



# Arrivals

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## Brian Gallagher

### Teaching Guide

By Aisling Hamill

#### SUMMARY & THEMES

The story begins with a flashback to Lake Katchewanooka, 2 July 1928. On that day, the experiences of Lucy, a young Ojibwe girl from a local reserve, are pivotal to the story that is yet to unfold.

Back in the present day, Dublin teen Ciara Farrelly visits her deceased grandfather's home in Ontario, Canada, as she endeavours to uncover a secret from his past. Her granddad Mike has bequeathed clues that she must use to unravel one childhood chapter from the story of his life.

This transatlantic tale takes us back and forth through time, piecing together the puzzle of Mike Farrelly's childhood escapades with Lucy and their friend Will during the summer of 1928.

The tale is rich in history. We learn about the Great War (WW1), the 1916 Easter Rising and the impact of colonisation on North America's indigenous people.

Each nugget is skilfully revealed through the shared histories and experiences of the characters and their families. As Ciara hones her sleuthing skills, she reveals her discoveries to the reader. Together we share the shocking revelation of the trio's secret, almost a century later.

Some of the themes explored are:

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|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friendship     | <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bullying       | <input type="checkbox"/> Secrecy       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Racism         | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Courage        | <input type="checkbox"/> Race          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> War            | <input type="checkbox"/> Social status |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Discrimination | <input type="checkbox"/> Emigration    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Family ties   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emigration     |  |

*Arrivals* lends itself well to cross-curricular integration in the areas of Art, SPHE, History and Geography. Several examples are listed in this Teaching Guide, but opportunities for further development of the themes are vast.

#### Unit 1 Arrivals pp.7–55

##### SUMMARY

###### Prologue, pp.7–13

July 1928: While snooping around Brent Packham's lakeside estate, Lucy was surprised by the sound of two men approaching. Now she is hiding in the shadows, listening to the men arguing nearby.

Brent Packham is involved in smuggling alcohol across the border to the USA, which is illegal due to America's prohibition laws. His associate Jake is trying to negotiate a better price. Brent pulls out a gun and taunts Jake as he begs for mercy. Lucy hears a scuffle and a blow: Jake will not be leaving the boathouse alive.

###### Chapter 1, pp.16–18

2015: Ciara and her dad await their plane in Dublin Airport. This trip to Lakefield in Ontario, Canada, follows the death of Ciara's granddad, Mike Farrelly, the previous year.

Despite the sombre nature of the visit, Ciara is excited at the promise of adventure. Dad's errands are less inviting; taking care of the paperwork and legal matters that follow the death of a parent.

###### Chapter 2, pp.19–23

June 1928: In a small Ontario town, Mike and Will are laying the foundations of a new friendship.

Mike comes from a working-class background; his mother works as the nurse and his father works as the janitor in the Grove, the private school that Wilson attends. Originally from Dublin, the Farrellys are practising Catholics.

Wilson Taggart comes from a wealthy family. His widowed father is a steel magnate and a member of the gentry. The Taggarts' roots are in Northern Ireland, and they are Protestant.

These differences in religion and social standing create tension: already Mike's father has cautioned him to be polite to Wilson, and not to question him too much.

###### Chapter 3, pp.24–27

2015: Ciara is consumed by memories of her granddad and the mystery surrounding his younger days.

Born in 1916, a significant date in Irish history, Granddad Mike died aged ninety-eight, having lived a full life. He has left a letter addressed to Ciara, to be read only after all other legalities are finalised.

###### Chapter 4, pp.28–35

1928: We learn more about Mike and Wilson's adventures. Wilson is an only child and sees himself as smaller and weaker than his new friend Mike. He fears that their friendship will be short-lived, as his father would not approve of their differing religions and the gap in their social classes.

Lucy, a budding artist, is sketching the landscape when she meets the two boys by chance. The boys identify her as an inhabitant of the reserve and warn her not to get caught trespassing. Irritated, Lucy explains that the land belonged to her people before the government took it. The boys empathise with Lucy and soon they fall into easy conversation. Lucy sketches caricatures of them and the ice is broken.

