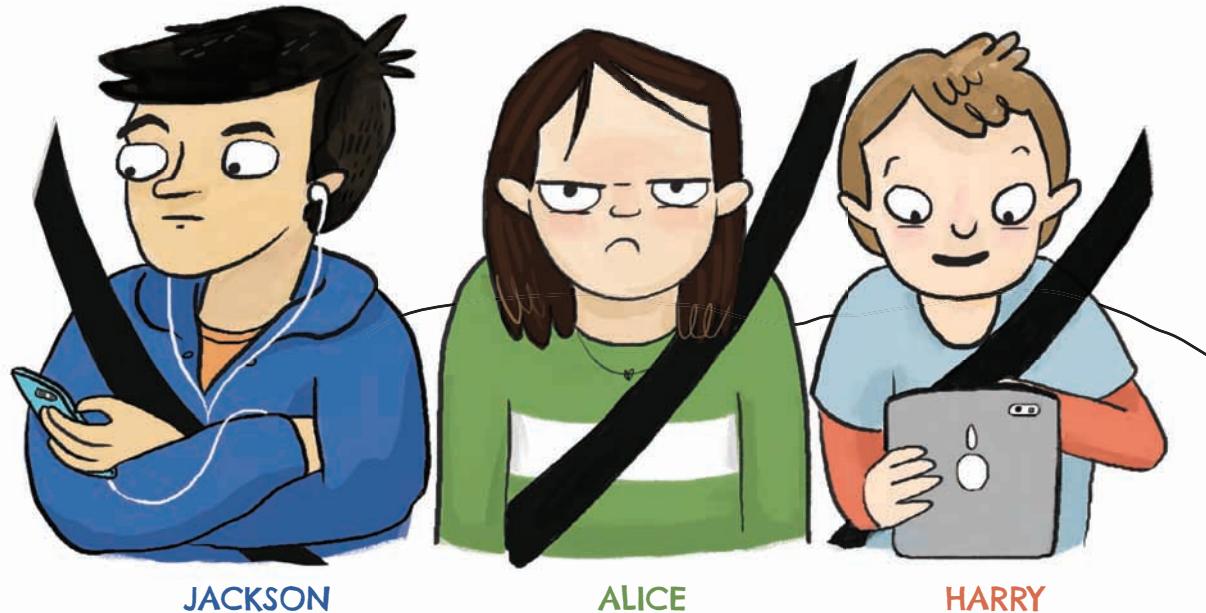
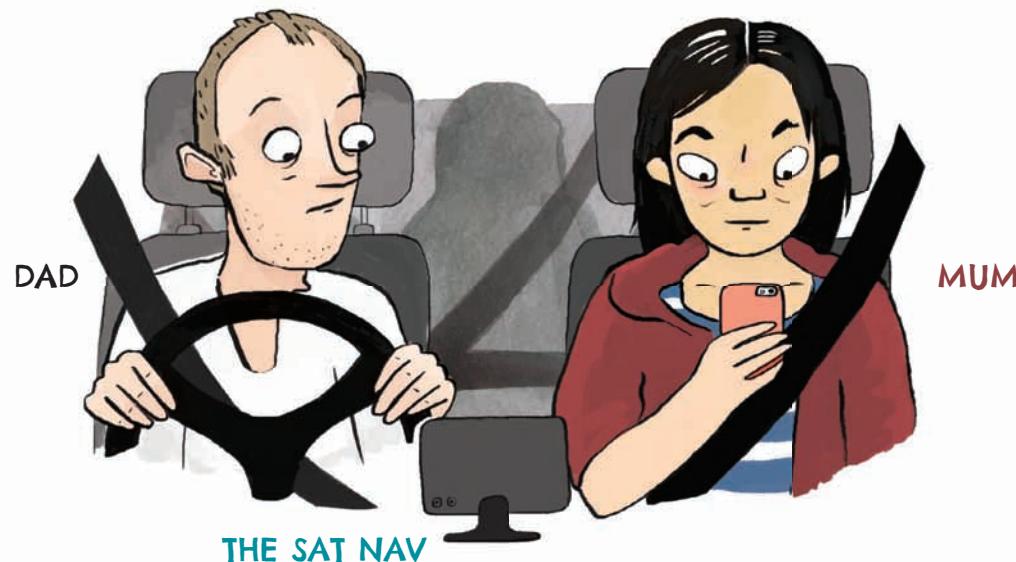


