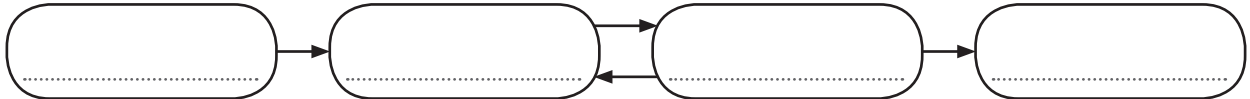


1 Who likes who in the story? Add the names to the boxes.

Nick Bram Leah Cal Abby Martin



2a This story is set in the US, so there are a lot of American English words and expressions. Match the American English words with the British English words from the box.

sweets autumn good-looking / pretty grey colour biscuits mum year



**American English**

candy  
color  
cookies  
cute  
fall  
grade  
gray  
mom

**British English**

.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....



**2b Complete the sentences. Write the American English words from 2a.**

- 1 I ate all the Oreos .....
- 2 My ..... always wants to know everything about my day.
- 3 I hope your Halloween was excellent. Things were very quiet here. Only about six kids called round for .....
- 4 My mom has made Oreo cakes, the tree is bright and full of .....
- 5 I can never usually talk to ..... guys — I get nervous and don't know what to say to them.
- 6 I love your moon..... eyes.
- 7 Everyone does stupid things in eighth .....
- 8 The ..... air smells lovely as we walk along the road.

**3a Complete the timeline with the events in the box.**

Christmas Day	Halloween	Christmas Eve	New Year's Eve
Simon's Birthday	Homecoming and Spirit Week		Thanksgiving

- a *October 31:* .....
- b *early November:* .....
- c *mid-November:* .....
- d *late November:* .....
- e *December 24:* .....
- f *December 25:* .....
- g *December 31:* .....

**3b Match the events above (a–g) with the sentences.**

- 1 Simon has a party in the basement of his parents' house. ....
- 2 There is an enormous chocolate cake at rehearsal and everyone is wearing party hats. ....
- 3 Simon tries to help Martin go to this with Abby. ....
- 4 Nora shows Simon the message on Creeksecrets. ....
- 5 Simon and his friends put on costumes and go to a party at Garrett's house. ....
- 6 Simon comes out to his family. ....
- 7 Simon says very little about it. ....

4 When Simon is thinking about who Blue is, he sees many clues. Put the clues in the correct places.

He knows about Blue.

Simon feels a bit uncomfortable and notices that this cute guy is staring at him.

Simon lifts his hand, and he takes it in his own. He smiles down at Simon, and Simon has to look away from him.

When the emails were sent, he was in rehearsal with Simon, with no time to write emails, and no internet.

He shares a name with the eighth American president.

He doesn't react to Simon talking about Oreos.

He's drawn a superhero. Blue loves superheroes.

Sometimes when Simon looks at him, he feels like they understand each other.

	Cal	Martin	Bram
<b>Reasons why this person could be Blue</b>			
<b>Reasons why this person can't be Blue</b>			

5 Read these extracts from the stories. What do the underlined parts mean? Write them with different words.

a My dad and sister are talking about a guy called Daniel on *The Bachelorette*.

“Wow, he’s hot,” Nora says.

My mom and sister are always saying “eye candy” about the men on this show.

.....  
.....

b “Are you joking?” my dad says. “The gay one?”

“Daniel’s not gay,” says Nora.

“He’s a one-man pride parade,” says Dad and laughs.

.....  
.....

c There is an enormous chocolate cake at rehearsal and everyone is wearing party hats. Leah and Abby cut the cake, and it tastes perfect. I know that Leah chose it—Leah is great at birthdays.

.....  
.....

d We’ve been emailing almost every day. His emails used to be an extra thing in my life. Now, it’s like they’re the only real thing in my life—everything else feels extra.

.....  
.....

e All I can think about is Blue. I can’t believe that Blue won’t tell me who he is, now that he knows who I am. I start looking for clues everywhere. So when school ends and nothing has happened, I feel my heart breaking.

.....  
.....

f “You knew about this?”

“I’ve been teaching Nora guitar for months,” Nick replies.

“But she told me not to tell you. She wanted it to be a surprise.”

Bram is right. People really are huge houses with small windows.

.....  
.....

6 You're a friend of Simon's. When the message about him appears on Creeksecrets you are worried about him. Write a message to send him on his phone.



7 The internet can be very useful, but it can also be dangerous. Write some advice for children and young people about how to use it safely.

