

Is There Anyone Out There?

Rooting around in their grandad's spare room was a favourite pastime of Emily and Shane's.

'It's full of junk,' Grandad told them. 'I've been meaning to tidy it for years but I never seem to get around to it.'

Emily and Shane hoped he never would. 'One person's junk is another person's treasure,' said Emily, as she wound up a music box she had found beneath some magazines. Shane lifted a dusty old radio off the floor and onto a rickety table.

'My old radio!' declared Grandad. 'It must date back to the 1950s at least,' he told them as he plugged it in. A loud crackling noise filled the room.

'Turn it off, Grandad!' shouted Emily, covering her ears.

'It just needs tuning,' Grandad said and he started turning the dial. A little needle moved across the rectangular window at the front of the radio. Suddenly a loud voice filled the room but neither Shane nor Emily could understand a word. 'Radio Moscow!' explained Grandad. 'You can pick up stations from all over the world. Have fun!'

With that, he left the room and Emily and Shane took turns tuning the radio. Shane enjoyed moving the tuning dial slowly to pick up as many stations as he could.

'Emily, listen to this!' he whispered, his ear pressed up against the front of the radio. 'This is seriously freaky!' Although the crackling set Emily's teeth on edge, she was curious. She pressed her ear to the radio. Beneath the crackling static, she detected a tiny, squeaky voice.

'Is there anyone out there? Is there anyone out there?' the voice repeated over and over. ■



QUICK QUESTIONS

- 1 What did the children hope their grandad would never do?
- 2 Where did Shane put the old radio?
- 3 What language do you think was being spoken on Radio Moscow?
- 4 What sound set Emily's teeth on edge?
- 5 What explanation could there be for the voice Shane was picking up?

WEEK

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DAY

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