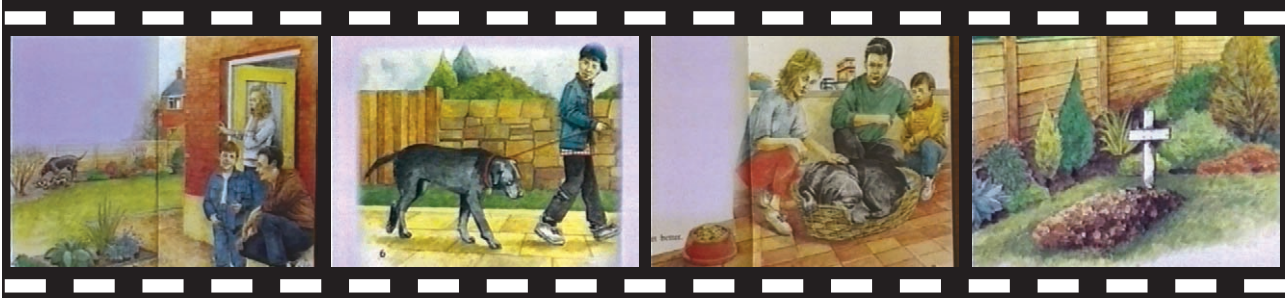# Old Bones

TREND TASK

NEMP Access Task

Approach: One to one
Focus: Bereavement.
Resources: Video recording on laptop computer.

Level: Year 4 and year 8

Questions/instructions:

This activity uses the computer.

Click the Old Bones button.

In this activity we are going to look at a video about a boy called Zak and his pet dog "Arch".
After we have watched it I will ask you some questions.

Click the Play button.

Video script:

Every week, every month, every year, Arch buried bones in the flower garden.

"That daft, dumb, dizzy, dopey dog!" Zac's Mum pretended to growl.

"I can't grow any daffodils because of his smelly old bones!"

But one day, Arch just left a bone lying on the lawn. He didn't bury it.

"Poor Arch," said Zac's Mum. "He's really old now."

Zac felt upset. For the next week he took Arch for a walk every day. Arch creaked along very slowly. When he got home, he lay in his basket for a long time.

One day Zac's mum said, "Arch can't move his back legs now." Cliff picked him up and carried him inside to his basket. Arch lay there all afternoon.

Several days passed and Arch did not get any better.

"I think we have to put him down," said Cliff. "It's for the best. I'll take him to the vet tomorrow."

The next morning, Arch had a special breakfast of sausages and bacon. When Zac put the bowl down beside his basket, the old dog wagged his tail. Zac cried all the way to school.

That afternoon, Arch's basket was gone from the living room. There was a fresh patch of dug earth in a corner of the lawn near the flower bed. A white cross stood at one end.

	% responses 2002 ('98) year 4	% responses 2002 ('98) year 8		% responses 2002 ('98) year 4	% responses 2002 ('98) year 8
1. Zak's dog, Arch, has just died. How do you think Zak is feeling now?			*(e.g. reflection, memory, action)*	32 (26)	41 (47)
not marked	•	•	**non-dog related, positive** *(e.g diversions, treats)*	17 (9)	21 (16)
			non-dog related, negative *(avoiding, ignoring issue)*	16 (14)	18 (14)
2. Zak is feeling pretty bad about his dog dying. What could he do to help himself feel better?			replacing dog with a new pet	64 (62)	61 (56)
			Overall strength of ideas:		
dog related, positive			strong	2 (0)	3 (1)
			moderate	37 (28)	44 (42)
			weak	61 (72)	53 (57)

	% responses	
	2002 ('98)	2002 ('98)
	year 4	**year 8**
3. If you were Zak's friend, how might you help him to feel better?		
talk/do things to remember happy times with dog	10 (17)	18 (16)
express sympathy, understand how he is feeling	28 (27)	33 (31)
do things to get his mind off the dog	52 (34)	51 (53)
tell him he will get over it or needs to do so	5 (4)	7 (3)
Overall strength of ideas:		
strong	1 (0)	3 (0)
moderate	32 (17)	33 (27)
weak	67 (83)	64 (73)
4. Who else might he go to for help?		
not marked	•	•

		% responses	
		2002 ('98)	2002 ('98)
		year 4	**year 8**
5. How do you think they could help him?			
not marked		•	•
Total score:	4	0 (0)	1 (0)
	3	2 (0)	3 (0)
	2	18 (13)	22 (24)
	1	34 (19)	31 (24)
	0	46 (68)	43 (52)

Commentary:

Fifty to seventy percent of the suggestions from both year levels were judged to be 'poor', but there was some evidence of improvement at year 4 level between 1998 and 2002.