

## School report: Portobello Market

by Amy Gibbs

### Introduction

I wanted to write about Portobello Market for my report because it's my favourite London market. It's very big – books, antiques, clothes and food are all found there. So when Mum said we were going to visit there last weekend, I was really happy. I also wanted to get a present for my best friend's birthday. She said she needed some new clothes, so I said I would try to find something nice for her.

### What we bought

From Monday to Thursday, fruit and vegetables are the main things that are found in the market, but we went on Saturday when antiques and clothes are sold. Mum bought some china plates. The lady selling them said they weren't very old, but they looked really elegant. I found a beautiful dress for my friend. The woman who sold it said that it was made by a local designer. The linen is really good quality. It was new, but it looked like it was designed in the 1920s. My friend said she loved it.

### Family history

My mum loves the area because she and Dad moved here when they left home and got married. They lived about five minutes away from Portobello Road. They left London and moved to Manchester because my mum got a job there. That's where my sister and I were born, but my parents said they sometimes missed London. We visited the old brick house they lived in, and I took her photo next to the wooden front door. It wasn't very expensive to live there then, but now the house probably costs millions of pounds.



### Facts about Portobello Market

- The market was started in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a food market. In the 1940s, it became a popular place to buy and sell antiques.
- These days, it's visited by 100,000 people every week.
- The market is on Portobello Road, which starts in Notting Hill. Some famous films were made in the area, such as the romcom *Notting Hill*.
- It's a very fashionable part of London and famous people are often seen here.
- Every year, the Notting Hill Carnival is held in and around Portobello Road. It has two million visitors, but also over 200 tonnes of rubbish – mostly broken glass, and plastic cups and plates.

1 154 Read and listen to the text. What present did Amy buy for her best friend?

2 **Comprehension** Choose the correct options.

- 1 Amy wanted to buy antiques/ clothes for her friend.
- 2 The dress that she bought was new/old.
- 3 Amy's parents lived on/near Portobello Road when they left home.
- 4 Amy was born in London/ Manchester.
- 5 The area is/isn't very popular with famous people.

### Vocabulary

3 Complete the sentences with a word from the text. The first letter is given. All the words describe materials or life stages.

- 1 I always keep some flowers in a g\_\_\_\_\_ vase on the table.
- 2 Mum and Dad weren't b\_\_\_\_\_ in this town, but they went to school here.
- 3 His shirt is made of good quality l\_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 This town is famous for its red b\_\_\_\_\_ buildings.
- 5 Put your p\_\_\_\_\_ bottles in the recycling bin.
- 6 They got m\_\_\_\_\_ and they had three children.

4 **Pairwork** Think about a favourite place to go shopping. Then in pairs, ask and answer the questions below.

- 1 Why do you like it there?
- 2 What things can you buy?
- 3 What did you do the last time you were there?