

Monday 14th June

LO: Comprehension

this whole clinic – I could've dreamt the lot. Somehow, it felt as if I was in the middle of a dream. The whole idea was bizarre enough to be a dream. The only trouble was, I didn't know whether or not I wanted to wake up yet.

Well, Alex, here I am. This is my last message before the operation. I'm at Dr Bryce's clinic now. I had a big breakfast, which is just as well, because Dr Bryce has just told me that I can't have anything else to eat until after the operation. At first I was a bit put out about that, but just between you and me, my appetite has vanished. To be honest, I don't think I could eat anything else. Come eight o'clock tonight I'll probably have changed my mind – but then again, I don't think so. I'm here, setting off on my journey into the unknown. I keep telling myself it's an adventure. Thousands of lucky people around the world have heart transplants and do very nicely, thank you! So why shouldn't I be one of them? And with all the anti-rejection drugs I'll be taking, it doesn't matter that my new heart was in a pig rather than a human first. My body won't know the difference – and that's what counts. I keep telling myself not to worry, I'll be fine.

But I'm scared. There – I've said it.

I'm not just scared, I'm petrified. My stomach feels as if my breakfast is trying to smash its way out.

Come on, Cameron. That's enough. Alex, one day, you and I will watch this bit of my video tape and we'll both smile at how silly I was to worry. I can't wait for that. I wish it was tomorrow. No. I wish it was the day after tomorrow. I've never wished my time away before. I want Mum and Dad to hug me, but if I asked them they'd know something was wrong.

How can I tell them that the only thing wrong with me is that I'm so scared I want to cry. They'd think I was a real baby. And then they'd both start worrying about me worrying and we'd all be

upset. So, until after the operation, I'll smile at everyone who comes into the room until my jaw aches and if I feel like I'm about to blub, I'll go into the bathroom and lock the door. Grown-ups do that all the time. Maybe I'm more grown-up than I ever thought.

Oh, God, I'm crying now. Wait a minute . . . I need to go to the bathroom.

That's better. This tissue isn't this soggy because I've been blubbing into it. I did blow my nose in it too – honest!

Alex, I hope you don't ever have to go through this. But you won't. I know you won't. You'll be born fighting fit and healthy enough for the both of us. But what am I wittering about? I'll soon be healthy and fit myself. We are going to have such fun. I can't wait.

- 1) Where is Cameron making the video ?
- 2) How did Cameron feel about not being able to have anything to eat until after the operation ?
- 3) What will Cameron take to help his heart transplant work ?
- 4) How is Cameron feeling about the operation ?
- 5) Why won't Cameron ask his parents to hug him ?
- 6) Why does Cameron think he is more grown up than he thought he was ?