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**An Examination of Processes and Structures  
in Oral Narrative Discourse  
in an Educational Context**

in two volumes, Vol. 1 containing the thesis  
and Vol. 2, the transcripts.

**Volume 2**

(Supplementary Volume)

by Catherine Elizabeth Mood.

Submitted as a doctoral thesis to

The University of Durham,  
School of Education.

1995

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16 JAN 1996

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## Grandad

Unedited text

Transcriptions of storying sessions,  
comprising stories, questions and reflection.

### 1.1 Introduction to Hazel/ Grandad text

**1.1.1** Hazel told the story of her Grandad's accident in six 'drafts' (Appendix 1). Although the work was entirely oral throughout, I have used the word 'draft' to give a sense that each telling is part of a process of working on ideas. An important aspect of the work is that each draft is provisional; therefore there can be no final draft. Implicit in each draft is the potential for another 'version' or a new story. To account for this, I have called the draft that comes last in each sequence the 'latest' version. I use the word 'version' for convenience, though each telling at a different moment in time and within a different context is necessarily a new story by a new teller whose identity is realized differently in the new story.

**1.1.2** A tape of the full text is available in the supplementary volume accompanying this thesis. The supplementary volume contains the full transcribed text. Here, I have excluded parts to which there is no reference in the thesis.

**1.1.3** The first version of this story was brought into school as part of a

task to interview parents and Grandparents about their life and experiences. This was connected with national curriculum based work on '1930 to 1960' and as part of a multi-disciplinary curriculum. I encouraged children to tell stories related to the theme being studied, and this story was one of the products of this. The interview of her mother by Hazel may have been taped or notes may have been made.

**1.1.4** The first telling took place at the end of a school day during the first term in the sixth year (see appendix 1). I was present as class teacher, as were the 28 members of the class. There are some sounds of restlessness which can be heard on the tape of the first version. Hazel copes with this reaction to her hesitant telling. The second and third versions were told two days later as her response to a class task to retell the story and then tell it from the viewpoint of a character within it.

**1.1.5** After Version Three, there was a break of nearly a year. I returned to school as a researcher (see 0.2), having taken leave of absence to work on my thesis for a year. On this occasion I worked with Hazel for about an hour in the Deputy Head's office. Hazel listened to a tape of her previous stories and commented on it, telling three new version in the course of the hour. Versions Four and Five were told on her own initiative. The purpose of the task was to reflect on previous versions and tell a latest version at the end of the period available

**1.1.6** The story of an event in her Granddad's life is of Granddad as a boy going with his friends to collect coal from a heap of slag and coal dust. The crust collapses and granddad falls into the 'dust', buried so that only his knuckles are showing. His friends act quickly to dig him out.

## 1.2 Transcription Conventions

**Three versions of a story, with questions and answers and discussion of previous drafts (See Appendix 1).**

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| -              |   |
| ( ) ( )        | inaudible, short or longer text   |
| (.) (..) (...) | pauses, short or longer break   |
| A B C          | clauses lettered at left hand side, in text only, for reference to brief extracts |
| 1 2 3          | clauses/ lines numbered, at right hand side for each complete text                |
| (text)         | spoken simultaneously with a piece of text from another speaker                   |
| (*)            | brief section omitted, e.g. comment about switching tape recorder on or off       |
| (**)           | up to ten clauses omitted, as not relevant to main research interests             |
| (***)          | more than ten clauses omitted as not relevant, as above                           |

### **Representation of accent.**

There is no attempt to represent the speakers accent phonetically in the text as this is not a factor of concern in the analysis. Therefore, when a word remains incomplete in the speech, e.g. 'couldn' for 'couldn't', the word is represented, for the purpose of clarity, as 'couldn't' in the text. Clarity of meaning is a higher priority for this research, than accurate phonetic representation of speech sounds.

### **Altering structure mid-phrase or word.**

If, the word is left incomplete due to a sudden decision on the part of the speaker to alter the language structure being used, then the word is represented as incomplete in the text.

### 1.3 Grandad: Version One and ensuing questions (9.10.90)

**Hazel:**

em this is about my this is about my grandad that's dead 1  
 em it was in the middle of World War Two  
 me mam thinks  
 and em (.) they didn't used to have any coal  
 so they used to go to this place 5  
 where there was coal dust  
 and usually em like put their hand in  
 and see if they could get an  
 like there usually be (.)  
 the they usually found some 10  
 and em (.) my grandad em was putting his hand in to em like look around  
 and em he found the em coal dust  
 and e it was like quicksand  
 like it it dragged him in  
 and (..) he (.) e they had to em dig him out with their hands 15  
 em and they they went for help  
 and em on the (..) interview with me mum  
 I asked u if me grandad was in the war  
 and she said no  
 because em he was in a in he was in hospital for a very long time 20  
 and cause of this accident that he had  
 em his back was bent  
 and that's how he he wasn't able to be in the war



## 1.4 Comments on Version One (9.10.90)

(general murmur, laughs)

**Cherry:**

I thought it was going to be funny

but then it turned serious

25

**Ms Mood:**

Yeah (.) does anyone have anything (.)

**Severai:**

em em em (.)

**Holly;**

well you know like you you said

that he had got pulled in

well with him with all like the dust and that going over his face

30

I would have thought

he would have suffocated or something

(when he couldn't breathe)

**Hazel:**

(cause he was in hospital)

I said

35

that he was in hospital

cause he was in hospital for a very long time

because when he was in

em me mam says

they could only see from like his knuckles

40

they cul they could only see the top of his fingers

that's how they knew

that they had to dig him out

and not go for help straight away

(..)

**Daisy:**

was he em (..) oh yeah (..) em (.)

45

is it not dangerous

if that stuff gets into your lungs

the em thingy cause cancer or

Hazel/ Grandad Transcript 384

**Hazel:**

well em people like a as I said

there wasn't any coal

50

like my mam saying saying

it was the middle of World War Two

and so people used to go there quite a lot (of people)

**Daisy:**

(yeah it's just) like if people (--)

**Hazel:**

cause he went with some friends

55

(that's the point)

**Craig:**

(might of) held his breath

**Ms Mood:**

Yes so it's showing

that people must have been really desperate to get coal mustn't they

and that they would go and collect the dust

60

and that it was a dangerous thing to do

### 1.5 Grandad: Version Two (11.10.90)

this is a story about me grandfather  
when he was fourteen and he was playing  
he was getting coal from the coal dust  
cause children used to do that in (.) in in the olden days 65  
because em they didn't have very much coal  
and so he he was collecting it  
and he put his arm in  
and it just pulled him in like quicksand  
and he couldn't get out 70  
and so his friends had to em dig him out with his with his with their hand  
and they could only see from his knuckles  
that's how they knew where he was  
and they pulled him out  
and er (.) they went to get help 75  
but em he was in hospital for quite a long time

## 1.6 Grandad: Version Three

**(follows sequentially from Version Two without a break)**

this is from me own point of view

I was going to the mi mind with me friends one day

and usually we w would go there for for the coal

and so we went

80

it was qui it it wasn't very long journey

it was quite a nice day

and so I was I had put me hand in to see if there was any coal

and all of a sudden I was just pulled in

I didn't know what had happened to us

85

and when I was inside I just couldn't breathe properly

and if I was and every time I was breathing I was breathing the coal dust in

an I felt as if I was going to die

and I just didn't know what was happening

**1.7 Version Four (16.9.91)**

**(after listening to recording of previous text)**

it was in the middle of the war 90  
and me grandad was fourteen  
and he it was a nice cool summer's day  
and he was walking along to (.) a big (.) heap of (.) coal (.) dust  
cause they were going to get s  
him and his friends were going to get some coal  
for their mothers (.) for the fire 95  
and while they were putting their hand in to feel around to see  
if they had any  
to see  
if they could find any coal  
em me grandad put his hand in 100  
and the coal dust dragged him in under the coal dust  
and he couldn't breathe  
his friends could only see his knuckles  
and (.) they (.) knew  
that it would be quicker and safer to try and dig him out  
before going for help 105  
so they they tried to dig him out with their hands  
cause they could see his knuckles  
and at last they got him out  
m and they ran for help  
and then (.) later on (.) me grandad had to go to hospital  
for a very long time 110

and he couldn't go in the war in the war that year  
because em of his back  
and it it was like that until he  
his back was bent over until he died

## 1.8 Comment and reflection while listening to tape recording of previous stories and questions (16.9.91)

**Ms Mood:**

(\*\*\*)

now ca could we try and look at the actual erm (.) way 115

that you've built the story up on on the last one

you know the last time you told it

and it it erm (..) you if you could say

(..) just at any place say maybe (..)

whether that's really leading onto the next bit of the story 120

or whether y you could erm do something a bit different with it

or or where exactly you would put the bits o with the feelings in

and extend it

and an anything that you think should be done (.) O.K?

(\*)

**Hazel:**

it was just a normal day really for me grandad and his friends to go 125

because they usually did it

because their mothers would be working in the house

their fathers would probably be out

so if they wanted the house to be (.) warm

it would just be like a normal day to go out 130

just like we come to school

it just be normal

and it's just an accident

that sadly happened

**Ms Mood:**

right so if you were doing the story again 135

and you were really sort of working on it quite a lot

would that come into it then?

