

Harper Regan Glossary

Consistent with the philosophy of both Goethe and Emerson, that originality is essentially a matter of reassembling elements drawn from other sources, this glossary was created by and culled from various print and online sources by Susan Myer Siltan, sometimes with a bit of whimsy and liberty of opinion.

Key: EU=European Union; SS=Simon Stephens; UK=United Kingdom; US=United States

P. 1 (Note: throughout this document, the page number headings refer to pages in the Methuen Drama Modern Plays paperback edition of the script)

Late Autumn of 2006: Time period for the play. Happening at the time and earlier that year in the UK and EU:

- Record heat that summer across the EU. July 2006 was the warmest July, as well as the warmest single month, overall, across the UK, and a number of regional records were also broken.
- Popular shows in the UK that year: *The X Factor*, *Dr. Who* (the doctor was David Tennant that year, whom I saw play Benedick in *Much Ado* at Wyndham's Theatre in 2011), *Postman Pat*
- UK Prime Minister was Tony Blair
- The one-billionth song is purchased from Apple iTunes. (SS still has his iPod Classic. Tweets about it, "Got a new one the week before they terminated the things. Heart breaking decision." His Twitter followers make fun of him for still having an iPod, saying it's a very "dad" thing to have.
- Pluto is downgraded from a Planet to a dwarf planet by The International Astronomical Union (IAU). I threw this in because of astronomical references in *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, a play SS recently adapted, currently running on Broadway after a very successful run in the UK.

Uxbridge: a town in Greater London, located in West London.

South Manchester: South Manchester refers here to the southern part of Greater Manchester Built-up Area in England, an area of land defined by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It is made up of the large urban sprawl that encompasses the city of Manchester and the continuous metropolitan area that spreads outwards from it, forming much of Greater Manchester in North West England. SS was born and raised in Stockport, which is in South Manchester, slightly East, wedged between Manchester and the Peak District. Several of his plays are set in Stockport. In some plays set elsewhere, characters are Stockport- or Manchester-bred.

SCENE 1

Location: an office building in Uxbridge

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Hypoglycaemic attack: (US spelling: hypoglycemic). A condition associated with diabetes that occurs when the blood glucose level suddenly becomes abnormally low. In extreme cases, a hypoglycemic attack can cause the patient to go into a coma, which is what happened to Harper's father. Justine describes it well on p. 40.

P. 4

Heathrow: London Heathrow Airport is a major international airport in West London, England, United Kingdom. Heathrow is the busiest airport in the United Kingdom and the busiest airport in Europe by passenger traffic. It is 10 km or 5.6 miles from Uxbridge to Heathrow.

Oxford: The University of Oxford is a collegiate research university located in Oxford, England. It is 77.6 km or 42.8 miles NW of Oxbridge, so it would have to be quite the clear day for Harper to see it from her office window.

Bill of Lading: document issued by a carrier detailing a shipment of merchandise and giving title of that shipment to a specified party. Bills of lading are one of three important documents used in international trade to help guarantee that exporters receive payment and importers receive merchandise.

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College: In the UK, colleges are secondary school institutions that prepare students to earn degrees in university (defined next). Schooling levels and schooling terminology is different in England and the US, hence this long definition.

In an earlier school system, the first five years of English secondary schooling were known as forms, and the term still survives. The system was changed for the 1990–1991 academic year. School years are now numbered consecutively from primary school onwards, with Year 1 the equivalent of the US first grade, where the students are 6 years old.

Pupils start their first year of secondary school in the first form, and this is the year in which pupils normally become 12 years of age. The first year of secondary school (the old first form) is now known as Year 7.

Pupils move up a form each year before entering the fifth form, the year in which they would have their sixteenth birthday. Because the minimum age for leaving school is 16, students are permitted to discontinue their education after fifth form, or Year 11, if they wish, though most stay on for the sixth.

The term “sixth form” also remains as a vestige of the old system, and is used as a collective term for years 12 and 13, which are also designated respectively as the Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth. These may be written L6 and U6.

Students who are University-bound move up into the sixth form, where they study for their A levels, or subject-specific examinations. The usual route to university is through the A level system (defined below), depending on the grades attained in these examinations.

In some parts of England, special "sixth form colleges" were introduced, given that a large proportion of English secondary schools no longer have an integrated sixth form. "College" is now generally used to denote the sixth form. Sarah is not yet in university (also defined below). She is in college, or Years 12 and 13 of her secondary education – the sixth form – which is available to 17-18 year-olds. Seventeen happens to be an age of many characters in Stephens' plays, so it would make sense that Sarah is 17. In his Introduction to *Simon Stephens' Plays: 3*, he notes, "My plays, it strikes me, are as populated by seventeen-year-olds as they are by alcoholics and dead children"

Sarah Regan is going to a private, tuition-based, sixth form school, because she tells her mother on p. 93 of the script that if Harper has been fired, "I am going to have to leave college now" because they won't have the income to pay for it.

Students usually study up to five subjects in great detail in Year 12, the first and lower year of sixth form, or L6. In the second year of sixth form, Year 13, they usually specialize in three subjects. In Sarah's case, those three subjects are English, Geography and Religious Education, which would be studied to an advanced level in Upper Sixth Form, or U6. Though the play doesn't specify Sarah as U6, because she's focusing on three subjects and studying for her A levels, not her AS Levels (see below), she's in Year 13, the upper sixth form.

A Levels: The General Certificate of Education Advanced Level (short form: GCE Advanced Level), or more commonly, the A Level, is qualification for students completing secondary or pre-university education in the United Kingdom and the British Crown dependencies.

Levels are generally split into two parts over two academic years, with one part studied in each year. The first part is known as the Advanced Subsidiary Level, or AS Level. The second part is known as the A2 Level.

The AS Level is a qualification in its own right, and the AS Level combined with the A2 Level forms the complete A Level qualification. In the Lower Sixth, students study for AS level exams in up to five subjects, leading on to A Level exams (Advanced Level) usually in three subjects in the Upper Sixth.

Sarah subjects of choice for her A Levels are English, Geography and Religious Education, which Elmwood calls "proper" subjects with "big ideas ... huge ideas".

University: In the U.K., universities are institutions that award degrees, while colleges are institutions that prepare students to earn degrees. However, the system

can be rather complicated and varies from school to school. In practical usage, British English speakers generally use university as the generic term for higher education, i.e., post-secondary school education.

In the UK, university is not referred to as “school” as it is in the US.

Proper (UK Slang): a UK colloquialism, “proper” is used by characters throughout the play as an adjective and an adverb. Here Elmwood uses it to describe the subjects Sarah has chosen for her A Levels. It’s a modifier meaning “exactly right”, “perfect”, “the best”, or “done really well”. On p. 17, it’s used by Tobias to describe his prized Ridgeback Nemesis bike: “It’s completely proper” and further down the page, “My dad properly looks after me.” “Proper” is often pronounced “propa” to give it flourish, especially when used by itself as an exclamation, where it’s US equivalent is “Awesome!”, “Wicked!”, “Excellent!”, or “Cool!”

P. 9

Chimes: The Chimes is a shopping center in Uxbridge, also known as Intu Uxbridge, as it is owned and managed by Intu Properties. It opened in February 2001 and includes 71 stores, cafes and restaurants, including UK stores like Boots, a drug chain like our Rite Aid in California, and Debenhams, a department store. Like many US shopping centers, it also has Gap and H&M. A multi-screen Odeon theater, with the only IMAX screen in West London, is also a major part of the center. Judging by what Elmwood says, UK teens like to hang out in their shopping malls just as US teens do.

iPods: For those of you living in a vacuum, the iPod is a line of portable media players and multi-purpose pocket computers designed and marketed by Apple Inc. The first model, the iPod Classic, was first released on October 23, 2001, about 8 1/2 months after iTunes (Macintosh version) was released. The device has gone through many iterations, with the most recent iPod redesigns announced on September 12, 2012.

