1. The title of the short story is taken from folklore relating to the weather. Explain the meaning of the following saying in your own words.

   Red sky at night, shepherd’s delight.  
   Red sky in the morning, shepherd’s warning.

Having read the story, how appropriate do you think the title is? Give reasons for your answer.

2. The story is narrated by Anna, a teenage girl who has a disabled baby brother. She is afraid of what will happen if people at school find out about Ben. Find the sentence which tells the reader how Anna keeps her home life and her school life separate.

3. Now work with a partner to find as many things as you can which Anna does at home, then find all the things which Anna reserves for school. Organise your findings in a table like the one below. Remember to include page numbers for the evidence you find.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Home</th>
<th>Page number</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Page number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

4. Do any areas of Anna’s life belong to both boxes? Highlight any that do.

5. With your partner, think about all the different personas you have: e.g. son, sister, friend, team mate. Make a list of all the different roles you play in your everyday life.

6. Now, think about whether these roles are completely separate, or whether, in some situations, they overlap. For example, you may have a brother or sister in the same school and sometimes you may find yourself being a pupil, a brother/sister and a friend all at the same time!
7. Working with two or three other people, use the instructions below to make a diagram showing Anna’s relationships with other characters in the novel.

- Take a large piece of sugar paper and draw out the diagram below.

- Allocate one line for each of the following characters:
  > Katy
  > Ben
  > Mum
  > Dad
  > Emma
  > Miss Winter
  > Miss Penny
  > Miranda
  > Greg
  > Mrs Chapman
  > People in the street (who look at Ben)

- Write each character’s name on the diagram to show the closeness of their relationship with Anna. The closer the relationship, the nearer you should put their name to Anna’s.

- Next, draw arrows to show how the characters contribute to Anna’s life.

- Draw an arrow from a character towards Anna if the character is contributing to her life.

- Draw an arrow with a point at both ends if the two characters contribute to each others’ lives.

- If there is contact, but no contribution either way, just draw a straight line.

- Finally, include a quotation along each arrow or line to support your decisions.

Present your diagram to the rest of your class, and be prepared to justify your decisions.
8. Thinking about Anna’s relationships, why do you think she spends time teaching Ben about kisses and laughter, but wants to show her feelings towards her sister with a burger or Beatles music?

9. Now think about Anna’s relationship with people at school. What nicknames is she called?

   Her school friends do not know about Ben, but Anna does. How might their viewpoints differ as a result?

10. Finally, look at Anna’s relationship with her mum and with Mrs. Chapman. In what ways are these relationships different?

11. Re-read the story from p.226: ‘It isn’t easy having a really deep conversation with a newsagent on a Saturday morning’ to p.228: ‘Mrs Chapman talked a long time, in between selling pencil sharpeners and tubes of Smarties, but she didn’t quite convince me.’

   In your group, script the conversation which takes Anna from the point where she has been seen by Miranda and Greg, to the point where she leaves the shop with some doubts still in her mind. You can include customer interruptions to lighten the conversation if you wish.

   Then, introduce a break in the form of a stage direction and write a second section about what happens on Monday morning.

Further tasks

1. Imagine you are Anna and you feel you need to speak to someone about the problems you have as a result of your brother being disabled. Write a letter to an agony aunt explaining your problems, your feelings, and asking for help.

   Write the response from the agony aunt as well.

2. Imagine you are Miranda. Write about the events of Saturday in your diary, and include your plans for meeting Anna on Monday.