**Hazel:**

(.) em (.) probablys because (.) it was just like (.) like

when we did our journey to school

that was just something 140

that happened normally

its not like something

that happens once in a long time

**Ms Mood:**

what's the good thing

or is there something good 145

about starting a story on a normal ordinary day

**Hazel:**

yes because you can (.) see

that (.) because this could have happened loads of times

and you can say

about how like really at the starting of the story 150

you can't really say how you feel

because it just happens nearly every day or something

so you can't really at the beginning you can't really explain

it's just like (.) normal

**Ms Mood:**

so because it happened on this particular day 155

that changed everything in some way



**Hazel:**

yeah cause (.) em I think his friends were really surprised

because they did it as well

and like (.) when they had got him out and everything was O.K.

I don't think i'd go back for a very long time

160

because it was a horrible thing that happened

and like this you don't want that to happen

and what if you did it by yourself

you could even die

because if there was no-one there to save you

165

(\*\*\*)

## 1.9 Grandad: Version Five

**(told in parts, while switching tape of previous version off and on; see notation for breaks in continuity).**

(...)

one day er just a normal day they were going along with their friends

to go and get some coal for their mothers

cause it was very cold

cause his father was away fighting in the war

(...)

em he was very worried falling in the sand

170

because it was all dark and dusty

and he was trying to cough with breathing in the dust

and but he couldn't breathe

cause there was just a big heap of it

he was very worried

175

and didn't know what to do

he was sinking all the time

and it was just petrifying

(...)

em his friends didn't know what to do at first

they were trying

180

they didn't know if they should get him out

or run for help

but they decided t t t to take a chance

and try and help him out

so they were with with their hands

185

they were doing it as fast as they could  
to s so that he didn't sink any further  
and they were just digging and digging  
because the sand was keep falling on  
where they had just dug

190

and it was really horrible for them  
cause he was one of their friends  
and he could die

(...)

erm me grandad wanted to be in the war  
but fortunately he couldn't

195

because of his back

er because it was bent over for his life

and so sadly he was very upset

because he wanted d to try and help (.) erm his country

by fighting against (.) fighting in the war

200

so it was very upsetting for him

because most of (.) his friends were er were doing were going in the war

so it was very upsetting for him

cause he wanted to help

**1.10 Discussion continues (no break)**

erm I don't think 205  
I put very much expression into (.) it  
and I haven't put  
like what it would have felt or anything  
so I think  
it would be better with that in 210  
and I think  
that it would have been better  
if i'd have said  
like (.) what did happen  
like i've said 215  
what did happen  
but only like the outskirts of it  
like I didn't put expression and things  
like how his friends and what would have happened  
(...)

erm I could have started it 220  
about how his mum had told him to go and get some  
or I could have started it  
like they were walking along  
or I could have started it  
when they had actually got to the coal dust 225  
em cause there was loads of different routes  
that they could have taken  
cause there wasn't very many roads

cause i've seen like the place  
where it used 230

where he used to go  
and there was just loads of grass and woods and trees  
and like its just like a wild area

**Ms Mood:**

how would it change it  
if you'd started it in one of those (.) ways? 235

**Hazel:**

mm well (.) I could've (..)

**Ms Mood:**

they're really interesting ways to begin  
I was just wondering  
how it would be different  
if you'd started with them walking there 240  
how would the whole story change?

**Hazel:**

well I c what could have happened was  
(.) if they had a went like the wild area way  
like they cou they might have had to pass like things as well  
might had to pass rivers and things 245

and like climb down bridges and things  
or something like that

and (.) like I could say

how like if there was a big heap

I could say 250

like (.) there mightn't of just been one big heap  
 there might have been like quite a few  
 or there might have been like trails of it coming along  
 and they're like looking on the looking on the ground to see  
     if there was any coal there

255

**Ms Mood:**

so (.) for for the person who was listening to the story  
 what would you be giving them  
 if you were telling them those things  
 about them climbing up down bridges and over difficult bits  
 and then seeing all the the heaps and?

260

**Hazel:**

well (.) m (.)

**Ms Mood:**

the I I think it's really great the ideas you've given  
 I'm just trying to sort of work out  
 what what's different about that  
 that you would be doing there  
 different from what you did

265

**Hazel:**

well er they would have been searching in different ways  
 and they mightn't have stayed together  
 like some might  
 if there was some on the ground  
 some might have gone over on the other way  
 and one person might have gone over  
 and if it was me grandad  
 that went over to the big heap

270

then (.) he might he might have been in there in there

for a few seconds

275

before his friends had recognised

that he was actually missing

(\*\*\*)

**Ms Mood:**

if say he had separated from them

which I think was one of your ideas

and they didn't realise he'd fallen in at first

280

so in the actual story if you were telling the story

how would you have to tell that differently to get that over?

**Hazel:**

em like if there were if I said

that there was more than one

and there was quite a few

285

and some on the road

and they went all

they all went different ways

cause there's a large area to cover

and they wanted as much as they could

290

and like certain people went one way

certain people went the other

and me grandad went off to one by his self

and he was like looking around

and then that's what happened

295

(.) and or (.) or there could have been one

and he might have been just going round it  
like looking on the ground  
or looking round the edges  
and me grandad seen a bit going up 300  
and he went to grab it  
and then he fell in

**Ms Mood:**

so thinking about the story as a story  
and not so much as your grandad's story  
as if it's somebody else's  
erm (.) which would that build up the suspense 305  
for somebody who was reading it  
say if they were watching it even on television  
as a story told in a drama on television  
do you think  
it would erm make the person who was watching it feel any different 310  
if you were taking your time before the thing happened

**Hazel:**

(.) em well people would be worried  
cause there's some things  
that like really make you scared  
and I know 315  
i've watched things  
and people have been murdered and things  
and then i've been scared to go upstairs or something  
like like like if there's a film on or something  
and there's just about to be something good's happened 320  
and you just want to see what happens



and then a break(.) comes on

and like you're in suspense

for what's happened

like will he live or will he die?

325

that that it like leave people in suspense especially people that are older

because they would have knew what it was like

cause they might have done it

when they were younger

**Ms Mood:**

right so can you get that same feeling of sort of suspense

330

wondering what which way it's going to go

and will he live or not

can you get that in a story

in the same way as you can

when you are telling it

335

in the same way when you are seeing it on the television

(\*\*\*)

**Hazel:**

(.) erm (...) well what could happen is

I could say he fell in

and then go over to what his friends were doing

and then they came in

340

and they were like digging it out

so like (.) that happened

then his friends came

and they were trying to dig him out

so you wouldn't know 345

until his friends had dug him out

and then they wouldn't know

until they went to get help

**Ms Mood:**

right that's really interesting

(.)

**Hazel:**

they might have been climbing up it 350

cause like it would they they thought

that it was pretty solid

like like if we walk on sand we're not going to

we don't think we're going to sink

so erm if it was like clinched together 355

so they might have been looking on the looking round like o like on it

m like if there's a heap of mud

and we're on it

and we don't suddenly think

we're going to sink under it 360

and there might have been a bit

that wasn't so secure like tight

and that might have been a bit

and it just so happened

that me grandad was walking past that bit 365

and then went under

**Ms Mood:**

right so (.) remember all that

because w w we'll

at the very end you can tell the story again with any other bits

that you want to put in of all these things

370

you've been saying

because you've had some amazing ideas

(\*\*\*)

having the friends in the story

as being important as well as your grandfather

how do you think that would change the story?

375

**Hazel:**

mm well (.) it would m

having them in it like make the story not just about one person

it like brings different thoughts in

and not just one thought

and (.) if the friends weren't there

380

then me grandad wouldn't have been alive

so they played a very important part in the story

and em I guess me grandfather was very grateful to them

because if it wasn't for them

he could have died

385

**Ms Mood:**

so would you tell the friends thoughts

you know how you're telling the story erm here

and for half of the next one

and then the other half you you're being your grandfather

but most of the time you're telling the story

390

so would you tell about your grandfather and your friends  
would it always be you who was talking  
you know narrating the story  
do you think?

