An examination of processes and structures in oral narrative discourse in an educational context

Mood, Elizabeth

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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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Table of Contents

1.0 Transcript One: Hazel/Grandad
1.1 Introduction to Hazel/Grandad text 3
1.2 Transcription conventions 5
1.3 Grandad: Version One and ensuing questions 6
1.4 Comments on Version One 7
1.5 Grandad: Version Two 9
1.6 Grandad: Version Three 10
1.7 Grandad: Version Four (after listening to recording) 11
1.8 Comment and reflection while listening to tape 13
1.9 Grandad: Version Five 16
1.10 Discussion continues (no break) 18
1.11 Grandad: Latest Version 30

2.0 Transcript Two: Jack and Death
2.1 Introduction to Jack and Death 33
2.2 Transcription Conventions 35
2.3 ‘Jack and Death’: told by Ms Mood 36
2.4 Initial set of Endings to Jack and Death 52
2.4.1 Initial Ending One (A1) 52
2.4.2 Initial Ending Two (A2) 54
2.4.3 Initial Ending Three (A3) 55
2.4.4 Initial Ending Four (A4) 57
2.5 Discussion following first set of story endings 59
2.6 Discussion prior to Latest Version by Group Two 63
2.7 Latest Ending (B1): Group One 74
2.8 Latest Ending (B2): Group Two 78
2.9 Group Three: immediate response to teacher’s story 82
2.10 Discussion: Group Three 84
2.11 Latest Ending: Group Three 106
2.12 Extract from teacher’s telling of J/D to Group Three 111
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
The 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 Grandad’s life is of Grandad as a boy going with his friends to collect coal from a heap of slag and coal dust. The crust collapses and grandad 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. ‘could’n’ for ‘could’n’t’, the word is represented, for the purpose of clarity, as ‘could’n’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
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

Ms Mood:
Yeah (.) does anyone have anything (_)

Several:
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
I would have thought
he would have suffocated or something
(when he couldn't breathe)

Hazel:
(caused he was in hospital)
I said
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
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)

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
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 the olden days
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
and so his friends had to em dig him out 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
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
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
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
it was in the middle of the war
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
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
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
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
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 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 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 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 just like we come to school it just be normal and it’s just an accident
that sadfully happened

Ms Mood:

right so if you were doing the story again
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
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
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
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
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
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

(***
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
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
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
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
they were doing it as fast as they could
to 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
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
because of his back
er because it was bent over for his life
and so sadfully he was very upset
because he wanted d to try and help (.) erm his country
  by fighting against (.) fighting in the war
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 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 and I think that it would have been better if i'd have said like (.) what did happen like i've said 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 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 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
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?

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
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
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
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

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?

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

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
then (. ) he might he might have been in there in there
for a few seconds
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
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
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
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
( . ) 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
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
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
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
i've watched things
and people have been murdered and things
and then i've been scared to go upstairs or something
like like if there's a film on or something
and there's just about to be something good's happened
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?
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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?
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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 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 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 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 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 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
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 sadfully he fell in
his friends didn't
his friends hadn't recognised
that he had fallen in yet

but he was finding it really difficult to breathe
cause there was no air to breathe
and he was just breathing the dust in
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
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
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
how
and they were digging
and digging
and (.) me grandad (.) he was he was just like hoping
he would get out
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
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
- ABC clauses lettered at left hand side, in text only, for brief extracts
- 1 2 3 clauses/ lines numbered, at right hand side for each text
- complete spoken simultaneously with a piece of text from another speaker
- (text)
- (*) brief section omitted, e.g. comment about switching on or off tape recorder
- (**) 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

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

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

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

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
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
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
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
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
I'm very weary
i'm very tired
i'm sick
and i'm ill
and I fear my time is coming
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
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
everything'll be perfectly fine for you
no mother no said Jack
don't say that
yes said his mother

I think
he's coming for me
what do you mean said Jack
what do you mean
who's coming for you
what do you mean coming for you
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
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
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
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
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
so that Jack could hardly see the face
until he got closer
when he saw
that it was wizened
and the eyes were sunken
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
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

