



# The Unfinished Story

*A short story told in five weekly chapters, five minutes each. Every chapter ends on a choice with no clean answer, the form argues about what the character should do, and the next week opens by revealing what they actually did. It is about integrity: doing the right thing when nobody is watching. This is Volume One.*

## What you need

| Page   | What it is                                                                 | How many         |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Slides | How it works, then the five chapters, one to a slide (a separate download) | Nothing to print |
| Page 2 | All five chapters in full, if you would rather read from the page          | One, for you     |

## How it works

| Step | What happens                                                                                                          |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1    | From chapter two on, start by reading what last week's choice actually led to.                                        |
| 2    | Read this week's chapter: a short scene ending on a new choice with no clean answer. One chapter a week, in order.    |
| 3    | Let the form argue it out. There is no need to settle on an answer, because the story continues next week either way. |

## Worth knowing

- Two minutes to read, then as long as you like to discuss.
- The recap at the start of each chapter is the reason to come back the following week, so keep the chapters in order.

***Make sure you come back for Volume Two. Follow @thepastoralguide to hear when it lands.***





# The Unfinished Story

All five chapters, for reading straight from the page if you would rather not use the slides.

## 1. The Bag by the Gate

On the walk to school, Sam spots a bag left behind at the bus stop. Inside: a phone, a bit of cash, and a house key. Nobody else is around, and the next bus is already pulling in.

**What should Sam do?**

## 2. The Assembly

**So far:** Sam handed the bag straight to the school office. Three days later, a girl named Priya came looking for it. It was hers, and the only photo she has of her nan was inside.

Priya wants to say thank you in assembly, in front of everyone. Sam feels strange about the attention, and quietly asks a friend not to mention it. The friend thinks Sam deserves the credit, and tells a teacher anyway.

**Was the friend right to tell, even though Sam didn't want the attention?**

## 3. The Empty Seat

**So far:** The teacher mentioned it at the end of registration, one sentence rather than a whole assembly moment. Sam went red, but it passed quickly.

A few weeks later, Sam notices someone being quietly left out. Not bullied exactly, just never asked to sit with the group at lunch, week after week.

**Is doing nothing about something like this the same as taking a side?**

## 4. What Sam Heard

**So far:** Sam started sitting with them sometimes, without making it a whole thing.

Then Sam finds out, from someone else, that this person said something unkind about Sam behind their back, months before any of this started.

**Does knowing that change what Sam should do now?**

## 5. Small Things

**So far:** Sam kept sitting there anyway. It felt strange for about a week, and then it just felt normal.

By the end of term, the two of them were just friends. Nobody made a big deal of it. Nobody even really noticed when it happened.

**Do small choices like Sam's actually add up to anything?**

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