# CAR GAMES

by Sarah Delahunty



**SCENE:** The family is in the car. DAD is in the driver's seat, MUM is in the passenger seat, and the three kids are in the back. HARRY is playing on a tablet. JACKSON is listening to music and wearing ear buds. ALICE has no device. The person playing the satellite navigation system should stand off-stage.



DAD. Right, mini golf – here we come. Seatbelts on, everyone?

HARRY and ALICE (*impatiently*). Yes!

DAD. Jackson? (*He waits.*) Jackson?

HARRY and ALICE (*shouting*). JACKSON!

JACKSON (*taking out an ear bud*). What?

DAD. Seatbelt on.

JACKSON (*putting the ear bud back in*). Sure.

ALICE. Dad, can I have your phone?

DAD. When I was a child, we made our own fun in the car.

ALICE. That's why I need your phone.

DAD. We'd play car games, sing songs ...

ALICE. Harry's got the tablet, so I should get your phone. It's not fair otherwise.

And I'm bored.

DAD. But I haven't even started the car.

ALICE. Da-aaa-d!

DAD (*starting to drive*). There was a great game we used to play. We all chose a letter of the alphabet and spotted number plates beginning with that letter.

MUM (*enthusiastically*). We played that game, too!

ALICE. I'd rather play a game on your phone.

SAT NAV. Continue for 400 metres, then make a left turn.

DAD. Or how about a general knowledge quiz! What's the capital of Australia?

ALICE. Da-aaa-d!

DAD. I know. Goat spotting! First to see a black goat wins. Let's play that one.

HARRY (*looking at his tablet*). Yes!

DAD. See, Alice? Harry's keen.

HARRY. Level five! Awesome!

DAD. How about you, Jackson? (*He waits.*) Jackson?

HARRY and ALICE (*shouting*). JACKSON!

JACKSON (*taking out an ear bud*). What?

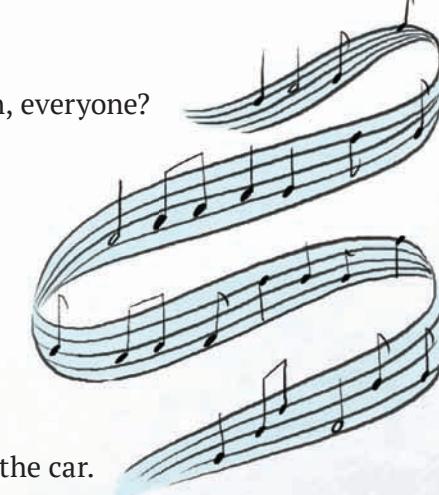
DAD. Who'll be the first to see a black goat?

JACKSON (*putting the ear bud back in*). Dunno.

DAD. What's wrong with this family? Do you all need devices to survive?

SAT NAV. Continue for 100 metres, then make a left turn.

DAD. That's lucky. I was going to turn right.



**ALICE.** I'm bored!

**MUM.** Shush! I'm trying to concentrate. I'm texting Grandma.

**DAD.** First to see a black goat wins.

**HARRY.** No!

**DAD.** I thought you wanted to play.

**HARRY.** I've been killed.

**MUM.** What?

**DAD.** What?

**MUM.** Grandma. She says she's had her horse painted! On impulse.

**SAT NAV.** Make a left turn.

**DAD** (*confused*). When did she get a horse?

**ALICE.** Who's got a horse?

**DAD.** Grandma.

**ALICE.** Cool! Hey, Harry, Grandma's got a horse!

**HARRY.** Don't talk to me. I'm dead.

**ALICE.** Jackson. (*She shouts.*) **Jackson!**

**JACKSON** (*taking out an ear bud*).

Yeah?