**Hazel:**

(.) em well you could do it in two different ways 395

like there could just be one person  
telling it all the way through  
and telling everybody's thoughts  
or there like could be one person  
telling different parts of their feelings  
like when we did

400

when we were in our old class  
like one person would tell the whole story  
and then different people would put their thoughts and feelings in

**Ms Mood:**

and do you think 405

there's a way of getting that into the story  
so it fits into the story  
rather than being a separate thing

**Hazel:**

mm well I think for it to do to be like that  
it'll just be one person telling it 410

because then (.) em it's all combined together  
instead of like one person saying a certain bit  
and then that person telling a different part  
that they might have missed a bit out

so then it might go a little bit wrong 415

but if one person tells it  
then they know that it'll be just like all of them  
I mean like they know all the story  
so then so they know  
that if they miss a bit out 420  
then it can't go exactly totally wrong  
cause they know the rest of it

**Ms Mood:**

if you think of the case of different people  
telling it from different points of view  
does it matter 425  
if one person misses something out  
wh why would one person miss something out  
and another person put it in  
if they were telling it from their own through their own thoughts

**Hazel:**

well (.) if somebody missed it out 430  
it depends what part they did miss out  
cause i if it was a part like an important thought  
that they were thinking  
then that might be a bit helpful to the people  
that are (..) the people that are listening to the story 435  
cause then they (.) cause different people  
might feel different things  
like one person might feel all right  
and say oh he'll be all right  
he'll be all right 440  
but then another person be could be worrying sick

about what was happening to him  
 and em (.) there is another part that I could do  
 er you know em I says how I could start it  
 about how his mother goes and tells him to go 445  
 and get some coal

well I could put her thought in at the end  
 by saying  
 cause if your son or daughter was em dying or living  
 you would be like really really really worried 450  
 cause you wouldn't

like (.) me uncle's me dad's no me grandad had a brother I think  
 and like it would have been important to him  
 and it would have been  
 like worrying for the whole family 455

especially just being in hospital  
 cause hospitals give people like frights  
 and like s (.) s they think somethings really serious  
 but this was serious

(\*\*)

**Ms Mood:**

do you think it helps them 460  
 to understand the story  
 to ask the questions?

**Hazel:**

yeah cause like there might be a bit  
 that you miss out  
 or a bit that they mightn't understand 465  
 and if you ask a certain question

then that might be the bit  
 that they (.) didn't really understand about it  
 so they'll like want to know what does it mean  
 and but how could how could that have happened 470  
 but times have changed now  
 and like children don't really go alo along  
 playing on coal dust (.) sites

**Ms Mood:**

so does it help you do you think as well  
 when you were when you were answering the the questions there 475  
 even though they didn't ask very many  
 and maybe not (.) particularly good ones  
 do you think it helps at all to to have the questions?

**Hazel:**

yes because (.) like you you understand it  
 cause like it's in your family 480  
 and it's just it helps you  
 to know what people feel about it  
 and like (.) it helps you to  
 like to put it in a different way  
 so that they might be able 485  
 to understand it a bit better

**Ms Mood:**

right now erm (.) can we just have the final your final version of it then  
 be great

**Hazel:**

right

### 1.11 Grandad: Latest Version

it one day me gran great grandmother told me grandad 490  
 to go to the coal dust  
 to go and get some coal for the fire  
 so he decided to go with his friends  
 cause they were going  
 (.) they were go 495  
 they went through some gates  
 and were crossing some rivers  
 just enjoying themselves on a normal summer's day  
 me granda was fourteen years old  
 and his friends were about fourteen and fifteen 500  
 and they were just enjoying theirself walking along  
 and they came to the starting of the coal site on the road  
 and they were looking around  
 they were looking around for the for some coal  
 and they decid and they all decided 505  
 to go off in different ways  
 to have a look  
 and then saw the biggest one  
 cause the biggest heap  
 because that normally had the most coal in 510  
 so they all decided to go over to it  
 and they were climbing up  
 seeing if they could get certain bits  
 and they were putting it in heaps at the bottom



and throwing it to each other to put on the heap 520

so they could all carry it home

and me grandad had seen a big lump of coal

and so he struggled round to get it

and sadly he fell in

his friends didn't 525

his friends hadn't recognised

that he had fallen in yet

Hazel/ Grandad Transcript 394

but he was finding it really difficult to breathe

cause there was no air to breathe

and he was just breathing the dust in 530

and the dust was really bad for your chest

and then his friends (.) could (.)

then his friends went round the

went round to where he had fallen in

and they could just see this knu these knukles 535

and they were thinking like

whose are they

and then they saw that

me grandad Jack em he had fallen in

and so they all came rushing up 540

and they were digging digging

and digging with their hands

and they were really scared

like it was their friend

what what would happen to him 545

how

and they were digging

and digging

and (.) me grandad (.) he was he was just like hoping

he would get out

550

cause he didn't know what would happen

and how (.) how would he get out

because every second the dust was

(.) bringing him under even more

then finally they got him out

555

## Jack and Death text

Transcriptions of storying sessions,  
comprising two sets of endings, with discussion.

### 2.1 Introduction to Jack and Death

**2.1.1** Although the work was entirely oral throughout, I have used the word 'draft' to give a sense that each telling is part of a process of working on ideas. An important aspect of the work is that each draft is provisional; therefore there can be no final draft. Implicit in each draft is the potential for another 'version' or a new story. To account for this, I have called the draft that comes last in each sequence the 'latest' version. I use the word 'version' for convenience, though each telling at a different moment in time and within a different context is necessarily a new story by a new teller whose identity is realized differently in the new story.

**2.1.2** This text comprises two sets of endings by children to a traditional tale. I told the story as teacher/ researcher on returning to the school where I had taught the same children as their class teacher the previous year (see Appendix 1). The story was told to two groups; a group of twelve and a group of four. These participants were withdrawn from their English lessons to take part. Storying was regarded by their current English teacher as a development of previous work and as contributing to National Curriculum work on speaking and listening.

**2.1.3** The two sets of endings were initial responses and latest versions (see 12.2.1). Initial endings among the first group of twelve were made in pairs and threes. To produce latest endings I asked groups to join up together to form three larger groups. The group of four worked together throughout. Discussion was recorded as well as story endings. As I didn't want tape recording to be intrusive or distracting, only one tape recorder was used, therefore not all small group discussion was recorded.

## 2.2 Transcription conventions

|                |  |
|----------------|--|
| ( ) ( _ )      | inaudible, short or longer text  |
| (.) (..) (...) | pauses, short or longer break  |
| A B C          | clauses lettered at left hand side, in text only, for reference to                     |
| 1 2 3          | clauses/ lines numbered, at right hand side for each complete text                     |
| (text)         | spoken simultaneously with a piece of text from another speaker                        |
| (*)            | brief section omitted, e.g. comment about switching on or off                          |
| (**)           | tape recorder<br>up to ten clauses omitted, as not relevant to main research interests |
| (***)          | more than ten clauses omitted as not relevant, as above                                |

### Representation of accent

**2.2.1** There is no attempt to represent the speakers accent phonetically in the text as this is not a factor of concern in the analysis. Therefore, when a word remains incomplete in the speech, e.g. 'couldn' for 'couldn't', the word is represented, for the purpose of clarity, as 'couldn't' in the text. Clarity of meaning is a higher priority for this research, than accurate phonetic representation of speech sounds.

### Altering structure mid-phrase or word

**2.2.2** If, the word is left incomplete due to a sudden decision on the part of the speaker to alter the language structure being used, then the word is represented as incomplete in the text.

### 2.3 Jack and Death: told by Ms Mood to whole group.

**Ms Mood**

wee Jack was a beachcomber  
who knows what a beachcomber is?

**Eve:**

is it a person  
that goes around em on scrap heaps  
and on the beach  
looking for em little pieces of metal  
they can sell to people

5

**Ms Mood:**

yes (.) a beachcomber is somebody  
who collects things from the beach  
they comb the beach  
looking for all sorts of items anything at all

10

bottles metal items wooden things flotsam and jetsam everything  
that's been washed up

and wee Jack lived with his mother on in a cottage on the shoreside  
which meant

15

that beachcombing was just the right business for him to be in  
he was very happy living with his mother

they had a few hens a goat a pig  
and Jack grew a little field of hay

which he harvested

20

and fed his mother's goat with

(.) and all the rest of his time he spent up and down th the beach

looking for what he could find  
well on this particular day he wanted to get up very early  
because he knew 25  
that the tide was in early  
and he wanted to have a good chance to get  
whatever he could find off the beach particularly firewood  
because he knew  
their stock of firewood was getting very low 30  
he took a hot cup of tea up to his mother  
which is what he always did  
before he left the house  
and she was lying there with her eyes closed  
and she said 35  
no Jack no tea for me today  
I couldn't touch a drop of tea  
Jack said  
come on mother  
you've you've got to drink 40  
it'll do you good  
it'll wake you up  
ready to start the day  
and i'm off early today  
no Jack I can't drink it 45  
I'm very weary  
i'm very tired  
i'm sick  
and i'm ill  
and I fear my time is coming 50

oh mother you can't say that

I couldn't stand it

I couldn't bear it at all

if you were not here

(.)

