

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. Hmmm. [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?
.....
3. Why does the author use an ellipses (...) in the sentence 'The studio was just a bit ... crowded, that's all'?
.....
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?
.....
.....
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?
.....
.....
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?
.....
8. What do you think is going to happen with Andy's and Carol's adverts?
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