**ALICE.** Grandma's got a horse!

**JACKSON.** A black one?

**ALICE.** Not sure. I'll find out.

**JACKSON** (*putting the ear bud back in*).

Oh. OK. Cool.

**ALICE.** What colour did she paint it, Mum?

**SAT NAV.** Continue for 200 metres, then make a left turn.

**DAD.** Really? That doesn't seem right ...

**MUM.** It's not. It's left.

**ALICE** (*impatiently*). Mum! What colour is Grandma's horse?

**MUM.** I just asked her that. She says white with blue trim.

**ALICE.** Blue trim? Where does a horse have trim?

**SAT NAV.** Make a left turn.

**DAD.** Left? Left? What are you talking about?

**MUM.** Don't argue with a machine.

**ALICE.** It must be the mane and tail.

**MUM** (*to DAD*). Why are you turning right? What's the point of having one of these things if you're going to ignore it?

**DAD.** I'm not!

**ALICE.** I **really** want to see Grandma's horse. Let's go to Grandma's. Dad, can we go to Grandma's?

**HARRY.** That's not fair. I want to play mini golf. Dad, you said we were playing mini golf!

**DAD** (*to MUM*). That's it. I can't drive with this racket. Swap places.

*Mum and Dad swap seats.*

**ALICE.** I'll text Grandma about her horse.

**DAD** (*starting to write a text*). No you won't. I will.

**SAT NAV.** Make a left turn.

**MUM** (*nodding*). Right.

**DAD.** No, left.

**MUM.** Shush. I'm concentrating.

I know what I'm doing.

