

# CAR GAMES

by Sarah Delahunty

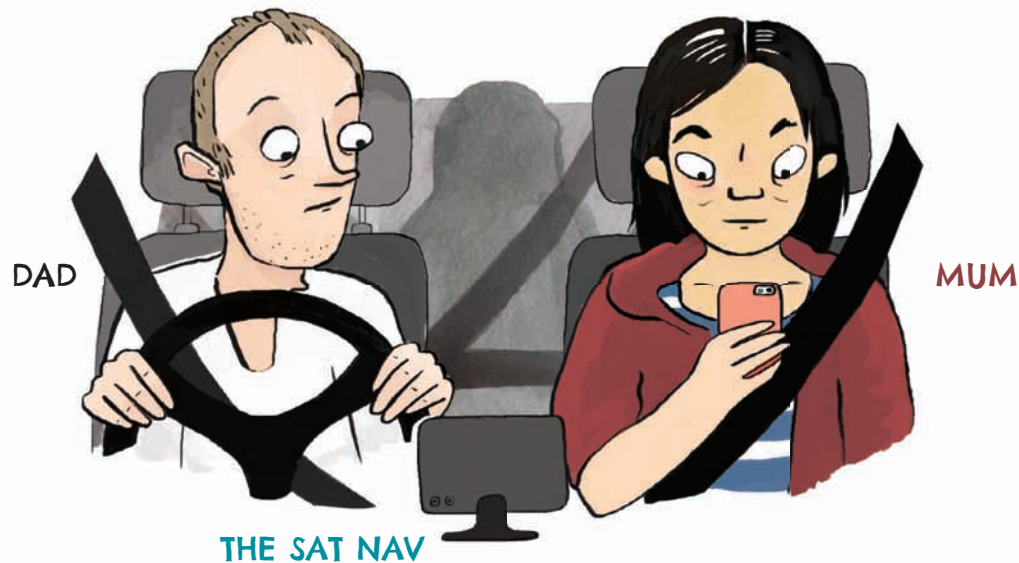


JACKSON

ALICE

HARRY

**SCENE:** The family is in the car. DAD is in the driver's seat, MUM is in the passenger seat, and the three kids are in the back. HARRY is playing on a tablet. JACKSON is listening to music and wearing ear buds. ALICE has no device. The person playing the satellite navigation system should stand off-stage.



DAD

MUM

THE SAT NAV

DAD. Right, mini golf – here we come. Seatbelts on, everyone?

HARRY and ALICE (impatiently). Yes!

DAD. Jackson? (He waits.) Jackson?

HARRY and ALICE (shouting). Jackson!

JACKSON (taking out an ear bud). What?

DAD. Seatbelt on.

JACKSON (putting the ear bud back in). Sure.

ALICE. Dad, can I have your phone?

DAD. When I was a child, we made our own fun in the car.

ALICE. That's why I need your phone.

DAD. We'd play car games, sing songs ...

ALICE. Harry's got the tablet, so I should get your phone. It's not fair otherwise.

And I'm bored.

DAD. But I haven't even started the car.

ALICE. Da-aaa-d!

DAD (starting to drive). There was a **great** game we used to play. We all chose a letter of the alphabet and spotted number plates beginning with that letter.

MUM (enthusiastically). We played that game, too!

ALICE. I'd rather play a game on your phone.

SAT NAV. Continue for 400 metres, then make a left turn.

DAD. Or how about a general knowledge quiz! What's the capital of Australia?

ALICE. Da-aaa-d!

DAD. I know. Goat spotting! First to see a black goat wins. Let's play that one.

HARRY (looking at his tablet). Yes!

DAD. See, Alice? Harry's keen.

HARRY. Level five! Awesome!

DAD. How about you, Jackson? (He waits.) Jackson?

HARRY and ALICE (shouting). Jackson!

JACKSON (taking out an ear bud). What?

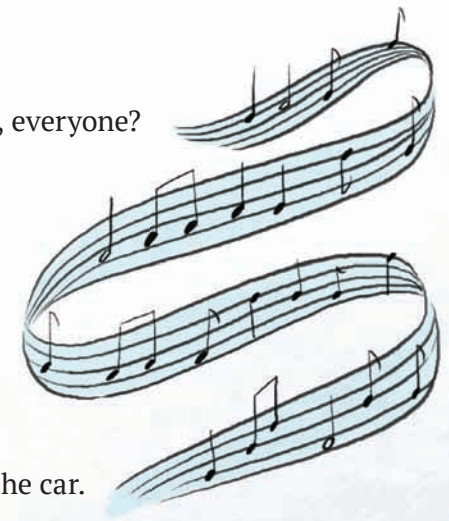
DAD. Who'll be the first to see a black goat?