well Jack you know

55

everybody has to grow up

and you'll find yourself an a wife

and you'll be able to have this cottage

it's a lovely cottage for you to live in

you'll be happy

60

everything'll be perfectly fine for you

no mother no said Jack

don't say that

yes said his mother

I think

65

he's coming for me

what do you mean said Jack

what do you mean

who's coming for for you

what do you mean coming for you

70

but his mother would say nothing more

and Jack went out with a heavy heart

and as he walked along the sand

with his sack on the back ready for collecting things

he turned his mother's words over in his mind

75

and he remembered conversations

he'd had with his mother in the past



yes that's what she meant  
very soon Death would be coming for her  
well Jack had his eyes on the sand 80  
because he always looked out for any nice shell  
or stone that he could spot  
and he never knew what he might find  
lying there on the sand  
and so he didn't see the figure approaching him 85  
until it was half way across the sands  
and he looked up  
just to see how far the tide was coming in  
and there was the stooped and bent figure of an old old man approaching  
and if his beard was down as far as his knees 90  
it could even maybe have been touching the sand  
and his back was bent  
and his cloak was long and black  
and covered all of him  
and the hood was up 95  
so that Jack could hardly see the face  
until he got closer  
when he saw  
that it was wizened  
and the eyes were sunken 100  
and his cheeks were wrinkled  
and the man was carrying something over his back  
and as the old old man got closer  
Jack realised  
that what he was carrying was a bright shining sharpened blade 105

the blade of a scythe  
and it was a new scythe just sharpened for the reaping  
does anyone know  
who this old man would be

**Dawn:**

the one of death 110

**Ms Mood:**

(.) well Jack thought exactly the same  
as what had come into Dawn's mind  
because in the past he and his mother had often talked  
about what Death looked like  
and Death looked just as this figure looked 115

so as the man old man approached he hailed Jack  
and he said  
can you tell me  
where the little cottage up above the shoreline is  
for for I have some business there 120

I know what your business is  
said Jack  
and I won't tell you where it is  
for that's my cottage  
where I live with my mother 125

and we live very happily there  
and you're not going  
to get your hands on my mother  
and Death said  
oh Jack you're very much mistaken here 130  
this is a wrong thing

that you say  
for your mother is sick and ill  
and she would be happy  
to go quietly and peacefully away 135  
for this is her time now  
and Jack suddenly seized the scythe  
which was a great curved blade  
that they used to use for reaping and cutting corn  
and he seized it from Death 140  
and took it  
and lifted it up in the air  
and brought it crashing down on a rock  
and the scythe broke into three pieces  
and then Jack seized Death by the shoulders 145  
and started to shake him  
and he shook him  
and he shook him  
and a very strange thing happened  
because as Jack shook Death 150  
Death became smaller  
he seemed to shrink  
like an old person gets smaller  
but Death's bones seemed to be so shr (.) brittle  
that they rattled inside him 155  
and he shrivelled right up smaller and smaller  
until he was so tiny  
he was only this high  
and Jack quickly thought to himself of the the hazelnut

that he had in his pocket 160  
it was one of those hazelnut's  
that have a little hole in it  
where a squirrel has eaten a little hole  
and I think you may have heard of a hazelnut like this before  
in in at another time 165  
and Jack knew about the story  
that you've heard of before of the hazelnut  
and that's why it came into his head  
and he took the hazelnut  
and he had Death in his other hand 170  
and he pressed him head first through the little hole  
and then his feet  
and then he took a piece of twig  
and bunged it in the the hole  
and sealed it up 175  
and took the hazelnut  
and flung it out to sea  
as far as it would go  
and the waves carried it out and out and out  
because it was beyond the tide 180  
and the waves carried it way away  
phew thought Jack  
that's that  
i've conquered Death  
i've vanquished Death 185  
death is over and done with  
and he already felt lighter of step

as he walked up over the beach  
has anybody any ideas at this point  
about what might happen 190

(.)

**Eve:**

that nobody would ever die again

(.)

**Ms Mood:**

anything else? (.)

well this is what happened next

Jack (.) trudged across the sands along the shoreline

back to the little cottage on the shore 195

and as he went he was thinking

oh my mother and I will live very happily now

and indeed as he approached he saw her in the garden

and she was working there

and he could see that she was bent over 200

pulling and tugging at something in the garden

and Jack called to her

and she looked up and waved

and Jack arrived

and she said 205

oh Jack I feel so much better

it was strange I was lying there

after you went

and after a time I began to feel better

and I drank the tea 210

and I felt almost like my old healthy self

that I used to be  
and I got up  
and I made you some scones  
erm the only thing is 215  
i'm having a bit of trouble pulling up these leeks  
to make a soup for you  
so will you give me a hand  
to get them up  
and bring some potatoes in with you and some carrots 220  
well Jack was in the garden quite a while  
and his mother had the scones and the tea made  
and she sat Jack down  
and Jack said  
well I i've got the leeks and the the carrots here mother 225  
but it's it's taken a devil of a tugging to get them out  
it's erm it's a fi must be a fine crop  
that they were so well rooted this time  
and she said  
never mind just now 230  
you just sit there  
and drink your tea  
and presently i'll make us a lovely soup  
and she got up and sharpened the knife  
ready to chop the vegetables 235  
and as Jack was drinking the tea  
she set about chopping  
but at each stroke the knife just slid away  
and it wouldn't chop

and she couldn't chop the leeks 240  
and she tried the potatoes  
and she tried to scrape them.  
but the knife just slid away every time  
well this is a strange thing she said  
I can't I haven't even got the strength to chop vegetables 245  
and yet I thought I was getting so much better  
I felt so good  
ah well mother you've recovered  
you feel better  
but you still haven't got the strength in your muscles yet 250  
you have to build it up  
let me try  
and Jack had a a turn  
and he (.) brought the the knife down  
but no it just slid away 255  
and the vegetables were whole  
never mind mother I don't know  
what's happened to our vegetables  
maybe a frost got them  
i'll go out and get us some eggs from the hens 260  
we'll have some eggs for for our supper  
and out he went  
and searched among the hay  
and there was a fine lot of new laid eggs all brown and speckled  
he brought in a pile of them 265  
and started to get them cracked for his mother  
but each one that he knocked on the iron pan wouldn't crack

not a mark was o left on the egg  
the egg was perfectly whole  
well this is a queer thing 270  
said Jack  
this is a strange thing  
and his mopther said  
we must be under some sort of enchantment Jack  
what can be happening to us 275  
erm I felt so much better today  
and now things have started to go wrong  
never mind mother  
i'll go and get one of those old hens  
and we'l have a 280  
we'll have a chicken soup tonight  
why not we've got plenty enough  
er the breeding season was good  
and Jack stomped out into the yard  
but no matter how he tried to catch the hen 285  
once he got it by the scruff of his neck  
he just managed to catch it  
and he tried to wring the neck  
because that's what they had to do in those days on the farms  
they wru wrung the necks of the chiockens themselves 290  
it just wouldn't go  
the hen escaped from him  
and no way no amount of trying  
would allow Jack to wring the neck of the chicken  
well this was a queer kettle of fish and no mistake 295



and Jack's mother said  
never mind Jack  
we won't let it get us down  
you go into the village  
take this half a crown 300  
I've been saving  
been saving this bit of money for a rainy day  
you go and get us some meat from the butchers  
and Jack set off chirpy as ever along the road  
now on the way he passed the fields 305  
where the last crop of golden corn was being reaped  
by the reapers in the field  
and they were having a devil of a time  
they were sweating and they were hot  
but as soon as they put the scythe to the corn  
and it seemed to come away 310  
it sprang up again just like new  
this is fine thing thought Jack  
and he walked on  
and there in one of the farmyards on the outskirts of the village  
were three men chasing a pig 315  
and as soon as they stuck the knife in the back of the pig  
and pulled it away  
the pig was whole again  
and ran off  
Jack by this time was beginning to feel very uneasy  
and very unsettled 320

and when he got into the little village green of the village  
 he saw that a great collection of all manner of people  
 had come into the village  
 and there was a great chatter and a babble  
 and people were talking 325  
 and Jack pushed his way to the front of the crowd  
 and there was the butcher saying  
 I have nothing for you  
 I can't give you anything from the any cows meat any none at all  
 I have nothing 330  
 I tried to slaughter the bullock this morning  
 and every time I chopped the head  
 the head grew back in its place again  
 so he said  
 something is happening to us 335  
 and i've had word from the other villages  
 and the same thing is happening there  
 nothing will die  
 we can't eat  
 we're going to starve at this rate 340  
 and something suddenly jiggled around in Jack's head  
 and he thought to himself  
 it's all my fault  
 nothing's going to die  
 what can I do 345  
 it's my fault  
 I imprisoned Death in the hazelnut  
 i've thrown him out on the tide

this is the end  
nothing can change 350  
and we won't be able to eat  
we'll starve  
and he ran back to the cottage  
past the people trying to kill the pig  
past the reapers trying to reap the field 355  
into his mother's cottage panting  
sit down Jack  
she said  
now tell me your story  
don't you erm worry about it 360  
take your time  
what have you seen  
what have you got to tell me  
i've no meat for you  
nothing at all mother 365  
said Jack  
and it's all my fault  
what do you mean it's your fault  
said his mother  
well i've (.) what happened to me this morning 370  
when I went out on the beach  
was really the cause of you feeling so much better today  
because I met Death  
and he was coming for you mother  
and I couldn't let him come for you 375  
and so I imprisoned him in a hazelnut

and i've thrown him out on the water  
oh Jack said his mother  
you've done a terrible thing  
because the only way that we keep alive 380  
is by other things dying  
it has to go on  
life is in death  
death is in life  
there's no end to it 385  
and I was ill  
and I would have been happy to be at peace  
Jack you're going to have to do something about this  
but what can I do mother  
i've thrown the hazelnut away 390  
and as soon as I find it  
if I do find it  
then you will die  
because it's your time  
well Jack i'm perfectly prepared for that  
i've always been ready for that 395  
and you will be feel get over that in time  
and its something you've got to dohas anyone got any idea  
about how J ack is going to get the hazelnut back?  
**Eve:**  
while he's combing the beach 400  
he might find it  
**Ms Mood:**  
any other idea?

