Beth an idea and she now sets off with a purpose to find the teenage version of her own mum. Ignoring Molly's misgivings, Beth is determined to meet the mum she never knew, despite the fact that in this time she will only be 13.

Reaching her granny's house Beth is disappointed to discover that her mum is on a week's holiday to visit *her granny* in Kilkenny. Undeterred they accept the sausage roll hospitality offered and Beth asks her granny for the address where her mum is staying on the pretext of writing to her.

Molly's suspicion is confirmed when Beth reveals that she intends to travel to Kilkenny to see her mum.

Their first attempt to charm their way past the ticket collector and onto the train fails dismally, however, despite Molly's plea to return home via the shopping centre time gate Beth is adamant about seeing her mother and Molly agrees to help her.

Finding a school building open for a night class, they creep in and settle down for the night; making use of the facilities, enjoying a teacher's store of biscuits then in the morning redressing the teacher's blackboard list of offenders before they leave and make their way to the station.

Fortune smiles on them as bluff and an ingenious use of Beth's mobile phone manages to convince the ticket collector that they are in possession of valid tickets and they board the train for Kilkenny.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- **(Read pp79-83):** Molly has come face to face with her mother and learns that as a teenager *she* was also capable of displaying unreasonable behavior. How much information should you know about your parents' past and how would the information affect how you see them? Do you think children find it difficult to understand that their parents faced similar challenges when they were the same age?
- **(Read pp89-90):** As the girls chat, while waiting for her mum's boyfriend Eddie to arrive, Molly realises that she knows how their future relationship will develop but resists the temptation to reveal what she knows. Do you think it would be a benefit for you to know what the future holds for

you? How would the information affect your behavior? Is it possible to escape what the future holds?

- **(Read pp115-116):** If time travel is possible, then today is someone's tomorrow and also someone else's yesterday. Is it possible that time travellers from the future are here already? Would you recognise them? If they were here how would they influence our world? Would they be able to make a difference?
- **(Read pp120&131):** Beth and Molly are hungry and decide they have no alternative but to break into the school and then steal the biscuits from the staffroom. Beth justifies their action, explaining that the law doesn't matter if you are desperate. Is she correct? What might happen if desperate people decided to ignore the law? Is it ever acceptable to ignore the law?
- **(Read pp77 & 132):** Molly quips that since YouTube hasn't been invented yet, no embarrassing clips or 'selfies' can be shared. Does modern communication technology enrich our lives or is the ability to record and share every trivial action really a curse? Would our lives be better without the invention of mobiles?

ACTIVITIES

1. Dear Me (Read p82)

Molly realises that the girl who will one day be her mum has no idea what the future holds for her.

If you were to share your thoughts with the person who you will be in 20 years time what would you say to them?

Write a short letter to the person you will become in 20 years time and describe an activity or place that makes you the happiest. Add as much detail and description as you can then tuck the letter away safely to be found and opened in 20 years time.

2. The Fortune Teller (Read pp87-89)

The author, Judi Curtin, was undecided about whether Molly and Beth could give Charlotte a hint about her and Eddie's future, so she thought it would be interesting if Beth pretended that she had a 'fortune telling' skill and offered to 'read' Charlotte's palm.

Write a short passage to describe what information Beth gave to Charlotte and how both she and her future daughter Molly reacted.

3. The Idea (Read pp96-102)

As we all travel through time, the events and ideas that we meet every day help to influence our development and ways of thinking.

Beth and Molly decide to 'plant' the seed of a suggestion with Beth's granny that will unwittingly influence her behaviour later in the future in their time.

What could they suggest to her in a way that will influence her future behavior and what might the consequences be?

4. Granny (Read pp96-97)

Beth sees her granny through new eyes and is amazed to think that she was once so beautiful.

She still loves her granny dearly, but now sees the changes that time has brought to her.

Could you write a cinquain poem to describe the changes you think time has made to someone that you love dearly?

writeshop.com/writing-a-cinquain-poem/
youtube.com/watch?v=nONd5Ny8V_w

5. The Ticket collector (Read pp109-110)

Beth and Molly are unable to persuade the ticket collector to allow them to board the train. Their plan was pretty threadbare and unlikely to succeed.

Could you suggest a better plan for them and how would you overcome the ticket collector's reservations? Keep your plan simple but credible.