###### Chapter 5, pp.36–38

2015: Ciara and her dad travel by car from Toronto Airport to Granddad's house in Lakefield, Ontario. Dad sees Ciara's sense of loss as she becomes quiet and pensive. He comforts her and together they reminisce about what a great man Granddad was.

###### Chapter 6, pp.39–45

1928: Lucy, Mike and Will explore their similarities and differences as they chat by the lakeside. The three youngsters agree to form the Giimoodad Club, named after the Ojibwe word for a secret.

## Chapter 7, pp.46–48

2015: Ciara sits alone in her grandfather's study. The many pictures framing the walls tell his life story, but not a single memento hints at what her granddad's secret might be.

## Chapter 8, pp.49–55

1928: Mike pushes his father to allow Will to join the Farrellys for dinner. Da is uneasy and refers to the Taggarts as 'powerful landowners back in Ireland'. Mike thinks that whatever happened in Ireland shouldn't affect them in Canada, and his father relents.

Later, in his dormitory, Will records this enjoyable day in his journal. His pleasure is dulled momentarily when the unwelcome memory of Moose Packham and his various misdeeds invade his mind. But thinking of his new friends lifts Will's spirits, and he drifts off to sleep happily.

### DISCUSSION POINTS:

- **Prologue:** Lucy is in a dangerous position: she is both a trespasser and a witness to a far more serious crime. What do you think she should do? Why? (pp.9–13)
- **Chapter 1:** Ciara foresees adventure during this trip to Toronto; her father cautions her not to get her hopes up. Who do you think is more realistic, Ciara or her dad? Why? (p.18)
- **Chapter 2:** Mike and Will are both fans of Charles Lindbergh. What qualities does Mr Lindbergh possess that garner such respect and admiration from the two boys? What famous figure (either from the past or alive today) do you most admire and why? (p.22)
- **Chapter 3:** Granddad has left a letter for Ciara. What do you think it might contain? (pp.26–27)
- **Chapter 4:** Wilson disagrees with his father's way of thinking about religion and social class. Who do you think has the better attitude? Would Mr Taggart's way of thinking be acceptable today? (p.30)
- **Chapter 5:** Dad reassures Ciara that Granddad was 'a great father and a good man'. What qualities do you think define a good man? Explain. (p.37)
- **Chapter 6:** The children decide to keep their friendship a secret. Do you think this is a good idea? How do you think their parents would react if they found out about the Giimoodad Club? (pp.44–45)
- **Chapter 7:** As the saying goes, 'A picture is worth a thousand words.' The pictures framing the walls of Ciara's grandfather's study tell his life story. What six pictures would you choose to tell the story of your life? Bring them in to show the class and explain your selection. (p.47)

- **Chapter 8:** Mike thinks the way people were back in the old country shouldn't affect the way they're seen in Canada. Do you agree with Mike, or can you also empathise with his father? Why? (p.50)

### ACTIVITIES

#### 1. Difference can be divisive

Write a page from Mike's 1928 diary, as he is trying to befriend Wilson, a boy from an affluent, Protestant background so different to his own. Putting yourself in his shoes, describe your feelings and the challenges you are facing. Research the history of the time to inform your writing.

Write a second diary entry from a similar perspective, but set in modern Ireland.

Compare and contrast the two diary entries. How has life in Ireland changed? Has it affected how we relate to one another? Is this a positive or a negative development?

#### 2. A letter to remember

Imagine you could receive a letter from someone who has died. Who would you like to hear from? What secrets might be shared? Compose that imaginary letter to yourself.

#### 3. Sticks and stones

Moose Packham is a classic bully, and he has chosen Wilson as his victim. What advice would you give Will to help him deal with Moose's hurtful words?

What would you say or do if Moose Packham tried to pick on you? Use the advice provided on [www.antibullyingireland.com](http://www.antibullyingireland.com) to help you compose your response.