(.)

right i'm going to give you

just a short couple of minutes or so erm with a partner

to decide on

405

where you would take the story from there

and i'm going to ask you

you know in quite a short time

to tell an ending to the story

it can be any ending you like

410

so try and think of a different one

that you think nobody else will think of

(\*\*\*)

## 2.4 Jack and Death: Initial Endings, Set A

### 2.4.1 Initial Ending One (A1)

**Holly:**

right it was after a week

and Jack had been beachcombing all the (.) beach

for about two hours every morning

415

he give up this hour this day

n he s and he went back home

to tell his mother mother

he was going to have a walk to the village

**Hazel:**

On the way back from the village Jack saw a hazelnut tree

420

and he re suddenly suddenly remembered about the hazelnut with Death in

so he went over to the tree

and checked every single hazelnut on the tree

but sadfully h Death was not in them

**May:**

so by this time Jack was tired

425

so he sat under the hazelnut tree

and went to sleep

Jack was a relative

er had a ancestor called Isaac Newton

(laughs) instead (laughs) instead of an apple falling on his head

430

a hazelnut fell on his head

and woke him up

and inside this hazelnut was was a a twig

and he took the twig out

and this black this black creature came out

435

and started growing

and whe so Jack went home

to tell his mother

but when he got there

she was dead

440

## 2.4.2 Initial Ending Two (A2)

**Rose:**

the next day he went out  
to em look for metals  
and he was looking around in the sand  
and he found the (.) em hazel  
and he he was going to pull the twig out  
when he realised  
that nobody would die of starvation  
so he threw the hazel back in the sea

445

**Eve:**

he ran home  
to tell his mother th the the good news  
and she was still healthy  
and em Jack told her  
that nobody could die of starvation  
and so and then he went down into the village  
and told everybody in the village  
and everybody was happy

450

455



### 2.4.3 Initial Ending Three (A3)

**Dawn:**

one day they deci all of the villagers and other v decided  
to go out n fi n fish

to see if they could catch anything that way

but the the they threw their nets in

460

and but they caught fish

but they just jumped back out

now he was fishing

he w so Jack decided to join in

cause he wasn't doing it

465

and he he went in

and he caught a fish

but it jumped out

but on the f

end of the fishing rod

470

there was a hazelnut

(.) em the he remembered about what had happened

and pulled the twig and pulled the twig out which was there

the tw the twig came out

and out came Death

475

**Heather:**

Death began to grow

and t em (.) when Death had grown to his full size

Jack was

Jack hid behind a tree

and Death walked off across the beach 480  
em a little later Jack went home  
and when he went in he found his mother dead  
but and he found  
that the the vegetables they had been trying to cut  
were all lying cut 485  
nd and then he went into the village later on  
and he found  
that everyone else had had had got em  
the people who were cutting the field  
had got s got the field cut 490  
and the one the people who were chasing the pig  
had caught the pig

#### 2.4.4 Initial Ending Four (A4)

**Craig:**

Jack was feeling very guilty  
and he decided to go and comb the beach  
once he was combing the beach 495  
he found an old rowing boat  
and deci to go and take go on an adventure  
(.) as he was (.) so far out to sea  
he felt sleepy  
so he made his self comfortable 500  
and fell asleep  
well all of a sudden the storm started

**Arthur:**

the waves were six foot high  
the boat was tossing and turning everywhere  
eventually Jack fell out of the boat 505  
and he had to swim to a nearby island  
(.) Jack w was just sitting on a rock  
thinking about his mother  
and then he something caught his eye  
it was a hazelnut 510  
he walked over to it  
and picked it up

**Tom:**

a as he took brought out the t twig  
Death er came flying out

he s as he started to grow 515

and grow

Jack er jumped back with amazement

Death explained to Jack about death

and s things like that

s and em Death went ano to another part o the island 520

and s and went away

Jack went back home

on a boat he had made from a few trees

there were there

as when he got home 525

his mother was dead

(.)

the end

**2.5 Discussion following  
first set of story endings (above)**

**Ms Mood:**

which of those did you prefer

**Holly:**

I preferred Heather's in the way

er that em that the ending didn't go

530

like when they got home

the mother was dead

like Heather carried it on

as if it wasn't (.) em sad and that

(.)

**Ms Mood:**

so ca can you say anything else

535

about how how they decided on that ending

what did they use in the ending

**Holly:**

the the bits that were in the other story

like the people were that were cutting the field

were cutting the field

540

chasing the pig

were chasing the pig and that

**Ms Mood:**

right any any other favourites

that anybody else had

you can say your own

545

if you prefer

if you liked your own

(.)

**Dawn:**

I like Eve's

**Ms Mood:**

can you say why (Dawn)

**Dawn:**

(because) em nobody could die

550

but they could still drink water

but they just couldn't eat

**Ms Mood:**

can you explain your reasoning behind it you two

because erm you explained it to me

when I came round

555

but I don't think

you said it in the story

**Rose:**

em you said

that nobody could die

well nobody would die of starvation

560

cause like you couldn't die

so you wouldn't need food

**Craig:**

they would go through pain though

they would need something

or they would just they would just all be lying (down)

565

?:

(could drink) water

**Craig:**

I know but you need (something to eat)

**Several:**

( )

?:

no but you need something as well as (water  
don't you)

?:

wouldn't have any anyway

570

**Craig:**

aye they wouldn't be (strong enough)

**Eve:**

(would because er)

because you know the mother

we em she she was very ill

and she felt healthy again

575

even though she was very ill

she felt healthy

**Holly:**

(that might have just been a coincidence)

**Eve:**

( ) hungry then she should feel healthy

**Holly:**

that might just have been a coincidence

580

like with her being really bad

**Ms Mood:**

so really g c er that ending is er  
 what we call a utopian ending  
 because it's about the perfect world  
 that is supposed to have existed in different people's ideas 585

erm er before (.) the times that we're in now  
 the very often erm different cultures have the idea  
 of a golden age like the garden of Eden  
 where erm before Eve ate the apple men and women existed  
 and they didn't have to work t to get food 590

they well in this case they did eat  
 they ate apples and fruits from the trees  
 but they didn't have to plough and cultivate the land and things

**Heather:**

I thought em  
 I thought Eve's was quite good as well 595

because of how she did it  
 like em like they didn't em  
 sh she found a way  
 to make them all live together  
 but it's not exactly realistic 600

because I mean people have to die

**Dawn:**

if people didn't die  
 there wouldn't be enough room

**Heather:**

exactly 605  
 (..)



**Ms Mood:**

right now the the next stage erm is  
to in do a final version of the ending  
that you think was best  
so you have to decide whose group  
you g go in 610  
erm it might end up  
that you know  
we only end up with on with two of the endings  
because everybody's gone  
erm to the groups that did two of the endings 615  
or maybe everybody would prefer one ending  
or maybe erm the people from there own ending would move  
completely into a different group  
and somebody else would move into their group  
you can go anywhere you want 620  
but you get with the people who want to do the same ending as you  
from those four endings  
and improve that version  
so that we have a final really good version  
by putting more minds to it more ideas 625

## 2.6 Discussion prior to Latest Version by Group Two

**Holly:**

can be any age really

**May:**

was it the same Jack as the one  
that put the devil in the hazelnut  
or a different one?

**Hazel:**

it could be

630

it's our s

it's like the story we could be ( )

**Holly:**

^(Miss Mood) isn't here ( ) yeah

?

**Arthur:**

yes she is

**Hazel:**

right so what we going to base it on

635

**Arthur:**

our story

**May:**

Jack

**Craig:**

the story that (Miss Mood telt)

**May:**

(and the) hazelnut

**Several:**

(laughs)

**Craig:**

Jack and the hazelnut aye

640

**Hazel:**

mm but what ending?

**May:**

this isn't playing is it?

**Arthur:**

yeah no it's not playing

it's recording

?

yeah

64

?

(laughs)

**Holly:**

could put wey first of all it best if we don't put like just at the very end

like when Jack got home

**Several:**

his mother was dead

(laughs)

(\_\_)

**Craig:**

we didn't say that

?:

what

650

?:

better

**Craig:**

we didn't say that

**Holly:**

we did

**Several:**

(laughs)

**Tom:**

we weren't we weren't supposed to say that

we were say

655

**Craig:**

Tom said it wrong for us

**Tom:**

we were su we were supposed to say

like that em his mother was dead in a week or so

**Arthur:**

(yeah cause)

**Craig:**

(you think) that the devil's going) to give him another week?