On September 12, 2006, the second iPod Nano was released, so by late autumn 2006, the time of the play, no self-respecting teenager would be without at least the first Nano, which would be a year old by then. Though Elmwood is flabbergasted by the concept of teens talking while they continued to listen to music through their earpieces, they’d already have had plenty of practice, iPods having been around since their pre-adolescence.

P. 6

Amorality vs. immorality: Elwood does an excellent job of explaining the distinction here.

P. 8

The canal: Harper here is referring to the Grand Union Canal, defined on p. 7 of this glossary.

The Slits: SS is a big music fan. He actually wanted to be a songwriter before he settled on playwriting, and was a member of the Scottish art punk band, Country Teasers, with whom he sometimes still plays. Therefore, it is no surprise that he would make Harper a fan of The Slits, a British punk and post-punk band that came out of the heart of London's punk scene. A quartet (lead guitar, bass guitar, drums and vocals), they were formed in 1976 by Ari Up (Ariane Forster, only 14 years-old at the time) and Palmolive (Paloma Romero), former members of the bands The Flowers of Romance, and Kate Korus and Suzy Gutsy from The Castrators. Although in their 35-year history not all line-ups were exclusively female, the group was generally presented as a female band. The band would have been coming into their own when Harper's musical tastes and life philosophies were coming into their own.



The Slits, circa 1976

By making Harper a lifelong fan, SS gives us insight into her personality. Punk77.co.uk writes, "Their music fitted their image shambolic and loud, with abrasive guitar, shouted choruses, and crazy Ari's screeched vocals over Palmolive's hammered, stuttering drums.

Their uncompromising attitude, combined with gleefully subverting any and every notion of traditional female behaviour - skirts raised over heads, obscene and aggressive gestures, indeed anything to put the shits up people - scared the A&R men away."

P. 9

Industrial revolution as an accident of physical geography : Elwood calls the Industrial Revolution "an accident of physical geography," a view held by Evolutionary Biologist Jared Diamond in his book *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fate of Human Societies*. Diamond sees the Industrial Revolution, which began in England, as an inevitable result of geography and evolutionary biology that played out not only in a burst of activity at its onset, but over many thousands of years. Historians ascribe the Industrial Revolution to a confluence of many factors, all of which came together in the late 18th century to create the unique conditions in England that would nurture it.

Elwood's physical geography concept may have also come from Adam Smith, the first modern economist, who alleged that navigable rivers and canals in the UK quickened the pace and cheapened the cost of transportation of raw materials and finished products. Smith believed this was a key reason for England's early developmental success. In 1776, in his famous book, *An Inquiry into the Nature and*

Causes of the Wealth of Nations, he wrote that “Good roads, canals, and navigable rivers, by diminishing the expense of carriage, put the remote parts of the country more nearly upon a level with those in the neighbourhood of the town. They are upon that account the greatest of all improvements.”

Coal and iron deposits were plentiful in Great Britain, and proved essential to the development of all new machines made of iron or steel and powered by coal—such as the steam-powered machinery in textile factories, and the locomotive.

The British Isles are centrally located in Europe, temperate in climate, and have no difficult mountain ranges to traverse and curtail the speed of commerce. Surrounded as they are by water, they present the perfect environment for international trade. These additional geographical accidents can be seen as contributing to the UK’s primary role in the Industrial Revolution.

P. 10

Island isolationism: Isolationism is the policy of not joining with other countries in international economic and political affairs. Because of the geographical factors described in the discussion above, and due to a large and powerful navy that protected its shores, the British Isles achieved autonomy. Though things would change, by the end of the 19th century, England controlled the largest empire in the history of the world, covering one quarter of the world’s land mass. England was a standalone nation.

“So few motorways east of the M1” ... East of England eroding, falling off: The M1, named the “gateway to the North”, was the first inter-urban motorway. It is the eastern north-south motorway linking London (Hendon) to Leeds and continuing north to the A1 near Garforth. It connects Greater London, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire.

The National Oceanography Centre (NOC), which is involved in the study of coastal erosion as part of both UK and EU projects, describes it as a change in the coastline position or level, stating that “Coastal erosion is common around the UK, with erosion on the east coast of England a particular concern, as mean sea level rises because the land movement is downwards. This, together with predicted increases in storm severity and frequency, means that erosion rates will likely increase. Coastal defenses need strengthening and building up to alleviate flooding and erosion. However, this can be extremely expensive; an alternative that has been considered is ‘managed retreat’.” Though I found no specific information on “so few motorways east of the M1”, it is easy to extrapolate that due to “managed retreat”, they would be abandoned, torn down or not built because of coastal erosion.

Ecologically-friendly architecture: Seth was an architect in Stockport before the family moved to Uxbridge. Though he is not and probably will not be employed again because he is now in the Sex Offenders Register (see definition, p. 27), it is

conceivable that he might be a “green” architect, as Uxbridge is part of the London Plan, which is the statutory spatial development strategy for the Greater London area. The regional planning guidance includes a mandate for sustainable development, which would include ecologically sound architecture.

The Enlightenment: This refers to the Age of Reason or the Age of Enlightenment -- the humanitarian, rationalist, liberal, and scientific thought of the eighteenth century in Europe wherein the state was viewed as a rational instrument for human progress. It was characterized by the scientific approach taken to social and political issues and was based upon the intellectual and scientific advances of the seventeenth century championed by promoters of natural law and universal order such as John Locke, Francis Bacon, Rene Descartes and Spinoza. Enlightenment thinkers included Rousseau, Voltaire, Jonathon Swift, Hume, Kant, Montesquieu, and Lessing as well as Americans such as Thomas Jefferson. Ancient Greek and Roman civilizations were considered ideal and feature prominently in the art, architecture and philosophy of the period. This period produced Europe’s first modern secularized theories of psychology and ethics.

SCENE 2

Location: *the banks of the Grand Union Canal*

Grand Union Canal: a part of the British canal system. Its main line starts in London and ends in Birmingham, stretching for 137 miles (220 km) with 166 locks. It has arms to places including Leicester, Slough, Aylesbury, Wendover and Northampton.



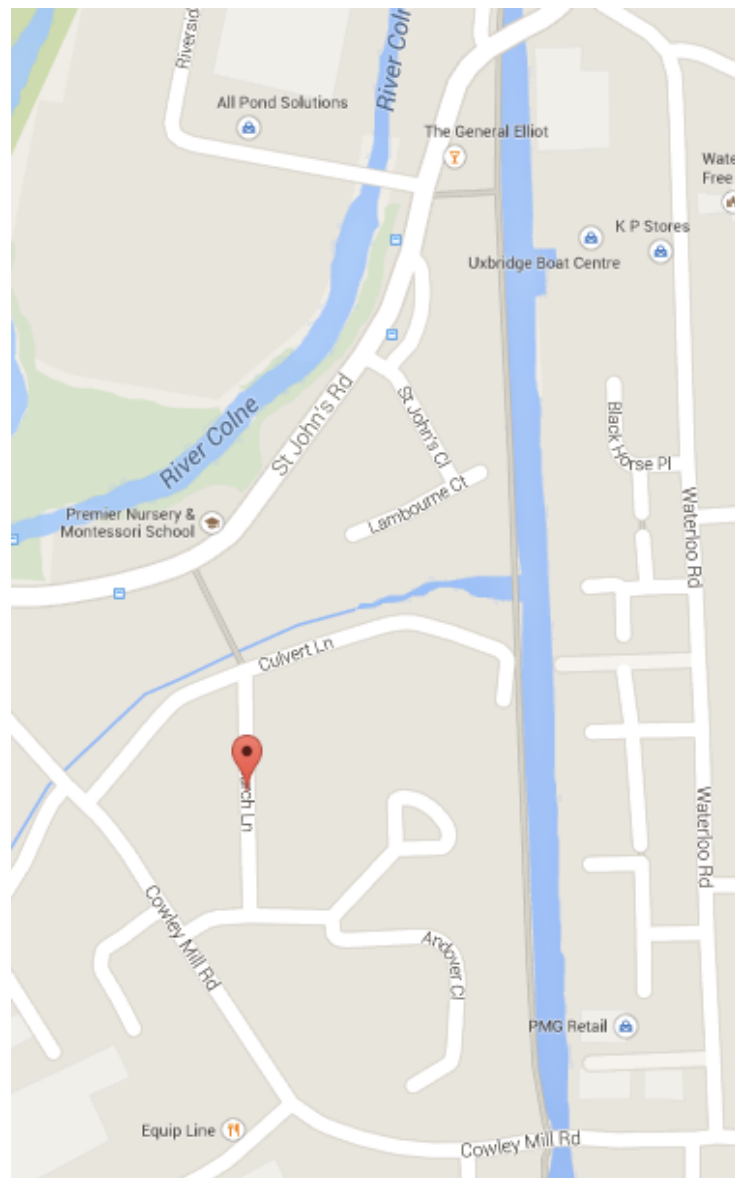
A view of the Grand Union Canal in Cowley, Uxbridge, UB8, near Church Lane, where Harper lives

