

Smoke in your Eyes

A Teaching Resource Exploring Tobacco Issues

Scott and Hannah: **Primary 4 Story**



Who are Scott and Hannah?

Scott and Hannah are eight years old and are in the Primary Four class with Mrs Coutts. Scott and Hannah have been best friends since Primary One and spend every day together. Scott enjoys playing football and because he is so good, his friends always pick him to be team captain when they play. Hannah loves music and her bedroom is covered with posters of her favourite bands. The friends tell each other everything and Hannah has been telling Scott about the changes which have been happening at home. She invites him round to her house after school to see these changes for himself.

Later that day, the friends go to Hannah's house. As they arrive, a taxi pulls up and Hannah's Granddad steps out of the car coughing and spluttering.



Granddad has come to stay at Hannah's house because he has not been feeling very well and needs Hannah's mum to look after him. Scott and Hannah are excited to have Granddad staying but notice straight away that he is very sick. Scott asks Hannah why her Granddad is so out of breath and keeps on coughing.



They watch Granddad for some time as he settles into the armchair beside the living room window, reaches into his pocket and pulls out a packet of cigarettes.



Hannah and Scott have been asked to help Granddad to unpack his suitcase when they discover a very old photo album. They settle on the staircase and look at the different pictures. They discover a number of photos showing a young man playing football but they are not sure who this is. Mum, who happens to be passing by, points out that it is Hannah's Granddad and Scott and Hannah are shocked by this. They look at Granddad through the living room door and notice all of the changes in the way he looks. Hannah points out that his skin is very wrinkly and yellow and that his teeth are a funny colour. As Granddad lights up another cigarette, Scott asks Hannah if this could be why he is so poorly.



Hannah's mum is having a baby and the family are very excited. Mum has noticed that since Granddad has moved in, the house has begun to smell of smoke. One of Mum's friends also pointed out the smoke could be harmful to the rest of the family, including the unborn baby. Mum spoke to her health visitor about her concerns and took home some leaflets about second hand smoking. Having read the leaflets, Mum knows that she should talk to Granddad about smoking in the house but does not want to upset him while he is unwell.



It is late at night and the family have all gone to bed. However, Granddad cannot sleep and is sitting up in his armchair watching television. Granddad feels his eyes getting heavy but decides to have one more cigarette before going to bed. He lights it, smokes and then sits back slowly beginning to fall asleep.

He does not realise that the hot ash from his cigarette is building up and drops onto the arm of the chair. As the arm of the chair begins to burn and smoke begins to fill the air, Granddad falls into a deep sleep, completely unaware of the danger he has put himself in.



As more ash begins to fall and a small flame begins to develop on the arm of the chair, Mum runs into the room and screams to wake up Granddad. She hurries through to the kitchen to collect a fire blanket and uses it to put out the developing fire. Mum is very angry with Granddad who had put the whole family's lives at risk. Granddad is very upset about what he has done, apologises to Mum and promises it will not happen again.