

A day in the life

Jason's mum wakes him up at half past seven to get ready for school. He goes into the bathroom and washes, then goes downstairs for the breakfast his mum has made.

William is woken at four in the morning by a man kicking him out of the doorway he has slept in. There is no water for William to have a wash, and he has to get what food he can, either by hunting through dustbins for scraps, or by stealing from the market.

Jason puts on his school clothes, picks up his lunchbox and goes off to school. He's running a bit late this morning, so his mum takes him in the car.

William is also running, but he's running away from the market trader whose apples he just stole. When he has escaped, he heads into the town to try to earn some money. Sometimes he shines the shoes of the businessmen who arrive in town in their big black cars. Sometimes he collects scrap metal from the rubbish dump to sell. Sometimes he has to offer to help a market trader. He never earns more than a few pennies, not enough to buy a good lunch.

Jason has fun at school with his friends, especially playing football at lunchtime. When he gets home he plays on his PlayStation until teatime, and does his homework after tea.

William likes to play too. Sometimes he meets with the other boys who live on the streets of the town, and they kick around bits of rubbish they find. They rarely find anything as round as a football, but it is good not to think about food or money for a while.

After Jason has eaten his tea and done his homework, he gets ready for bed. His dad comes upstairs when he gets home from work and reads with Jason until it is time to go to sleep. Jason snuggles down into his warm soft bed, and is soon fast asleep.

After William has eaten some scraps he found on the rubbish dump, he sets off to find somewhere to sleep. He needs to find somewhere he will be safe from people who beat up the street kids and steal everything they have. Even if he had anyone to share a book with, William can't read, he's never been to school. He eventually finds an empty doorway, and lies down, trying to get comfortable and keep warm. It will be a long time before he manages to go to sleep.