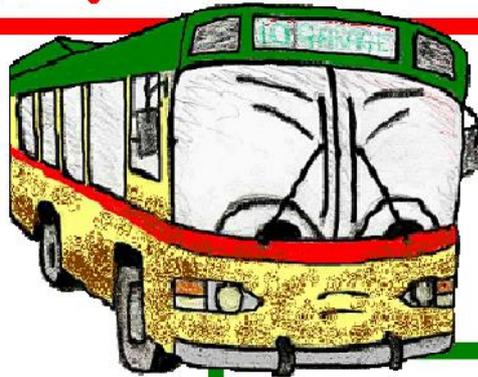


The Buses of Sunnydown Garage



Grumpy Geoff in
Cow Trouble

Cow trouble.

Grumpy Geoff does not like to have a wash.
He is very proud to be dirty.



All the other buses think he is a bit smelly
and keep as far away from him as they can.

However, Geoff has a bad day and is made
to have a wash in the morning.

To make it worse he has to have a second
wash in the afternoon but this time he is
pleased to have that wash!



This is Geoff. He has been at the Sunnydown Garage for many years and is getting old. He can also be very grumpy.

Geoff is grumpy in the mornings. “I am far too tired to get up,” he yawns.

He gets grumpy when he is busy - “I am far too old to rush around,” he says.

He gets grumpy when he is cold or wet and then he shivers so much, his windows sound like they are falling out.

However, the one thing that makes Geoff the grumpiest of all is having a wash!

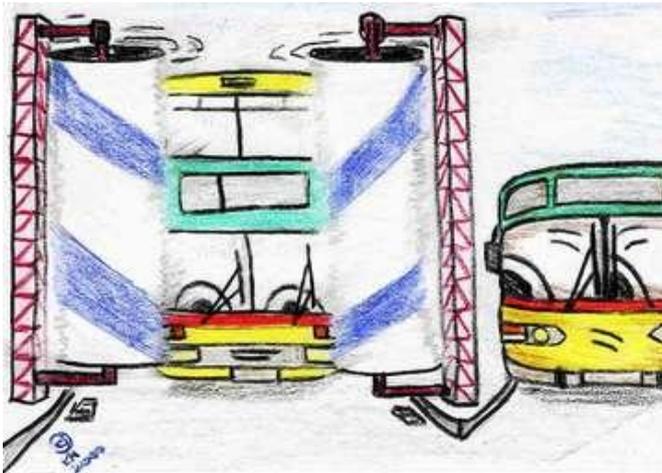


“It is too cold to wash in the mornings and I am too tired to wash at night,” he says to any of the other buses that care to listen.

Whenever Geoff’s driver takes him into the bus washer, and before even a drop of water has touched his paintwork, Geoff’s engine usually stops working with a great shudder.

Geoff always goes to bed dirty and smelly and the other buses stay as far away from him as they can.

Something is going to happen that will make Geoff want to have a wash as quickly as possible.



It all started late one evening as Geoff was watching Alice, the double-decker bus, go through the bus washer.

“I do not understand why you need to have a wash,” he yawned. “You will only get dirty again tomorrow!”

Alice smiled and said, “I like to be clean. It is not nice for people to see you dirty.”

Geoff thought this was silly and quickly drove off to snuggle up under the warm garage heater.

Do you think it is silly to wash yourself every day?



The following morning, Geoff was waiting for his driver at the front of the garage when a brand new bus drove alongside him.

“Hello, my name is Dennis. Would you like to be my friend?” the new bus asked.

However, before Geoff could answer, Dennis went on “You are very dirty – don’t you ever wash? My paintwork is nice and shiny and my windows are all sparkly and clean.”

This made Geoff very angry.

