

At first, Gabriel is lonely.

- Gabriel was sitting on the stoop by himself.
- People around Gabriel were talking quietly.
- Gabriel wished for some company.
- He remembered his sandwich and wished that he still had it.
- He also remembered being the only person who knew the answer in class.
- Gabriel started to think about being alone and living by himself.
- Gabriel heard something.

At the start of the story, Gabriel sits by himself. He remembers the butter sandwich he had for lunch, wishing he still had it. He is extra lonely because he is hungry. Other people also are sitting outside, too, but Gabriel doesn't speak to them. He becomes lost to the world, thinking about living outside by himself in a tent or with a pack of coyotes. His attention is focused so inward that he is oblivious to the cries of a nearby cat.