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
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
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
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
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
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
and took it
and lifted it up in the air
and brought it crashing down on a ra rock
and the scythe broke into three pieces
and then Jack seized Death by the shoulders
and started to shake him
and he shook him
and he shook him
and a very strange thing happened
because as Jack shook Death
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
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
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
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
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
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
and the waves carried it way away
phew thought Jack
that's that
i've conquered Death
i've vanquished Death
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
(.)
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
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
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
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
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
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
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've got the leeks and the the carrots here mother
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
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
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
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
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
you have to build it up
let me try
and Jack had a a turn
and he (.) brought the knife down
but no it just slid away
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
we'll have some eggs 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
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
said Jack
this is a strange thing
and his mother said
we must be under some sort of enchantment Jack
what can be happening to us
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'll have a
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
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 wrung the necks of the chickens themselves
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
and Jack's mother said
ever mind Jack
we won't let it get us down
you go into the village
take this half a crown
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
into his mother's cottage panting
sit down Jack
she said
now tell me your story
don't you erm worry about it
take your time
what have you seen
what have you got to tell me
i've no meat for you
nothing at all mother
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
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
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
is by other things dying
it has to go on
life is in death
death is in life
there's no end to it
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
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
and you will be feel get over that in time
and its something you've got to do has anyone got any idea
about how Jack is going to get the hazelnut back?

Eve:
while he's combing the beach
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
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
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
he give up this hour this day
n he s and he went back home
to tell his mother
he was going to have a walk to the village

Hazel:
On the way back from the village Jack saw a hazelnut tree
and he re suddenly remembered about the hazelnut with Death in
so he went over to the tree
and checked every single hazelnut on the tree
but sadly h Death was not in them

May:
so by this time Jack was tired
so he sat under the hazelnut tree
and went to sleep
Jack was a relative
er had a ancestor called Isaac Newton
(laughs) instead of an apple falling on his head
a hazelnut fell on his head
and woke him up
and inside this hazelnut was a twig
and he took the twig out
and this black creature came out
and started growing
and whe so Jack went home
to tell his mother
but when he got there
she was dead
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

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
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
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
and he he went in
and he caught a fish
but it jumped out
but on the f
end of the fishing rod
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

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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
his mother was dead
(.)
the end
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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)
?:
(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

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 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 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
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
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
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
because I mean people have to die

**Dawn:**

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

**Heather:**

exactly

(..)
Ms Mood:
right now 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 go in
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
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
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
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
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

Arthur:
our story

May:
Jack

Craig:
the story that (Miss Mood telt)
May:
(and the) hazelnut

Several:
(laughs)

Craig:
Jack and the hazelnut aye

Hazel:
mm but what ending?

May:
this isn't playing is it?

Arthur:
yeah no it's not playing
it's recording
?
yeah
?
(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
Craig: we didn't say that
Holly: we did
Several: (laughs)
Tom: we weren't supposed to say that
we were say
Craig: Tom said it wrong for us
Tom: 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?
so like
May: it wasn't the devil
it was Death
Arthur: wey Death
Craig: wey Death man same person
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 .

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

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

Arthur:
make it better
Craig:  
make it better  
May:  
improve it  
Craig:  
he was combing  
and he found many many things  
Several:  
(laughs)  
Arthur:  
yeah  
Craig:  
like glass jars  
Holly:  
over exaggerating I think that's called Craig  
Craig:  
glass jars  
?:  
(____)  
Craig:  
(shells)  
May:  
tell us a million times not to over exaggerate  
Craig:  
(shells)  
(·)  
Arthur:  
right
Craig:
shells
(•)
?
(__)
Craig:
more shells
Several:
(laughs)
right
right
right
Craig:
ooh me leg's stuck
Miss Mood can I go to the toilet?
?:
aaah
?
lets all (__)
(***)
Hazel:
and then we can put we ideas
?
also (__)
Arthur:
yeah so it gets better
and better
and better
Several:

(_)

Hazel:
right Arthur you can start

Holly:
yeah you go first

May:
I hate to say it...