#### 4. Record your journey

Will records his daily events and news in a journal. He includes personal experiences but also details current or important events such as the arrival of talking movies and oil being discovered in the Middle East.

Keep a daily journal this week and include both personal experiences and newsworthy entries from the wider world. Ensure that your dates, times and facts are accurate by researching your chosen topic on news sites such as [trte.rte.ie/news2day](http://trte.rte.ie/news2day).

## Unit 2 Complications pp.58–151

### SUMMARY

#### Chapter 9, pp.58–70

1928: On her way to the lake, Lucy meets

Mr Staunton, who is the Indian Agent – a government representative who monitors the inhabitants of the reserve. We learn of some of the restrictions placed by the government on the native community.

Later, as Lucy and the boys are frying up some fish, they attract the attention of Moose Packham, the bully, and his buddy Ricky. Moose tries to force Will into handing over his food. Mike and Lucy jump to his defence, and with their support, Will's confidence grows.

#### Chapter 10, pp.71–72

2015: Ciara is desperate for the paperwork and legal proceedings surrounding her grandfather's estate to end. Finally the last piece is revealed: the letter that Granddad left for Ciara.

#### Chapter 11, pp.73–76

1928: Back on the reservation, Lucy reflects on her culture. She wishes to remain true to the Ojibwe ways yet still enjoy other parts of Canadian life. She has had to lie to cover up her friendship with the boys, and vows to be more careful in future.

#### Chapter 12, pp.77–88

1928: We learn that both Mike and Lucy's dads were deployed to Belgium during WWI, where they fought for the British Crown. Lucy's dad was killed; Mike's survived but carried emotional scars that would last a lifetime. Will's father did not serve in WWI. Instead, he ran the family's steel plant, making artillery, tanks and planes.

Lucy describes how the Ojibwe were treated just as poorly after the war as they were before. Will realises how sheltered his life has been compared to his friends'.

#### Chapter 13, pp.89–93

2015: Granddad has left a riddle for Ciara to solve. With her father's help, she gets to the bottom of it. It leads them to a garden fence post. They must dig in that exact spot for the buried treasure!

#### Chapter 14, pp.94–107

1928: Lucy is again caught by the beady eyes and sharp words of the Indian Agent, Mr Staunton. She keeps her anger hidden as he berates and questions her.

Back in the dormitory, Will tries to stand up to Moose but is soon overwhelmed. Mike arrives mid-fray and rushes to defend his friend. Together they fight Moose off. Enraged, Moose threatens Mike and his family.

#### Chapter 15, pp.108–109

2015: In the garden, the spade clangs as it meets a metal surface. Dad lifts a rusty box from the earth. Herein lie Granddad's secrets. Ciara lifts the lid ...

### Chapter 16, pp.110–117

1928: The G Club members meet by the lake. The boys fill Lucy in on their altercation with Moose, while she explains the history of the area. Lucy tells the boys that the first foreign settlers would never have survived the harsh winter climate if it weren't for the tribes, but instead of thanking them, the settlers took away their land.

Will agrees that it was unfair, but he reminds Lucy that all through history, people have moved from one place to another. Lucy's answer – that it's easier to go with the change if you're white, and rich and powerful – silences the group.

### Chapter 17, pp.118–124

1928: Mike asks his mother why she and his dad chose to leave Dublin for Canada. Mike's mother talks of Da's difficulties after the war, and her words weigh heavy on Mike's mind. He thinks that Da should have been treated better after what he endured in the trenches.

Later, the boys are impressed by Lucy's survival skills and her knowledge of the land. Wilson wins an impromptu swimming race. The win buoys his confidence and he feels like an equal to Lucy and Mike.

### Chapter 18, pp.125–126

2015: Inside the buried box is a thick, typed manuscript. In the attached letter, Ciara's granddad tries to explain the importance of the story she's about to read; crucial information about a life-and-death decision that never made it to a court of law. Only now that all involved are dead can Granddad Mike share his tale.