660

so like

**May:**

it wasn't the devil

it was Death

**Arthur:**

wey Death

**Craig:**

wey Death man same person

665

**Several;**

(devil/ death)

**Holly:**

no Death could be up there  
and the devil down there though

**May:**

shut up Holly  
don't conf don't confuse the matter . 670

**Arthur:**

right

**Hazel:**

right so what we going to do

**Tom:**

no no what we going to do

**Craig:**

base it on the story

**Arthur:**

yeah right 675

**May:**

are we well are we supposed  
to add an ending on to the ending or

**Arthur:**

no just make

**May:**

improve it or what 680

**Arthur:**

make it better

**Craig:**

make it better

**May:**

improve it

**Craig:**

he was combing

and he found many many things

685

**Several:**

(laughs)

**Arthur:**

yeah

**Craig:**

like glass jars

**Holly:**

over exaggerating I think that's called Craig

**Craig:**

glass jars

?:

( )

**Craig:**

(shells)

690

**May:**

tell us a million times not to over exaggerate

**Craig:**

(shells)

(.)

**Arthur**

right

**Craig:**

shells

(.)

?

(\_\_)

**Craig:**

more shells

695

**Several:**

(laughs)

right

right

right

**Craig:**

ooh me leg's stuck

Miss Mood can I go to the toilet?

700

?:

aaah

?

lets all (\_\_)

(\*\*\*)

**Hazel:**

and then we can put we ideas

?

also (\_\_)

**Arthur:**

yeah so it gets better

705

and better

and better

**Several:**

( )

**Hazel:**

right Arthur you can start

**Holly:**

yeah you go first

**May:**

I hate to say it

710

?

( )

(but that was) a good idea that was

**Hazel:**

Craig

**Arthur:**

thank you

**Hazel:**

em

**Arthur**

right

715

**Hazel:**

tell Craig what we're doing

**Arthur:**

right Craig we're going to have numbers right  
and then we're just going to tell it as it goes on  
and then do it (and make it better and better)

**Holly:**

(i'm going last

720

i'm going last)



?:

i'm thirty

**Holly:**

i'm going last

**Craig:**

(laughing) i'm thirtieth

**Ms Mood**

you going to have a try out of that

725

?

i'll be seventh

**Hazel:**

yeah

**Ms Mood**

right have a try out on the tape

**Holly**

mon then Arth you go first

?

i'll be seventh

730

**Holly:**

i'm last

**Craig:**

O sound

there's only six of us ( \_ )

**Several:**

(i'm sixth

i'm fifth

735

i'm fourth

laughs)

**Hazel:**

(come on then) Arthur you're starting

**Craig:**

fourth right

**Arthur:**

right

Jack's emptiness consumed him

740

he couldn't think

he couldn't think of anything but his mother

he decided

that he would comb the beach

and have a look for the (..)

745

?

oh no

**Arthur:**

for the hazelnut (..)

and he searched for hours and hours

but he couldn't find it

all he found were lots of pretty shells

750

but then he stumbled across a boat

**Hazel:**

the boat was quite rotty

but it could still sail

so he decided t to go along the beach

and see if he could have a look for the hazel sh (.) (laughs) nut

755

then he came back to the boat

and (laughing) got in it

and tried (laughing) rowing it

**Several:**

(laughter)

**Craig:**

ah Hazel

(\*\*\*)

## Jack and Death: Two Latest Versions

### 2.7 Latest Ending (B1): Group One

**Heather:**

well one day Jack em well the next day he decided 760  
 that there wasn't much use brooding about in the house  
 so he would do some beachcombing  
 so he went out  
 and while he was doing the beachcombing  
 em some villagers came (\_\_) across the beach 765  
 and he asked them where they were going  
 and they said  
 they were going out to do some fishing  
 to see if they could catch any fish  
 because nothing else would work 770  
 so they went out  
 and Jack decided  
 that there wasn't much use brooding about on the beach  
 so he went out after them  
 and while he wen when he went out 775  
 er em he wound down his  
 he put down his nets  
 and he caught some fish  
 but they all just dived back into the sea  
 and he put down his net again 780  
 and he pulled the net back up

and on the bottom of the net  
a fl after the fish had jumped out  
was a h a hazelnut em caught in the bottom  
and as he tried to get it out 785  
it fell back into the sea  
and started bobbing away towards the beach  
so he rowed back towards the beach  
and as he got out the boat onto the beach  
he couldn't 790  
he saw the we em hazelnut em (.) ge  
being washed into a pile of seaweed  
so he went over  
and he started digging in this seaweed  
until he found the hazelnut 795

**Eve:**

then Jack talked to Death through the em hazelnut  
and said to Death  
I will only let you out  
if you would not let humans die  
until the time until they were very old 800  
and only if they wished to die  
and em you wouldn't you would only let you would only let animals  
die a peaceful way  
so they couldn't feel any pain or anything  
so Death gave Jack his solemn promise 805  
and Jack went  
Jack let Death out of the hazelnut  
and they talked and talked

and em then Jack went back up to the house

**Dawn:**

he went into the house to see 810

if his mother had died or not

and he hadn't

so na and she hadn't

so he'd found out

that he'd made his self a promise 815

he walked through to the village

and saw everybody doing their job

which they were doing

and they were

the people in the field were chopping 820

and th e and they'd managed

and the pig was

it had been

?

(whispered prompt)

roasted on a fire

**Dawn:**

roasted on a fire 825

and all of them

and they all happy

and none of them had died

so he went back to his house

and he was quite happy 830

when he saw (.)

when em his mam said

em Death became a human person  
and th his mam and the Death got married

(.)

end

835

## 2.8 Latest Ending (B2): Group Two

### Arthur:

Jack's emptiness consumed him  
 he could think of nothing but his poor mother  
 he went combing the beach on the slim chance  
 that he might find (.) the hazelnut  
 but no such luck

840

he was walking along  
 when he found an old boat

### Hazel:

the boat was very (.) rusty  
 and ha was rotting away  
 (.) so Jack decided just

845

to leave the boat  
 and carry on

cause he didn't know  
 whose it was

he went along the beach  
 still hoping

850

to find the hazelnut  
 but didn't have very much luck  
 on the way back along the beach he decided

to investigate the boat

855

and so he went into the boat  
 and found the the oars  
 so he decided to push it out



and see if it would sail

it and it did

860

so he decided to get into the boat

**Tom:**

so he went for a little like (.) row er in the sea

as he was rowing in the sea

he got quite a way from land

and it started to become very stormy

865

so he tr started heading back to land

but as but the storm kept pushing him o

pushing him away

(..)

**May:**

but Jack was determined

to to find the hazelnut

870

**Craig:**

(sound of disgust or exasperation) (.) man

?:

(..)

(laughter)

**May:**

so he kept rowing

(.) eventually (.) he eventually (.) reached the island

(..)

**Craig:**

he searched the island for hours and hours

until he seen

875

what looked like a hazelnut in the sand

he picked it up  
and found it was a hazelnut  
and it had a twig in it  
this brought Jack's hopes up high 880

he op  
he took the twig out  
and Death appeared  
(.)Death explained to Jack

why he had to take his mother to the place 885  
where he was going to take her  
and Jack explained  
why he chucked him away

**Holly:**

(.) because he was he chucked him away  
because he was upset and everything  
and he loved his mother that much 890  
the Death Death says

that em (.) everybody's everybody dies in the end  
Jack understood this  
and he em Death took Jack home 895  
and when she got back

when he got back  
his mother was lying in her chair (.) asleep  
and he found out  
that he she wouldn't wake up 900

so overall they had a  
she say Death told Jack  
that she had a nice death in her sleep

(.) he went out for a walk

to think things over

905

and he seen all the hay being chopped down

and pig being caught

and all the people in the village were happy

**2.9 Immediate response to teacher's story:  
Group Three  
(23.9.91: after break: see Appendix 1)**

**Ms Mood:**

any ideas about what Jack can do?

(..)

**Fern:**

he could em em the 910

seeing as the man

was so light in the hazelnut

he might of thought o it

so he could go out in a boat

and like em travel for days and weeks 915

n like go on a big tour around the seas

trying to find this little hazelnut

and trying to get him out

but just ask him

if he wouldn't do it so quick 920

just give a him time

to get used to the thought

that his mam's not going to be there

and I like when he's out on the water by his self

then he'll get used 925

to her ma his mam not being there

and having to do everything his self

**Robin:**

that's what I was going to say

**Ms Mood:**

right now for about five minutes i'm going to ask you

to get together 930

in whatever way you like

and invent an ending for that story

which you will then tell onto the tape

so it try and make one

that you think 935

the others won't make

so we have two completely different endings

or three different endings

if we have three lots of you

or however you want to be 940

you might all want to be together

O.K.?

(\*\*)

**2.10 Discussion after Group Three decision  
to work together rather than form pairs**

**Fern:**

(laughs)

who's going to start

**Robin:**

you can

**Daisy:**

you can

945

**?:**

you

**Fern:**

(laughs)

well I think I em

it should be em something to do with

em Jack separating from his mother

and trying

950

and going out to find him

but if he doesn't

then he's got to try

and live without her

and then eventually em another Death should grow back

955

and em like it'll st ( )'ll start again

but he has to start

and like do things his self without his mam

like start living in a different house

because you can't depend on your parents all the year 960  
in all your life

(.)**Robin:**

em I think em

that he should go to town

and tell them

what he's done 965

and the they like all go searching

like get deep sea divers

and go under and everything

and they could just search all the oceans

until they find the Death 970

(.)