P. 12

Church Lane: Harper tells Tobias that she lives on Church Lane. She says that every night on her way home she stands on the bridge and looks out on the Grand Union

Canal. There are locks and bridges all along the canal. Church Lane is an actual residential street in Uxbridge, in the area known as UB8.

Recent real estate information describes Church Lane as having 28 houses and flats on it with a current average value of £329,554 (\$511,501). In autumn of 2006, the value would have been \$592,096.03. Many of the homes are small, 2-bedroom cottages; there are no grand homes on the street.



Church Lane is shown on the map at the red Google pin. The Union Canal is the thick blue line running north to south. Waterloo Road, where Tobias lives, runs parallel to the canal, connecting St. John's Road and Cowley Mill Road. It's on the east side of the canal, directly opposite Church Lane, where Harper lives.

Birmingham: Birmingham is a city and metropolitan borough in the West Midlands of England. In a 2013 estimate, it had 1,092,330 residents, making it the most populous British city outside London. Its population increase of 88,400 residents between the 2001 and 2011 censuses was greater than that of any other British local authority. The city lies within the West Midlands Built-up Area, the third most populous built-up area in the United Kingdom with 2,440,986 residents (per the 2011 census). According to a 2012 estimate, its metropolitan area is the United Kingdom's second most populous with 3,701,107 residents.

Birmingham is a major international commercial center and an important transport, retail, events and conference hub. Its metropolitan economy, which is dominated by the service sector, is the second largest in the United Kingdom. Its six universities make it the largest center of higher education in the country outside London. Birmingham's major cultural institutions, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, the Birmingham Royal Ballet, the Birmingham Repertory Theatre, the Library of Birmingham and the Barber Institute of Fine Arts are internationally known, and the city has vibrant and influential grassroots art, music, literary and culinary scenes.

People from Birmingham are called "Brummies", a term derived from the city's nickname of "Brum". Brum is short for "Brummagem", the city's dialect name, which originated from "Bromwicham", one of the city's earlier historical names. There is a distinctive Brummie accent and dialect.

Tobias tells Harper he wanted to go to Birmingham until his friend went there and said it was "shit".

P. 13

Seventeen: Tobias' age, as well as Sarah's; also Seb's, James Fortune's son (see p. 59 of the script). (James Fortune is the man in Scene 7 whom Harper meets at a Manchester hotel.) SS often writes about 17 year-olds. (See definition for "college" on pp. 2-3 of this document.) After leaving university, SS taught at Eastbrook School, a sixth form school in London, and then taught for five years in the Royal Court Theatre's Young Writers' Programme for 18-25 years. ("Sixth form" is explained in the definition of "college" on pp. 2-3 of this document.) His experiences there fostered a particular affinity for young people, as well as an ear for their vernacular and the cadences of their speech. His own son, Oscar, a photographer, turned 17 on October 27, 2014.

P. 14

Manchester: Harper's family is from Manchester, only having moved two years prior to Uxbridge. Manchester here refers to Greater Manchester, which is defined on p. 1 of this document, under "South Manchester".

Manchester United: Manchester United is an English professional football club (in the US, a soccer team), not to be confused with Manchester City Football Club. It is

based in Old Trafford, Greater Manchester, and plays in the Premier League. They are regarded as one of the most successful clubs in English football.

Manchester United have won 20 League titles, the most of any English club, as well as a joint record 11 FA Cups, four League Cups, and a record 20 FA Community Shields. The club has also won three European Cups, one UEFA Cup (Union of European Football Associations) Winners' Cup, one UEFA Super Cup, one Intercontinental Cup, and one FIFA Club (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) World Cup. In 1998–99, the club won a continental treble of the Premier League, the FIFA Cup and the UEFA Champions League.

In 1968, under the management of Matt Busby, Manchester United was the first English football club to win the European Cup. Alex Ferguson won 28 major honors, and 38 in total, from November 1986 to May 2013, when he announced his retirement after 26 years at the club.

SS, a huge Manchester United (MU) fan since childhood, is also a fan of the United Rant, an independent news, analysis and forum for MU followers. He regularly listens to and tweets about the Rant Cast, which dubs itself “the planet’s favourite Manchester United podcast”.

Goth: The Goth subculture is a contemporary subculture found in many countries. It began in England during the early 1980s in the Gothic rock scene, an offshoot of the post-punk genre. The Goth subculture has survived much longer than others of the same era, and has continued to diversify. 19th century Gothic literature, as well as horror films, influences its imagery and culture.

The music of the Goth subculture encompasses a number of different styles, including gothic rock, deathrock, post-punk, darkwave, ethereal wave, and neoclassical. Typical Gothic fashion includes dyed black hair, dark eyeliner, black fingernails and black clothing, styled after artists playing deathrock and punk, as well as that of the Victorian era, or a mix of all of them. Gothic fashion is stereotyped as conspicuously dark, eerie, mysterious, complex and exotic. Goths may or may not have piercings.

Harper tells Tobias that her daughter, Sarah, is “a bit of a Goth”. Most of the time, Goth designates a particular “look”, but Sarah may also share her mother’s predilection for Punk music.

Waterloo Road: the street in Uxbridge where Tobias lives with his father. See the map on page 8.

P. 15

Cardiff: where Tobias’ mother lives. Cardiff is the capital and largest city in Wales and the ninth largest city in the United Kingdom.

P. 16

Smell as a homing device. Tobias says, “Everybody has their own smell. It’s a kind of homing device”. He has developed a wonderful conceit, though he hates his own smell, calling it “completely rank”. Tobias is an Engineering student, so he may have a familiarity with homing devices.

Smell is mentioned more than once in the play. Harper tells Mickey on p. 55 that she won’t sleep with him because he “stinks” of whiskey and “horrible aftershave”. When she is dancing with James in Scene 7, she tells him that he smells “lovely” and “gorgeous”. James tells her he doesn’t have a sense of smell. In Scene 9, after Harper strokes Tobias’ hair, she moves her hand away and then smells it.

P. 17

Ridgeback Nemesis: Ridgeback is a brand of cycles under the Madison Brand, which in turn is part of the H. Young group of companies. Madison, which is based in Stanmore, Middlesex, also owns the Genesis brand of cycles. Their main product range is in the hybrid style of bike.

The current Ridgeback Nemesis has a double butted 6061 aluminum frame with 3D top tube, Intellaset, cold forged dropouts and disc mounts, and straight bladed Cro-Mo forks with disc mounts. The crankset is a Shimano Alfine, while the speed shifters are also Shimano Alfine TapFire, the “hub gears” that Tobias mentions. It comes in Black and a range of sizes from S to XL.



The current model of the Ridgeback Nemesis Hybrid

SCENE 3

Location: the kitchen table at Harper’s home in Uxbridge

P. 20

Glaciers: I couldn’t do a better job of defining them than Sarah has done on this page.

P. 21

Internal deformation, Basal sliding, Deforming substrate: These all contribute to the movement of glaciers.