6. Time Travel Rules (Read p114)

To Molly's surprise, Beth explains that there are rules to time travel.

Use your imagination to compile a list of 5 rules for time travellers for the girls to help them to understand what is happening and explain what you believe are the consequences and limitations for each rule.

You could research and add symbols and equations for your rules to add authenticity and perhaps include illustrations.

7. Joan Leahy (Read p17)

At coffee break during their first morning back the teachers look forward to a luxury chocolate biscuit. However, when the tin is opened, they find only crumbs and a note allegedly written by Joan apologizing for eating the biscuits.

Write a short passage in the style of Judi Curtin to describe everyone's reaction?

You will have to create a character for Joan and describe how you think she might react to the note being found. Was she a popular teacher? How did the other teachers react?

8. The School (Read pp136)

Molly and Beth see the school in a different way in the morning. They realize that all the sounds that make a school what it is are missing.

Create a sound poem to describe your school. You will need to think carefully how the sounds in your school change during the day. What sorts of sounds are created and how are they created? How will you blend the sounds together to create an audio image of your school?

Section 3 Almost There Pages 144 - 204

SUMMARY

Arriving late in Kilkenny, the girls discover that the place where Beth's mum is staying is remote and they are forced to find shelter for a second night before completing their journey in the morning.

A combination of observation, daring and ingenuity finds them hiding in an empty wardrobe waiting for a furniture store to close for the evening.

Listening to the final conversations between two assistants, they realize that the older man is a bully, determined to undermine his younger colleague and thwart his hope of contacting a female colleague from another of the store's departments.

Alone in the store, the girls forage for food, discovering a bowl of apples in a window display. Waiting until the street is quiet, Molly steps into the window to recover the apples. Unfortunately she is spotted and forced to imitate a shop dummy. Fortunately the man who spotted her is drunk and Molly's behaviour only adds to his confusion.

Hunger satisfied they explore the store. Molly has a brainwave and decides to play Cupid; she plans to introduce the two young assistants. Before settling in a comfortable bed for the night, she and Beth compose two simple notes for the assistants that will introduce them, placing the notes into each of their order books where they will find them in the morning.

Oversleeping, Molly and Beth are forced to scramble to the exit to avoid being discovered.

Outside, they begin the final trek to where Beth's mum is staying. Weak from hunger, an argument over a 50p they found results in Molly slapping Beth in frustration. Horrified they make up and decide to spend the money on food, charming an elderly shopkeeper to share her lunchtime sandwich with them in the process.

Molly extracts a firm promise from Beth not to reveal their identities when they meet her mum as she probes her resolve to make sure she is aware of the possible repercussions of what they are about to do.

Another shopping event in the final small village allows Molly to secure a sample bottle of her mother's favourite childhood perfume, now discontinued, before they find themselves in the final stretch of the lane with the farmhouse beckoning them.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- (Read p149): Molly and Beth have noticed that there is little security evident and that they have been allowed to travel unaccompanied on the train without anyone being concerned. Can you research with your family and decide if there really was less crime then? Were children safer then or do you think that adults tend to overprotect children today?
- (Read p189): Despite all her misgivings, Molly is persuaded to accompany Beth to find her mother. How has Beth been able to persuade her? What role did their friendship play in the persuasion? Does a close friendship prevent you from making sensible decisions at times? Can there be danger for you if you have a close friendship with someone?
- (Read p192): Molly and Beth are unsettled at not having their phones working. Do you think that we rely too much on these devices? Why do you think that we need to be in constant touch with each other? Does the technology really add benefit to our lives?
- (Read pp208-209): Beth tries to explain to Molly that even some memories of her mum will be a comfort to her rather than none. How do you think the memories will comfort her? Can memories really be a substitute for loss or do they only sharpen the pain more? Would she be better off with no memories at all?

ACTIVITIES

1. Homeless (Read pp148-150)

Molly and Beth are homeless. They have no safe or secure shelter for the night. Many people are homeless in Ireland today,

especially in the main cities.

Create a poster giving some of the facts to raise public awareness about the groups of people who find themselves homeless in Ireland today.

