

60-Second Reads Guidance

The National Curriculum states that:

Pupils in Years 3 and 4 should be able to read books written at an age-appropriate interest level. They should be able to read them accurately and at a speed that is sufficient for them to focus on understanding what they read rather than on decoding individual words. They should be able to decode most new words outside their spoken vocabulary, making a good approximation to the word's pronunciation.

This resource aims to give you the ability to test a pupil's level of fluency to this expected standard. Each 60-Second Read Activity Card features a short extract of age-appropriate text with an average word count of 100 words. The cumulative word count for each line of text is shown in the left-hand margin of each card. Each of the cards also contain a set of comprehension questions that link to the KS2 reading content domains.

Each different question type has its own canine helper to remind children of what they need to do to answer a question appropriately:

Vocabulary Questions

Vocabulary Victor is there to help you work out the meaning of unknown words and phrases using context clues.

2a: Give / explain the meaning of words in context.



Retrieval Questions

Rex Retriever is there to help you to go into a text and just simply retrieve the facts and key details.

2b: Retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.



Summary Questions

Summarising Sheba is there to remind you to summarise the main point(s) or main event(s) of a paragraph or text.

2c: Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.



Inference Questions

Inference Iggy will help you hunt for clues in a text about how someone might be feeling or why something is happening.



2d: Make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.

Prediction Questions

Predicting Pip tries to see the future and she will help you to work out what might happen next from clues in the text.



2e: Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.

Compare, Contrast & Comment Questions

Cassie the Commentator discusses the content of a paragraph/text and compares events and characters. Can you do the same?



2f: Identify/explain how information/narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole.

2h: Make comparisons within the text.

Author Choice Questions

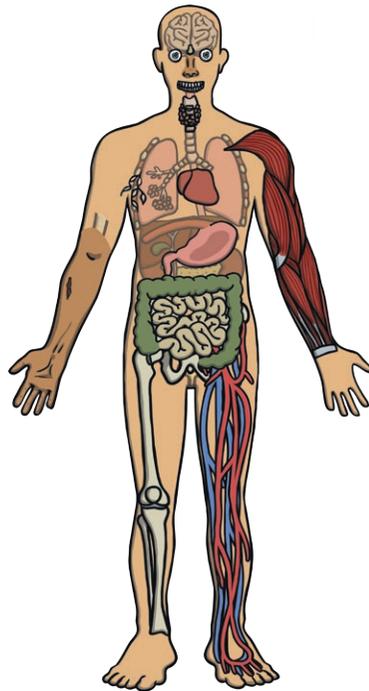
Arlo the Author likes to help you to spot examples of ambitious vocabulary and figurative language, and explain how these words/phrases add to the meaning of the text.



2g: Identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.

Amazing Facts about the Human Body

- 8 • Your heart beats around one hundred thousand times
19 per day. This means that in one year it has pumped
28 around three million litres of blood around your body.
- 35 • Your nose can tell the difference between
39 one trillion different smells.
- 49 • The acid inside your stomach that helps you to digest
54 food can actually dissolve metal.
- 60 • The smallest bone in the human
66 body can be found inside the
73 ear. It is called the stapes (or
79 stirrup) bone and it is only
83 around three millimetres long.
- 88 • Your nose and ears continue
90 growing throughout
93 your entire life.
- 98 • As well as having unique
103 finger prints, all humans also
107 have unique tongue prints!



Quick Questions



1. What do you think the word 'unique' means?



2. What are the two names for the smallest bone in the human body?



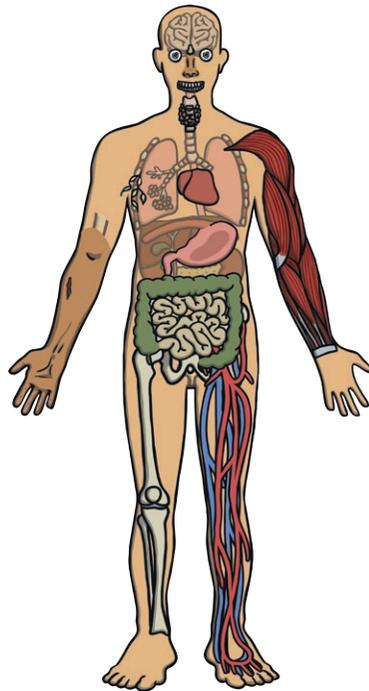
3. Give one reason why the author may have chosen to use bullet points to present this information.