Internal deformation: Ice buckles under its own weight because of gravity. As this happens, the mass of ice crystals in the glacier slowly changes shape without completely breaking or melting, causing it to flow downward or outward. The thicker and warmer the ice is, the faster the flow. Movement of a glacier by internal deformation is very slow, on the order of tens of meters per year.

Basal sliding: Basal sliding occurs when water is present under the glacier. Water is formed toward the bottom of the glacier because of the pressure of the overlying ice. This melt water reduces friction and allows the ice to move more quickly. Water may also come from surface water that has worked its way through the cracks in the ice. Or, it may originate from melting upstream in the glacier.

Deforming substrate: Water is not the only material that can cause sliding. The rock debris under the ice sheet can also increase movement at the base of a glacier. If the glacier is sitting on a soft or loose bed of sediment that contains water, the sediment can move and carry the ice sheet with it.

P. 22

Ice sheets, ice caps, etc.: These are the different kinds of glaciers. The “etc.” encompasses ice fields and ice shelves.

Ice sheets, ice caps, and ice fields are all masses of glacial ice of various sizes that spread laterally across the landscape and vary in size. Ice caps are smaller than ice sheets. Ice fields are similar to ice caps, but are typically smaller, and are therefore more influenced by the underlying topography.

Ice shelves occur when ice sheets extend over water. They are large, flat-topped sheets of ice that are attached to land along one side and float in an ocean or lake on the other side.

Mountain glaciers, tidewater glaciers, hanging glaciers: these are types of glaciers.

Terminal moraines, drumlins, eskers, kettle holes, kettle ponds, kettle lakes: these are depositional features of glaciers.

For more information, this is the best source I found for concise information on glacier terminology: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2004/1216/text.html>

These are more comprehensive sources:

<http://www.ux1.eiu.edu/~cfjps/1300/glaciers.html>

<http://www.learner.org/courses/essential/earthspace/session6/closer2.html>

<http://nsidc.org/cryosphere/glaciers/questions/types.html>

Counsellor: “Counsellor” is the preferred spelling everywhere outside the US, where we spell it with one “l”. In the UK, a counsellor refers to a person who gives counsel, whereas in the US, it also refers to an attorney as well as a person who supervises young people at a youth camp. Similar distinctions apply to related words such as counseled/counselled and counseling/counseling.

P. 23

Sixth form: Now that you’ve read the description on pp. 2-3 of the UK school system, you’ll know exactly what sixth form is, and who sixth formers are. Sixth form is also the grade that Seb, James Fortune’s seventeen year-old son, is in. James tells Harper that Seb wants to study history in university. (Scene 7, p. 59)

Third years: you know this too, having read about the UK school system on pp. 2-3. Third years are eight year-olds, the equivalent of US third-graders.

Magic: Sarah’s use of the word here derives from l drug vernacular. Magic is a slang/street term used around the North West/Merseyside/Manchester area of England to describe the drug MDMA or Ecstasy in its pure crystalline, powder form, as opposed to a poor quality tablet.

The drug gives feelings of euphoria and empathy, making those who ingest it want to dance and appreciate music. It can make users very chatty if they can't release their energy by, say, dancing in a club.

The *Urban Dictionary* gives an example of use:

Lad: u out on saturday?

Girl: yeah defo, I'm gettin a big bag of magic to get off me head.

Lad: sound.

P. 24

Bob’s your uncle: An archetypally English phrase, exclaimed when the simple means of obtaining the successful result is explained and everything is all right. Despite its having been the subject of considerable research, no one is sure of its origin.

P. 25

Just: Harper doesn’t finish the thought that would have followed, hence the single-word sentence, “Just”. Her intention is to effectively redirect the focus. She does it again on p. 84 and Seth does it on p. 29.

White Horse and **Sub2000:** My guess is that White Horse is a restaurant or gastropub and Sub2000 is a club-type pub. I looked for both in Uxbridge and London. There are no places called Sub2000, but I did find several White Horse pubs in London, one on Uxbridge Road. My guess is that both places existed in 2006 and may not still be operating or that Sub2000 may be more of an “underground” club.

P. 28

Adverts: UK slang for advertisements.

Thompson's: Seth buys light bulbs there, so it is presumably a neighborhood dry goods shop. I couldn't find an actual Thompson's, but there is a Thompson Road in Uxbridge. Perhaps there was a store there in 2006 where you could buy light bulbs. In the US, we're used to buying most everything at one place. We can get light bulbs in the same store where we shop for groceries, or where we pick up prescriptions. In much of the EU, one goes to smaller, more specialized shops for different items. Normally, you won't find light bulbs in a grocery store but in a small dry goods store that is similar to our Ace Hardware, only much smaller. However, big stores where you'll find huge varieties of products as we do in the US, are emerging.

Wong's: My guess is that Wong's is a Chinese grocery, and that's where Seth got his sesame seeds. It might be a Chinese restaurant that sells food items like sesame seeds; I couldn't find a Wong's in Uxbridge. It was surprising to me that sesame seeds weren't available in a regular grocery store.

Inspector Ritter: UK probation officers and police officers are assigned to monitor the activities of those people who, like Seth Regan, are listed in the Sex Offenders Register (see p. 27 of this document).

Within the British police, inspector is the second supervisory rank. It is senior to that of sergeant, but junior to that of chief inspector. The rank is mostly operational, meaning that inspectors are directly concerned with day-to-day policing. Uniformed inspectors are often responsible for supervising a duty shift made up of constables and sergeants, or act in specialist roles such as supervising road traffic policing. Inspector Ritter is likely a specialist, working with sex offenders.

SCENE 4

Location: A recreational ground behind Church Street

P. 32

Wanker: largely used in the UK, Australia and New Zealand, it denotes a male masturbator, someone "wanking off". It can also be used as a term of endearment or a total insult, which is how Sarah uses it here. The collection of definitions of wanker in the *Urban Dictionary* are hilarious:

<http://www.urbandictionary.com/define.php?term=wanker> My favorite is the 15th entry, which begins, "Someone excessively and annoyingly pretentious and/or false, with a strong likelihood of working in the creative industries, especially "new media". Very high populations of wankers are to be found in certain areas of London including Shoreditch and Hoxton; see also Shoreditch twat."

I like the definition because I work in the creative industries and SS's office is in Shoreditch. If you read SS's play, *Christmas*, you'll learn that twat and cunt are insults directed at men – gender neutral and sexist, all at the same time.

P. 33

Arcade Fire: Arcade Fire is a Canadian/American indie rock band based in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Founded in 2001 by friends and classmates Win Butler and Josh Deu, the band came to prominence in 2004 with the release of their critically acclaimed debut album *Funeral*. Other band members include Win Butler's wife Régine Chassagne and his brother Will Butler, as well as Richard Reed Parry, Tim Kingsbury and Jeremy Gara. The band's current touring line-up also includes former core member Sarah Neufeld, frequent collaborator Owen Pallett, two additional percussionists, Diol Edmond and Tiwill Duprate, and saxophonists Matt Bauder and Stuart Bogie.

The band plays guitar, drums, bass guitar, piano, violin, viola, cello, double bass, xylophone, glockenspiel, keyboard, synthesizer, French horn, accordion, harp, mandolin, and hurdy-gurdy, and take most of these instruments on tour; the multi-instrumentalist band members switch duties throughout shows.

Rickenbacker: Harper is referring to an iconic electric guitar made by the Rickenbacker International Corporation, also known simply as Rickenbacker. The company, a string instrument manufacturer, is based in Santa Ana, California. In 1932, the company became the world's first to produce electric guitars and eventually produced a range of electric guitars and bass guitars.

The Rickenbacker came into prominence during the 1960s, when a couple of Rickenbacker guitar models became permanently intertwined with the sound and look of The Beatles. Partly because of the Beatles' popularity and their consistent use of the brand, many other 1960s notables quickly adopted Rickenbackers.

As both the British invasion and the 1960s came to an end, Rickenbacker guitars fell somewhat out of fashion; however Rickenbacker basses remained highly in favor through the 1970s and on. Perhaps as an echo of the past, during the late 1970s and early 1980s, Rickenbacker guitars experienced a renaissance as many new wave and jangle pop groups began to use them.

