



Term Three Amin Safari

- **Homelessness and Friendship Theme.**
- **Table Tasks**



The text, The Simple Gift.
Learning Task 1. Collaborate
with class to create body
paragraph 1, then write
body paragraph 2.
Amin added some quotes,
teacher added others.

This was done online as
Amin and his peers observed
and contributed.

Body paragraph 2

Despite this, Steven Herrick's text, 'The Simple Gift', demonstrates that with support the homeless are able to form connections and find happiness. Billy is homeless because he chose to leave his home as his father was abusing him. This is a good reason to leave home, because no one should have to put up with being treated that way. The abuse is very bad, when Billy was only ten years old, his father gave him '**one hard backhander across the face...I felt the blood from my nose**'. This was due to Billy breaking a window with the soccer ball, an accident. From then on, Billy says, my father '**slammed the door on my sporting childhood**'. Billy finds shelter and friendship in Bendarat; first he finds a carriage and meets Old Bill who lives next door in another carriage; he meets a very kind librarian, Irene, who lets him shelter in the library and read books. He meets Caitlin at Maccas and they have really good friendship. Kindness helps Billy cope with the everyday trauma and crisis that homelessness brings. Both Old Bill and Phil drink alcohol to forget their pain and memories of the sadness in their lives. Old Bill drinks to forget the loss of his daughter and his wife. Alcohol plays a part as many people use it as a way to forget their pain, loneliness and tragic memories. As Old Bill says, '**my sweet lovely Jessie fell and I fell with her and I've been falling ever since**'. But Old Bill and Billy need each other, Billy needs Old Bill because he is kind and shares things with him. They go to the cannery together, get a job, and Billy has a relationship with Old Bill that he never had with his father. Old Bill begins to drink less; he is doing more in his life like going to work, jumping in the river and having a wash, sharing breakfast and tells Billy about the tragedy that happened in his life. As Old Bill says, '**I hadn't drunk too much, the wine was too good to ruin**' when he has dinner with Billy at Caitlin's home. He begins to enjoy being '**sober**'. Old Bill now has to save Billy and he focusses on this. Old Bill gives Billy the key to his home. This gives Billy a place to live and it also gives Old Bill the freedom to go on a journey in honour of his daughter Jessie. She had always wanted to travel to 'The Great Barrier Reef', so now Old Bill can do this. The final lines of the novel show us that everyone has found happiness; despite Old Bill leaving, Billy says, 'I looked up into the sky...that Old Bill and I shared'. **Overall, despite his hardships, Billy overcomes these with the support of others, and their kindness and love.**



SBS documentary Filthy Rich and Homeless.

They feel very grateful when others are kind; for example when Pauline asks a complete stranger if she could buy her a coffee, she does. Pauline is so happy and feels connected. When Aaron finds a food truck for the homeless, he is overjoyed. When he lines up he feels part of a community, and the food is wholesome and warm. When Aaron is resourceful and makes a sign, 'I need money'. He is overwhelmed by the generosity of people who donate. All the celebrities realise that homelessness is hard and can cause ongoing mental health issues. The homeless age quickly and everyday is a struggle. Overall, attitudes to the homeless need to change and small acts of kindness make a difference. As Ellie says, homelessness 'is not a life'. Final link sentence - They all realise that being resourceful and motivated so you can get a job and home is almost impossible.

TABLE TASKS

- The importance of friendship
- Film Text – Stand By Me.

- Gordie wants to help Chris to escape his family and small town life.
- This shows their friendship is pure.





Chris comforts Gordie – after they see the dead body, Gordie feels the loss of his brother and opens up about his grief.

He hates me. My dad hates me.



Chris knows Gordie better than his own family.

He doesn't know you.



A true friend knows you and encourages you.

You're gonna be a great
writer someday Gordie.

Based on Stand by Me Table Task 3 – Importance of friendship to me.

Friendship is important to avoid isolation. In the movie the boys form a great friendship especially Gordie and Chris. Gordie and Chris are very close because they both have shared deep feelings, support and stories.

Both Gordie and Chris have families that let them down so they rely on each other instead of family to support them.

Chris supports Gordie through the difficult time after his older brother Denny has died; Gordie's parents ignore him and regard him as 'invisible'.

His friendship with Chris gives Gordie confidence and he ends up being a successful writer – but more than this, he is a good parent to his children.

Task 3

Importance of Friendship

- Friendship is important because loneliness and isolation can affect mental and physical wellbeing, just like we're feeling in Covid. Friends help you celebrate the good times and help give support in the bad times. They make you feel happy and give you confidence, good friends don't judge you and accept you for who you are.
- **"A friend is one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow." Shakespeare**

A person is sitting on the ground, huddled under a brown jacket. They are holding a cardboard sign that says "We all need HELP sometimes". A dog is lying down next to them, and a white bowl is on the ground in the foreground. The background shows a car wheel and a concrete wall.

Being Homeless - article

I am one of the forgotten ones the ones who people call dirty, smelly and... I don't know what else. Suddenly I hear the sound of footsteps, hope filled inside me, my back straightened, my eyes lightened and then sadness struck me as the 1529th careless person walked straight past me and didn't even notice me. Whoever it was didn't even care to look into my teary eyes or even say hello. All I want is somewhere to sleep, to wash and to eat, that's all I want. My whole life it's been my dream to have a family, a home maybe even a few kids. Now I just thought about it I would like to have two little people to talk to, to take to school, to soccer practice. I hate being alone and having nowhere to stay. I get so cold and lonely out here on my own. Hang on do you hear that?