### Chapter 19, pp.127–133

1928: Back on the reservation, Lucy spends the evening with her mother and Anne, her oldest friend. Anne is traditional and believes in maintaining the tribal customs. The girls' differing values are beginning to strain their friendship.

Meanwhile, Wilson is conflicted about accepting the Farrelly family's invitation to celebrate Dominion Day with them. He knows that his father would disapprove of his friendships with Mike and Lucy, but he is confident that this time his dad is wrong. He decides to accept their invitation, and the guilty feeling disappears.

### Chapter 20, pp.134–142

1928: Mike learns that Moose's family, the Packhams, are wealthy brewers. Their company, the Maple Brewery, is run by Moose's father, Brent. He is rumoured to be a criminal and a smuggler of rum.

Lucy listens to the brass band play at Curve

Lake. She misses the boys and the fun they would be having if they were together – more fun than she is having with Anne.

### Chapter 21, pp.143–146

2015: Ciara is fascinated by her grandfather's manuscript. She fights sleep and tries to read on. Her father tells her to go to bed, but first she shares what she has learnt so far.

Her father tells her he had heard mention of Lucy and Will but had never met them. Neither had he met his grandparents, Ma and Da Farrelly, who passed away before he was born.

### Chapter 22, pp.147–151

1928: Wilson and Mike help with the clean-up at the waterfront after Dominion Day. Will's thoughts wander as he works. He enjoyed celebrating with the Farrelly family, but during the night he overheard Mr Farrelly screaming in his sleep about a gas attack. The next morning, alone in the kitchen, Will tells him that there is nothing to be ashamed of; that lots of brave men suffered. Mr Farrelly's tense demeanour and hasty exit make it clear that Will has spoken out of turn. Will worries that he will no longer be a welcome guest in the Farrelly home.

Moose and Ricky are also helping with the clean-up. Moose makes fresh threats and calls Mike a 'thick Irish Paddy'. Mike's quick retorts belie his fear that Moose will make good on his threats to have his father fired. Will joins in the war of words. He has learnt a valuable lesson from Mike – never show weakness to a bully.

## DISCUSSION POINTS

- **Chapter 9:** The Indian Agent, Mr Staunton, monitors everyone that lives on the reserve. How would you feel if you had to follow not only your parents' rules but a government representative's too? What would you do about it? (pp.60–61)
- The tribespeople were forbidden from speaking in their native tongue. How might this rule impact on tribal culture and traditions? Do you think it would have positive or negative consequences? (p.61)
- **Chapter 10:** Ciara's letter from Granddad has finally been revealed. Can you describe how she must have felt as she waited? Think about her contrasting emotions before and after she receives the letter. Have you ever had a similar experience of waiting for a much longed-for gift or event? Share your experience with the class. (p.72)
- **Chapter 11:** Lucy was spotted with Will and Mike by another boy from the reserve. Her quick thinking and tall tale

about a tangled rudder saves her, but it is too close for comfort. What could she do to make sure the G Club members are not caught out again? (p.75)

- **Chapter 12:** Mike's father suffers from nightmares after serving in the Great War. How have the experiences of soldiers changed over the past hundred years? Research the differences in weapons and technology, training, equipment, the average age of soldiers, etc. (pp.80–81)
- **Chapter 13:** Ciara and Dad have unearthed a metal box. What do you think is inside? Predict what Ciara might find once she opens the lid. (p.91)
- **Chapter 14:** Mike arrives just in time to defend Will from Moose the bully. Do you think Mike did the right thing? What other course of action could he have taken? (pp.103–105)
- **Chapter 16:** Lucy asks, 'It's easier to go with the change if you're white, and rich and powerful, isn't it?' Do you agree with her words? Why? (p.117)
- **Chapter 17:** Mike learns more about his father's past from his mother. How do you think this extra information will change the way he relates to his Da? (pp.119–121)
- **Chapter 18:** Granddad's note explains that only now that all involved are dead can he share his tale. Why do you think this is important? What potential consequences may have forced him to withhold the truth? (p.126)
- **Chapter 19:** Wilson decides to spend Dominion Day with the Farrellys even though he knows his father would not approve. He thinks his father is wrong to judge Mike's family. What is your opinion? (p.133)
- **Chapter 20:** Mike wants to 'know his enemy' and asks several questions about Moose and the Packham family. How can he use that information to his advantage? (pp.134–137)
- **Chapter 21:** Why do you think Granddad chose to leave the manuscript to Ciara, rather than an adult? (pp.143–146)
- **Chapter 22:** Wilson tells Mr Farrelly not to be ashamed of his night terrors. How can we tell that Mr Farrelly thinks Will spoke out of turn? (pp.148–149)

