

From Top of the Mops

Julia Donaldson



Characters

Andy Miller, a teenage rock musician

Carol Miller, Andy's mother; an estate agent

Doreen Blanket, a cleaner

Spike, a teenage singer

[The play is set in the hallway of the Millers' home. There is a window, a front door, and three more doors, leading to the kitchen, the studio and the broom cupboard.]

Scene 1: Wednesday, early evening

[Andy is sitting by the phone, with a paper on his lap. He dials a number.]

Andy: Hello, I'd like to put an advert in your paper. 'Singer needed to join new band. Phone 483 5593.' That's it. OK. Thank you. Goodbye.

Carol: [coming out of the kitchen, sounding cross] Andy, the freezer's been unplugged.

Andy: What? Oh, sorry, Mum, I needed to plug my new guitar in somewhere.

Carol: What's wrong with your studio? Do you want me to turn it back into a spare room?

Andy: No, of course not. The studio was just a bit ... crowded, that's all.

Carol: In other words it was a complete tip, as usual.

Andy: I'm sorry, Mum. I meant to plug the freezer back in.

Carol: Well, it's too late now. You'll just have to have soggy beef burgers and melted ice cream for supper.

Andy: I've said I'm sorry.

Carol: And what's this banana skin doing on the floor?

Andy: I don't know – the can-can, maybe.

Carol: Ha, ha, very funny.

Andy: Keep your hair on, can't you?

Carol: How can I, when I get back from work to find the house looking like this?

Andy: Well, it's not all me. What about your bedroom?

Carol: My bedroom is like Buckingham Palace compared to your studio. Now go and tidy it!

Andy: I'll do it later.

Carol: You'll do it now. Why are you always so lazy?

Andy: [going out of the front door] I must take after you.

[Carol throws the banana skins at him as he goes out.]

Carol: He's right really. I hate housework. [She picks up the paper.] What's this?

Evening News. Hmm. [She dials a number.] Hello, could I put an advert in, please? 'Cleaner wanted urgently. Phone 483 5593.' Thank you. Goodbye.

Name:**Date:****Read the text, then answer the questions.**

1. Why do you think Andy puts an advert in the paper?

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2. How do Carol and Andy get on?

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3. Why does the author use an ellipses (...) in the sentence 'The studio was just a bit ... crowded, that's all'?

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4. Why does the author use italics in 'I've said I'm sorry'? How would you say this if you were acting in the play?

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5. What does the phrase 'Keep your hair on' mean? When Andy uses it, what does it tell the reader about his attitude towards Carol?

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6. How do you think Carol feels after Andy goes out of the front door? Support your answer with evidence from the text.

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7. What solution does Carol think of for the problem between her and Andy?

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8. What do you think is going to happen with Andy's and Carol's adverts?

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