



## Story - Sam's Day

Read the story 'Sam's Day', either on your own, in pairs, or in a group. The story is about a 12 year old boy called Sam and his mum who, like many of us, use lots of electricity everyday, much of which is wasted.

Once you have read the story, carry out the following tasks:

- Highlight all the moments in the story where you think Sam and/or his mum made a bad choice about using energy and wasting electricity.
- Make a list of these choices, explaining why and how they could have been better.
- Now re-write the story inserting all the different choices you have suggested showing Sam and his mum being environmentally aware and actively working to prevent climate change.



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## Scene One

The scene opens with Sam's mum calling him to get up. He doesn't move from under the covers but we notice his television is on.

The television is on and is showing the day's weather forecast:

"And it's going to be another hot day in London today as temperatures once more soar to record levels for May. But make sure you take an umbrella out with you as its set to change around midday when heavy rains are due to fall, continuing through to tomorrow morning..."

His mum comes in as we hear the forecast

Mum

Sam come on...And what have I told you about falling asleep with the television on, it's such a waste of money, we won't be able to afford to go holiday at this rate. It's ridiculous, especially since you've got a remote control (She switches off the television using the remote control leaving it on stand-by)

Sam

(From under pillows) Sorry

Mum

(She opens the curtains) Come on it's a lovely day, if you hurry up you can walk to school

Sam

(This gets Sam stirring) Oh mum do I have to?

Mum

It's lovely out there and it would help me out, I've got lots to do at work today and if you want a lift to school why didn't you let me take up Miss Devlin's offer to take you on the school run when she's going there anyway

Sam

(Getting out of bed in a strop) Because I don't want to get a lift to school with my teacher, that's why and she gets in too early, I'd have had to be gone by now

Mum

(Laughing) No chance of that then.... Now hurry up, please... (She goes out)



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## Scene Two

Sam comes walks into the kitchen for breakfast

Mum

What do you want for breakfast?

Sam

Pop tarts

Mum

We haven't got any left; we'll have to go shopping after school

Sam

Not to the supermarket it takes ages to get there

Mum

Tell me about it, it's all that traffic... but they don't do pop tarts in the local shop, so if that's what you want then we'll have to go. Anyway, I want to get some stuff for the freezer, we can get some of those ready meals you like; I'm too busy to cook at the moment.

Sam

(Taking a banana) Are we going to book the holiday later?

Mum

Well I'll have a look at flights on the Internet.

Sam

It will be hot enough to swim every day, won't it?

Mum

Of course silly, Spain is really hot in the summer, in fact I'm worried it might be too hot with this strange weather we're having. Now what do you want to eat?

Sam

I'll just have a couple of bananas

Mum

Are you sure?

Sam

Yes

Mum

Ok well we might as well go then, you can eat in the car. I'll get it started. I just hope Miss Devlin doesn't see me drop you off because I said you wanted to walk.

Sam

Why do you care so much about what she thinks mum?



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Mum

Because she is so environmentally friendly and it makes me feel bad because we are not, that's why. Now did you switch everything off upstairs?

Sam

I think so

Mum

Sam

Mum gives him a look and he goes to go back upstairs.

## Scene Three

Mum is picking Sam up after school and its raining.

Mum

Hello darling. Good day at school?

Mum sees Miss Devlin through the windscreen and waves.

Mum

Oh, she just had to see me didn't she?

Sam

Who?

Mum

Miss Devlin. What must she think of us?

Sam

Mum it's raining. She'll think you just picked me up because of that. Anyway we're going to the supermarket aren't we?

Mum starts driving but gets stuck in traffic really quickly.

Mum

Oh look at this traffic, it's not moving

Sam

I told you

Mum

Hang on, this is nothing to do with going to the supermarket, its school run traffic.... How was your day anyway?

Sam

Ok, except it was really hot again before it started raining



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Mum

They haven't still got the heating on in there have they?

Sam

Yes, it always takes them ages to get round to switching it off, it's the same every year. Then they keep going on about our carbon footprints and everything, but they aren't exactly environmentally friendly. And, worse than that, they have a go at me for falling asleep in class. What do they expect when it's so hot all the time?

Mum

(Laughing) You fall asleep because you watch television till so late and goodness knows how much electricity you waste, you're on that play station the rest of the time.

Sam

Yes but my play station is hardly going to have an effect is it?!

Pause... Still stuck in traffic. Mum huffs

Mum

Oh, I looked at flights and things on the Internet at work by the way

Sam

Yeah, did you book it?

Mum

Well I had a look at getting there by ferry as well. We can go from Portsmouth to Bilbao and then get a train the rest of the way. I just wanted to know what you thought.

Sam

Well, won't that take longer?

Mum

Yes, but its kinder on the environment and it might be fun

Sam

Not as good as it will be being there longer. Come on mum we're only going for ten days

Mum

Ok, it was just a thought. To be quite honest it would be more expensive anyway, especially if you add on the train journey to the ferry from this end. (Getting annoyed at the traffic) Oh I can't believe all this traffic, where are all these people going anyway.

Sam

Same place we are?

He gives her a similar look to the one she gave him earlier. She goes to pull off

Mum

At last!!



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## Scene Four

Sam is back in his bedroom. It is later that night and Sam is in bed watching a documentary on climate change. His mum comes in to shut the curtains

Mum

I can't believe this weather, it's been pouring down all evening and it was so sunny earlier.

Sam is completely absorbed in the television programme that he is watching

Mum

You and that television

Sam

Mum it's interesting. It's all about climate change

Mum

Well I hope it teaches you to turn off the television before you go to sleep and put out the recycling, you took that as one of your jobs, remember?

Sam

Oops, I forgot

Mum

(Joking with him) Was it accidentally on purpose?

Sam is totally absorbed in the programme and does not respond

Mum

(Sighing) Don't be too late will you, we don't want you falling asleep in class again (She ruffles his hair and goes out)