

Guided Reading - Inference and deduction

It had grown busy while I had been in the water. Deck chairs had been dragged out. Families had pitched little tents. Balls, Frisbees and kites seemed to be everywhere. Hundreds of adults were just laid there, rigid on their towels while the children ran around shouting and squealing irritatingly.

It always got like this at the weekend. I had warned Granddad. It would have been better to have come in the evening when all the crowds had gone home. I sighed. Granddad seemed oblivious, sat in his chair reading his book, his feet buried in the sand.

The sun was at its height and beat down mercilessly.

“Perhaps you should put some cream on Granddad,” I said with concern.

1) Where is the scene set? Find evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

2) Why did the narrator think it would have been better to have come in the evening? (1 mark)

3) Why is the narrator concerned about Granddad? (2 marks)

4) Do you think the narrator is having fun? Explain your answer. (2 marks)

5) Would you like to be there? Explain your answer referring to the text. (2 marks)

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Example Answers

I often use this text to introduce/reinforce the use of quotations; writing an answer together as a group.

1) Where is the scene set? Find evidence from the text to support your answer.

(3 marks)

On a beach (though some children might say swimming pool - which can lead to a bit of debate). I know this because in the text it says, "Deck chairs had been dragged out....adults were just laid there, rigid on their towels," both common ways of relaxing on the beach. It also says that Granddad had, "his feet buried in the sand." Sand is most often seen at the beach.

(It is useful with this question to discuss and identify the strongest evidence. For example a child might suggest kites as evidence, but kites can commonly be seen at the park, in open fields etc. It is only when combined with the water and sand that we know for sure.)

2) Why did the narrator think it would have been better to have come in the evening?

(1 mark)

The narrator thinks that it would have been better to have come in the evening when, "all the crowds had gone home." Then it would not be so busy.

3) Why is the narrator concerned about Granddad?

(2 marks)

The narrator didn't want his granddad to get burnt. It says in the text that, "The sun was at its height and beat down mercilessly." Which shows it is hot. It also says in the text that the narrator wanted Granddad to "put some cream on." Which is what you do to protect yourself from burning.

4) Do you think the narrator is having fun? Explain your answer.

(2 marks)

No. (this catches some children out. They get distracted by the fun things going on around the narrator, and don't read between the lines.) We know that the reader would have preferred to have come in the evening, when, "all the crowds had gone home." This shows that he does not like it when it gets busy. He also says that, "children ran around shouting and squealing irritatingly." The word "irritatingly" shows that he is getting annoyed. The narrator sighs, which is a sound you would make when you are fed up, not when you are having fun.

5) Would you like to be there? Explain your answer referring to the text. (2 marks)

(Yes or No. This question is a way of opening debate, so children see further into the text. For example a child might say yes, because they would like to fly a kite. But is there really room to fly a kite on this busy beach?)