**ALICE.** It's my turn with the tablet, Harry.

**HARRY.** I'm not finished. I'm still on level five.

**ALICE.** I thought you were dead.

**HARRY.** I was – but now I'm back.

**ALICE.** How many levels are there?

**HARRY.** Sixteen.

**ALICE.** Da-aaa-d!

**DAD** (*looking at his phone*). What?

**ALICE.** Harry won't give me a turn on the tablet.

**DAD** (*very confused*). That's weird!

**SAT NAV.** Continue for 400 metres, then make a right turn.

**MUM.** That is weird.

**ALICE** (*exasperated*). It's **not** weird. It's normal. Harry always hogs it.

**DAD.** Grandma says she paid 250,000 dollars for her horse.

**HARRY.** What horse?

**ALICE.** For a horse? It must have been a race horse.

**HARRY.** What are you talking about?

**DAD.** If you paid attention to people instead of devices, you'd know.

**MUM.** Shush! I'm trying to concentrate.

**SAT NAV.** Continue for 200 metres, then make a right turn.

**MUM.** I think we should turn left.

**DAD.** Don't argue with a machine.

**HARRY.** What horse?

**ALICE.** The one grandma painted – her blue and white one. It's a race horse.

**HARRY** (*impressed*). Wow. Hey, Jackson.

**HARRY and ALICE** (*shouting*). Jackson!

**MUM.** Shush! I'm trying to concentrate.

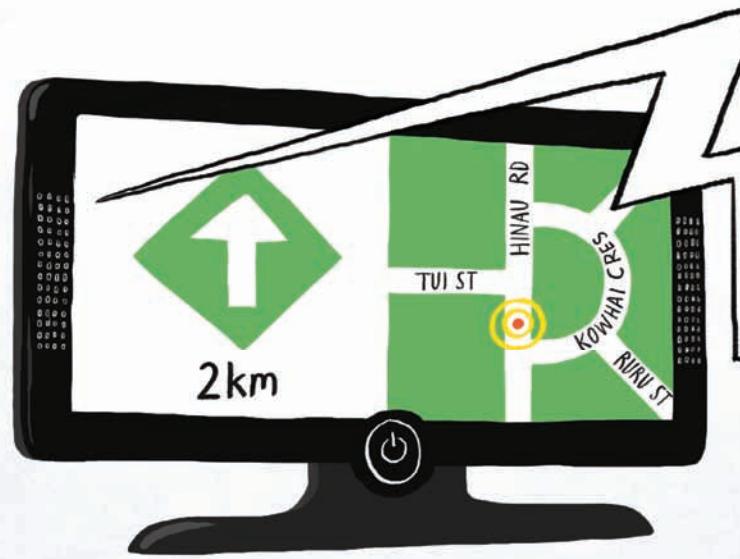
**JACKSON** (*taking out an ear bud*). What?

**HARRY.** Grandma paid 250,000 dollars for a race horse!

**ALICE.** It's white with blue trim.

**JACKSON** (*putting the ear bud back in*). Nice one, Grandma.





...CONTINUE STRAIGHT FOR  
TWO KILO METRES!



**SAT NAV.** Continue straight for two kilometres!

**MUM.** Two kilometres! We should be there by now.

**DAD** (*looking at the phone*). And now she says she's been up to the shops this morning for some more pigs.

**ALICE.** Jackson.

**ALICE** and **HARRY** (*shouting*). **Jackson!**

**JACKSON** (*taking out an ear bud*).

What?

**ALICE.** Grandma has pigs.



**JACKSON.** Is this some kind of quiz game?

**HARRY.** Grandma hasn't got pigs, so how can she be getting more? And shops don't sell pigs, do they?

**JACKSON.** Or are we telling riddles?

**SAT NAV.** Get ready for a right turn.

**DAD** (*looking at the phone*). She also bought bears!

**ALICE.** I really, **really** want to go to Grandma's.

**SAT NAV.** Your destination is on your left. You have arrived.

**DAD.** Umm, honey. This is a garden centre.

**MUM** (*crossly*). I can see that.

**DAD:** Kids, how do you feel about visiting a garden centre?

**ALICE.** Not good.

**HARRY.** Bad!

**JACKSON:** Hey, Dad, can I look at Mum's phone.

**DAD** (*sternly*). No games on Mum's phone.

**JACKSON.** I want to read Grandma's texts.

**DAD** (*passing the phone to JACKSON*).

We'll just make the most of it. I know a **great** game using plant names. We'll need to pay close attention to the Latin.

**ALICE.** Dad, Latin's a dead language.

**DAD.** That's not true, honey. It's used in garden centres across the country.

**JACKSON laughs.**

**EVERYONE.** What?

**JACKSON.** Grandma says sorry about the texts.

**ALICE.** Why?

**JACKSON.** Because she's just found her glasses.



# Car Games

by Sarah Delahunty

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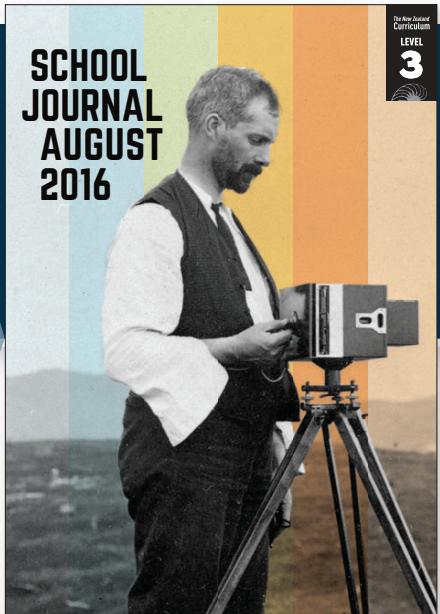
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|----------------------------------|--|
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| <b>Reading year level</b>        | Year 5   |
| <b>Keywords</b>                  | drama, electronic devices, family, generational divide, humour, misunderstanding, plays, satellite navigation system, tablet, technology |