



dinosaur bones

1 "Dinosaurs!"

"What?" Geoff looked at his best friend, Mario.

"Don't look so surprised," said Mario. "Dinosaurs used to run around all over this place millions of years ago."

2 Geoff looked at the bone that his dog Buffy

had dug up behind the compost bins. It was huge — bigger than his arm — and heavy.

"Well," said Geoff. "If this is a dinosaur bone ... then there's probably more of them just waiting to be dug up."

Geoff smiled at Mario.

3 "No way," said Mario, backing away. "I'm not digging."

"C'mon, just imagine," said Geoff, "if we brought a whole pile of dinosaur bones to our next history class. Mr Haison might let us off homework for a week. Maybe more."

Mario paused for a moment, thinking to himself. "Well ..."

4 An hour later there were several small holes all around the compost bin. Geoff and Mario sat on the grass beside them, resting.

"This is dumb," said Mario. "I don't think we're going to find any more bones."

"I have an idea," said Geoff, jumping to his feet. He put two fingers into his mouth and blew a long, loud whistle.

Buffy, his tiny dog that looked like an explosion of orange fluff, came charging out of her kennel. Geoff patted her and pointed to the bone she had found. Buffy had a good sniff of the large bone and yapped excitedly.

5 "More," said Geoff. "Buffy, find more bones."

Buffy looked up at Geoff and then bounded off.

Geoff ran to where Buffy was digging, "Take a look at this!"



The end of another bone was sticking out of the dirt. This one was even bigger than the first.

"Good girl, Buffy," said Geoff, patting her. "Now find another one."

6 "What in the world is going on here?" yelled Geoff's mother.

She stood on the back doorstep and looked around at the yard. It was full of holes. All over the grass, down by the back fence, in amongst the flower beds AND IN HER VEGETABLE GARDEN!

"Geoffrey!" she yelled. She came marching towards the boys. "What have you done to my garden?"

"Um ..." said Geoff, pointing to a large pile of bones. "We've been digging for ..."

7 "Dinosaur bones!" someone shouted.

They all turned around to see Geoff's dad standing by the back door. "Wow, my dinosaur bones!"

"What?" said Mario, Geoff and his mum at the same time.

"I buried them here," explained Geoff's dad, "when I was a kid, about Geoff's age."

Mario, Geoff and his mum just stared back, stunned.

8 "Well," said Geoff's dad, "they're not real dinosaur bones. They're plaster copies."

My uncle made them for me. He used to work at the museum."

"Why did you bury them?" asked Geoff.

"I was playing. I buried them so I could dig them up. But after I had dug up the first one ..." He turned red. "Well, your gran got mad and wouldn't let me dig any more. After that, I just forgot about them."

Mario looked at Geoff. "So I guess this means we'll still have to do homework."

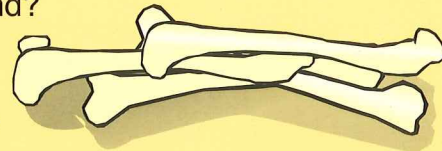
"...and some gardening too, don't forget!" chimed Geoff's mum.

Questions

- Where were the two boys?
 - in Geoff's backyard
 - in Mario's backyard
 - in a park
- What would get the boys out of homework for a week?
 - going to school
 - talking to Mr Haison
 - taking dinosaur bones to school
- What looked like "an explosion of orange fluff"?
 - Mario's hair
 - Geoff's dog
 - plants in the garden

- Who was angry about holes in the garden?
 - Geoff
 - Geoff's mum
 - Geoff's dad

- How many real dinosaur bones did the boys find?
 - one
 - two
 - none



- Why is "AND IN HER VEGETABLE GARDEN" written in capital letters?
 - This shows that Geoff's mum was angriest about holes in her vegetable garden.
 - The narrator is shouting.
 - The narrator is surprised about the holes in the garden.

Vocabulary

Match the words in the text to the clues below. The brackets show the text sections ().

bones museum compost paused bounded

- This type of bin is used in your garden (2)
- Waited or stopped for a moment (3)
- Bounced or leapt (5)
- These make up a skeleton (4)
- A building that displays interesting objects (8)

Grammar

The words in **BLUE** appear in the text. Match them by writing the correct synonym shown in **RED**.

E.g. *under* / *below*

- | | |
|------------|---------|
| 12 huge | shouted |
| 13 several | smell |
| 14 sniff | giant |
| 15 yelled | many |

Back To The Text...

- Who do you think this text is most likely written for?
 - children
 - adults
- In which part of the library would you find this text?
 - fiction
 - non-fiction
- Prediction: What is likely to happen in the future?

- The boys will dig for more bones.
- The boys will be busy in the garden.

Sequencing

Look back through the card to find what happened first. Choose **a** or **b**.

- Mum looked around the backyard.
 - Geoff said they might not have to do homework.
- Buffy dug up another bone.
 - Dad called out to the boys.
- Mum yelled at the boys.
 - Geoff called Buffy.

Think About This

- The image on page 2 is described in section
 - five.
 - six.
 - seven.
 - eight.
- The main purpose of this text is
 - to explain how dinosaur bones are buried.
 - to tell a humorous story about dinosaur bones.
 - to persuade children not to bury dinosaur bones.

Challenge Option

Drawing: Draw a picture of your favourite dinosaur.

