'There's a new girl in town,' says Joe, and soon Steve is out looking for her. Marietta is easy to find in a small town, but every time he sees her something goes wrong . . . and his day goes from bad to worse.
Hi, Joe . . .

Hi, Steve!
Listen, there's a new girl in town!

A new girl?
Tell me more.

She's tall, with red hair and a nice smile, and . . . what? . . .
Yes, I think her name is Marietta . . .
Steve’s father, Ned Reit, is editor of the weekly newspaper, the *Cado Star*.

Ted Seymour is ill. He can’t work this week.

Oh dear! And he’s your only reporter.

I need to find something interesting for this week’s newspaper. Maybe you can find something for me, Steve.

Who knows? Listen, I must go now. We’re going away for two or three days and my father’s waiting in the car. I hope she’s here when I come back!

Excuse me, I must go out.

Don’t forget to take those books back to the library.

OK, later. I’m going to the shops first.
I want to get some good pictures today, but first I must get a film for my camera.

Who is she? Is it the new girl in town?

Joe's right. She's very beautiful, and ... oh no!

Can I help you?

I need some film for my camera.

There she is again!

Where is she?
Now, where can I get some good photographs? Something I can sell to a newspaper, maybe.

I don't like this. My jeans are all wet!

I need some gas.

What beautiful horses! Maybe I can sell this photograph.

What's the matter with you? What are you doing?

Sorry, I...

Who is that boy?
What's happening at the library? Oh, it's a reading day. The librarian is reading to the children in a minute. Maybe I can get some good pictures.

I must take my library books back.

Is that her car?

Where is she?

What's the Cado Star?

It's Cado's weekly newspaper.

There she is! What's she doing?

That's interesting.

Can I take some pictures?

Yes, that's OK. Maybe you can sell them to the Cado Star.
Oh! What's...!

That makes a good picture!

Now, where can I get a drink?

There's a cafe across the street. I can get a drink there.

I need a drink after that. Oh, and there's a nice face to go with my drink!

Hi, Steve.

Hi, Pattie. Bring me an orange juice, please.

Shall I tell her that my Dad is editor of the Cado Star?

Oh, no!
Next time, look at your drink, Steve, not at girls!

Shush, Pattie!

Good morning. Can I help you?

Do you buy photographs for the newspaper?

Yes, but they must be interesting. Why? Do you have some?

Maybe. When do you need them for this week’s newspaper?

By tomorrow.

OK.

She’s coming out of Dad’s office!

How can I get to the Cado Star offices? Are they far away?

No, they’re in the next street. About five minutes’ walk.

Thanks.
Who's that girl?
She wants to sell me some photographs for the newspaper, I think.

Oh!

Is she coming back?
How do I know?
Why?
Oh, nothing. It doesn't matter.

I need something interesting for my newspaper, Steve. Forget about girls and try and find me something!

Hi, Mr Pickett!

Hi, Steve.
Come and talk to me for a minute. There is something I want you to see.

Look, Steve.
This an old Cado Star, from 1970. I've got a lot of old Stars and I like to read them sometimes.

That's interesting, Mr Pickett.
Read this about my old school friend, Bud Ritchie. He's a writer.

Can I have that newspaper for a day or two, Mr Pickett?

Yes, here you are.

Maybe I can write about Bud Ritchie's return. I must try and make Dad happy.

People tell me that Bud is back in Cado. He's living in the old Potter house. I want to phone him later. Maybe he can come and tell me all about his time away.

I need something interesting for my newspaper.

Oh, that's interesting! I can remember that. And now I'm back in dear old Cado again.

Excuse me, are you Mr Ritchie?

Yes, that's right.
Can I ask you some questions about your time away, Mr Ritchie? And your writing?

Yes, of course. What are you? A newspaper reporter?

My father is editor of the Cado Star. His only reporter is ill, and he needs something interesting for this week's paper.

Am I interesting? Yes, maybe I am.

Steve asks Mr Ritchie for paper and pen, and then Mr Ritchie begins to tell him about his time away.

The Himalayas are the biggest and most beautiful mountains in the world, Steve...

I like Paris. It's exciting...

You must go to Africa, one day, Steve...
Across the street, a cat is climbing up a tree.

... and India is a most interesting country. The people there are ...

Excuse me, Mr Ritchie, but there's a cat in that tree. It can't get down.

Oh, dear.

It's OK, I can get it down.

Be careful!

