



Unit 4 Prose

Seventeen Oranges

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Warm up

Share with your classmates.

Imagine you are caught while sneakily eating something without your parent's permission.

- ▲ What would be your reaction at that moment?
- ▲ How would you manage that situation?



In the story "Seventeen Oranges" let us see if the narrator is able to cleverly manage a tricky situation or not.

Oranges! I was fond of them. I used to eat them all day and every day. But one day a police man found seventeen oranges hidden away in my pockets. He locked me up and I have never eaten an orange again.

I want to tell you the story.

I was driving a little pony-and-cart for the Swift Delivery Company, and I often went in and out of the docks.

- ▲ Where did the narrator work?
- ▲ What was the narrator's job in the docks?

I was not really a thief. But I usually left the docks with something under my apron. I had made the apron myself and it was a big one.

When there was a banana boat in the docks, I drove my little cart beside it.

Sometimes bunches of bananas fell to the ground. Often my friends kicked a bunch to me from the boat. I always picked up the bananas quickly and hid them under my apron.

Then I spent the rest of the day eating bananas. I liked bananas, but I like oranges best of all.

I only took things when I found them. But some people planned a theft very carefully. Clem Jones was a careful planner. Let me tell you about Clem.

One day Clem was coming out of the docks. He was carrying a box. 'What have you got in here?' asked Pongo the policeman.

'A cat,' replied Clem. 'Please don't make me open the box. The cat will run away.'

'A cat?' Pongo said. I don't believe you. Open the box.'

'But the cat will run away,' Clem said again.