4. Why do you think the author chose these particular facts?

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- 88 • Your nose and ears continue
90 growing throughout
93 your entire life.
- 98 • As well as having unique
103 finger prints, all humans also
107 have unique tongue prints!



Answers



1. What do you think the word 'unique' means?
Accept a definition that states that something is special or individual with nothing being the same as it.



2. What are the two names for the smallest bone in the human body?
Accept: 'stapes' and 'stirrup'.



3. Give one reason why the author may have chosen to use bullet points to present this information.
Accept an answer that discusses clear presentation, easy to read, short and snappy facts or separating different facts clearly.

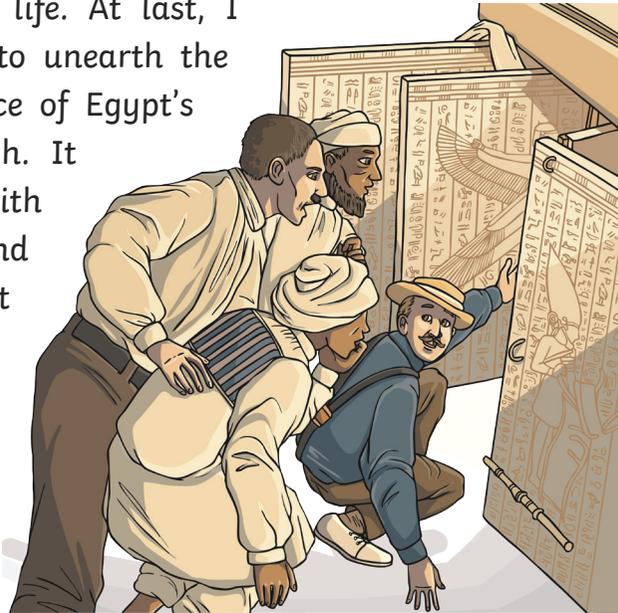


4. Why do you think the author chose these particular facts?
Accept answers which relate to the facts being particularly interesting, shocking or surprising, and that the author thought that they would be exciting for the reader to read.

An Extract from Howard Carter's Diary

4th November 1922

11 After the discovery of the first step, we exposed fifteen more
20 steps leading down to an ancient doorway, still sealed
31 after all these years. The name on the door was clear:
41 Tutankhamen. They say this tomb is cursed; they say that
49 the ancient pharaoh threatened anyone who disturbed his
62 peace in the afterlife but that will not stop me. For five years
72 we have been digging through the inhospitable desert and I
80 am finally about to make the most important
87 discovery of my life. At last, I
94 will be the one to unearth the
99 final resting place of Egypt's
102 youngest pharaoh. It
106 will be filled with
108 treasures beyond
110 anyone's wildest
111 dreams.



Quick Questions



1. In what year was this text written?



2. Do you think Howard Carter was scared? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.



3. Sum up the main points of this extract in 20 words or less.

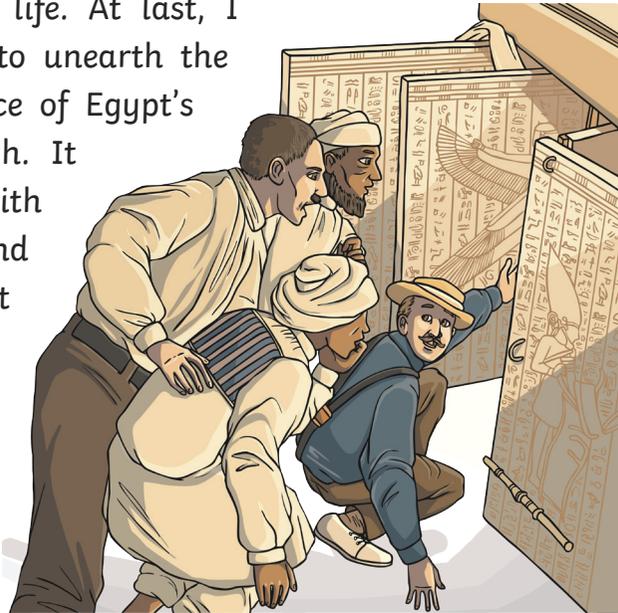


4. What do you think happened next?

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20 steps leading down to an ancient doorway, still sealed
31 after all these years. The name on the door was clear:
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94 will be the one to unearth the
99 final resting place of Egypt's
102 youngest pharaoh. It
106 will be filled with
108 treasures beyond
110 anyone's wildest
111 dreams.



