

DAY 1



Comprehension Skills

- ❖ *Retrieval*
- ❖ *Vocabulary*
- ❖ *Summarising*
- ❖ *Inference*
- ❖ *Explanations*
- ❖ *Prediction*

WHAT DO YOU ALREADY KNOW ABOUT...?

Dresses



Boys



Schools



CONTROL THE TEXT – BILL'S NEW FROCK BY ANNE FINE

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He was still standing staring at himself in the mirror, quite baffled, when his mother swept in.

'Why don't you wear this pretty pink dress?' she said.

'I *never* wear dresses,' Bill burst out.

'I know,' his mother said. 'It's such a pity.'

And, to his astonishment, before he could even begin to argue, she had dropped the dress over his head and zipped up the back.

'I'll leave you to do up the shell buttons,' she said. 'They're a bit fiddly and I'm late for work.'

And she swept out, leaving him staring in dismay at the mirror. In it, a girl with his curly red hair and wearing a pretty pink frock with fiddly shell buttons was staring back at him in equal dismay.

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Mr Simpson leaned over and planted a kiss on Bill's cheek.

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often we see you in a frock, is it?'

He ran down the stairs and out of the house so quickly he didn't see Bill's scowl, or hear what he muttered savagely under his breath.

Bella the cat didn't seem to notice any difference. She purred and rubbed her soft furry body around his ankles in exactly the same way as she always did.

And Bill found himself spooning up his cornflakes as usual. It was as if he couldn't help it. He left the house at the usual time, too. He didn't seem to have any choice. Things, though odd, were just going on in their own way, as in a dream.

Or it could be a nightmare! For hanging about on the corner was the gang of boys from the other school. Bill recognised the one they called Mean Malcolm in his purple studded jacket.

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'Give me your hand, little girl,' she said. 'I'll see us both safely across the road.'

'No, really,' insisted Bill. 'I'm fine, honestly. I cross here every day by myself.'

The woman simply didn't listen. She just reached down and grasped his wrist, hauling him after her across the road.

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Mrs Collins leaned forward on her canvas chair.

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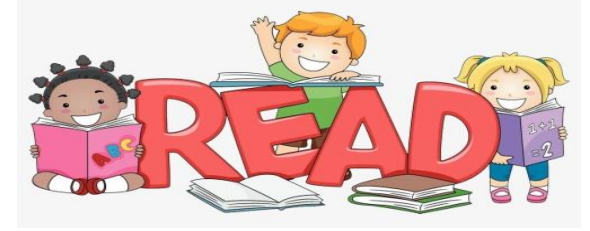
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And when Astrid and Bill took up arguing again, she told them the subject was closed, rather sharply.

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VOCABULARY



Vocabulary

baffled-

confused and mixed up

piercing-

a strong or sharp noise or look

canvas – a thick piece of fabric, often used to paint or for sails

dismay –

To show concern or distress

stragglers-

a group left behind as they are going slower

glowered –

have an angry or sullen look on your face

What other words were unfamiliar?

Let's use a dictionary or thesaurus to define them.

Can you see any clues within the word to help us work out what they mean?

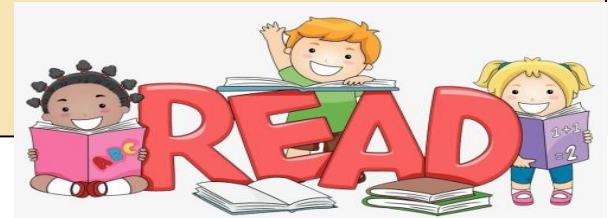
SUMMARISE

Can you summarise three points we learn from this text

1.

2.

3.



Summarising

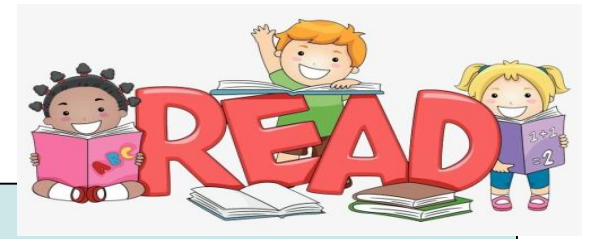
DAY 2



Comprehension Skills

- ❖ *Retrieval*
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DO NOW



Vocabulary

Choose the correct word for each sentence:

glowered **stragglers** **dismay**

After walking for half way up the mountain, the group waited for the _____ to catch up.