JACKSON (putting the ear bud back in). Dunno.

DAD. What's wrong with this family? Do you all need devices to survive?

SAT NAV. Continue for 100 metres, then make a left turn.

DAD. That's lucky. I was going to turn right.





**ALICE.** I'm bored!

**MUM.** Shush! I'm trying to concentrate. I'm texting Grandma.

**DAD.** First to see a black goat wins.

**HARRY.** No!

**DAD.** I thought you wanted to play.

**HARRY.** I've been killed.

**MUM.** What?

**DAD.** What?

**MUM.** Grandma. She says she's had her horse painted! On impulse.

**SAT NAV.** Make a left turn.

**DAD** (*confused*). When did she get a horse?

**ALICE.** Who's got a horse?

**DAD.** Grandma.

**ALICE.** Cool! Hey, Harry, Grandma's got a horse!

**HARRY.** Don't talk to me. I'm dead.

**ALICE.** Jackson. (*She shouts.*) **Jackson!**

**JACKSON** (*taking out an ear bud*).

Yeah?

**ALICE.** Grandma's got a horse!

**JACKSON.** A black one?

**ALICE.** Not sure. I'll find out.

**JACKSON** (*putting the ear bud back in*).

Oh. OK. Cool.

**ALICE.** What colour did she paint it, Mum?

**SAT NAV.** Continue for 200 metres, then make a left turn.

**DAD.** Really? That doesn't seem right ...

**MUM.** It's not. It's left.

**ALICE** (*impatiently*). Mum! What colour is Grandma's horse?

**MUM.** I just asked her that. She says white with blue trim.

**ALICE.** Blue trim? Where does a horse have trim?

**SAT NAV.** Make a left turn.

**DAD.** Left? Left? What are you talking about?

**MUM.** Don't argue with a machine.

**ALICE.** It must be the mane and tail.

**MUM** (*to DAD*). Why are you turning right? What's the point of having one of these things if you're going to ignore it?

**DAD.** I'm not!

**ALICE.** I **really** want to see Grandma's horse. Let's go to Grandma's. Dad, can we go to Grandma's?

**HARRY.** That's not fair. I want to play mini golf. Dad, you said we were playing mini golf!

**DAD** (*to MUM*). That's it. I can't drive with this racket. Swap places.

*MUM and DAD swap seats.*

**ALICE.** I'll text Grandma about her horse.

**DAD** (*starting to write a text*). No you won't. I will.

**SAT NAV.** Make a left turn.

**MUM** (*nodding*). Right.

**DAD.** No, left.

**MUM.** Shush. I'm concentrating. I know what I'm doing.

**ALICE.** It's my turn with the tablet, Harry.

**HARRY.** I'm not finished. I'm still on level five.

**ALICE.** I thought you were dead.

**HARRY.** I was – but now I'm back.

**ALICE.** How many levels are there?

**HARRY.** Sixteen.

**ALICE.** Da-aaa-d!

**DAD** (*looking at his phone*). **What?**

**ALICE.** Harry won't give me a turn on the tablet.

**DAD** (*very confused*). That's weird!

**SAT NAV.** Continue for 400 metres, then make a right turn.

**MUM.** That is weird.

**ALICE** (*exasperated*). It's **not** weird.

It's normal. Harry always hogs it.

**DAD.** Grandma says she paid 250,000 dollars for her horse.

**HARRY.** What horse?

**ALICE.** For a horse? It must have been a race horse.

**HARRY.** What are you talking about?

**DAD.** If you paid attention to people instead of devices, you'd know.

**MUM.** Shush! I'm trying to concentrate.

**SAT NAV.** Continue for 200 metres, then make a right turn.

**MUM.** I think we should turn left.

**DAD.** Don't argue with a machine.

**HARRY.** What horse?

**ALICE.** The one grandma painted – her blue and white one. It's a race horse.

**HARRY** (*impressed*). Wow. Hey, Jackson.

**HARRY and ALICE** (*shouting*). **Jackson!**

**MUM.** Shush! I'm trying to concentrate.

**JACKSON** (*taking out an ear bud*). What?

**HARRY.** Grandma paid 250,000 dollars for a race horse!

**ALICE.** It's white with blue trim.

**JACKSON** (*putting the ear bud back in*). Nice one, Grandma.







**SAT NAV.** Continue straight for two kilometres!

**MUM.** Two kilometres! We should be there by now.

**DAD** (looking at the phone). And now she says she's been up to the shops this morning for some more pigs.

**ALICE.** Jackson.

**ALICE and HARRY** (shouting). **Jackson!**

**JACKSON** (taking out an ear bud).

What?

