The Clock

It’s night time.

It’s very late, in fact.

It’s the middle of the night.

Maybe it will be morning soon.

The whole town is fast asleep.

Everything is quiet.

A man is lying in a shop doorway.

He’s trying to sleep.

He’s wrapped up in blankets and newspaper.

He’s homeless and has to sleep rough.

He’s lucky to have found a shop doorway for the night.

And now another homeless man comes walking along.

He is looking for somewhere to sleep, too.

He walks towards the man on the doorstep, who sits up when he hears footsteps…

Tutor: Who’s that?

*Student: Eh?*

Who are you?

*Eh?*

What do you want?

*Dave?*

Who’s that?

*Is that you, Dave?*

Who’s there?

*Dave? Is it you?*

Hey! Mike! It’s you!

*Hello Dave!*

Mike!

*Hello Dave!*

Hello mate!

*Fancy bumping into you again!*

How are you, Mike?

*OK, I suppose.*

Good.

*You know how it is.*

Yes. *I know how it is.*

*How are you, Dave?*

Oh, I’m OK.

*Good.*

Not too bad, you know.

*Yes. I know.*

Not too bad.

*Same here, really.*

It’s good to see you again, Mike.

*Can I doss down here for a bit, Dave?*

Of course you can, Mike.

*Thanks, Dave.*

No problem.

*I’ll just lie down over here, then.*

Good.

[Mike spreads out a blanket and rolls himself up in it. He settles down and tries to get comfortable. As comfortable as possible, anyway. Then he says:]

*Do you know what time it is, Dave?*

No.

*Nor do I.*

Does it matter?

*Well, I don’t know what to do.*

Don’t know what to do?

*No.*

What do you mean?

*Well, I don’t know whether to try and get some more kip.*

I’m going to try.

*Maybe it’s too late to bother?*

It’s not that late.

*Do you think so?*

Well…

*I wish I knew what time it was.*

I can tell you.

*Can you?*

If you really want to know.

*Well, if you can…*

I’ll just get my clock.

*Have you got a clock?*

Yes. I have.

*Oh. OK.*

Hang on a bit.

[Dave rummages around in his bags. Soon he has a saucepan and a long wooden spoon in his hands. He holds them up and gets ready to bang the pan with the spoon.]

*Hang on, Dave!*

What?

*What are you doing?*

I’m going to see what time it is.

*What?*

Find out the time.

*With a saucepan?*

Well, yes.

*With a saucepan?*

I use it as a clock, sometimes.

*But it’s not a clock!*

Yes it is, sometimes.

*Dave, it’s a saucepan, not a clock.*

It’s what I use for a clock sometimes.

*But it’s a saucepan. It’s not a clock!*

Maybe not.

*It’s not a clock, Dave.*

No.

*It’s not a clock, Dave.*

But I use it as a clock.

*What?*

When I want to know the time.

*Dave, it’s a saucepan.*

Well, yes, it is.

*Not a clock.*

No. But it’s what I use to tell the time.

*A saucepan doesn’t tell the time, Dave.*

Sometimes it does.

*A clock tells you the time, Dave.*

Well…

*A clock tells the time, Dave.*

So does this saucepan.

*Dave, it isn’t a clock.*

No. But it tells me the time.

*It’s a saucepan, Dave.*

I know that.

*It’s a saucepan, Dave.*

Yes. It is.

*You use a saucepan for cooking, Dave.*

Yes. I know that.

*You tell the time with a clock.*

Yes. I know that as well.

*Well then.*

I know what a saucepan is.

*Right.*

And I know what a clock is.

*Right.*

Do you still want to know what the time is?

*Yes.*

Well then.

*How do you mean “well then”?*

I’ll tell you the time.

*But how?*

My saucepan will tell us.

*You use a saucepan for cooking, Dave.*

I know.

*For cooking.*

Yes. I know.

*Right.*

Sometimes I do use it for cooking.

*Well, there you are then.*

Sometimes I do cook in it.

*Well, there you are then.*

But sometimes I use it to tell the time.

*Dave, you can’t.*

Yes, you can.

*You can’t use a saucepan for telling the time.*

Yes, I can. Anybody can.

*How can you tell the time with a saucepan?*

Do you really want to know?

*Yes.*

Really?

*Yes.*

OK.

*Show me how you tell the time.*

With my saucepan?

*Yes.*

Really?

*Yes.*

Right.

*Go on, then!*

Right

*Tell me the time with your saucepan!*

OK. Here goes.

[Dave begins to hammer the saucepan with the spoon. He hammers very hard.

It’s a terrible noise. A terrible racket.]

*Stop!*

Listen!

*Dave! Stop!*

Listen, Mike, Listen!

*Stop it, Dave. Stop it!*

Keep listening, Mike!

*Stop that noise, Dave!*

You want to know the time, don’t you?

*Dave, stop!*

Keep listening, Mike!

[A window is flung open across the street. A very angry man shouts into the night.]

***“Who’s making all that racket at 3 o’clock in the morning?”***