I hear a car, suddenly excitement jumped into me, look they are rolling down their window. They're offering a place to stay, to wash and to eat, it's a dream come true. Wait this could mean family, a home oh how I wish I could tell you how excited I am. That's it, there is no more miserable, dreaded life. I am taking the offer and bye bye being homeless and welcome happy, new dream come true. In my past life I was homeless and miserable but now in my new life it's a dream come true. I have a wonderful wife and two beautiful children and we live in a wonderful cosy home. Every weekend we all go somewhere as a family and we always enjoy ourselves wherever we are. I finally found my place in this world. That's all there is I can tell you about my not so miserable, dreaded life.

Summary:
of previous article.
From the perspective
of a homeless
person.

This person is homeless. They feel that people see them as dirty and smelly, thousands of people walk pass and don't even notice me. All he wants is somewhere to sleep, have a wash and something to eat. He dreams to have a family one day and hates being alone. When a car stops and gives him a place to stay this offers hope. His life from here on changed as he now has a family and found his place in this world.

This is similar to the story The Simple Gift and the SBS documentary Filthy Rich and Homeless, friendship can change the life of a homeless person.

Homelessness – solutions?
Government support.
Use our taxes to provide
homes for the homeless.
More effective education
programs for at risk students.



Task 7 What films or novels have you seen or read that explore the theme of friendship and/or isolation? List some and provide a brief description. Collaborative work.

- **Naomi - Wonder is a good example - Auggie needs to belong and feel included. Eventually despite many problems he finds acceptance and friendship.**
- **Emely - Vivo film - 6/8/2021** · From Sony Pictures **Animation**, the studio that brought you Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, comes Vivo, an animated musical adventure featuring all-new original songs from Lin-Manuel Miranda, the creator of the Broadway smash "Hamilton," whose flair for mashing up musical styles will give the film a wholly unique and contemporary sound
- **Luca - Where the Wild Things Are. The Protagonist is an angry and immature child who is isolated by the kids in his school, destroys his sister's room. and after biting his own mother. He arrives on an island by boat, there he meets imaginary creatures that symbolise him and his family in some way. He eventually learns to control his anger and to appreciate his family.**
- **Anita - The Martian - left behind on Mars and he has to survive on his own. They leave him behind and presume his dead, when they find out he is alive they risk their lives and go back to get him.**
- **Up - Hunt for the Wilderpeople - both films are studied in Essential English an both films are about friendship and connection with others.**
- **Billy Elliot - Mrs Wilkinson is his mentor and friend and helps him to realise his dream of dancing.**
- **Blind Side – Naomi - a wealthy American woman (and mother) helps a homeless African American youth to find happiness.**

Table Task 8 – find an article related to our theme.

Dangers of excessive drinking

Oh the beauty of spring break. You get to ditch the books and classrooms, enjoy the decent weather (decent because we live in Louisiana) and free time. For many college students, the idea of drinking seems to cross their mind.

Some people drink because they like the taste of their alcoholic beverage, whereas others drink to get drunk.

According to the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, about two thirds of college students participate in binge drinking. Binge drinking occurs when an individual drinks excessive amounts of alcohol in a short time frame. It is one of the leading causes of alcohol poisoning.

I get it, you're young and want to have fun, but is excessive drinking really necessary? Let's get something straight, I'm not telling you not to drink. I'm simply asking that you drink in moderation.

The college student's fad for binge drinking has a lot to do with American culture. Unfortunately, a lot of American culture makes getting drunk appear like a normal thing to do. It only encourages binge drinking and contributes to the thousands of students who end up in the emergency room for alcohol poisoning (NIAAA).

Other than alcohol poisoning, drinking in excess can lead to car crashes, domestic violence, sexual assault, unintended pregnancy and, if done regularly, liver disease (Centre for Disease Control and Prevention).

Go ahead, have a drink or two but remember that your actions have consequences. For example, drinking and driving. If you plan to drink and have to be somewhere, don't drive. Instead find a designated driver. Have someone who you trust so you won't be completely vulnerable. Not only are you placing your life in danger when you drink and drive, but you're also putting others at risk. What I am trying to say is to enjoy Spring break, but think before you drink.

Summary of article:

- **Excessive drinking can be dangerous because it affects your mind and health. It can cause liver disease, damage to your heart and change your way of thinking. Binge drinking, having a lot of alcohol over a short period of time can cause short term and long term harmful effects. The consequences may lead to car crashes, domestic violence, sexual assault and unintended pregnancy. Our actions can have lifelong effects on ourselves, our families and others e.g. you may hit another car causing a fatality, you can have a serious injury yourself. When drinking you need to be responsible and have a designated driver, be with someone you can trust and who will look out for you. Drinking in moderation is OK providing you are responsible and in a safe place.**
- ***In The Simple Gift and Filthy Rich and Homeless, alcohol consumption led to problems in life and homelessness.***

Westfield Creek

I love this place.

I love the flow of cold clear water
over the rocks

and the wattles on the bank

and the lizards sunbaking,

heads up, listening,

and the birds,

hundreds of them,

silver-eyes and currawongs,

kookaburras laughing

at us kids swinging on the rope

and dropping into the bracing flow.



Table Task 6: The Simple Gift – my favourite place.

*Billy loves nature and so
do I.*

- I enjoy going to the park because it doesn't have a lot of people coming by, it can be quiet and relaxing. I enjoy walking around. -Amin

The Simple Gift

Billy and Old Bill's friendship saves them both.

Extracts were read in class
– these are from the end of
the text. Billy and Old Bill
are free and happy.

Reflection on the text The Simple Gift.

THE SIMPLE GIFT

THE

I crossed the tracks
heading to the library.
When I looked back
I saw Old Bill
with his back to me
looking up at the sky.
He stood there for a long time,
not moving,
like he was praying,
then he picked up his swag
and walked slowly,
deliberately,
north.
I watched until he

was out of sight

and I looked up
into the sky,
the deep blue sky
that Old Bill and I shared.