Rickenbacker guitars and basses continue to be very popular to this day with demand persistently and exponentially outstripping new factory supply. Demand is particularly high amongst retro groups who have been influenced by the sound and look of the 1960s.

Rickenbackers have many distinct characteristics, such as a "Rick-O-Sound" unit that allows their double and even triple pick-ups to be connected to separate units or amplifiers. Because they were known for their distinctive jangle and chime, Rickenbacker guitars tended to be favored by Jangle Pop, Power pop and British Invasion-style groups - bands such as The Who, The Byrds and The Beatles. The early Rickenbackers that made this sound famous were equipped with lower-output "Toaster" pickups. These pickups were phased out circa 1969-70 for newer "Hi-Gain" pickups, which had twice the output of their illustrious predecessors. This

change was almost certainly due to the trend toward the louder "Rock" sounds of the 1970s, despite the earlier models being credited by Pete Townshend as being key to the development of "the Marshall sound" and his refinement of electric guitar feedback techniques.

In more recent years, a diverse cross-section of artists has started to favor Rickenbacker guitars. In 1979, Tom Petty and Mike Campbell of Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers would adopt the Rickenbacker 12-string "toaster" jangle into their records and still use the vintage 1960s models. The post-1960s "Hi-gain" pickup-equipped guitars are associated with The Jam and R.E.M. The "Hi-gain" pickups are well suited to harder spiky pop/rock sounds as well as the classic clean chime.

Harper would have had to have been hardcore serious about her guitar playing if she owned a Rickenbacker. My guess, given that she met The Slits (see p. 5 of this document), she may have been in a punk rock band herself.



Johnny Marr playing a Rickenbacker 330/12 in 1984

Johnny Marr: born on Halloween in 1963, Marr, a PhD, is an English musician, singer, and songwriter. He was co-songwriter – with Morrissey – and guitarist of the Smiths from 1982–87, an English rock band formed in Manchester. Critics have called them the most important alternative rock band to emerge from the British independent music scene of the 1980s. *Q* magazine's Simon Goddard contended in 2007 that the Smiths were "the most influential British guitar group of the decade" and the "first indie outsiders to achieve mainstream success on their own terms".

The *NME* (*New Music Express*, a British weekly music journalism publication) named the Smiths the "most influential artist ever" in a 2002 poll, even topping the Beatles.

Marr has also been a member of Electronic, an alternative dance supergroup formed with New Order singer and guitarist Bernard Sumner; the The, an English musical and multimedia group led by singer/songwriter Matt Johnson; Modest Mouse, an American indie rock band formed in 1993 in Issaquah, Washington; and the Cribs, an English three-piece indie rock band originally from Wakefield, West Yorkshire. As well, he has worked as a prolific session musician. In 2013, he released a solo album entitled *The Messenger*.

In 2013, the *NME* honored Marr with its "Godlike Genius" award, hailing Marr as "not content with rewriting the history of music with one of the world's greatest ever bands, the Smiths, he's continued to push boundaries and evolve throughout his career, working with some of the best and most exciting artists on the planet." He was voted the fourth best guitarist of the last 30 years in a poll conducted by the BBC in 2010. Phil Alexander, Editor-in-Chief of *Mojo*, has described Marr as "arguably Britain's last great guitar stylist".

Bollocks: a word of Middle English origin, bollocks are testicles. The word has wide and diverse usage in the UK, often used figuratively in British English and Hiberno-English as a noun to mean "nonsense", an expletive following a minor accident or misfortune, or an adjective to mean "poor quality" or "useless". Similarly, the common phrases "Bollocks to this!" or "That's a load of old bollocks" generally indicate contempt for a certain task, subject or opinion. Conversely, the word also figures in idiomatic phrases such as "the dog's bollocks", "top bollock(s)", or more simply "the bollocks" (as opposed to just "bollocks"), which will refer to something which is admired, approved of or well-respected.

My favorite definition, covering all the bases and using corresponding and hilarious examples of usage, comes from Daniel Graham and was published in the *Urban Dictionary* on September 12, 2004. Please take note of the example for #6:

Bollocks is a 14th Century (as 'ballocks') English term, which has grown numerous useful applications within today's language:

[Definitions]

1. Term of exasperation, often at having made a mistake.
2. As a plural noun, the bollocks are the testicles.
3. Exaggerated truth or blatant lies.
4. Unfathomable rubbish; corporate management speak, e.g. 'blue-sky thinking', 'touch base', and 'thinking outside the box'.

5. Poor or bad effort, esp. with media references. (The more bollocks, the worse the event.)
6. When the bollocks belong to a canine, the inverse meaning of (5.) comes into play, though nobody knows quite why. This meaning appears to date back from 1989.
7. To 'drop a bollock' is to commit a social faux-pas leading to grave embarrassment.
8. A 'bollocking' is a telling off, often by one's boss for an inadequate or incomplete piece of work, or inappropriate behaviour.
9. To lack bollocks is to be gutless, spineless and generally lack courage. This is not used inversely for the word 'balls' covers this application.
10. As a verb, to 'bollocks' or to be 'bollocksed' it to flummox or be flummoxed; confuse or be confused.
11. If a piece of machinery is bollocksed, it is broken or rendered unusable either temporarily or permanently.
12. To be 'bollock-naked' it to be completely without clothing, save for a few relatively unimportant items such as socks, watch, rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings or other body jewellery.
13. To be 'bollocksed' also means to have imbibed an amount of alcohol which has eliminated a dangerously high number of brain cells causing a lack of social and spatial awareness, incoherent speech and the inability to believe that you're not as drunk as you are, you're not as unattractive in that state as you are, and that you don't rule the world.

[Examples of usage corresponding to the definitions]

1. {Having sent a saucy text message to your mum instead of your partner}
"Bollocks!"
2. "I couldn't be arsed to go home, so I just stood there, scratching me bollocks."
3. "Don't listen to him, he just talks bollocks."
4. "Sorry, it's my boss, he's got us speaking this bollocks."
5. "I think any film with a cast of unknowns and a budget that won't cover your weekly shopping is bound to be bollocks." Also: "I know our friend was

the lead character and everything, but that play was the biggest load of fat, squidgy bollocks I've ever had to sit through. Don't tell her I said that, though."

6. "That play was the dog's bollocks, Sarah."

7. "Boy, did I drop a bollock this morning: Your mum had a Rice Crispy stuck to her face, so I tried to wipe it off; you never told me she had a wart."

8. "We had all the work done by two, so we all pissed off down the pub, but come Monday morning, we all got such a bollocking. Marketing had called eight times and that twat over there had forgotten to turn the answering machine on. Wanker."

9. "You honestly expect me to believe you're going to tell John what I did with his wife? You haven't got the bollocks."

10. "Two Stellas, a Fosters, a Bacardi and Diet Coke and a Carling-top please. ...oh, make that half a Fosters - that's bollocksed you, hasn't it? Let's call it a tenner for cash, eh?"

11. "The fax stopped working earlier, so I jammed my pen into that little hole and now I think it's totally bollocksed."

12. "Well, the last thing I remember is walking down to the seafront and laying on the beach. Then, it's six in the morning, I'm stark bollock-naked except for my socks, watch, rings, necklaces, bracelets, earrings and other body jewellery, handcuffed to a tramp."

13. "Well, I was at work, right, and my computer totally bollocksed up, and I hadn't saved that bollocks I was working on, so I thought, 'bollocks to this, I'm going down the pub'. I went with Jeff and Dave, who was really quiet, so when I got the beers in, I asked, like, 'who died?!' It turns out, his wife's on the way out, you know, so I'd really dropped a bollock, but Dave said he was okay. He doesn't have the bollocks to say anything else; never has, but I knew Jeff would give me a right bollocking later on. We had a few pints and this dog's bollocks pie - we didn't get too bollocksed or anything, just a bit tipsy, you know. We went back into the office and my PC was up-and-running with that document intact, which bollocksed me a bit, but it's better than a kick in the bollocks, I suppose. So, I went home, got in the shower and noticed a rash on my bollocks, shit me up, that did. I came out to show Sam only to find Sam's mum sat there with a cup of tea, staring at me, bollock naked and dripping on the carpet. 'Bollocks,' I thought..."