Oh no! I'm falling!
Here, give me your hand.

Oh! Thanks

You're not having a good day!

The cat is OK.

Yes, Marietta, this is Steve Reit. His father is editor of the Cado Star.

I think I've got a good picture. Maybe I can sell it to your father!

A week later...

You take good photographs, Marietta.

And you're a good newspaper reporter, Steve.

This is Marietta, my daughter.

Your daughter!
ACTIVITIES

Before Reading

1 Look at the picture on the cover of the book. Now answer these questions.

1 Where do you think the story happens?
   a □ France.
   b □ South Africa.
   c □ America.
   c □ Japan.

2 Do you think the story is about . . .
   a □ . . . young people?
   b □ . . . old people?
   c □ . . . children?

2 Read the back cover of the book. Do you think the story is . . .
   a □ . . . frightening?
   b □ . . . sad?
   c □ . . . happy?
ACTIVITIES

While Reading

1 Read pages 1–4, then answer these questions.
   1 Who is the new girl in town?
   2 What is the Cado Star?
   3 What is Ned Reit’s job?
   4 Who is ill?
   5 Where does Steve need to take some books?
   6 What does Marietta need to get for her camera?

2 Read pages 5–8.
   Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?
   1 Steve gets wet. □ □
   2 Marietta takes some pictures of dogs. □ □
   3 The children are waiting in the bookshop. □ □

3 Read pages 9–12. Who says or thinks these words?
   1 ‘It’s Cado’s weekly newspaper.’
   2 ‘There’s a nice face to go with my drink!’
   3 ‘Next time, look at your drink, Steve, not at girls!’

4 Read pages 13–16. Now answer these questions.
   1 Marietta goes to the Cado Star offices. Who does she see there?
   2 What does Marietta want to sell?

5 Read pages 17–20, then answer these questions.
   Who . . .
   a . . . wants to write about Bud Ritchie?
   b . . . likes Paris?
   Where . . .
   c . . . are the ‘biggest and most beautiful mountains in the world’?
   d . . . is the cat?

6 Before you read pages 21–24, can you guess what happens?
   1 Marietta climbs up the tree to get the cat and falls down. □ □
   2 Steve falls into the water. □ □
   3 The cat falls into the water. □ □
   4 Bud Ritchie goes to work for the Cado Star. □ □
   5 Marietta takes a photograph of Steve falling from the tree. □ □
   6 Marietta sells a picture to the Cado Star. □ □
   7 Marietta and Steve become friends. □ □
ACTIVITIES

After Reading

1 Put these ten sentences in the right order.
   a ☐ Marietta gets some film for her camera at the camera shop.
   b ☐ Steve goes to the café to get a drink.
   c ☐ Joe phones Steve to tell him that there’s a new girl in town.
   d ☐ Marietta goes to see Ned Reit at the Cado Star offices.
   e ☐ Steve gets his picture in the Cado Star.
   f ☐ Ned Reit tells Steve, ‘Ted Seymour is ill. He can’t work this week.’
   g ☐ Steve falls out of the tree into the water.
   h ☐ Marietta takes photographs of the children in the library.
   i ☐ Pattie says, ‘Next time look at your drink, Steve, not at girls!’
   j ☐ Steve sees Wilbur Pickett’s old 1970 Cado Star.

2 Look at these pictures, then answer the questions.
   Whose arm is this?
   What happens next?

   Who are these people?
   What are they looking at?

   What are these?
   What happens next?

3 Use these words to join the sentences together.
   but of and because

   1 Steve wants to meet Marietta. He thinks she’s beautiful.
   2 Ned Reit needs something interesting to put in the Cado Star. His reporter is ill.
   3 Bud Ritchie is back in Cado. His old friend Wilbur Pickett wants to talk to him.
   4 Marietta takes some pictures. Some beautiful horses.
Glossary

buy  give someone money for something
camera  the thing you take photographs with
dry  not wet
editor  an editor's work is to get a newspaper ready to read
fall  suddenly come down
film  the thing you put in a camera to take photographs
gas  petrol; you put it in a car to make the car go
hope  want something to happen again later
librarian  a person who works in a library
library  you can get books from a library, read them, and then take them back
maybe  perhaps
newspaper  paper where you can read about the things that are happening every day
reporter  someone who writes for a newspaper
sell  give someone something, and get money for it
shush  a noise you say to make someone quiet
wet  covered with water
world  every country is in the world