## ACTIVITIES

### 1. What makes a bully?

A bully directs his or her own frustrations, hurt or anger onto someone else. They might be having difficulty at home or at school, or feeling a lack of attention from friends, parents or teachers, and decide that bullying

will make them seem 'tough' or 'cool' and in charge.

Describe a day in the life of Moose. What might be happening in his life that makes him lash out at others? Try to empathise by giving him a struggle or challenge at home.

## 2. Riddle me this

Granddad and Ciara are both skilled at composing and decoding riddles. Examine the riddle in the story, then try to compose your own. The answer to your riddle should be a person in the class. Pick someone that you know well, and see if your teacher can solve it!

## 3. Buried treasure

Imagine one of your grandparents left you treasure, buried at the bottom of the garden. What would you like to find? Compose a paragraph detailing the contents of the metal box. Use descriptive language so the reader can see your treasure clearly in their mind's eye.

## 4. Bear necessities

Using Lucy's advice (pp.121–123), compose a step-by-step guide of what *not* to do if you come across a bear. Use illustrations.

# Unit 3 Departures pp. 152–237

### SUMMARY

#### Chapter 23, pp.154–164

June 1928: Tired of Moose Packham bullying her friends, Lucy comes up with an idea to amuse them. She will trespass on the Packham estate, sketch the building and add comic caricatures of Moose and Ricky to the scene. But her plan is interrupted by the arrival of two men. Lucy hides behind some crates as Brent Packham and his companion start to talk.

Wilson's father is perturbed by his growing friendship with Mike. Irritated, Will hopes that he has never acted so superior to people who were poorer than him.

That night, sleep eludes Lucy as she struggles to process the events of the day. She didn't see the man being killed, but there was no escaping what she had heard. She knows she should inform the police, but she hesitates. Her age and her heritage could cast doubt on her words. By coming forward, she might instead implicate herself or her mother in the shady goings-on. Her family, her future and her life are on the line.

#### Chapter 24, pp.165–174

1928: Lucy shares her terrifying tale with the boys. Their reactions are mixed. Wilson's first impulse is to call the police. Mike is more cautious and agrees that Lucy may be implicated in the crime.

Lucy leads the way back to the Packham estate. There are fresh tyre tracks in the mud, and it is clear that the body has been moved. Wilson finds a blood stain on the floor of the boathouse. He collects evidence using his pen knife. Mike guesses that Packham might send the body in a crate along with the next shipment of illegal booze.

#### Chapter 25, pp.175–176

2015: Ciara decides to read the rest of the manuscript outdoors. She sits by the marsh, the exact spot Granddad describes in the manuscript. Ciara identifies with young Mike and his friends and worries about the outcome of their adventure.

#### Chapter 26, pp.177–184

1928: The trio set off separately for the brewery in Peterborough. Mike sees Lucy and Will at the train station, and they stand apart to avoid suspicion. But their plans for a safe and undetected passage are thrown into doubt when Mr Staunton appears. Wilson distracts him by asking him the time while Lucy hides. They board a different carriage and decide not to disembark until Staunton is well out of sight.

#### Chapter 27, pp.185–192

1928: Mike is caught trespassing in the brewery and sent on his way with a warning to seek permission in future. The three friends plan to return later that night, under cover of darkness.

#### Chapter 28, pp.193–194

2015: Ciara is absorbed by her grandfather's manuscript and the secrets that lie within. She wonders what she would have done in his shoes.

