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	CEFR level	Story word count	Headwords
1	A1	1,000–2,000	550
2	A1+	3,000–4,000	700
3	A2	5,000–7,000	1,000
4	A2+	8,000–10,000	1,200



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DANNY THE CHAMPION OF THE WORLD



Illustrated by Quentin Blake

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CHAPTER 1

Danny and his father

When I was four months old, my mother died suddenly. My father had to look after me by himself. I had no brothers or sisters, so there was only me and my father at home.

We lived in an old **wagon** behind a small **garage** where my father **fixed** people's cars. My father owned our wagon and the garage and the small field behind the wagon. He did not own anything else in the world.



While I was a baby, my father fed me, washed me and played with me. He did all the things that you need to do to look after a young child. This was not easy for him because he had to work at the garage at the same time.

But my father loved me very much. I was a very happy baby, and I grew to be a very happy little boy.

Here I am on my fifth birthday, helping my father at the garage.



The wagon was our house and our home. It was 150 years old, and it was painted yellow, red and blue. It had four big wheels, but it could not move any more because the wheels were too old. There was only one room in the wagon, and it was very small. Our beds were at the back of the room, and one bed was on top of the other bed. My father slept on the top, and I slept on the bottom.



CHAPTER 3

Mr Victor Hazell

The next Friday, while my father and I were having dinner in our wagon, my father said, "I'd like to go poaching again tomorrow night, Danny. Is that OK?"

"Will you go to Hazell's Wood?" I asked.

"I always go to Hazell's Wood because that's where all the pheasants are," he said. "And I don't like Mr Hazell, so I enjoy poaching his birds. I haven't forgotten the way that he spoke to you."

Now I must stop here and tell you about something that happened with Mr Hazell.

Mr Victor Hazell was a very rich man, and he owned all the land around us. The only thing that he did not own was the field behind our wagon. That **belonged** to my father. It was like a little island in the middle of Mr Hazell's land, and Mr Hazell did not like that. He wanted to own everything.

Mr Hazell was horrible to anyone who did not have a lot of money. He loved to go **shooting** with other rich people, and he had lots of big parties where everyone wore expensive clothes.

Every day, he drove his enormous car past our garage, and he always looked at us angrily. One day, Mr Hazell drove his big car into our garage and said to me, "Put some **petrol** in my car, and do it quickly."

Then he pointed at me. "And if you make my car dirty, you'll be in big trouble!" he said. "I'll step out of this car and hit you!"



My father ran out of the garage and put his face close to the window of Mr Hazell's car.

"Don't speak to my son like that," he said. His voice was dangerously soft. "He didn't do anything."

Mr Hazell did not speak, and he did not look at my father. But he had a horrible little smile on his face.

"Go away, please," said my father. "We don't want you at our garage."