Answers



1. In what year was this text written?
1922



2. Do you think Howard Carter was scared? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
Accept yes or no provided that it is backed up with relevant evidence from the text, e.g. 'No because he said that the curse will not stop him.'



3. Sum up the main points of this extract in 20 words or less.
Accept any reasonable summary which includes the key points of the text in twenty words or less.



4. What do you think happened next?
Accept any reasonable prediction exploring themes of opening the tomb, making the discovery, etc.

Emma's Puppy Problem

11 As soon as she turned eight years old, Emma knew that
21 she was old enough for the responsibility of looking after
33 a puppy. She had even promised to start doing all of the
46 things you would do with a dog to prove to her boring dad
58 that she could. Emma knew she had to go on long walks
70 twice a day, although she did not get out of bed before
80 midday. She watered the plants in the house every day
89 to prove that she could keep something alive, although
100 she watered them a bit too much. Emma also knew one
110 thing for certain: she would not be picking up anything
122 that the dog left in the back garden. Not once. Not ever.
127 That was her dad's job.



Quick Questions



1. Who is stopping Emma from getting a puppy?



2. Why do you think that the author describes dad as 'boring'?



3. What makes you think that Emma is not ready to get a puppy? Use evidence from the text.



4. Summarise the main point of this story in 20 words or less.

Emma's Puppy Problem

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21 she was old enough for the responsibility of looking after
33 a puppy. She had even promised to start doing all of the
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110 thing for certain: she would not be picking up anything
122 that the dog left in the back garden. Not once. Not ever.
127 That was her dad's job.



Answers



1. Who is stopping Emma from getting a puppy?
Dad



2. Why do you think that the author describes dad as 'boring'?
Accept any reasonable explanation regarding Emma viewing dad as boring because he will not let her get a dog.



3. What makes you think that Emma is not ready to get a puppy? Use evidence from the text.
Accept answers which quote the text and discuss that Emma does not do the necessary things to look after the dog and she does not even have one yet. She will not be a responsible owner because she refuses to do the jobs of a pet owner.



4. Summarise the main point of this story in 20 words or less.
Accept any reasonable summary in 20 words or less which states that Emma wants a puppy but cannot have one.

Great Galapagos

11 Thank you for joining us today; my name is David and
22 I will be your tour guide. The Pacific Ocean and the
30 enchanted volcanic islands of Galapagos are places unlike
40 any other. They are home to an incredible collection of
49 animals who have adapted to the harsh landscape around
58 them. Most of them were discovered by an astounded
69 Charles Darwin on his first trip to these islands over two
72 hundred years ago.

83 On our right, you can see one of the islands' most
90 remarkable inhabitants – the giant tortoise. There are
102 hundreds of them on the beach at any time, lying in the
112 sun to warm their blood and gather energy. Many may
124 be older than you are right now and some will live for
130 over one hundred years. Impressive, right?



Quick Questions



1. Who discovered most of the animals on the Galapagos Islands?



2. Sum up the second paragraph in 20 words or less.



3. How has the author made the Galapagos Islands sound special within the text?



4. Name one other creature you could expect to see on this tour.

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22 I will be your tour guide. The Pacific Ocean and the
30 enchanted volcanic islands of Galapagos are places unlike
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102 hundreds of them on the beach at any time, lying in the
112 sun to warm their blood and gather energy. Many may
124 be older than you are right now and some will live for
130 over one hundred years. Impressive, right?



Answers



1. Who discovered most of the animals on the Galapagos Islands?

Charles Darwin



2. Sum up the second paragraph in 20 words or less.

Accept any reasonable summary of information from the second paragraph in 20 words or less.



3. How has the author made the Galapagos Islands sound special within the text?

Accept answers which discuss use of exciting adjectives (enchanted / incredible), and saying 'place unlike any other'.



4. Name one other creature you could expect to see on this tour.

Accept any reasonable prediction which would fit on a Pacific island tour or anything Darwin famously discovered, e.g. beach life (star fish, hermit crab), fish, insects, birds.