**Fern:**

yeah I like that idea

**Ms Mood:**

could you combine those two (.) in any way?

put the two ideas together and (.) Jack

**Robin:**

wey Fern could say hers

and then Jack could go back 975

and say em tell his mother

and they could sit thinking

Jack or his mother could say

ah why don't you go and tell the town

what's happened 980

and then you can do my idea

**Fern:**

yes so like it's sort of thing

that they're

like you're talking em

the t and the Jack goes

985

talks to his

em goes to live away

and then he comes back

and and cause Death still hasn't arrived back

and tells his em

990

cause everybody's started to starve now

and he has a talk with his mam

and tell

and his mam advises him to go

and tell everybody in the town

995

and then we go on to Robin's idea

**Ms Mood:**

right now that

those two ideas are excellent together

how what's going to happen

when he gets everybody from the town?

1000

**Fern:**

ee they're going to

like (.) gather up

you can go

**Robin:**

way if they could gather them all around

like he could stand ah sort of facing

1005



like start telling them  
and then he could start  
like saying organising them into parts  
and em

**Fern:**

Yeah 1010

**Robin:**

they could start going out into

**Fern:**

^(like they could have people)

**Robin:**

( )

**Fern:**

like a big em a big ship  
wi like wi little ships attached  
and there's somebody 1015

controlling the big ship

and that anchors up

and the little ships all go out

so everybody travels out on this big ship

that tow like one of the t rich town owners 1020

like own

and then the little boats go out

and stay there for quite a while

and the people on the boat are like watching to see

if they can see anything 1025

coming in with the tides and everything

and then when and then if it does get found

which will probably be a long way into progress  
then once he get found  
they bring him back 1030  
and they like take the thing out  
and they like they shake the  
em they start shaking him  
and it should em join his em bones back together  
and they'll pro start they'll start 1035  
so it's like a em skeleton being rebuilt  
Daisy you say something

**Daisy:**

(whispers)

do I have to?

well em s em then they could bring him back to shore  
then like (.) like em help all of them sort out 1040  
like all the people who think  
that their parents are going to die  
like trying to get used to living without them

**Fern:**

like separated  
so everybody d em separates 1045  
just so so they try and work independently

**Robin:**

yes then they could get Jacko a girlfriend

**Fern:**

yeah

**Robin:**

to keep Jacko em

or someone to keep Jacko em company 1050

while his ma's gone

**Daisy:**

( ) if you get a girlfriend

**Fern:**

yeah

**Ms Mood:**

so w er dy can you explain how your idea would work Daisy

of of trying to get everybody to feel better 1055

and to understand about their parents going to die

**Daisy:**

get a grieving counsellor

**Ms Mood:**

what does that mean?

**Daisy:**

don't know

I just read it in one of me mam's books 1060

about one o

cause I was reading through my mam's assessment books

which I shouldn't have been

but and like it was talking about somebody

who'd lost a mother or something 1065

and she was going to go to grieving counselling

on Tuesday at half past ten

**Ms Mood:**

and and what do you think

would happen there

because that might be interesting 1070

to bring that in mightn't it

**Daisy:**

( ) don't know

just talking a bit

**Ms Mood:**

so w would

**Fern:**

they just like help them get through

1075

**Robin:**

probablys

**Fern:**

their rough problems

**Robin:**

they probablys send someone

it's just like what happened to me grandma this weekend

em my grandma's son died

1080

and sh we've been going there every week overnight

and sleeping and everything

trying to keep me grandma company

taking her mind off

**Daisy:**

your grandmas son's your dad

1085

or your dad's brother

**Robin:**

mmm

(.)

and he di

er post er postman found him ( ) dead

and so me grandma has to get company all the time 1090

**Ms Mood:**

and and dy do you think that's helping her Robin

**Robin:**

yeah it is uhu a lot

but she's going to have

we cannot go there every day

she knows 1095

she understands it

cause she knows

that we've all got jobs to do

and sh but other ladies that are fr that are her friends

that are old 1100

they go though

and keep her company and all

**Fern:**

please I think it's important

that you have somebody

to lean on the shoulder 1105

and that em that person had somebody

to lean on your shoulder

so that like when you have got rough problems

like Robin says

then you have always got somebody to turn to 1110

if something like that happens

**Robin:**

(\_\_\_) all my cousins and aunties and everything ended up at me grandmas house

so they ended up  
sleeping at my house and me grandmas house

(.)

**Ms Mood:**

how would you bring this into the story 1115

do you think?

(...)

(\*)

**Fern:**

Jack d asked his mother

what what on earth he could do

J Jack's mother said

well I think it's a 1120

I think

it'll be a great thing for you

if you try to move away from me

and try to y m try to live somewhere by yourself

so y so if I so eventually when I do die 1125

then your then you'll won't be so upset

so J Jack went away

but he still kept near the shore

as it was the place he loved

soon later he returned back to his mother 1130

as he hadn't seen her for ages

and thought it would be a good idea to meet again

**Robin:**

um so whilst Jack went out to see his (..)

em the Death he'd been away for weeks

and then he came back 1135  
and he went to his house  
to s s seem see his mother  
I can't find him  
so they started discussing  
and they were up all night discussing 1140  
then Jack just thought of an idea  
and said  
em we'll s we'll get everybody together in the town  
and i'll tell them what i've done  
so next morning em Jack got everybody in the town 1145  
and told them  
and when he explained the  
he asked if anybody wanted to take part  
so everybody took part  
and so Jack organised like people into different boats 1150  
and with different equipment  
and then the big ship took them out  
and then they separated at different parts  
looking for it  
and then they were there for weeks 1155  
and (.) em (.) eventually they found him the acorn  
and so they took it back  
took the stick out  
and got this thin man out  
started shaking him 1160  
pulling his bones back together  
and then em (.) and then they pulled his bones back together

Death got Jack's mother  
 and took him away in peace  
 and he got some a girl for Jack 1165  
 to keep Jack company  
 and em just didn't  
 about two weeks later Jack was O.K.  
 and he'd got used to his mother (.) being away (.)

**Daisy:**

then one night he went to the emn (.) pub 1170  
 and he met this nice I young woman  
 who was his age  
 em (.) and all the rest of that sippy stuff  
 and (.) and they after (.) going out with each other for a few weeks  
 em they decided 1175  
 to get engaged  
 his wife his wife to be Clarissa was em (.) was very understanding  
 about his mother  
 and when they got married 1180  
 where his mother was buried  
 (.)

**Ms Mood:**

(quiet prompt)  
 what about the him helping other people?

**Daisy:**

oh yeah and em he decided  
 that he was going to be a greiving counsellor a grievance ecounsellor  
 and he helped other all the other people in the town 1185



to get over the loss  
of someone they cared for

(\*)

**Lee:**

I I like the way (.) Daisy d did that  
and all this sappy stuff

**Daisy:**

well i'm not going to say that in the actual one 1190

**Lee:**

(and) but was it just to quicken it up?

**Daisy:**

(.) mm cause I couldn't think of anything  
to say at the time

**Ms Mood:**

dy dy

**Fern:**

please I think 1195

that's a good idea though

she should just say that

It's like it makes it

it makes it like

**Robin:**

(\_) another story though 1200

**Fern:**

different

(laughs)

**Ms Mood:**

s sort of humorous you mean

**Fern:**

yeah but I suppose suppose

if she doesn't like say

(exaggerating tone of voice )and all this sappy stuff

1250

so if she just like say

like makes it

as like part of the normal story

and then then it'll be more

it won't be such as a love story

1210

**Ms Mood:**

and w what were you going to say instead of that Daisy

when you actually co came to doing it

**Daisy:**

em (.) haven't worked out yet

**Ms Mood:**

right Lee which bits apart from that (were)

**Daisy:**

Lee could do that about when he meets (that)

1215

**Robin:**

Lee there's quite a lot of (.) in my bit

(when I say)

**Fern:**

(yeah I know)

**Daisy:**

because there's really quite a lot in

**Fern:**

Lee's bit

1220

**Daisy:**

if Lee does from where Robin finds the man  
and shakes him and everything

**Fern:**

I was going to say

em em Lee could do

when like they went out on the

1225

and they were just arrived at the big boat

and how they separated

and how they all came back

and one of the ships had like had the nut

and then and then and then the next bit Daisy continues on

1230

**Ms Mood:**

right

**Fern:**

it's up to Lee like

(it's just a point cause it's a bit long for Lee)

**Daisy:**

(when they get back)

if they

1235

when they get back if they have a big feast like

of all the food which they've managed to kill and that

and like been happy

because they've succeeded getting Death back

**Fern:**

(yes but)

1240

**Daisy:**

(so I think) instead of (.) em (.)

whatever we calling her

em (.) wey

**Fern:**

Jack?

