

'Speak up, speak up and think about the meaning of the words'. But what I remember most about her is her ruler. She had this wooden ruler and if anyone was looking sleepy or bored she'd poke them on the shoulder with this ruler and shout 'Wake up, girl' or 'boy'. Then one day she spotted someone asleep, fast asleep and snoring, at the back of the class. Mrs Chapman was sooo furious she slammed the ruler down on his desk and it broke in half. We were all scared stiff. She didn't throw the ruler away – after that it was even sharper when she poked you in the back. Maybe her lessons helped me though – I'm a barrister now and when I have to speak in court Mrs Chapman's words ring in my ear: 'Speak up, speak clearly girl!'

3 Rupert

I don't think I ever had a favourite teacher, but I had a *least* favourite teacher and weirdly he was probably the most successful teacher I ever had. You see, when I was at primary school I was really good at maths – I could do it all. But when I went to secondary school I had a succession of dismal maths teachers, and by the time I took my exams at 16 I was absolutely hopeless. I failed miserably. And I needed to pass maths to get into university, so I had to retake it – this time with a very different teacher. Mr Biggs. He was very sarcastic and it seemed to be his mission in life to embarrass his students and me particularly because I'd joined the class to do a resit. He was always getting me out to the front of the class to do sums on the board and he'd sneer if I got it wrong, which was most of the time. I hated him with a passion, but actually his explanations were crystal clear and gradually over the year I improved. I got a really good pass in the end and got into a good university. I have no idea how old he was – just old – but when you're 16, 35 seems old. I'd say he was probably in his late 30s and big like his name with a huge booming voice.

4 Charlotte

Well, one teacher I'll never forget is Miss Wilkinson. She taught me chemistry and biology. I didn't like her subjects much, probably cos I wasn't much good at them. She seemed old to me, but she was probably just in her early 30s, and kind of tall and gangly. She drove this ancient mini and she always seemed too big for it. She had to crouch over the steering wheel. Anyway, the reason I remember her so well is because I think she fell for my dad. Really! You see, he'd sometimes collect me from school and one day there she was in her mini and she couldn't get it to start, so of course my dad, being the lovely gentleman he was, helped her. Miss Wilkinson was glowing with gratitude: 'Oh thank you, thank you Mr Wilson, so kind, so kind.' She went all weak and wobbly, not at all like she was when she was yelling at us in class. And then every time he came to collect me after that, somehow Miss Wilkinson would appear, and she was always asking me about him: 'How's your kind father, Charlotte?' 'Just fine Miss Wilkinson, he and my mum are going to Paris this weekend.' I just made that up to see her reaction. My friends and I used to giggle about it. When I mentioned it to my dad he just laughed and said 'Don't be silly Charlotte, nobody would fancy an old bore like me.' But my mum raised an eyebrow.

11.6 Dream discoveries

P And now for our popular science slot. This week, the subject is dreams. We all love to tell people when we've had strange dreams. They can be funny, bizarre, and sometimes embarrassing, but did you know how many important discoveries and ideas are the result of dreams? Scientist Susan Williams has

been doing some research into this, and she's here today to tell us about it. Susan, welcome! So, what are some of these dream discoveries?