(_)

(but that was) a good idea that was

Hazel:
Craig

Arthur:
thank you

Hazel:
em

Arthur
right

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
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
?
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
Holly:
i'm last
Craig:
O sound
there's only six of us (_)
Several:
(i'm sixth
i'm fifth
i'm fourth
laughs)
Hazel:
(come on then) Arthur you're starting
Craig:
fourth right
Arthur:
right
Jack's emptiness consumed him
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 (..)
?
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
but then he stumbled across a boat
Hazel:
the boat was quite roty
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
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 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 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 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 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 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
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
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

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
and only if they wished to die
and em you wouldn 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
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

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

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

and the pig was

it had been

?  

(whispered prompt)

roasted on a fire

**Dawn:**

roasted on a fire

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

when he saw (.)

when em his mam said
em Death became a human person
and th his mam and the Death got married
()
end
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
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
to leave the boat
and carry on
cause he didn't know
whose it was
he went along the beach
still hoping
to find the hazelnut
but didn't have very much luck
on the way back along the beach he decided
to investigate the boat
and so he went into the boat
and found the oars
so he decided to push it out
and see if it would sail
it and it did
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
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

**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

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
he op
he took the twig out
and Death appeared
(\)Death explained to Jack
why he had to take his mother to the place
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
the Death Death says
that em (\) everybody’s everybody dies in the end
Jack understood this
and he em Death took Jack home
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
?:
you
Fern:
(laughs)
well I think I em it should be em something to do with em Jack separating from his mother
and trying
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
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
m all your life

(•)Robin:
em I think em
that he should go to town
and tell them
what he's done
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

(•)

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
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
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

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
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
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?

Fern:

ee they're going to
like (.) gather up
you can go

Robin:

wey if they could gather them all around
like he could stand ah sort of facing
like start telling them
and then he could start
like saying organising them into parts
and em

Fern:
Yeah
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 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
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
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
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
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
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
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 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 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 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 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
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

Robin:

probablys

Fern:

can't rough problems

Robin:

they probablys send someone

it's just like what happened to me grandma this weekend
em my grandma's son died

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
or your dad's brother

Robin:

mmm

(.)
and he did
er post er postman found him (_) dead
and so me grandma has to get company all the time

**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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
and he went to his house
to seem see his mother
I can't find him
so they started discussing
and they were up all night discussing
then Jack just thought of an idea
and said
em 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
and told them
and when he explained the
he asked if any body wanted to take part
so everybody took part
and so Jack organised like people into different boats
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
and 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
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
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
and he met this nice I young woman
who was his age
em (.) and all the rest of that soppy stuff
and (.) and they after (.) going out with each other for a few weeks
em they decided
to get engaged
his wife his wife to be Clarissa was em (.) was very understanding
about his mother
and when they got married
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
to get over the loss
of someone they cared for
(*)
Lee:
I like the way (.) Daisy d did that
and all this soppy stuff
Daisy:
well i'm not going to say that in the actual one
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
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
Fern:
different
(laughs)
Ms Mood:
s sort of humourous you mean
Fern:
yeah but I suppose suppose
if she doesn’t like say
(exaggerating tone of voice )and all this soppy stuff
so if she just llike 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
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)
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
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
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

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
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)
Daisy:
(so I think) instead of (._) em (_)
whatever we calling her.
em (_) wey

Fern:
Jack?

Daisy:
no the Jack yeah
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
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
and the men who chopped the corn chopped it 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 bg feast was on
there was a young girl Jack's age 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 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 when it was em when you say when Lee and Robin say that they em find the they could say 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'
(*)

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
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
and it said
em that em this lady had went to these em lessons
due she'd just lost her em these groups
due she'd just lost her thing like her

Daisy:
husband

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
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
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

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
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
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
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
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
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)

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

Ms Mood:
right we'll bring them in then an
(*)
**Fern:**
I want this story to be called the Wonderman because em 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?

**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 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

(.

**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

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
(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
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

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
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
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
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
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
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
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
he was looking at the sea
see if anything had came in
but nothing was nothing much was there
as he reached the house
he wen up he went upstairs
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
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
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
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
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
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
and he (. ) they searched (. ) for a long time
but then they manag (. )
s saw something
so they rowed towards it
and they found
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
(.) 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
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
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
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

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

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
(special intake of breath)
oh Jack said his mother
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
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
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
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?