P. 36

The theory of Grand Design: As with glaciers, I couldn't do a better job of defining

it than Sarah has done.

SCENE 5

Location: *a small room in Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport*

Stepping Hill Hospital, Stockport: Stockport is where SS grew up and has set several of his plays. (See the definition for South Manchester on p. 1.) Stepping Hill Hospital is where SS's father died as a result of his lifelong alcoholism. It also figures in other plays of his. The second scene of *Port* and the fourth scene of Part Three in *On the Shore of the Wide, Wide World* are both set in Stepping Hill Hospital in Stockport. On page xvi in the introduction to *Simon Stephens Plays: 3*, SS explains that "Stepping Hill Hospital" is "the hospital in Stockport where my dad died". He comments on having used this setting in two other plays as well: "If it is true, as I think it is, that writers write out of some kind of attempt to heal irreparable wounds, perhaps I should be less surprised by the spectre of that hospital and the spectre of my dad's presence in these plays [*On the Shore, Harper Regan, Punk Rock*] than I was re-reading them this morning."

In *Harper Regan*, Harper's dad dies in Stepping Hill hospital, as does Racheal's grandfather, Gordon Keats, in *Port*. In *On the Shore*, Alex and Christopher's grandfather Charlie Holmes leaves Stepping Hill Hospital after a few tests and returns home.

P. 39

"There ain't one thing in this world I can do about folks except laugh, so I'm gonna join the circus and laugh my head off": Justine quotes Charles Baker Harris ("Dill"), a character in the novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, by Harper Lee. Dill was modeled after Lee's childhood friend, Truman Capote. Jem, the older brother of Scout, the novel's young protagonist, responds to Dill's assertion:

"I think I'll be a clown when I get grown [...] There ain't one thing in this world I can do about folks except laugh, so I'm gonna join the circus and laugh my head off."

"You got it backwards, Dill," said Jem. "Clowns are sad, it's folks that laugh at them." "Well I'm gonna be a new kind of clown. I'm gonna stand in the middle of the ring and laugh at the folks." (22.60-64)

P. 40

"You look very young for 27": Harper tells this to Justine when she learns of her age. She also tells Tobias on page 13 of the play that he doesn't look 17.

Critical insulin: see the definition for hypoglycaemic attack on p. 2 of this document.

P. 42

"We have to borrow money so my daughter can go to university": Before 1989, a university education in England could be free, as the student grant was means

tested on the parents' income. A full grant would pay for all tuition fees and all accommodation fees in halls of residence. Campus stores and eateries were heavily subsidized; this even applied to student union bars. 1989 was the last year of the full grant. Thereafter the grant continued to reduce and reduce until it was no more. University fees were kept as low as possible, but still increased over time. English students first rioted in November and December of 2010 in protests held to oppose planned spending cuts to education and an increase of the cap on tuition fees. Student groups said that the intended cuts to education were excessive, would damage higher education, give students higher debts, and broke campaign promises made by politicians. Their efforts did not stop the cuts or stem the fee increases. Students again rioted in 2011 and 2014, again without bringing about change.

Scotland and Ireland still offer free university education.

P. 44

United: Manchester United, SS's team since childhood, defined on p. 9 and 10. He's a proper fan.

"We are Ferguson's army. The cocks of the North!": Justine is referring to a football chant that the spectators sing in unison during Manchester United games. To understand it, I've broken it down:

Sir Alexander Chapman "Alex" **Ferguson**, CBE (Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) was born on New Years Eve in 1941. He is a Scottish former football manager and player who managed Manchester United from 1986 to 2013. During his tenure as manager, Ferguson became regarded as one of the most successful, admired and respected managers in the history of the game.

Ferguson managed East Stirlingshire and St. Mirren before a highly successful period as manager of Aberdeen. After briefly managing Scotland following the death of Jock Stein, he was appointed manager of Manchester United in November 1986.

Although the play is set in 2006, and the following events had not yet occurred, I included them in order to give you a more comprehensive biography.

Ferguson is the longest serving manager of Manchester United, overtaking Sir Matt Busby's record on December 19, 2010, and eventually completing more than 26 and one half years as the club's manager. He has won many awards and holds many records: he won Manager of the Year more times than any other manager in British football history. In 2008, he became the third British manager to win the European Cup on more than one occasion. He was knighted in the 1999 Queen's Birthday Honours list for his services to the game.

On 8 May 2013, Ferguson announced his retirement as manager of Manchester United. During his 26 years at the club, he won 38 trophies, including 13 Premier League and two UEFA Champions League titles.

Manchester United is often referred to as **Ferguson's Red Army** because their uniforms are red.

"The cocks of the North": The best I can do for the sound and rhythm of Justine's chant is to use this one, but substitute "Ferguson's army" for "Sunderland Boys":
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6XLU9nFNe98&spfreload=10>

This chant has more of a melody:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0dD9_XvIlo&spfreload=10

P. 45

"I'm rubbish at it": A UK slangy expression, equivalent to the US "I suck at it". In the UK, rubbish means "trash and garbage" and also "crap and waste". It can also mean "lies" and "bullshit".

SCENE 6

Location: *a pub* [SS doesn't say, but Harper tells Tobias on p. 56 that "I stabbed somebody in Manchester", so that's likely where the pub is]

P. 45

"You've got very attractive shoulders": proof that Julie was cast for her physical attributes

P. 48

"Do my head in": to do someone's head (or nut) in is to make someone extremely angry, worried or agitated, enough to provoke a headache

"Gibbering on": pronounced with a soft "g", it's UK slang for speaking without making sense, as in a gibbering idiot. One who gibbers is often speaking quickly.

P. 49

Solicitor: One of the two types of lawyers in the UK, the other being the barrister, who pleads court cases and wears the funny-looking white wig. Encyclopedia Britannica addresses the distinction, describing a solicitor as "one of the two types of practicing lawyers in England, the other being the barrister, who pleads cases before the court. The solicitors carry on most of the office work in law. In general, a barrister undertakes no work except through a solicitor, who prepares and delivers the client's instructions to a barrister. Solicitors confer with clients, give advice, draft documents, conduct negotiations, prepare cases for trial, and retain barristers for advice on special matters or for advocacy before the higher courts. They have a right to act in all courts as the agents for litigation or representatives of their clients, and they are deemed officers of the court, but they may appear as advocates only in the lower courts. Since their activities make up the greater part of the work of lawyers, solicitors are many times more numerous than barristers."

Shite: shit

The Messenger: a group of small, local newspapers, not unlike the Times Publishing Group in our area, which has small community newspapers in Aptos, Capitola, Scotts Valley and Soquel.

Messenger Thursday, November 16, 2000

The show must go on

YOU would never believe it to look at her now, but there was a time when Julia Gayle thought she would never walk again unaided.

So severe were the injuries she suffered in a car accident, a question mark hung over whether she'd work again.

But the children's entertainment from London felt the show must go on and she continued to perform to youngsters propped up on a pair of crutches.

"I found that people's attitudes towards me were very different. The horror on their faces when I turned up on a pair of crutches. I was with the same up here but people thought how can she possibly entertain these children?" says Julia, who says her experiences opened her eyes to the prejudice faced by the disabled.

Sitting in out of the, this outgoing, pleasant thirty-something looks a picture of health.

Interestingly still, an appealing smile shows itself frequently. As we chat further, it becomes apparent that she has a lot to smile about.

This little lady has a big future ahead of her. In January she could be jetting off to America to work for the Disney Corporation.

Her exact role hasn't been finalized yet, but she thinks presenting or doing some work will be the most likely outlet for her talents.

Julia was one of the performers employed by Posh and Hecce to entertain baby Brooklyn at his first birthday party.