These sites will help you with information.
www.pmvtrust.ie/news-media/facts-and-figures/
www.irishtimes.com/news/social-affairs/record-number-of-dublin-families-became-homeless-in-january-1.2544182
www.thejournal.ie/homelessness-raw-data-ireland-1630777-Sep2014/

2. I Should Have Said (Read pp153 – 154)

Although Jack timidly agrees with everything that Patrick says, he is secretly seething and longs to tell him exactly how he feels about his comments.

Help Jack to deliver a calm yet powerful reply to Patrick that would leave him in no doubt about how he really felt over his rude bullying manner.

What could he say?

In pairs, dramatize the exchange using the voice tone and body language that you think Jack should employ.

3. The Wardrobe Door (Read pp157 – 158)

The wardrobe doors swing slowly open, revealing the startled figures of Molly and Beth crouching inside, watching the backs of the two assistants disappear down the stairs.

If either Jack or Patrick had turned around, what would they have seen?

Draw the illustration of the girls crouched in the wardrobe peeping fearfully out.

4. For Better or Worse (Read pp173 – 174)

Molly and Beth both realize that their action in leaving notes for Jack and Diana may be interfering with the intended course of their lives and have unexpected consequences.

If you had the opportunity to travel into the past and change one event only, which would you choose to change and what consequences would you predict because of your action?

Use a branching timeline to record the event showing what might have happened if you hadn't intervened and what might happen now that you did interfere.

5. Two Stars One Wish (Read p177)

Beth confesses that she wishes her life were different. It is normal to wonder how our lives would be affected if some things were different. However there are also many things in our lives that we would **not** change.

Think carefully about your own lives and decide the two things that you definitely would not change and the one thing you would like to change and how you would like to change it.

Explain the reasons for your choices.

6. The Time Lord (Read pp187 – 188)

Beth has begun to see a pattern to the events that are happening to them and suspects that Rico from the weird shop is controlling everything.

Her intuition is correct. Rico is watching everything that happens and controlling whom they meet.

Now he has to write a brief update report to his supervisor, the Time Lord Chronos, describing the events so far and explain how the girls have dealt with them.

Write his report. How will he address the Time Lord and what type of language will he use?

7. Freebies (Read pp193 – 194)

Molly and Beth are penniless and forced to search in telephone boxes for discarded coins to allow them to buy food.

Work in small groups and use your imagination and local knowledge, to plan a day's survival in your own town without having any money?

You will need initiative and resourcefulness to source where you think the 'Freebies' can be found and devise strategies that will help you to get what you need without paying.

No criminal behaviour or begging is allowed.

Make a list of the places you visit and the strategies you used.

8. Openers (Read p205)

Beth is anxious about what she will say when she meets her mum and Molly gives her some advice about starting a conversation.

In small groups could you make a list of your 5 most effective conversation openers or strategies, describing when you could use them, what reply you might expect and how the conversation might develop from that point.

Section 4 The Perfect Day Pages 219 - 286

SUMMARY

Escorted the last short distance by a huge sheepdog, Molly and Beth finally meet Fiona, Beth's mum.

The greeting proves traumatic for Beth who runs off leaving Molly to garble an explanation to Fiona that Beth's mum had died. Fiona is very sympathetic and Molly goes to find Beth.

Together they decide to go back and talk to Fiona properly, circumstances allowing them to spend 5 hours with her before they are offered a lift back to the train station by a neighbour.

A picnic and a swim are suggested and the three girls spend an idyllic afternoon by the river, chatting, swimming and becoming friends, although Molly has to be careful to prevent Beth revealing too much information as she gets to know her mum and shares her dreams and ambitions with her.

After their swim, Beth allows Fiona to brush her hair and Molly has difficulty controlling her emotions as she watches.

Molly's heart misses a beat when Beth takes out her mobile phone, initially thinking that she will reveal their true identity, however she relaxes when Beth explains that she wants Molly to take a photograph of her and Fiona, the phone attracting considerable interest from Fiona.

As the time to leave draws closer, Molly has to be firm in order to prise Beth away and they both take a tearful farewell as Fiona is coaxed into giving Beth a long farewell hug.

The neighbour is kindly and leaves them at the station where a younger ticket collector is visibly impressed by their Mobile Booking Consul trick and they board the train home.

Finding the shopping centre, they discover that the door back to Rico's shop has reappeared and they scramble back to the present to find that everything is as they left it and no time has elapsed at all.