**ALICE.** Grandma has pigs.

**JACKSON.** Is this some kind of quiz game?

**HARRY.** Grandma hasn't got pigs, so how can she be getting more? And shops don't sell pigs, do they?

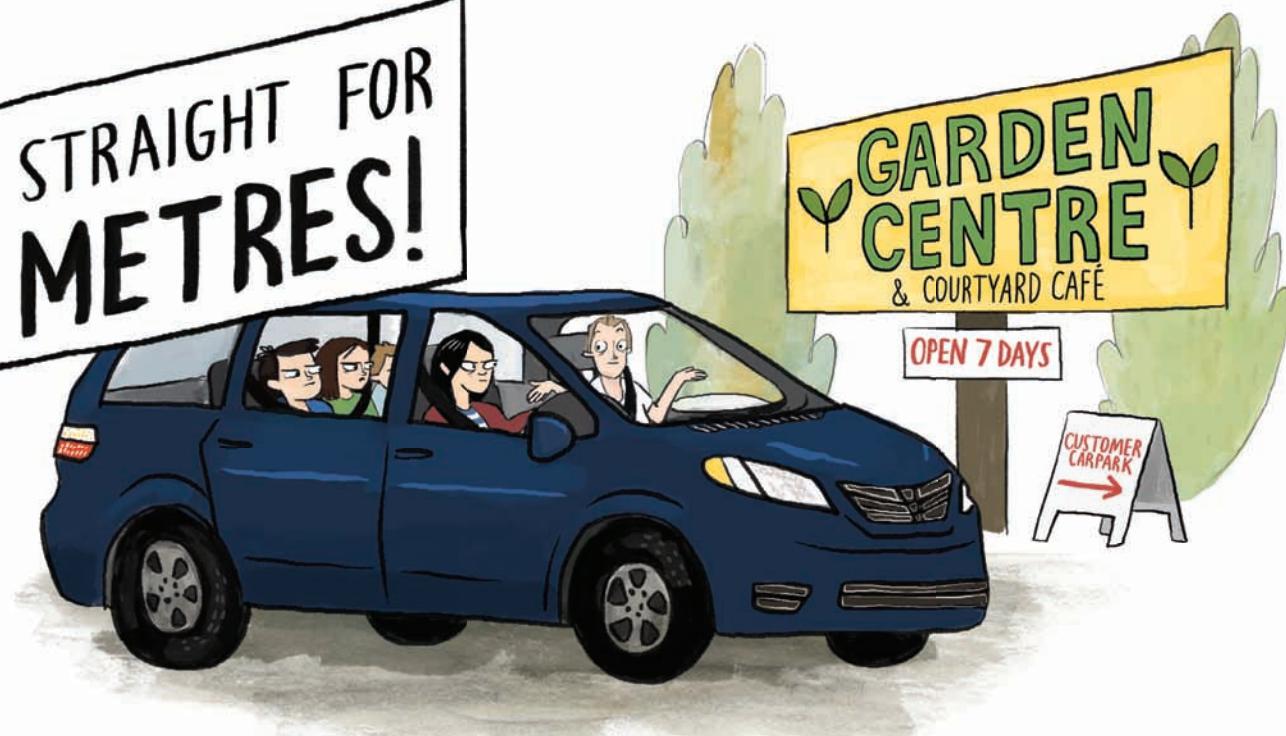
**JACKSON.** Or are we telling riddles?

**SAT NAV.** Get ready for a right turn.

**DAD** (looking at the phone). She also bought bears!

**ALICE.** I really, **really** want to go to Grandma's.

**SAT NAV.** Your destination is on your left. You have arrived.



**DAD.** Umm, honey. This is a garden centre.

**MUM** (crossly). I can see that.

**DAD:** Kids, how do you feel about visiting a garden centre?

**ALICE.** Not good.

**HARRY.** Bad!

**JACKSON:** Hey, Dad, can I look at Mum's phone.

**DAD** (sternly). No games on Mum's phone.

**JACKSON.** I want to read Grandma's texts.

**DAD** (passing the phone to JACKSON).

We'll just make the most of it.

I know a **great** game using plant names. We'll need to pay close attention to the Latin.

**ALICE.** Dad, Latin's a dead language.

**DAD.** That's not true, honey. It's used in garden centres across the country.

**JACKSON laughs.**

**EVERYONE.** What?

**JACKSON.** Grandma says sorry about the texts.

**ALICE.** Why?

**JACKSON.** Because she's just found her glasses.



illustrations by Giselle Clarkson

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by Sarah Delahunty

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