"It was a very special day and I felt very honored to be part of a team of people all contributing to make it a very exciting day," she says.

The celebrity couple have money coming out of their ears but she's happy to work with families who aren't earning much, either.

She may be on the verge of earning a juicy salary herself but the road to success has been paved with setbacks.

Julia knew by her late teens that she wanted a career in the arts and her first stage school boasted a string of very famous past pupils: Julie Andrews and

never had a desire to start a family of her own. Being able to hand them back to their parents after a show is a luxury she relishes. What makes working with them so special?

"They demand so much from you and you have to give each a fabulous performance. Children are the best to tell you if they're not enjoying it," says the former Hain resident.

But there's more to Julia than keeping little people amused. A slyly she figure and strong looks have allowed her to work as a model. She's worked for the Manchester based model agency Victoria. Doubtless many women readers would

like to know the secret of her fabulous figure. Does she live on water and Special K?

"I am lucky to have good genes but in the main I do try to eat diet food, lots of yogurt and I've adhered to my fresh fruit," she says.

A Hale resident for more than 13 years, Julia now lives near Lyme Park where she gets enormous pleasure from the rolling countryside which surrounds her new home.

If she didn't burn enough energy doing the day job, her hobbies are cycling and walking.

PICTURED ABOVE: Julia Gayle in her entertainer's costume, ready for action

Julia Gayle is face to face with Rick Bowen





An article from one of the Messenger Newspaper Group newspapers, written by journalist Rick Bowen, dated November 16, 2000, which won Feature of the Month

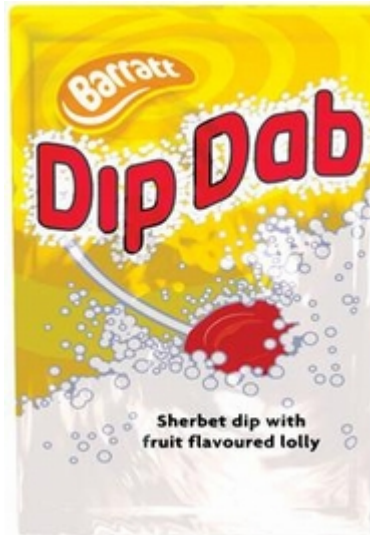
P. 50

"Sherbet dib dab": Mickey is referring to a UK candy called Dip Dabs, which are colloquially referred to as *dib dabs*. The "sherbet" is a fine white powder, resembling cocaine.

Dip Dabs come in two parts: a lollipop and a packet of sherbet, which in the UK and other Commonwealth countries is a fizzy powder, containing sugar and flavoring, and an edible acid and base. One eats the candy by dipping the lollipop into the sherbet.

The acid-carbonate mix reacts to moisture. Sherbet was once stirred into beverages

to make them effervescent before canned carbonated drinks became popular. Now sherbet powder is sold as a sweet (UK for candy). In the United States, we don't have sherbet. Our effervescing candy is Pop Rocks.



Dip Dabs today

"A Quarter Of ...", an online UK confectionary, describes the candy: "Dip Dabs - An absolute classic if you grew up in Blighty in the 70s and 80s! A sachet full of fluffy white zingy sherbet with that unmistakable red juicy lolly stuck in the middle. I don't know about you, but I could never resist bypassing the lolly and pouring a load of the fizzy sherbet into my mouth - how uncouth (but how delicious!). Seeing the packet, which has only been modified slightly (why DO they do that?), instantly takes me back. Oh the simple joys of a Dip Dab!"

P. 53

Belsen ... Auschwitz: Bergen-Belsen was a concentration camp during The Holocaust near Hanover in northwest Germany, located between the villages of Bergen and Belsen. Although it served mostly as a holding camp for Jewish prisoners and contained no gas chambers, more than 35,000 people died of starvation, overwork, disease, brutality and sadistic medical experiments there.

Auschwitz is generally used to indicate Auschwitz-Birkenau, the network of Nazi concentration and labor camps established near the Polish city of Oswiecim. This complex was the largest of all the Nazi death camps across Europe and could hold upwards of 150,000 inmates at any given time.

Historians and analysts estimate the number of people murdered at Auschwitz somewhere between 2.1 million to 4 million, of whom the vast majority were Jews. The majority of prisoners held at Auschwitz were killed in the various gas chambers though many died from starvation, forced labor, disease, shooting squads, and heinous medical experiments.

"I like your jacket ... I've always wanted a jacket like that": Harper says this to Mickey about his jacket. On page 33 of the script, Harper tells her daughter, Sarah, that she has always wanted a leather jacket, never had one, but wouldn't buy one now because it would look stupid. She tries on Mickey's jacket and leaves the pub without giving it back to him. She asks James Fortune, the man she hooks up with in the Manchester hotel (p. 56 in the script and also below) if he likes her jacket, and he tells her that it's "quite striking". On the other hand, on pp. 67-8 of the script, Harper doesn't ask her mother, Alison, what she thinks of the jacket, but Alison tells her anyway that it looks "ridiculous" and asks her if she's "having a bit of a midlife crisis". On p. 78 of the script, Alison's husband Duncan, also unsolicited, tells her he likes her jacket. He calls it, "Very Marlon Brando" and quotes an exchange from the movie *The Wild Ones*, "What are you rebelling against? Whaddya got?" Harper and Sarah talk about the jacket on pp. 90-91 of the script: Harper asks Sarah if she likes it and Sarah says she doesn't, that the jacket looks "stupid" and tells her mother, "It makes you look as though you're trying to look young." Not once are we told directly that it's a leather jacket, but the clues are there. Given Duncan's Marlon Brando remark, it's probably a black leather motorcycle jacket.

SCENE 7

Location: *A beautiful hotel room in Manchester.* [Harper tells Seth in Scene 11 that it is the St. John. There is no St. John hotel in Manchester, but there is a Great John Street hotel, which fits the description perfectly. Close to Manchester's most exclusive shopping areas, restaurants and theatres, the hotel was originally a Victorian school house and has been transformed into a chic townhouse hotel with 30 unique, individually designed duplex bedroom suites alongside stylish lounges and an Oyster Bar.]



Great John Street Hotel

P. 56

Harper is with **James Fortune**. She would have not have known his name beforehand, but coincidentally, James is the name she invented to start a conversation with Tobias in Scene 2.

P. 57

Sixteen millimetres of rainfall in about ten minutes: this is equivalent to .63 inches in ten minutes, which would be 3.78 inches in an hour.

Wittering on: in colloquial use in the UK, to witter on means to chatter or babble pointlessly or at unnecessary length.

P. 58

Personal advert: Advert is a shortening of the word “advertisement,” and in the UK, “personal advert” is also commonly known as an advert in a lonely-hearts column.

Harper has browsed the personal adverts online to find a hookup, the “sex with a complete stranger” she describes to Justine on p. 44 of the script. “Personals” or “personal ads” originated as an item or notice found in the newspaper, similar to a classified advertisement but personal in nature. With its rise in use and popularity, the Internet has also become a common medium for personals, commonly referred to as online dating. Personals are generally meant to generate romance, friendship, or casual (sometimes sexual) encounters, and usually include a basic description of the person posting it, and their interests.

P. 63

Radio 4: a BBC radio network, it describes itself as a “speech based news, current affairs and factual network.” It broadcasts a wide variety of spoken-word programs including news, drama, comedy, science and history.

You can listen live here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4>

Sex Offenders Register: In the UK, the Violent and Sex Offender Register (ViSOR) is a database of records of those required to register with the Police under the Sexual Offences Act 2003 (the 2003 Act), those jailed for more than 12 months for violent offences, and those thought to be at risk of offending.

P. 65

“She’s Not You” by Elvis Presley: is a 1962 song recorded by Elvis Presley and published by Gladys Music, Elvis Presley's publishing company. "She's Not You" reached No. 5 on the Billboard Hot 100 and No. 13 on the R&B chart. In the UK, the single reached No. 1 where it stayed for three weeks. It was written by Doc Pomus in collaboration with Leiber and Stoller.

