



## Telling lies

David Mortimore Baxter had a bad habit of telling lies, which usually got him into trouble. David's mother said he didn't actually lie, just bent the truth.

Consider the following questions carefully and write a brief response for each. Be prepared to share your answer with your classmates.

1. Why is it considered wrong to tell lies?
2. Is 'bending the truth' the same as telling lies or not? Give reasons for your answer.
3. Who do you consider suffered most from the lies David told – himself or the people he lied to? Give reasons for your answer.
4. Can you think of an instance when it is okay to tell a lie? Give an example.
5. When David realised the trouble his lies were getting him into, do you think he should have made an effort to apologise and tell the truth?
6. What is an appropriate consequence for telling a lie to:
  - Your parents
  - Your friends
  - Your teacher

## Alternate point of view

This story is told from the point of view of David Mortimore Baxter. Therefore we share his thoughts, beliefs and opinions about all of the people and events in this story.

Wouldn't it be interesting to consider how some of the other people in the story viewed the same events.

Choose one of the following events from the story and retell it from the point of view of the character nominated.

- David announces to the class that Smashing Smorgan is coming to lunch (from Ms Stacey's point of view)
- David enters his dog in the show as a 'bullydoodle' breed (from a dog show judge's point of view)
- Ralph the rat runs loose during the school play (from an audience member's point of view)
- Mr McCafferty finds David and Victor digging in his garden (from Mr McCafferty's point of view)
- Smashing Smorgan accompanied David to meet his classmates (from Rose Thornton's point of view)

\*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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## The consequences of telling lies

David's habit of telling lies often got him into trouble with other people. For each of the instances listed on the right, explain David's lie, the impact it had on others and the consequences for David.

