

Reading extract and questions:

Year 3-4

Funfair

Set A/B

For two whole days, Rish had watched the activity at the park with fascination as he walked to and from school. First, he had noticed the lorries and vans arriving with their brightly coloured trailers. Then he had seen the people slowly piecing together all the rides and attractions. Finally, it was ready to open.

In the morning, Rish's dad had promised to take him and his sister, Padma, to the funfair that evening after school, as long as they had finished their homework and weather permitting.

The moment he had put his pencil down, Rish was dancing around the house, wanting to set off.

"Calm down, young man," said his mum, "your father isn't even home from work yet." When, at last, Rish heard the key in the front door, he still had the agony of having to watch his dad have a quick snack before they could set off.

"I'm the bravest," said Rish as they paid their entrance fee. "I'm going to go on all the biggest, fastest and scariest rides." Padma looked up at the big wheel with wide eyes. When she heard the shrieks and screams of the people, she held her father's hand a little tighter.



To ease her in gently, Dad went with her on a very tame merry-go-round. As he was old enough, Rish was allowed to go off on his own for a bit, as long as they met back at the ice cream stall.

He was quite relieved that no one he knew was there to see him emerge from the ghost train. By the time he had staggered off the waltzer, having been tossed around like a sock in a washing machine, he was feeling rather wobbly. He could see that the big wheel was very popular but he was not certain he could cope with such a height. Telling himself that the queue was too long anyway, he decided to look for his dad and sister.



The minutes dragged by as he lingered around the ice cream stall. Where were they? Had they forgotten him? Was he imagining it, or were some people eyeing him in a funny way. He was beginning to feel uncomfortable. Eventually, he slumped on the floor and buried his head in his hands, partly to avoid the stares.

"Rish? Rish? Are you all right?" said dad, running up to him. "I'm sorry, I didn't know there were two ice cream stalls."

"When you didn't turn up, I suggested that we should go on the big wheel to see if we could spot you from up there," said Padma. "It was amazing! But then we saw you down here. Can we have another go, Dad, Please!"

"Maybe next time, Pad," smiled Dad as he hugged his shaking son. "I think Rish has been brave enough for one day."

Questions for *Funfair*

Set A

Vocabulary:

1. Look at the first paragraph. **Find** and **copy** a word that means *great interest*.

2. ... *brightly coloured trailers* ... what are *trailers* in this sentence? **Tick one**.

wheeled carriers

posters

advertisements

fairground rides

3. Look at the paragraph beginning *The minutes dragged by ...* **Find** and **copy** a word that means *waited*.

Retrieval

4. For how long had Rish been watching the activity at the park?

5. What did the children have to do before they could go to the funfair?

6. Where did Dad say they should meet?

Inference

7. Why was Rish *dancing around the house*?

8. Why was it agony to watch his dad having a quick snack?

9. Why do you think Rish was *relieved that no one he knew was there to see him emerge from the ghost train*?

Summarise

10. Here are some summaries of different paragraphs in the text. Number them from **1** to **4** to show the order in which they appear.

- Rish goes off on his own.
- Rish waits by the ice cream stall.
- The funfair gets built.
- Rish has to wait for his father to get ready.

Predict

11. What might Rish do if he goes to the funfair again?

Compare

12. How does Rish's mood change throughout the story?

Questions for *Funfair*

Set B

Vocabulary:

1. Look at the paragraph beginning "*Calm down, young man*". **Find** and **copy** a word that means *great pain*.

2. Look at the paragraph beginning *He was quite relieved ...* What does *emerge* mean?

3. *Eventually, he slumped on the floor ...* Which group of words means the same as *slumped* in this sentence? **Tick one**.

crawled about

sat cross-legged

sank down

put his coat down

Retrieval

4. What were all the rides and attractions part of?

5. What was the first ride that Rish went on?

6. Name **two** rides that Padma went on.

a. _____ b. _____

Inference

7. What had Rish been doing with his pencil?

8. Look at the paragraph beginning "*I'm the bravest*" ... What does this suggest that Padma feels about the rides?

9. Why did Rish feel uncomfortable? **Tick one.**

He was sitting on the floor.

He was cold and bored.

He ate too many ice creams.

People were looking at him.

Summarise

10. Using the whole text, **tick one box** in **each row** to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Padma was excited about the funfair.		
They made a good plan about where they would meet up.		
Rish felt uncomfortable because strangers kept talking to him.		

Authorial intent

11. ... *tossed around like a sock in a washing machine* ... Explain why the author used this simile.

Compare

12. How does Padma's mood change throughout the story?

Answers for *Funfair*

Set A:

Vocabulary:

1. fascination
2. wheeled carriers
3. lingered

Retrieval:

4. two (whole) days
5. finish their homework
6. by the ice cream stall

Inference:

7. He was very excited about going to the funfair/couldn't wait to go to the funfair.
8. It meant he had to wait even longer (before going to the funfair).
9. He didn't want people to notice that he had found it scary.

Summarise:

10.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 3 | Rish goes off on his own. |
| 4 | Rish waits by the ice cream stall. |
| 1 | The funfair gets built. |
| 2 | Rish has to wait for his father to get ready. |

Predict:

11. Accept reference to any of the following:

- Make sure he knows exactly where he is meeting Dad
- Stay with Dad/go on rides with Dad so he doesn't feel scared/get separated from Dad
- Go on less scary rides
- Avoid the waltzers/ghost train
- Try the big wheel with his dad and his sister

Compare:

12. At the beginning he is very excited and wants to show how brave he is. At the end he feels scared and worried about the people around him (accept any reference to the change in his feelings about the rides from the beginning to the end).

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Answers for *Funfair*

Set B:

Vocabulary:

1. agony
2. come out from
3. sank down

Retrieval:

4. a funfair
5. ghost train
6.
 - a. merry-go-round
 - b. big wheel

Inference:

7. his homework
8. She was worried/scared/nervous about them.
9. People were looking at him.

Summarise:

10.

	True	False
Padma was excited about the funfair.		✓
They made a good plan about where they would meet up.		✓
Rish felt uncomfortable because strangers kept talking to him.		✓

Authorial intent:

11. Accept answers that suggest he was going around and around, being thrown about without being able to control what was happening to him. Also accept – to help the reader imagine what it was like/how he felt.

Compare:

12. At the beginning she is not as excited as Rish and is scared/nervous. At the end she feels pleased with herself about thinking of a way to spot Rish. She also is no longer scared and wants to go on more rides.

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