

morris
gleitzman

Once

Our imaginations are powerful forces

Felix is sustained throughout the terror and trauma of his story by his imagination. Despite the dreadful circumstances he finds himself in, he remains positive and optimistic. As the novel closes, Felix imagines that in 1983 he might be a famous author, living in a cake shop with his dog and friend. Zelda, his friend, also has imagination. She confidently predicts future developments such as: 1960 – people will have wheels instead of feet (p.63) and 1972 – cows will make their own butter (p.64).

Imagine you have glasses like Felix and they are magic (like the carrot!). They enable you to see other people's lives. Adopt Felix' positive approach and imagine his life after surviving the Holocaust. Ask yourself where, what, why, who, how (e.g. *Where is Felix living? How did he come to be there? What is he working at? Who are his friends now?*) about Felix' life in

1955

1975

1985

Discussion question

Why does Morris open each chapter with the word once? What significance does it have for Felix? Continue this line of thought with the closing words in the book – *Barney said everybody deserves to have something good in their life at least once. I have. More than once.*

Make a list of all the good things that have happened to Felix during the course of his story so far.