

# The Accidental Time Traveller

James and Robert were staying at their Granny's house. It was raining too hard to go out anywhere and they'd spent the whole morning playing games inside and now they were bored. Granny had left them to clear up while she made lunch and they had spent several minutes falling out over who should pack up the games. Eventually Robert gave in and began to collect up all the playing pieces, meanwhile James crossed the room to look out of the window. It was still pouring down. He sighed and then he spotted an ornate little box on the windowsill. Without thinking, he flipped open the lid and there nestling in the velvet lined box was a shiny gold bracelet. He lifted it out and held it up in the light. "Look at this Robert. I wonder if it's precious."

Robert looked up just as James slipped the bracelet on to his wrist. Suddenly the room was filled with a fierce wind, the curtains billowed around him, the bracelet tightened on his arm and his feet left the ground. Slowly the room began to dissolve in a rainbow of whirling colours.

When James opened his eyes, he was lying flat on his back in a grassy meadow; above him birds were soaring high in a cloudless blue sky and somewhere close by he could hear the chirrup of a grasshopper.

He couldn't remember how he came to be in the middle of a field or why he felt so dizzy but as soon as the world stopped spinning round, he rolled over onto his side and cautiously got to his feet. He looked around at the unfamiliar fields and woods.

Something wasn't right. He didn't know where he was or what had happened but some instinct told him that he needed to be very cautious. In the distance he could see a plume of smoke and so he set off to see if he could find someone to help him find his way back to Granny's house.

He hadn't gone very far when he heard the sound of approaching horses. Even from a distance he could see the red plumed helmets and gleaming armour of Roman soldiers. He raced towards the wood to find a place to hide. Before he reached the trees he heard a loud shout of "Spy!" He glanced over his shoulder just long enough to see that one of the horsemen had changed direction and was galloping towards him. There was no way he was going to out run the horse so he stopped and held up his hands as the man approached. The soldier dropped down from his horse and stared at James.

"Who are you? What are you doing here?" he said, "And why are you dressed so strangely?"

James looked down at his jeans and trainers. He was too afraid to speak. The soldier looked at him curiously before he spoke. Eventually he said, "Now let's start at the beginning with your name and where you come from because I'm beginning to think you're a spy from the tribe that lives on the other side of the river."

"No," shouted James as the memories flooded back to him, "I'm not a spy! My name is James and I was staying at my Granny's house with my brother Robert. I found a bracelet and put it on my arm and woke up in this field. I don't know where I am and I can't explain what's happened." "Well that sounds very unlikely to me," laughed the soldier, "where is this magical bracelet? Show it to me!"

James held out his arm, they both looked at his wrist but there was no sign of the bracelet. He pulled up his sleeve as the soldier raised his sword, "You're under arrest, young man. I'm going to take you to the garrison for questioning. Start walking!"



1 What did James and Robert fall out over?

• Rectangular Snip

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2 What does the phrase 'ornate little box' suggest about the container the bracelet was found in?

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3 What happened when James placed the bracelet on his wrist?

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4 What is a 'plume of smoke'?

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5 How do you think James would have felt when he saw the Roman soldiers?

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6 Why do you think the Roman soldier thought James was a spy?

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7 Why did the Roman soldier ask James the question, "Why are you dressed so strangely?"

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8 'James held out his arm, they both looked at his wrist but there was no sign of the bracelet.' How do you think James felt when he realised the bracelet was missing from his wrist? Give a reason for your answer.

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