

Land Journey

Gary: 41, Neal: 12. Father and Son. Neal is on the computer. Gary is on his computer. Living room.

Gary: Neal, what did you think of the walk we did with Fern and them? We have to write something.

Neal: Yeah, it was alright.

Gary: Coz I was trying to write something about it the other day.

Neal: Yeah.

Gary: is there anything you'd like me to say?

Neal: No, not really.

Gary: What was good about?

Neal: I don;t know.

Gary: What was bad about it?

Neal: Are you writing this conversation?

Gary: (Nods)

Neal: Ah Dad!

Gary: What shall we say? Neal?

Neal: I don;t know. Dad I'm not in the mood to have a conversation about walks now? Busy!

Gary: Why, what are you doing?

Neal: Never you mind. Dad why are you writing the conversation? It's annoying. Dipstick. Honestly! Do you have to write down everything? You're a Div!

Gary: I just wanted something supportive for the Retracing walk. Do you know what I mean?

Neal: Yeah.

Gary: So, what do you remember?

Neal: Walking.

Gary: Anything else?

Neal: I remember the name of that plant?

Gary: Which one?

Neal: Tormentus.

Gary: Tormetus?

Neal: Yeah. don;t you see how you are tormenting us?!

Gary: It was called Tormentil, wasn't it?

Neal: Oh woteva!

Gary: Anything else you remember?

Neal: No! Oh, yeah, those, like, jets.

Gary: What do you remember about those jets?

Neal: Loud.

Gary: And?

Neal: And what?

Gary: Loud and?

Neal: Destructive.

Gary: They made me want to lie down on the grass, scared.

Neal: Hmmm. Dad, honestly why are you writing the conversation down. It is just annoying!

Gary: I remember the gas pipeline.

Neal: And the iron coloured stream.

Gary: Why was it iron coloured again?

Neal: Coz some sort of algae lived there or something like that.

Gary: Nothing to do with the gas pipeline?

Neal: No, probably not.

Gary: Can't we make a link with No Dash For Gas? Fracking? The Oil Road? Fossil fuel addiction? Jet planes?

Neal: Oh! I don't care! And anyway it was just the algae. You can't make this sound like it makes activist sense when it doesn't. The water wasn't polluted. Eleanor explained the whole thing. Oh what's it matter!

Gary: Coz that's why I went on the walk.

Neal: I went on the walk coz you told me to.

Gary: Would you go again though?

Neal: Yeah. Probably.

Gary: Why?

Neal: But I won't go again if you spam me with questions. When I completed it I really felt a sense of achievement. My favourite bit was when we had lunch. Because we'd earned it. But what did you like though Dad?

Gary: I loved joining a group I kind of had nothing to do with, except ideologically perhaps. And seeing what happened. I loved the two nights we camped and the full days walk in the middle. I felt, I really did feel, part of something. That group, that landscape, that thinking, that being with others who welcome you and ask you for your thoughts. It was such a privilege to be asked what my thoughts were. I felt grateful, all in all, grateful.

Neal: Dad, will you just stop now please. I'm trying to focus. I'm on the last level.

Gary & Neal Anderson

Institute for the Art & Practice of Dissent at Home