Moving

A story told by two.

Where do you live?

Do you like it?

Some people like where they live.

Some people don’t.

I wonder why?

Some people think their neighbours are kind and friendly.

But some people think not.

This raises an interesting question, though.

Are the neighbours really all that different?

Maybe it’s nothing to do with the neighbours?

Tutor: Let’s set the scene.

*Student: O.K. Let’s do that.*

It’s in a park.

*A park in a town.*

Yes. An ordinary park.

*Yes, but nice.*

Oh yes, it’s a nice park.

*Lots of grass.*

And trees.

*Big trees.*

Old trees.

*There’s a playground.*

Yes.

*Over there.*

And paths.

*Yes. There’s lots of paths.*

Lots of them.

*There’s a bench.*

A wooden bench.

*Quite a long bench.*

Just by a path.

*Under some trees.*

Yes. Under some trees.

*It’s in the shade.*

At the moment, yes.

*It’s a nice day.*

In spring, maybe?

*Yes. OK. It’s spring.*

A nice spring day.

*Very nice.*

The sun is shining.

*Everything is green.*

It’s a really nice day.

*There’s an old man on the bench.*

Sitting at one end of it.

*He’s wearing a cap.*

Maybe he’s bald?

*Maybe.*

Under that cap.

*Mmmm…*

He’s quite an old man.

*And he’s got a stick.*

An old walking stick.

*He’s had it for years.*

By the look of it.

*Mmmm…*

He’s leaning on the stick.

*Watching the people in the park.*

Watching people enjoying themselves.

*Enjoying the nice weather.*

As you do.

*Yes, as you do.*

A nice old man.

*Having a nice time.*

On a nice day.

*In a nice park.*

Then a couple come walking along.

*A man and a woman.*

Maybe in their twenties.

*Yes. Late twenties, maybe.*

They look worried.

*They do a bit.*

They spot the old man.

*And they come to sit on his bench.*

They seem to want to ask him something.

*They do, don’t they?*

Some advice, maybe.

*Yes. Maybe.*

The old man sits and waits.

*He can see they want to ask him something.*

But he sits and waits.

*The lady speaks first.*

“Excuse me” She says.

*The old man looks at her and says “Mmmm?”*

“Do you live in this town?” Says the lady.

*“Oh yes.” Says the old man.*

“Ah.” Says the lady.

*“Have done for years.” Says the old man.*

“Ah.” Says the lady again.

*The old man waits.*

There is more to come, he thinks.

*And so there is.*

“Can we ask you something?” The lady says.

*“Of course.” Says the old man.*

“We are thinking of moving.” She says.

*“Oh yes?” Says the old man.*

“To this town.” She says.

*Oh yes?” Says the old man.*

“So we would like some advice.” She says.

*“Oh yes?” Says the old man.*

“About this town.” She says.

*“Oh yes?” Says the old man.*

“What’s it like?” She says.

*“The town?” Says the old man.*

“Well, the people, really.” Says the lady.

*“How do you mean?” The old man asks.*

“Well, are they nice?” Says the lady.

*“Nice?”* *Says the old man.*

“I mean, are they friendly and kind?” The lady asks.

*“What are the people like where you live now?” The old man asks.*

“Pardon?” Says the lady.

*“Are they kind and friendly, where you live now?” The old man asks.*

“Oh, no.” The lady says.

*“No?” Says the old man.*

“No.” Says the lady.

*“How do you mean?” The old man asks.*

“The people where we live are very unfriendly.” Says the lady.

*“Very unfriendly?” The old man asks.*

“Very.” The lady replies.

*“Oh.” Says the old man.*

“Very unfriendly.” The lady says. “Not nice at all.”

*“Oh dear.” Says the old man. “I’m sorry to hear that.”*

“What are the people in this town like?” Says the lady again.

*“You’ll find they are just like that here, too.” Says the old man.*

“Just like that here?” Says the lady.

*“Just like where you live now, I’m afraid.” Says the old man.*

The couple get up from the bench.

*They are thinking about what the old man said.*

Thinking about it hard.

*They bid him goodbye.*

And walk off into the sunshine.

*It seems less bright, somehow.*

The old man watches them as they walk away.

*A bit sadly, I think.*

Yes. I think so.

*His eyes follow the couple.*

But he looks a little sad.

*Yes.*

Then something weird happens.

*A couple come walking along.*

Another couple.

*Another man and woman.*

Maybe in their twenties.

*Or late twenties.*

Yes.

*Just like the first couple.*

They look worried.

*They do a bit.*

Just like the first couple did.

*Yes. Just like they did.*

They spot the old man.

*Just like the first couple did.*

And they come to sit on the bench, too.

*They also want to ask him something.*

Some advice.

*Yes. Some advice.*

Just like the first couple did.

*Weird!*

The old man sits and waits.

*He can see they want to ask him something.*

But he sits and waits.

*The lady speaks first.*

“Excuse me” She says.

*The old man looks at her and says “Mmmm?”*

“Do you live in this town?” Says the lady.

*“Oh yes.” Says the old man.*

“Ah.” Says the lady.

*“Have done for years.” Says the old man.*

“Ah.” Says the lady again.

*The old man waits.*

There is more to come, he thinks.

*And so there is.*

“Can we ask you something?” She says.

*“Of course.” Says the old man.*

“We are thinking of moving.” She says.

*“Oh yes?” Says the old man.*

“To this town.” She says.

*“Oh yes?” Says the old man.*

“So we would like some advice.” She says.

*“Oh yes?” Says the old man.*

“About this town.” She says.

*“Oh yes?” Says the old man.*

“What’s it like?” She says.

*“The town?” Says the old man.*

“Well, the people, really.” Says the lady.

*“How do you mean?” The old man asks.*

“Well, are they nice?” Says the lady.

*“Nice?”* *Says the old man.*

“I mean, are they friendly and kind?” The lady asks.

*“What are the people like where you live now?” The old man asks.*

“Pardon?” Says the lady.

*“Are they kind and friendly, where you live now?” The old man asks.*

“Oh, yes.” The lady says.

*“Ah!” Says the old man.*

“They’re really nice.” Says the lady.

*“How do you mean?” The old man asks.*

“The people where we live are very friendly.” Says the lady.

*“Very friendly?” The old man asks.*

“Very.” The lady replies.

*“Ah.” Says the old man.*

“Very kind.” The lady says. “Always helpful.”

*“Ah.” Says the old man. “I’m very glad to hear that.”*

“What are the people in this town like?” Says the lady again.

*“You’ll find they are just like that here, too.” Says the old man.*

“Friendly and kind?” The lady asks, again.

*“Just like where you live now.” Says the old man.*

The couple get up from the bench.

*They are thinking about what the old man said.*

Thinking about it hard.

*They bid him goodbye.*

And walk off into the sunshine.

*It seems very beautiful, now.*

The grass is very green.

*The sun is nice and warm*

The old man watches them as they walk away.

*Smiling, I think.*

Oh yes, he’s smiling.

*Smiling from ear to ear.*

It’s a beautiful afternoon, after all.

*Yes, it’s a beautiful afternoon.*