**Daisy:**

no the Jack yeah

1245

Jack if Jack meets Clarissa at the feast

instead of like at the pub

**(Robin and Lee work separately for a time.**

**Daisy and Fern continue to work with the teacher and are recorded.)**

**Daisy:**

as the sailors as the all the men came in

all th wom (.) all the men which had stayed at home decided

they would go

1250

and organise a feast

all the men made the cakes

and all the women made the drinks

em then the butcher went out

and k and killed all the cows

1255

and the men who chopped the corn chopped i t a lot quicker

then all the people went and got all the eggs

and then they had a really big feast

and then when all the b the feast was on

(.) there was a young girl Jack's age 1260  
who'd recently lost her mother

(.)

**Fern:**

please M Miss Mood after she's said that  
em sh you could say  
that he went off

to help her get through this 1265

and then and that's how they fell in love

please and also whe

**Daisy:**

sounds too mushy

**Fern:**

(laughs)

**Daisy:**

well it does

**Fern:**

em when you said the em 1270

when it was em

when you say

when Lee and Robin say

that they em find the

they could say 1275

that it was Jack who found it

and Jack after that they didn't used to call him Jack

they used to call him the wonderman

(laughs)

and that's what the story's called 'wonderman' 1280

(\*)

**Ms Mood:**

so can I just ask you Daisy about this mushy idea  
is it because it doesn't sound true to you  
that that would really happen that

**Daisy:**

it just doesn't really

**Fern:**

please I know 1285

that could happen

because like you just go

and visit somebody often

I was reading yesterday in this thing

that me mam get's em a magazine 1290

and it said

em that em this lady had went to these em lessons

cause she'd just lost her em these groups

cause she'd just lost her thing like her

**Daisy:**

husband 1295

**Fern:**

yeah husband

and well he'd left her

and they were divorced now

and she was still trying to get over it

and she saw this thing 1300

it was a friendship group

so she went there

and em there was a raffle on  
she took part in it every week  
and em she won a husband 1305  
because like she won  
and there was this man drawing it out  
and she just like fell in love with him  
as soon as she saw him and everything  
so it does happen 1310

**Daisy:**

I know but I mean  
like it doesn't sound right  
I mean like (.)

**Fern:**

yeah but who says  
it has to be true 1315  
it's just fiction  
you're not going to suddenly woke up  
and you say  
hi i'm Death is there?

**Ms Mood**

so so em maybe because they both got 1320  
had the same difficulty  
(then that would bring them closer)

**Fern:**

(yeah em that's)  
how they matched  
like they matched at first like that 1325  
and then and then as they worked more together



trying to help other people  
as they Jack had helped  
Wonderman had helped her  
and then they n then they just got that close 1330  
that they got married

**Ms Mood:**

right now one more thing before they come back in  
when Jack went away from his house  
I don't know  
if you agree with me about Fern's part Daisy 1335  
but erm y you didn't say  
what happened  
when Jack lived away  
how whether he did

**Fern:**

(oh yeah i'll put that in) 1340

**Ms Mood:**

(manage to become) more independent

**Fern:**

yeah I'll put that in

**Ms Mood:**

d do you want to have a try at it  
or shall we

**Fern:**

no i'll just 1345

**Ms Mood:**

right we'll bring them in then an

(\*)



**Fern:**

I want this story to be called the Wonderman  
because em when Jack when Jack gives it away  
he's the one who finds the man again  
so he's he ca he's called the Wonderman  
cause he makes everybody happy (.)  
anybody agree?

1350

**All:**

(laugh)

**Ms Mood:**

well you don't have to all agree on it now  
let's tell the story

**Daisy:**

well we may as well just let Jack

1355

I mean like (\_\_\_)

**Robin:**

I think he should be called Jacko

**Fern:**

(laughingly)

Jacko the Wonderman

**Robin:**

uh hu something like that

**Daisy:**

or perhaps something like

1360

(.)

**Robin:**

Jack and his mother

(.)

**Daisy:**

Death that went away

(.)

how no em

**Fern:**

Return of the skeleton

(laughs)

**Robin:**

that's like a horror

1365

**Fern:**

(laughs)

**Daisy:**

Death (\_\_\_)

**Robin:**

(laughingly)

people wouldn't want to hear that

**Lee:**

i've seen a

i've seen a programme

where they build a skeleton

1370

(laughs)

I don't know if it's plastic but

**Robin:**

probably wood or

**Fern:**

please Miss Mood er em I don actually I think

that title'll be good would be good

It'll just be the opposite of the story

1375

em the skeleton returns  
because then it means  
that it's got love in as well  
and it's like (laughs) a love story  
but everybody thinks it's a horror

1380

**Ms Mood:**

right so they get a surprise

**Fern:**

so it's a different interpretation (of the story)

**Ms Mood:**

that's interesting

right so i i've actually recorded those

so we don't need to chose a title now

1385

cause you've got lot's of different ideas

(\*)

## 2.11 Latest Ending: Group Three

**Fern:**

Jack asked his mother  
 what on earth he should do  
 his mother said  
 that I think it be a good idea 1390  
 if we'd separated for a while  
 so that you could  
 so that you could see  
 what it's like  
 just to be without me 1395  
 so after after a couple of days after he'd got packed and everything  
 and had enough food  
 just by himself just until he got there  
 he ca he went away  
 as he moved into his a new h a new cottage 1400  
 he won he he felt funny without his mam his mother there  
 but he felt sort of at home  
 as the sea sea was quite near  
 he h h h he got used to it in just in a while  
 but still at night he in the morning he 1405  
 he kept on giving a cup of tea to somebody  
 that wasn't there  
 it felt funny  
 it still felt funny even after a few weeks  
 but eventually he eventually

he came he came he came up with the idea 1410  
 that he'd try and live without without his mam  
 but he'd visit her on several occasions during the months  
 so as so one day when James was  
 when Jacko was on his way  
 to see his mum 1415  
 he was looking at the sea  
 see if anything had come in  
 but nothing was nothing much was there  
 as he reached the house  
 he wen up he went upstairs 1420  
 his mother was ly just having a rest upstairs  
 he he talked to his mother  
 about what had been happening  
 and his mum said  
 yes that i'd felt the same way too 1425  
 it's been funny with no cup o' tea in the morning  
 his mum his mother told him  
 that I think it be a good idea  
 if you went  
 and told the town people 1430  
 of what what you have done  
 and so you can come up with a compr compromise  
 and see if everybody can join in  
 Jack and Dethat I think it be a good idea  
 if you went  
 and told the town people 1435  
 of what what you have done

and so you can come up with a compr compromise  
and see if everybody can join in

**Robin:**

so when he was gathered everybody in

Jack thought

1440

and he said

so he told them the idea

and the idea was to get little boats

and attach them to the big boat

so he got them into groups for in the boats

1445

everybody got a boat

and attached to the big boat

the big boat set off

and they they started separating

(.)

**Lee:**

Jack was in (.) boat with some the other people

1450

and he (.) they searched (.) for a long time

but then they manag (.)

s saw something

so they rowed towards it

and they found

1455

it was the hazelnut

they picked it up out the water

and they started to row back to the big boat

(..)

**Robin:**

(whispered prompt)

Jack

(.)

an when they got back to the big boat

1460

(.) they (.) showed (.) everybody the h

that they had found the nut

and they they pulled out the twig

and shook the hazelnut

(..)

**Ms Mood:**

(whispered prompt)

they rowed back to shore

1465

**Robin:**

and then (.) they st went back to shore

**Daisy:**

from the shoreside

a there were lots of people standing waiting

then suddenly they saw all the boats coming back

Jack's mother was delighted

1470

she ran inside and started to make bake some cakes

everyone else went

and decided that they'd make a feast

for everyone coming back

and to celebrate Death

1475

when all them people who came ashore

they all went to the feast

(.) a young girl called Clarissa about em Jack's age was there

she had recently lost her mother too

Jack and her decided

1480

that they'd both (.) help other people cope

with someone they care for dying

so so as they worked they got closer

and they decided to get married

they got married

1485

and on their wedding day

they the wedding was ne just next to the place

where Jack's mother was (.) buried

the end



**2.12 Extract from end of teacher's second telling  
of Jack and Death, to Group Three (23.9.91)**

**Ms Mood:**

....and he became so small  
that I trapped him inside a hazelnut  
and threw it out to sea  
(sharp intake of breath)  
oh Jack said his mother 1490  
what this is indeed a terrible thing  
you've done  
for all things must die  
the only way that we can go on living  
is if other things die 1495  
its part of the cycle  
that goes on and on  
there is life in death Jack  
and I was ready to be at peace  
and I was ready to die 1500  
and I was in pain  
and it would have made me happy  
but look at you now mother  
and how could I let death come for you  
when we'd lived such a happy life together 1505  
you would have been dead by now  
yes she said  
and you would have had a lovely supper and a good soup

and you would have gone to the village  
and all the people would have been eating  
and you might have met a nice girl there  
and life would have just gone on as normal  
oh Jack said  
what can I do?

1510