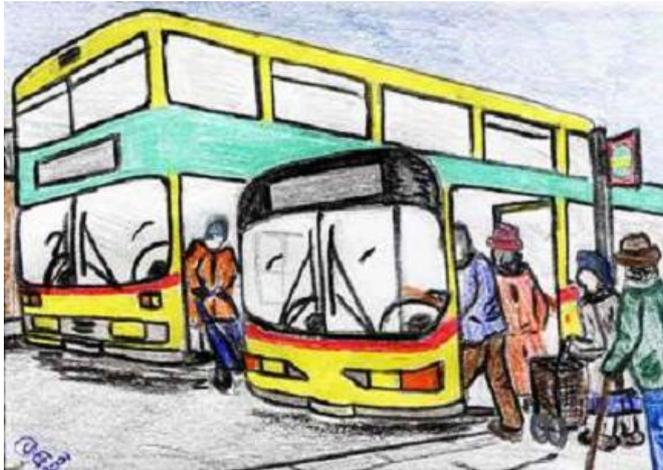


Without a further word, Geoff roared off leaving a cloud of thick black smoke behind.

“Well,” Dennis spluttered to himself, “how rude and dirty and smelly is that bus! I only wanted to be his friend.”

Geoff was very upset by the things Dennis had said, but he had to admit to himself that Dennis was a very clean and shiny bus.

Do you think Dennis was being rude to Geoff?



Alice had also overheard what Dennis had said to Geoff.

When she saw Dennis in the bus station later that morning, she pulled up next to him.

“That wasn’t a very nice thing to say to Geoff even if it is true,” she said to him.

Dennis agreed and promised he would say “sorry” the next time he saw Geoff, as long as Geoff did not blow smoke all over him again.

Do you think saying sorry always makes things better?



All morning, Geoff was thinking very hard about the things Dennis had said.

“I like being dirty,” he muttered to himself.

Geoff was thinking so much that he kept forgetting to stop at bus stops and all his passengers were annoyed with him.

To make it even worse, a police officer came to talk to him at one bus stop.

“You are very dirty,” he said sternly and ordered Geoff’s driver to take him straight to the washer.



Geoff's driver took him to the garage for a wash as soon as possible.

This time, because a police officer had ordered him to wash, Geoff made sure his engine did not stop as he went through the washer.

The garage cleaners also worked to make him sparkle inside and outside and soon he was as shiny as Dennis was.

"It will take me ages to collect all that dirt again," he moaned.

Do you think Geoff will be dirty again very soon?

It started to rain not long after Geoff left the garage.



It carried on raining all afternoon and Geoff was getting dirtier and dirtier as he drove around Sunnydown.

When Geoff pulled into the bus station ready to start his last trip of the day, he stopped next to Dennis who said how sorry he was and asked Geoff to forgive him.

Geoff gave a snort as he drove off, but at least this time he did not blow smoke at Dennis.

Would you forgive someone if they said sorry?

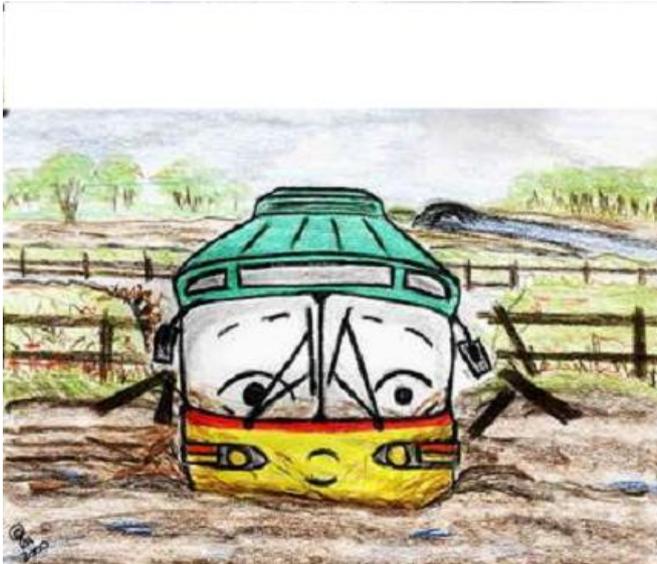
After Geoff's last trip, he was rushing back to the Sunnydown Garage.