Incredible Invertebrates!

10 Invertebrates are a species of animal that do not have
18 a back bone. Mammals, amphibians, reptiles, fish and
29 birds do not fit into this category because they all have
38 vertebrae (spinal bones), but these animals make up less
49 than 4% of all the animal species on Earth. This means
58 that around 96% of animal species alive are invertebrates.
66 These include marine invertebrates and molluscs, such as
75 sponges, jellyfish and oysters, as well as crustaceans and
82 insects, such as crabs, shrimp and butterflies.

91 The largest invertebrate ever recorded was a giant squid
99 that measured 13m long. The smallest invertebrates are
110 so tiny that they cannot be seen by the naked eye.



Quick Questions



1. Write a short definition of the word 'invertebrate'.



2. What percentage of animals on Earth actually have spinal bones?



3. Who do you think this information is for?



4. Write two questions that you could find the answers to in this text.

a.

b.

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110 so tiny that they cannot be seen by the naked eye.



Answers



1. Write a short definition of the word 'invertebrate'.

Accept any definition that states that invertebrates are creatures without spinal bones.



2. What percentage of animals on Earth actually have spinal bones?

4%



3. Who do you think this information is for?

Accept an answer which states for children / those who do not know about invertebrates / people interested in the animal species.



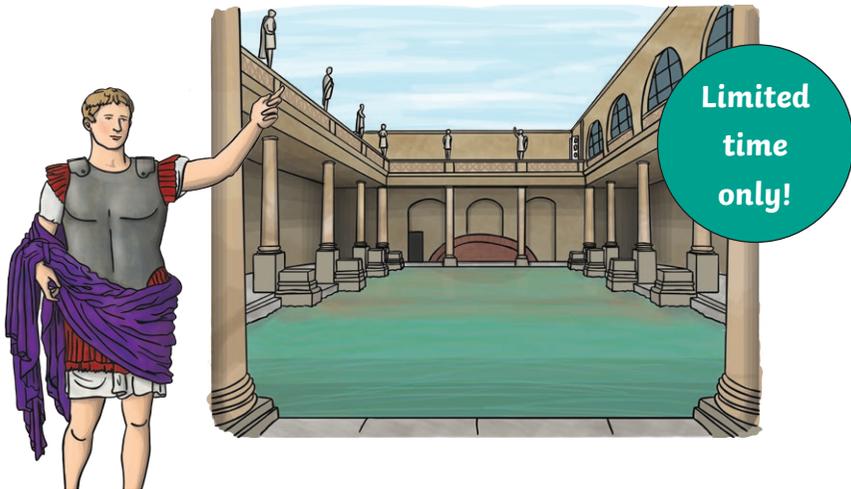
4. Write two questions that you could find the answers to in this text.

Accept any questions that are correctly punctuated and whose answers can be directly retrieved from the text.

Live like an Emperor!

11 Do you have time to spare, require healing or need a
21 place to socialise with friends? Then bathe in the natural
29 thermal waters of the extravagant Roman baths. With
37 exclusive features, such as our new hypocaust system –
46 underfloor heating using the latest in hot-air technology
58 – and a new range of perfumed oils for use in the
70 caldarium, you can bathe and relax in style at one of
80 Britain’s finest natural hot springs. Why not bathe in the
88 warm waters of the tepidarium before plunging into the
94 frigidarium’s cold bath to refresh your senses?

107 For a limited time only, we have a buy one, get one free
118 offer on strigils – scrape off the day to day dirt, grime
125 and dead skin to your heart’s content!