Episode 1 of the 2004 BBC miniseries “Blackpool” featured the Presley recording, accompanied on screen by the characters, singing and dancing as part of the story.

A recording of Elvis singing the song in the early 60s can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZF-UiqIRTM>

The lyrics are:

Her hair is soft and her eyes are also blue
 She's all the things a girl should be
 But she's not you

She knows just how to make me laugh when I feel blue
 She's ev'rything a man could want
 But she's not you

And when we're dancing, it almost feels the same
 I've got to stop myself from whisp'ring your name

She even kisses me like you used to do
 And it's just breaking my heart
 'Cause she's not you

And it's just breaking my heart
 'Cause she's not you

And when we're dancing, it almost feels the same
 I've got to stop myself from whisp'ring your name

She even kisses me like you used to do
 And it's just breaking my heart
 'Cause she's not you
 And it's just breaking my heart
 'Cause she's not you

P. 66

Harper tells James that he smells “lovely” and “gorgeous”. He tells her he has no sense of smell. Smell is mentioned elsewhere in the play. See notes for “smell as a homing device” on p. 10 of this document.

SCENE 8

Location: *Harper's mother's [Alison Woolley's] home in Stockport*

P. 71

Old Age Pensioner: An expression deriving from the Old-Age Pensions Act of 1908, which is an Act of Parliament of the UK, which passed in 1908. The Act is often regarded as one of the foundations of modern social welfare in the United Kingdom and forms part of the wider social welfare reforms of the Liberal Government of 1906–1914.]

The Act provided for a non-contributory old age pension for persons over the age of 70.

P. 73

“Always get good chips at Chinese”: when Alison refers to “chips” here, she isn’t talking about the deep-fried potatoes that accompany the battered and fried fish in fish and chips, a common English to-go food. Instead, she uses the “chips” part of “fish and chips” to encompass all takeaway food.

P. 75

O Levels: When Harper was leaving secondary school, she and her fellow sixth-formers would have taken O Levels, not A Levels, as they came to be characterized later. Their last year was 1987; Harper would have taken them in 1982.

P. 76

“He couldn’t believe you went away”: In *On the Shore of the Wide, Wide World*, which premiered in London three years before *Harper Regan*, a son moves to London from Stockport, which his mother finds unforgivable. In *Harper Regan*, it’s the father who can’t bear his child’s move from her hometown. Although it’s only a 157-mile distance, for many people in England, it feels much further away, not unlike the contrasting cultural differences you’ll find in Manhattan and the boroughs, New Jersey and Manhattan, or North and South Carolina.

P. 78

Hyde: Hyde is a town in Tameside, Greater Manchester, England. In 2001, it had a population of 31,253. Historically in Cheshire, it is 5 miles (8.0 km) northeast of Stockport, and 7.0 miles (11.3 km) east of Manchester.

“What are you rebelling against? Whaddya got?”: Duncan is quoting lines from the 1954 movie, *The Wild Ones*, which starred Marlon Brando. Brando, playing a motorcycle gang leader, is asked what he’s rebelling against. “Whattaya got?” was his famous reply.

P. 80

Lorry: the name for a truck or a large goods transport vehicle in the UK.

SCENE 9

Location: the canal tow path [in Uxbridge], as identified in the Dramatists Play Service version of the play, published in 2008.

P. 83

Hitching: hitchhiking

P. 86

Boffin: Tobias defines it quite well in the text.

SCENE 10

Location: Harper’s house

P. 89

Rang: past tense of the verb “to ring”, which in the UK is a colloquialism for telephoning someone.

Sack: slang in the UK, it means to fire someone from their job

P. 91

Pottering about: used idiomatically in the UK, it means to move about without hurrying, and in a relaxed and pleasant way

P. 92

Telly: slang for television in the UK, it can be used to either refer to the television set itself, or to television programming. Like the word “hospital”, when used to indicate programming, it’s spoken without an article like “the” or “a” in front of it, hence Sarah’s “a bit of telly”.

The Weakest Link: a television game show which first appeared in the United Kingdom on BBC Two on August 14, 2000 and ended on March 31, 2012 when its host, Anne Robinson, ended her contract. The original British version of the show is still aired around the world on BBC Entertainment.

The American version aired in two separate formats, one on primetime network television and one in daily syndication.

The primetime *Weakest Link* debuted on NBC April 16, 2001 and aired until July 14, 2002. The series' final ten episodes went unaired until 2003, when PAX TV (named for its parent company, Paxson Productions) aired some of them. The remainder aired on GSN (Game Show Network), which maintains broadcast rights to the series. While the primetime series was still in production, the daily syndicated series was being developed. That series debuted at midseason in 2002, premiering on January 7, 2002, and aired for a season and a half before ending its run on May 20, 2003. Reruns of this series would join the primetime series on both PAX and GSN but neither series is currently airing.

Like the British version, Anne Robinson served as host for the NBC *Weakest Link*. George Gray, whose most notable hosting experience to that point was on *Extreme Gong*, hosted the syndicated version. *Extreme Gong* was GSN's revival of *The Gong Show*, the classic Chuck Barris game show, which parodied amateur talent contests. It ran in 1998 and 1999.

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“... you can't half be stupid”: Originally a Cockney expression, “can’t half” is a UK idiom equivalent to the US idiom “by half”, which means “considerably”, “a great deal”, or the result of multiplying by half again. Harper is telling Sarah that for such an intelligent person, she can be considerably stupid sometimes.

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Thumped: in the UK, this means punched or hit. It's the past tense of "to thump".

Condoleezza Rice: US National Security Advisor from 2001-2005, then Secretary of State from 2005-2009, during the George W. Bush administration. Sarah did not want to be compared to her, likely because Rice has been criticized both in the US and abroad for her involvement in the George W. Bush administration; especially her advocacy for the US-led invasion of Iraq and her support for waterboarding by the US.

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Prise: a UK term for pry, which is the preferred usage in the US and Canada.

SCENE 11

Location: Harper's garden

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Half five: 5:30 a.m. In the EU, the 24-hour clock is used, so our p.m. hours would have 12 added to them. Five-thirty p.m. in the EU, for example, appears as 17:30.

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The St. John: see p. 26 of this document, the location for Scene 7.

Internet café on Wellington Road: There's a place called the 7012 Cyber Lounge in Lower Hillgate, just half a block off Wellington Road in Stockport. It has more privacy for browsing than any other Internet café in Manchester, so I think it may be the one Harper is talking about.



The exterior of 7012 Cyber Lounge



The interior of 7012 Cyber Lounge

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Sussex, Surrey and Kent: Seth talks about moving to the countryside, and these are the “Home Counties” that surround London. The Home Counties generally included in the list are Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Kent, Surrey, and Sussex (although Sussex does not border London). Sussex, Surrey and Kent are idyllic, with beautiful landscapes and the best weather in the country. They would definitely be candidates to populate a daydream like the one Seth is having.

Sussex: a historic county in South East England, it corresponds roughly in area to the ancient Kingdom of Sussex. Clockwise, it is bounded on the west by Hampshire; north by Surrey, northeast by Kent, and south by the English Channel. The coastal resorts of Sussex and neighboring Hampshire are the sunniest places in the United Kingdom. The coast has consistently more sunshine than the inland areas: sea breezes, blowing off the sea, tend to clear any cloud from the coast.

Surrey: a county in the South East of England, it borders Greater London to the north and north-east, Kent to the east, East Sussex to the south-east, West Sussex to the south, Hampshire to the west and south-west, and Berkshire to the north-west. Surrey is inland and not quite as idyllic as Kent and Sussex.

Kent: in South East England, it is traditionally known as “The Garden of England”, and was the setting for Noel Coward’s *Blithe Spirit*, a play produced by Jewel Theatre in May 2012. Twenty-eight per cent of the County forms part of two distinct Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, namely the North Downs and The Weald. France can be seen clearly in fine weather from Folkestone, as well as the iconic White Cliffs of Dover.