He was very cold, wet and dirty. He was also daydreaming about getting nice and warm underneath his favourite garage heater.

As he came around a bend, a cow was standing in the middle of the road chewing a mouthful of grass.

“Peep peep, get out of the way,” Geoff shouted but the cow did not move, and Geoff was going too fast to stop.



Geoff closed his eyes and swerved off the road.

He heard a mighty 'CRASH' and felt wood splintering along his bodywork.

He bounced along the ground until he came to a soggy, squelching halt. Geoff still had his eyes tightly shut.

Geoff's engine gave a final shudder and stopped as he felt a wet tongue licking his windscreen.

Geoff opened his eyes and saw the cow staring at him, still chewing the mouthful of grass. "Mooooo," said the cow.

Geoff had ended up in a field full of cows. Now he was stuck fast and covered in a layer of thick mud and cow poo.



Geoff had to wait for Big Jim, the garage tow truck to come and pull him free. Geoff was certainly very smelly now!

Even though Big Jim had to hold his breath, he made sure it took a long time to tow Geoff back to the garage.

“Hurry up,” Geoff kept shouting, “I need to wash as soon as I can to get rid of this smell!”

For the second time in a single day, Geoff was going to have a good wash and this time he wanted it as quickly as possible.



Dennis was very impressed as he parked next to Geoff in the garage that night.

“How have you managed to stay so clean in all this rain?” he asked. Dennis was probably the only bus in the whole garage who did not know about Geoff’s little adventure.

Geoff closed his doors with a loud snap and turned off his headlights. Poor Dennis had said the wrong thing again.

Do you think Geoff was being fair to Dennis?



The following day, Geoff was dozing quietly in the bus station.

Alice, the double-decker bus, pulled alongside him.

“Oh Geoff, you look very handsome when you are nice and clean,” she whispered to him.

“But you forgot to wash behind your mirrors,” she laughed as she drove away.

Geoff smiled as well. It was nice to be clean, he thought to himself - as long as he was never too clean.

What does this story teach us?



Keeping clean.

This story is all about a very dirty bus called Geoff. Geoff does not like having a wash. He does not see the point because “you will only get dirty again,” he says.

However, Geoff is forced to wash twice in a single day and he finds out that the other buses prefer him to be nice and clean.

Not everyone is able to wash everyday in clean, hot water. Think about how you would feel if you did not wash regularly and you had to eat your food with dirty hands.

Words.



Some words used in this story describe how the character is feeling.

Geoff closing his doors with 'a loud snap' would be the same as you turning your back on someone you did not want to talk with.

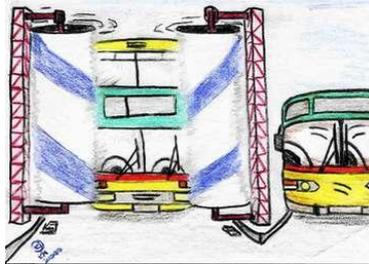
Geoff's engine stopping with a 'shudder' would be the same as you having a fright or shock – and Geoff will have two of those in this story!

Can you find other words in the story that describe how a character is feeling? Do you know any other words that could be used?

Use these pictures to write your own story.



Title picture



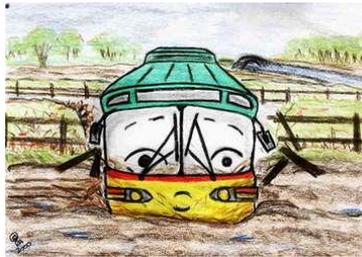
Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5

Additional notes for parents, carers or teachers.



Themes to explore in the story

Personal hygiene is the main theme within this story, and especially washing every day.

However, it is also important to recognise that throughout the world, washing every day in clean, hot water is not possible. Discuss how this would feel – although it might be fun for a short while, it would soon become uncomfortable. How would eating and drinking with dirty hands affect health?

How might you tell one of your friends or a stranger that they are dirty or smelly without hurting their feelings?