Quick Questions



1. In which room can guests use perfumed oils?



2. What do you think a 'strigil' is? Explain your answer.



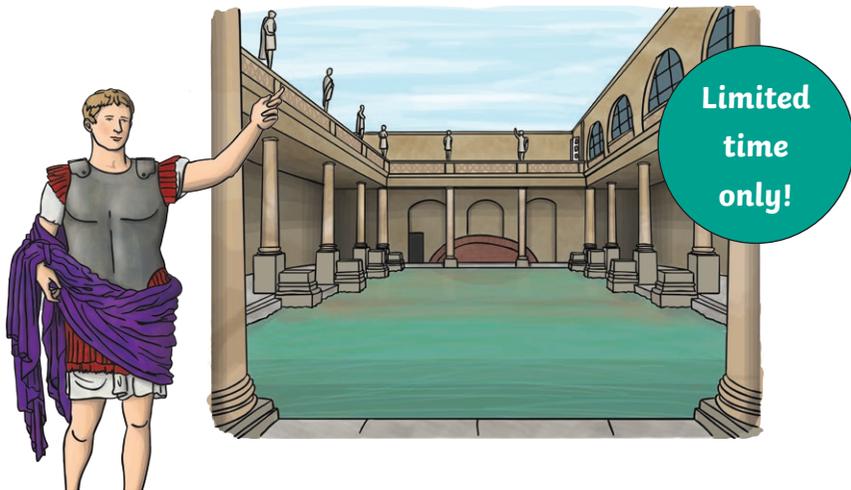
3. How do the pools in the tepidarium and frigidarium compare?



4. Give one way that the author has tried to be persuasive.

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21 place to socialise with friends? Then bathe in the natural
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125 and dead skin to your heart's content!



Answers



1. In which room can guests use perfumed oils?

Accept: (the) caldarium.



2. What do you think a 'strigil' is? Explain your answer.

Accept any answer which states that a strigil is a tool/instrument used to scrape the skin.



3. How do the pools in the tepidarium and frigidarium compare?

Accept an answer which states that the pool in the tepidarium is warm, whilst that in the frigidarium is cold.



4. Give one way that the author has tried to be persuasive.

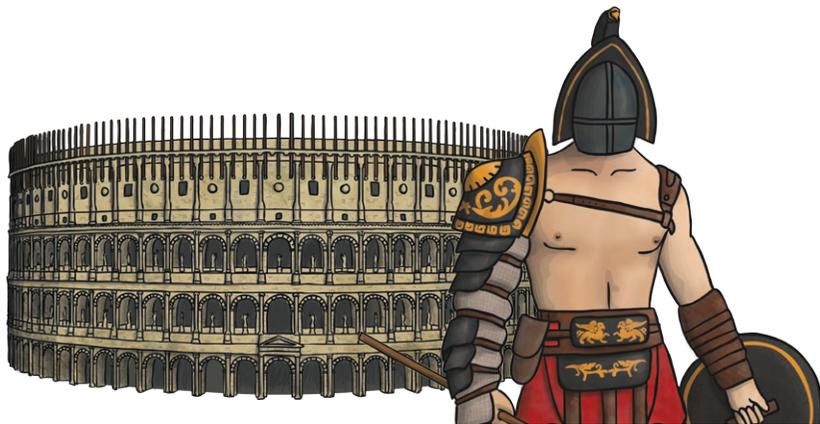
Accept any reasonable answer which relates to any one of the following points: use of exciting adjectives/description, use of rhetorical questions, directly addressing the reader, inclusion of a special / time sensitive offer.

The Captivating Colosseum

8 The Colosseum, also known as the Flavian Amphitheatre,
17 is an oval-shaped amphitheatre in the centre of Rome –
28 the capital city of Italy. Built from concrete and sand, its
36 construction began in 72AD under the emperor Vespasian
47 and it was completed eight years later. Despite its age, it
54 still remains the largest amphitheatre ever built.

64 It is estimated that the Colosseum could hold up to
74 80,000 spectators and was used daily as a place for
81 entertainment such as gladiator contests, animal hunts,
89 re-enactments of famous battles and dramas based on
91 ancient myths.

99 Although damaged by earthquakes and theft of stone,
109 the Colosseum is still a popular tourist attraction and an
114 iconic symbol of Imperial Rome.