#### Chapter 29, pp.195–224

1928: Back at the brewery, Mike, Will and Lucy prepare to breach the grounds. As the moon's light dims, they move. Once in the warehouse, they separate and begin their search for the body.

Wilson spies Brent Packham in the office, on the phone. He is insisting on a border run that needs to happen tonight. Wilson accidentally makes a sound and soon finds himself face to face with Packham. Brent smacks him to the floor and the interrogation begins.

Meanwhile Lucy has come across a consignment destined for Buffalo, a town just across the American border. This may be the one. She alerts Mike and together they

try to open a box.

Brent Packham half drowns Wilson in his attempts to get the truth from him. Eventually Wilson breaks and tells Packham his real reason for being at the brewery that night. Willson refuses to give up his friends and the water torture continues.

Mike and Lucy force the crate open. Clearly visible under the ice is the body of a man.

Packham's unrelenting torture continues and Will eventually cracks and reveals his friends' names. He screams out a warning. Lucy and Mike hear Will's desperate cries and race for the exit, with Packham in close pursuit. They split up and try to reach the police.

Packham corners Mike in the vathouse, a pistol in his hand. He threatens to kill Mike unless Lucy gives herself up.

In the office, Will is working on his restraints. He saws through the bonds with a broken mug.

Lucy gives herself up to Packham in exchange for Mike's life. They soon realise that Packham intends to kill them both.

Wilson throws a bottle of ammonia into Packham's face. A scuffle ensues. Lucy takes her chance and stabs him in the ribs with her hunting knife. He screams, fires twice and lunges at the children. In desperation Mike tries a wrestling move he once saw. Packham is carried forward and falls over the rail, hitting the cement floor with a sickening thud. Brent Packham is dead, and it was at the hands of the G Club.

#### Chapter 30, pp.225–227

1928: The trio sprint for the exit. Wilson is determined to alert the authorities. He is sure they will believe that the friends were acting in self-defence. Lucy and Mike disagree. Mike is fearful of conviction and of the implications for their families. He also considers the unfair treatment of native people and the possibility that Lucy may be accused of killing a white man. Together they swear a solemn oath never to tell another person as long as they live.

#### Chapter 31, pp.228–233

1928: Lucy reflects on the days since the killing. The G Club held its final gathering and as they bade their goodbyes, tears had filled Lucy's eyes. She had lit a fire to mark the passing of Packham's spirit.

Mr Taggart visits the Farrelly home to thank them for their hospitality towards Wilson. The atmosphere is strained. We learn that Packham is being buried in Peterborough. Rumours abound that his death is related to American gangsters.

Wilson reminisces about his friends Lucy and Mike. He has a new-found confidence and self-belief that he learnt from Mike. He is scheduled to return to the Grove school in September, but he knows that the G Club will never be together again.

### Chapter 32, pp.234–235

2015: Ciara's mind races from the revelations of 1928. She empathises with her granddad and his friends. She feels they did nothing of which to be ashamed and wonders what she would have done in their place. She is relieved that things had not gone differently and that Granddad Mike had lived a full and happy life before he finally shared his tale.

### Epilogue, pp.236–237

Wilson served in WWII as a member of the Canadian Air Force. Following a year-long convalescence from war wounds, he founded his own aviation company and settled in Vancouver.

Lucy won a scholarship and became a successful artist in Toronto. She remained proud of her heritage but never again lived on a reserve.

Moose Packham drifted into a life of crime. He served many prison sentences before his death at age fifty from a heart attack.

Mike also served as a fighter pilot in WWII. He went on to become an English teacher and a lecturer.

Mike, Lucy and Wilson never met again, but they never forgot the bond they once had and the oath they had sworn in the unforgettable summer of 1928.