Trembling, Beth scrolls the recent photographs on her phone and is devastated to discover that the photograph of her mum has not made the time leap.

At home the girls readjust to normality and Beth stuns her father by unconsciously replicating a gesture that her mum used.

Molly surprises her mother with the perfume and her mum enjoys a brief reminiscence of

the girl Molly had just met back in 1984.

It's Beth's birthday and Molly has a special present, a letter that she persuaded Fiona to write for her.

Beth asks Molly to read it and declares it the best present ever, confessing that their adventure and the opportunity meet her mum has changed her life forever.

Together they resist the temptation to return to 1984 to find the younger versions of their dads and set off instead to enjoy a normal day at the cinema.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- **(Read p236):** Molly realises that her book of history facts would really be Fiona's future. Would it be an advantage for us to know the future? Could you cope with knowing for certain what tomorrow holds? How would it affect our lives today if we knew for certain what will happen tomorrow?
- **(Read pp259-260):** Beth attempts to warn Fiona about an accident that she knows will take her life when she is older. Could her warning ever be heeded or are things already predestined to happen no matter how we try to change them? Should we even try to change things or influence events?
- **(Read pp273-274 & 277):** Beth wonders if her mum has any memory of the two strange girls who appeared at her door one day. Do you think that memories are a way to time travel to the past and imagination is a way to time travel to the future? Could there be several similar futures existing at the same time? If you decide to take a different route home after school today, will that create a different future for you?
- **(Read pp276-277):** Molly's mum had painted a picture of herself as the perfect teenager when in fact Molly knew that she was not. How much information should parents reveal about themselves to their children? Is it wrong and misleading for a parent to sanitise their past and present an inaccurate image of themselves to their children?

ACTIVITIES

1. Mum/Dad sees (Read p223)

As Molly watches Beth and Fiona hold hands, she gets a sense of all the different images that are woven together from their life stories.

When your parents look at you, they don't really see you as you are, but rather they

see a kaleidoscope of all the images they remember that you have been.

Ask your parents to choose their 10 favourite pictures of you. Photocopy these (**To prevent damage**) and then arrange the copies as a poster with titles and brief caption.

You can call the poster, The ME my mum/ dad/guardian sees.

2. Mum/Dad and Me (Read pp234 & 274)

Both Molly and Beth's dad can see clear similarities and mannerisms that Beth shares with her mum.

Each of us reflects many traits and physical attributes that we have learned, copied or inherited from our parents.

Make a list of 5 appealing mannerisms that you are happy to claim you have inherited from either of your parents and explain why you are happy to claim them.

3. My Mum/Dad (Read pp245 – 246)

Beth is anxious to Hoover up all the facts she can about her mum so that she can create a memory database of who she was.

It is important to know all the trivial details of someone we love so that we can build connections with them.

Research a 'favourites' database for your parents and grandparents.

Decide what headings you will use and try to identify any common entries.

Can you identify any favourites that you all share? How would you explain this?

4. I've Seen You Before (Read p261)

On the day when Beth is born, Fiona holds her tenderly and gazes lovingly at her, however she cannot explain the sudden thought that she has seen her before and her mind fills with a whirl of images and emotions.

Could you write a short passage to describe the event? How do you think that Fiona dealt with the incident?

5. The Joke (Read p262)

Beth returns to share a joke with Fiona.

It is guaranteed to make anyone laugh.

What do you think that the joke was?

Do you have a joke that everyone will laugh at?

Choose your top 5 jokes from the class.

6. What's Next (Read p265)

The young ticket collector is very impressed with Beth's mobile phone and boasts about his watch that he saw on *Tomorrow's World*.

This was a television programme that tried to predict the gadgets that would change our lives.

Predict 3 gadgets that we do not have available now, but which you think will be indispensable in 20 years time.

Illustrate each of them and explain their function, detailing how you think they will add benefit to our lives.

7. Mum's Diary (Read p285)

Before they leave for the cinema, Beth's dad announces that her granny has discovered an old diary belonging to her mum Fiona from 1984.

He says that in 1984 she would have been the same age as Beth is now.

Trembling Beth takes the diary and together she and Molly open it at the entry for July 28th, the day they had just spent with her.

Can you write the diary entry that Fiona made for that day and describe Beth's reaction from reading it?

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