

## Cocktail story

# *The hitch-hiker*

***T  
h  
e  
  
l  
o  
t  
t  
e  
r  
y  
  
t  
i  
c  
k  
e  
t***

One hot summer day, two men wanted to go swimming. A man was in a bar with his friends. He was very happy. When Mr Soames was on his way home he saw a girl. He showed his friends a lottery ticket. They drove down to the sea. He stopped the car and asked the girl to take her home because the weather was so terrible. On a little rock, they saw a boy. He had a fishing rod in his hands. Mr Soames drove to the house on the hill. "Are the fish biting?" one of the men asked. "Look here," he said. "No, they aren't," the boy answered, "but the worms are." "I'm the winner of the big prize in the lottery. This is the winning number: seven – nine – three – two – one – zero – six. The prize is ten thousand dollars." When the man and the girl came to the house, he saw that she was asleep. So he went up to the house and knocked at the door. The two men went on and laughed about the boy's answer. A woman opened. "Your daughter is in my car," the man said. "Great! Congratulations! Ten thousand dollars!" his friends shouted. "She must be very tired. She's asleep," he said. When they came back, they saw that something was wrong with the boy. "She died in a car accident five years ago," the woman said and got very angry. The man passed his ticket round. All his friends wanted to look at it. They looked at him and saw lots of little red bites on his hands and arms. When the man got his ticket back, he looked at it again. Mr Soames was very confused. So they looked at the can with the worms in it. They found that it was full of baby rattle snakes. He came back to his car. It was empty. The girl was gone. He couldn't believe his eyes. The number of the ticket that he had in his hands was: three – two – nine – eight – eight – four.

***T  
h  
e  
  
b  
o  
y  
  
w  
h  
o  
  
w  
e  
n  
t  
  
f  
i  
s  
h  
i  
n  
g***