

Episode 11: Kara's story two-part special – Part 1

The story so far

Martin is missing and Kara has gone with John to Howard's house to find him. She discovers the basement is full of television monitors that show what is happening at Owl Hall. John asks Kara to tell him the truth about Martin and why she is at Owl Hall.

Listening

1 Listen to the episode and put the events in the correct order.

- Kara and Martin had an argument.
- Kara and Martin's house burned down.
- Martin left the house.
- Martin set fire to the wastepaper basket.
- Martin set fire to some clothes in Kara's bedroom.
- 1 Mum and Dad were shouting at each other in the kitchen.

Listen again. Who does the underlined word refer to? Choose the correct answer.

- 2
1. We both knew the real reason he was going to Australia.
a) Martin b) Dad
 2. He slowly became very quiet and very angry.
a) Dad b) Martin
 3. They spent the rest of the evening being nice to us, telling us how much they loved us.
a) Martin and Kara b) Mum and Dad
 4. It's your fault that Dad left home!
a) Kara b) Mum
 5. So I ran after the fire engines and saw them disappear round the corner into our street.
a) Mum and Dad b) the fire engines

Language

1 Are the words and phrases similar or different? If they are different, explain the difference. Use a dictionary to help you.

1. lighter match
2. set fire to light a fire
3. on fire burning
4. smoke flame
5. put out a fire extinguish a fire

Episode 11: Kara's story two-part special – Part 1

2 Complete the gaps using the words and phrases from exercise 1 to help you.

1. Martin _____ many things in the house.
2. When Kara followed the fire engines, she saw her house was _____.
3. Children shouldn't play with _____.
4. The fire was so big we couldn't see because of the _____.
5. After the firefighters _____ the fire, there was nothing left except four walls and an empty black hole inside.

Speaking

Discuss the questions in pairs or small groups.

1. Do you think Martin's reaction was normal for a child whose parents are getting divorced?
2. Do you know anyone who played with fire as a child?
3. What do you think will happen next?

Episode 11: Kara's story two-part special – Part 1

- Kara:** I don't know where to start ... But I suppose it was six months ago on that Saturday morning when Mum and Dad told us that they were going to separate.
- Mum:** Dad has to go to Australia as part of his new job.
- Kara:** We both knew the real reason he was going to Australia. We had both heard Mum and Dad arguing and shouting at each other. It made me unhappy, of course, but Martin was younger and he didn't understand what was happening. He slowly became very quiet and very angry.
- Kara:** On that Saturday, I was sitting in the living room with Martin while Mum and Dad were shouting at each other in the kitchen. Suddenly, I saw Martin take a box of matches from the shelf.
- Kara:** He lit one of the matches and moved towards the wastepaper basket. He carefully lit the paper and cardboard that was in the basket and watched the flames rise. The smell of burning was strong and Mum and Dad came running in quickly. They just stood there. I remember the look of shock in Dad's eyes. Martin started crying and I started shouting at them, telling them to stop arguing.
- Kara:** They spent the rest of the evening being nice to us, telling us how much they loved us. Martin liked Mum and Dad being nice to him so, a few days later, he started burning some clothes in my bedroom.
- Kara:** I suppose he thought that he could stop them from separating. He thought that if he kept lighting fires, they would realize how bad he felt and maybe they would stay together. But they didn't.
- Kara:** A few days after Dad had gone, I came home and found Martin in his room playing with cigarette lighters. I started shouting at Martin and I told him that he had to stop. I told him that Dad was never going to come home again.
- Martin:** You're lying! It's all your fault Mum and Dad argued.
- Kara:** Stop it, Martin!
- Martin:** It's your fault that Dad left home!
- Kara:** Martin, I wish you were dead!
- Kara:** Martin stared at me and I'll never forget the look in his eyes. He looked as if he hated me. Then he walked out of the room. I heard him leave the house, shutting the front door hard behind him. A few minutes later I went to find him.
- Kara:** Martin? Martin?!
- Kara:** I walked to the end of the street but I couldn't see him. I walked across the park near our house but he wasn't there. I looked everywhere but I couldn't find him. I sat down on a bench and felt terrible.
- Kara:** That was when I heard the sirens and saw two ... maybe three fire engines driving past very fast. I knew immediately that something had happened and that Martin was responsible. So I ran after the fire engines and saw them disappear round the corner into our street.
- Kara:** When I got to our street, there were people everywhere. The fire engines were in the middle of the street and the firefighters were breaking down the front door to our house, trying to get inside the burning building. Our home was on fire and there was nothing they could do to stop it. Forty minutes later, the house was just four walls with an empty black hole inside.

Episode 11: Kara's story two-part special – Part 1

Listening

- 1
 1. Mum and Dad were shouting at each other in the kitchen.
 2. Martin set fire to the wastepaper basket.
 3. Martin set fire to some clothes in Kara's bedroom.
 4. Kara and Martin had an argument.
 5. Martin left the house.
 6. Kara and Martin's house burned down.

- 2
 1. b
 2. b
 3. a
 4. a
 5. b

Language

- 1
 1. different
 2. similar
 3. similar
 4. different
 5. similar

- 2
 1. set fire to
 2. on fire / burning
 3. lighters / matches
 4. smoke
 5. put out / extinguished

Speaking

Individual answers will vary.