

The Ewen stories by Elizabeth Cordiner

Ewen lives on a Scottish island, and the stories cover his life in school and village, his adventures, how he relates to nature, to others, his pals, his peers, and the choices he makes. Ewen's philosophy and self-belief are clear in each story.

Big Head – a story setting the scene on the island, introducing Ewen and Jimmy. A story about friendship.

Ewen's best pal is Jimmy. Ewen helps Jimmy with his reading, and Jimmy shares his knowledge of nature and the island's wild things. When Jimmy falls ill, the nature and depth of their friendship is revealed.

Cousin George – a story about values, lifestyles, and tolerance that makes the listener think hard.

How will Ewen deal with his cousin visiting, with George's scoffing at what the island has to offer? And how will Ewen deal with George's stealing of his prized possession? Lots here for discussion with the children. Would they have dealt with George the way that Ewen did? What does this story tell us about Ewen?

Heroes - a story about heroes.

Heroes can be in stories or in real life, as a School Assembly tells.

Ewen is wee Archie's hero, and in helping rescue Puggy, Archie too becomes a hero to someone else, and finds some pals of his own age.

Discussion brings out values, relating to others, aspirations, rolemodels.

Can everyone be a hero to someone else?

Ewen, the clouds and the bone - a story about bullying, and about fitting into or standing out from, a group.

Ewen thinks he has found something special on the beach. But Liam wants the bone too, and Ewen has to fight to keep it. When he meets Neil's gang on their skateboards, will he fit in, or opt out?

The Real Thing - a story about different values and relating to someone with different attitudes.

Neil brags a lot, especially about his stuff. He's not interested in Ewen's love for the real sea eagle. He has strongman images of eagles. But when Neil loses some of his prized stuff, who is the strong man then? And does the real thing come into the story's end?

Yes and No – a story with a feisty heroine.

Jasmine is coming, and no-one wants to help Ewen look after her. She's a handful, daring, adventurous, taking risks. And one risk could be too many for Jasmine, who is disabled.

Love of life despite disability, risk-taking, lots to talk about here.

Faultless – a story about imperfection

A wet morning interval, and Ewen sees the incident in the wee wans' room in school.

Who is at fault? Will Archie take the blame?

And are there perfect, faultless things?

In Ewen's favourite books, Captain Jack is perfect,. What about priceless? The island sunrise?

Ewen's mum's chips are perfect, without fault, and Ewen wonders about himself.

The Loose End – a story about taking time to enjoy yourself, about play, about doing nothing very much.

Ewen and Jimmy have no plans for the day, but they have a great time, and in the course of the day, enjoy nature, an icecream at Gianni's, and a wee surprise from an Italian granny.

How sweet it is to do nothing.