### DISCUSSION POINTS

- **Chapter 23:** What do you think Lucy should have done after witnessing the murder? Can you understand her response? (pp.162–163)
- **Chapter 24:** Wilson and Mike have mixed reactions and advice for Lucy when they find out about the murder. Who do you think is right? Explain your answer. (pp.165–167)
- **Chapter 24:** Ciara sits in the same spot her granddad describes and wonders what she would have done in his place. Knowing Ciara's personality traits, what do you think she would have done? (pp.175–176)
- **Chapter 26:** Lucy is almost caught by Mr Staunton at the train station. What might the consequences have been for Lucy and her mother if he had seen her? (pp.180–181)
- **Chapter 27:** Mike is caught trespassing in the brewery. He gets off with a warning.

He was lucky – there could have been more serious consequences. Can you think of any? (pp.187–188)

- **Chapter 29:** Packham tortures Will and nearly drowns him. Eventually Will gives in and tells him everything. Do you think he did the right thing? Is he a good friend to Mike and Lucy? What would you do in his place? (pp.201–206)
- Mike and Lucy find the body in a crate filled with ice. Why do you think it was stored like that? (pp.203–204)
- **Chapter 30:** Do you think the trio should go to the police? If they do, what do you think the consequences will be? Would they be the same nowadays? (p.225)
- **Chapter 31:** Why do you think the G Club members decide never to meet again? (pp.228–229)
- **Chapter 32:** Ciara empathises with her granddad and his friends. She thinks they were brave and loyal in very challenging circumstances. Do you agree with everything they did? Provide examples from the text. (pp.234–235)
- **Epilogue:** The G Club members lived full and interesting lives. Both boys pursued their interest in aviation, and Lucy followed her dreams to a career as an artist. Meanwhile, Moose had a difficult life and died young. Are these the conclusions you expected? Do you think they're realistic? (pp.236–237)

### ACTIVITIES

#### 1. Draw the line

Lucy is a skilled artist, and her friends enjoy her exaggerated illustrations of them. Working in pairs, have one person write a clear and accurate description of a person: their build, age, facial features, clothes, habits and manners. The other person should sketch a caricature to match the description. Swap and do it the other way around, to see who can create the more vivid character profile.

#### 2. Action!

Imagine that the Giimoodad Club meet once more in later life. Twenty years after the events of that summer, Mike and Wilson attend an art exhibition in Toronto featuring Lucy's work. Do they recognise one another? Are they happy to meet once more? How do they feel about the events of 1928, now that so much time has passed?

Script the scene and share it with your class. Pick three classmates to act out the reunion for the class. You are the director and you must provide guidance for the actors.

### 3. Technology Take 2!

Will, Mike and Lucy display their super sleuthing skills as they uncover Brent Packham's crimes. They rely on their wits and very little else, since technology was limited in the 1920s. Imagine you witnessed the same murder today. How would you solve the crime? Consider what technology you could use (mobile phone, internet, camera, etc.) to help you.

### 4. Do something grand

Ciara has wonderful memories of her grandfather, and she continues to learn about him after his death thanks to his manuscript.

Reconnect with a grandparent, an older family member or a neighbour, and try to find out more about them. Ask them what they liked to do/eat/play when they were your age. Find out what you have in common, and how your lives are different. Look online for samples of grandparent interviews to inspire you. You could even record your interview using your phone and share it with your class on the interactive whiteboard!

### 5. Easter Rising centenary

In *Arrivals* we learn about the impact of the Easter 1916 Rising on Mike's father, when he returned home after serving the Crown in the trenches of WWI.

Do you think the isolation and social stigma experienced by Mr Farrelly on his return to Ireland were deserved? Research further online using the link provided below.

[www.easter1916.ie/index.php/schools/](http://www.easter1916.ie/index.php/schools/)

Compose a piece of persuasive writing either supporting or rejecting Mr Farrelly's decision, as an Irishman, to fight for the British Army during World War 1. Compare opposite points of view with your classmates, analyse the arguments and conclude with an overriding opinion.

To find out more about author Brian Gallagher and his many other books for young readers, visit [www.obrien.ie](http://www.obrien.ie) or [briangallagherwriter.com](http://briangallagherwriter.com).