Quick Questions



1. In which year was the building of the Colosseum completed?



2. What does the word 'estimated' tell you about the amount of people that the Colosseum can hold?



3. How does the entertainment at the Colosseum compare to modern-day entertainment?



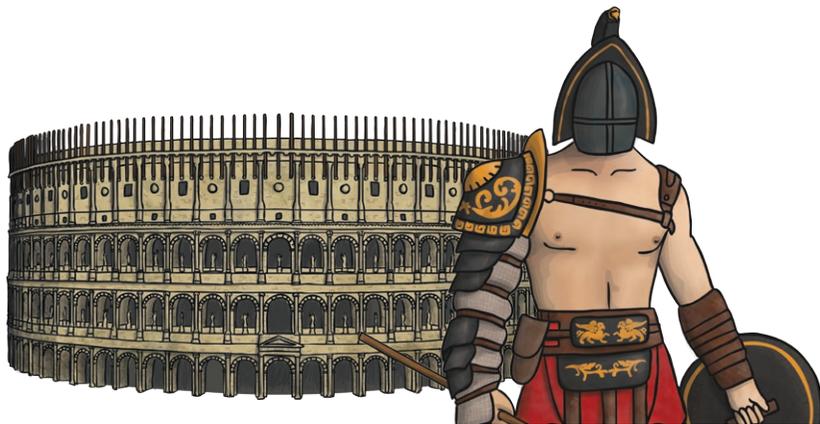
4. Summarise what you have read in 20 words or less.

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Answers



1. In which year was the building of the Colosseum completed?

Summarise what you have read in 20 words or less.



2. What does the word 'estimated' tell you about the amount of people that the Colosseum can hold?

Accept any reasonable answer which relates to the fact that it has not been officially measured or counted in recent years.



3. How does the entertainment at the Colosseum compare to modern-day entertainment?

Accept any reasonable comparison, whether stating differences (such as no more gladiator contests) or similarities (watching plays) to modern day.



4. Summarise what you have read in 20 words or less.

Accept any reasonable summary which includes the key points from the text in 20 words or less.

The Cat in the Witch's Woods

11 Once upon a time, there was a girl and her wicked
19 stepmother. The stepmother dreamt of nothing but how
30 she could get rid of her stepdaughter. One day, an evil
43 idea came into her head and she sent the girl out into the
51 great, gloomy wood where a wicked witch lived.

61 After months of misery, the girl stumbled across a grey
72 cat in the bleak woods. "How can I escape the witch?"
81 she asked the cat. He gave her two items.

91 "Throw this handkerchief on the ground and run as fast
102 as you can," he said. "Wherever it touches the ground, a
113 deep, broad river will appear. If the witch manages to get
124 across it, throw this comb behind you and run for your
134 life. Wherever the comb falls, a dense forest will grow
139 and trap the witch forever."



Quick Questions



1. Which two objects did the cat give to the girl?



2. Find and copy two adjectives which describe the Witch's woods.



3. Why do you think that the girl experienced 'months of misery'?



4. What do you think the girl did next?

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124 across it, throw this comb behind you and run for your
134 life. Wherever the comb falls, a dense forest will grow
139 and trap the witch forever."



Answers



1. Which two objects did the cat give to the girl?
Accept: '(a) handkerchief' and '(a) comb' only.



2. Find and copy two adjectives which describe the Witch's woods.
Accept two of the following: great, gloomy, bleak.



3. Why do you think that the girl experienced 'months of misery'?
Accept answers which discuss that she was living in an unpleasant wood, that the wicked witch was horrible to her or that she missed home.



4. What do you think the girl did next?
Accept any reasonable prediction based on the items given to her by the cat and her desire to escape, such as 'I think she ran through the woods and tried to escape'.

The Miracle at Knock

3 21st August 1879,

5 Dear Diary,

15 This evening, I was walking back home with my friend

27 Mary. The rain was terrible so we took a short cut around

39 the back of the town church. As soon as we turned the

49 corner, we saw the most glorious sight: stood against the

60 wall of the church was the Blessed Virgin Mary. With her

71 was Saint Joseph, Saint John and an altar with a lamb

80 and a cross on it. Mary and I could

87 not believe what we were seeing.

94 We started to shout and lots of

100 other people came to the church.

105 They could see it too!



Quick Questions



1. What year did this event happen in?



2. 'They could see it too!'

What does this sentence tell you about what the girls might have been thinking at first?



3. How do you think the people felt when they saw this? Explain your answer.



4. What do you think the girls did next?

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105 They could see it too!



Answers



1. What year did this event happen in?

Accept: 1879.



2. 'They could see it too!'

What does this sentence tell you about what the girls might have been thinking at first?

Accept answers which discuss the fact that the girls thought they could have been mistaken, imagining it or they were the only people who could see it.



3. How do you think the people felt when they saw this? Explain your answer.

Accept any relevant emotion, such as shocked, delighted, confused, provided that a reasonable explanation is also given to accompany.



4. What do you think the girls did next?

Accept any reasonable prediction in line with the events in the story, e.g. 'went into the church to tell the priest', 'ran home to tell their parents'.