- S** Well, a famous example is James Watson, the Nobel Prize-winning American scientist. He said that the idea for the possible structure of DNA came to him after having a dream about a spiral staircase. Neuroscientists suggest that this kind of thing can happen because during REM sleep we dream extra vividly, and new connections can be formed in the brain's network, so we are able to put ideas together in a way that would *never* have occurred to us when we're awake.
- P** That's really interesting. What other examples are there?
- S** Another very famous, but very different example from many years ago, is a young woman who had a dream about the mystery of human biology. She was called Mary Wollstonecraft, and in June 1816 she was still a teenager when she and her future husband, the poet Percy Shelley, visited another poet, Lord Byron, in Switzerland. One day it was too stormy to go out walking, so they all sat around in the library and read ghost stories to each other. They then decided to have a contest to see who could write the *best* ghost story. Mary struggled to find an idea, but then that night, in a dream, she saw a vision of a man, a scientist, kneeling beside a monstrous body that he had created. It was a nightmare – the body began to come to life. Mary woke up; she was very frightened, but also delighted because at last she had her idea. 'I have found it!' she wrote, 'and what terrified me will terrify others.' Of course, it turned out to be a lot more than a story to share with friends. Mary's novel *Frankenstein* was published on 1st January, 1818, when she was still only 20, and it is often described as the very first science fiction novel. I think the title of the book confuses many people, though – Frankenstein isn't the monster, its creator is!
- P** Yes, I believe that's a common mistake. So, tell me – are most dream discoveries rather dark and serious?
- S** No, not at all. You know Paul McCartney, one of The Beatles (for me, the most famous group *ever!*)? Well, one morning in 1963, Paul woke up with a melody for a song in his head. It was fully formed, and he thought, 'That's great. I wonder what that is?' He thought it must be something he'd heard somewhere, and played it on the piano to people, to see if they recognized it. No one did, so it was clearly his own composition, but he never felt like he'd written it because it had come ready-made in a dream, and it wasn't like anything he'd written before. No lyrics had come in the dream, and whenever he played it, he sang the words 'Scrambled eggs. Oh my baby how I love your legs!' Imagine if he'd left it like that! In fact, this is a good example of how unconscious inspiration can still need some conscious work putting in, because it was two years before Paul had the lyrics right and recorded the finished song. He called it 'Yesterday', and it was a huge hit. In fact, it has been voted the number one pop song of all time.
- P** I've always loved that song. What about a final example, Susan?
- S** OK, this time on a sporting note – from one of the greatest pop song writers to one of the greatest golfers, Jack Niklaus. He has told how he managed to get out of a losing run of games by paying attention to a dream. In 1962, aged 22, Jack won the US Open, and then two more major world championships in 1963. However, in 1964 his form had dropped and he won none. One morning, he remembered he'd been dreaming about playing

golf, and he had played really well, so he tried to remember exactly what he'd done in the dream and how it had felt. He realized that he'd been holding his golf club differently, and he wondered what would happen if he tried holding it the same way, for real, on the golf course that day. So that's what he did, and to his surprise and delight he played a wonderful round, and soon returned to his championship-winning form.

P Thank you very much indeed, Susan. That's all fascinating. So, maybe some of our dreams aren't just weird stories to tell friends! And maybe it would be worth keeping a notepad on your bedside table. But do make sure you write something you can read the next day!

11.9 Wait and see

- A** Are you having a holiday this year?
B I'd love to, but we'll have to wait and see.
A Hopefully, we're going to that farmhouse in Devon again in September. It'll only be for a few days, so it'll be short and sweet, but it's still touch and go whether I can get the time off work.
B Why's that? I thought they were good about giving you time off?
A Yeah, they are by and large, but we're a small firm and we have to cover for each other, so it's always a case of give and take.
B Yeah, that figures. At least you and Sophie have had a holiday this year. I'm sick and tired of not being able to go anywhere.
A You still get away now and then, don't you?
B Mmm, actually, it's more 'then' than 'now'! It's too expensive to take three kids abroad.
A What's wrong with holidays here?
B Oh, it's not easy when the weather's so hit and miss. Me and Charlotte used to have holidays in the UK rain or shine, but it's no fun keeping kids happy if the weather's rubbish. You certainly don't get much peace and quiet!
A Well, look, if we can get to that farmhouse, why don't you join us? We can help look after the kids.
B Woah, that's a kind offer, but I wouldn't want to spoil your holiday! I mean, what if they ...
A Honestly, I mean it, so no ifs or buts. I know Sophie would love to spend some time with your kids.
B Well, thank you so much! I'll talk to Charlotte about it if you're sure.
A I am, so do that. I'm sure we'd have a great time together!

12.3 Listen and check

- A** I don't want cereal for breakfast today.
B Would you like an egg, then? How about a boiled egg and some toast?
- A** Do any of your friends like dancing?
B Oh, yes, absolutely! *All* my friends like dancing! We go to clubs most weekends.
- A** What are the people you're studying with like?
B Really nice. Every person in my class is friendly, and we all get on really well with each other.
- A** I gave my three grandchildren £20 for Christmas.
B You have it easy! I have ten grandkids! I gave £10 to each one – I can't afford any more on my pension!
- A** Strange that Bob's training to be a vet when he doesn't seem to like animals!
B Yes, you'd assume a love of animals is vital for a vet. But I think he wanted to be a doctor and couldn't get into medical school.
- A** Isn't your mother Scottish?
B Actually, both my parents are Scottish. They come from Glasgow, but they moved down south after university.