

LARRY

Larry aged 15 years lives just outside the town. Every Saturday morning he takes the bus into town to go swimming - he isn't really that fond of swimming but his daddy tells him that the exercise is good for him.

One Saturday, when he is on the bus, there is a group of older boys whom he doesn't know. They are listening to music which Larry really likes and he enjoys being in their company. He hears them talking about going to the park and Larry feels that he would like to go too.

One of the boys asks Larry if he likes music and who his favourite group is. They chat for a while and when the boys are getting off the bus they ask Larry if he would like to come with them. (Two different outcomes are given to provide for class discussion in relation to making wise and unwise choices.)

DECISION 1

Larry decides to go with them. He is enjoying sitting on the park bench listening to music with the boys but then some of their friends come along and say they are going to the football match. The boys decide to go with them and Larry is left alone in the park. Larry doesn't know how to get to the swimming pool and feels very frightened. He is worried because he knows that his parents will be calling to collect him from the swimming pool and he won't be there. He sees a lady with a pram and decides to ask her how to get to the swimming pool. The lady realises that Larry is very upset and walks with him to the swimming pool. He knows that he shouldn't have gone off with the boys and decides that he will never do anything like that again. As they get close to the swimming pool, Larry's dad drives past. He is surprised to see Larry out on the street and stops the car. He asks Larry where he has been. Larry tells him that he went to the park with some boys, who then went off to a football match and left him in the park on his own. He tells his dad that he couldn't find his way to the pool. Larry's dad thanks the lady for her help. He is glad that Larry is safe, but tells him very firmly that he must never go away with anyone he doesn't know, no matter how much he might like to.

SOME POINTS FOR INITIAL DISCUSSION -OTHERS WILL EMERGE

Did Larry do the right thing?

What should Larry have done?

Should he say he doesn't like swimming?

Choices/negotiation - Rules for going away - even with someone you know.

How might Larry feel?

How might Larry's parents feel?

DECISION 2

Larry thinks about going with the boys, he would much rather go to the park than go swimming but he remembers the rules for keeping safe and not going off with people he doesn't know. Larry says "No thank you, I'm going swimming".