After being told off, Julie _____ at her mum from the other side of the room.

“Oh no!” I said in total _____.

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RETRIEVAL QUESTIONS

WHAT DO THESE MEAN AGAIN?

HOW CAN WE ANSWER THEM?



Retrieval

Stage 1

1. What did Bill realise when he woke up?
2. What is the name of Bill's cat?
3. What does Bill usually have for breakfast?
4. What was the headteacher holding at the school gate?
5. Who does the headteacher pick to carry the tables?
6. Who didn't think it was fair?

Challenge:

1. Name 5 things that they had in the nursery.

DAY 3



Comprehension Skills

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DO NOW



Retrieval

1. Find and copy a word in the first column that means 'difficult to do'.
2. Find and copy a word in the second column which means 'lazing about'.
3. Find and copy a word in the third column which means 'to demand forcefully'.

Challenge: Write your own Find and Copy questions.

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INFERENCE QUESTIONS

WHAT DO THESE MEAN AGAIN?

HOW CAN WE ANSWER THEM?

Stage 1

1. Why might Bill have been astonished that his Mum just dropped a dressed onto him?
2. Why was Bill scowling?
3. Why did Bill blush when he was whistled at?
4. What does the way the headteacher treat Bill differently tell us about him?



Inference

Challenge:

Find three examples of sexism in this chapter and explain why they are sexist.

DAY 4



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- ❖ *Summarising*
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- ❖ *Explanations*
- ❖ *Prediction*

DO NOW



Retrieval

Write these events in the order in which they happen.

- 1. The children went into assembly.**
- 2. Bill ate his cornflakes for breakfast.**
- 3. Astrid argued that the headteacher always picked boys.**
- 4. Bill realized he was a girl.**
- 5. Bill blushed so his freckles disappeared.**

Challenge:

Write your own retrieval questions.

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THE BIG QUESTION



BIG QUESTION

Explanation

**Do you think people are sexist and treat girls and boys differently?
Explain your answer.**

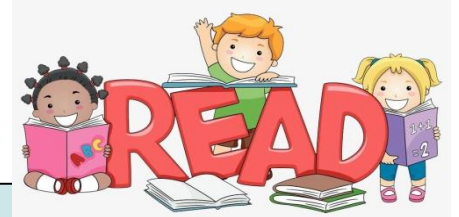
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DO NOW



Prediction

Think carefully about what you have read and make a prediction about the following:

Predict why Chapter 1 is called, 'A Really Awful Start'.

Challenge:

- 1. Predict if Bill will go back to being a boy. Explain your reasons.**

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'Give me your hand, little girl,' she said. 'I'll see us both safely across the road.'

'No, really,' insisted Bill. 'I'm fine, honestly. I cross here every day by myself.'

The woman simply didn't listen. She just reached down and grasped his wrist, hauling him after her across the road.

On the far side, she looked down approvingly as she released him.

'That's such a pretty frock!' she said. 'You mind you keep it nice and clean.'

Rather than say something disagreeable, Bill ran off quickly.

The headteacher was standing at the school gates, holding his watch in the palm of his hand, watching the last few stragglers arrive.

'Get your skates on, Stephen Irwin!' he yelled. And: 'Move, Tom Warren!'

Another boy charged round the corner and cut in front of Bill.

'Late, Andrew!' the headteacher called out fiercely. 'Late, late, late!'

Then it was Bill's turn to go past.

'That's right,' the headteacher called out encouragingly. 'Hurry along, dear. We don't want to miss assembly, do we?'

And he followed Bill up the path to the school.

Assembly always took place in the main hall. After the hymn, everyone was told to sit on the floor, as usual. Desperately, Bill tried to tuck the pretty pink dress in tightly around his bare legs.

Mrs Collins leaned forward on her canvas chair.

'Stop fidgeting with your frock, dear,' she told him. 'You're getting nasty grubby fingerprints all round the hem.'

Bill glowered all through the rest of

assembly. At the end, everybody stood up as usual.

'Now I need four strong volunteers to carry a table across to the nursery,' announced the headteacher. 'Who wants to go?'

Practically everybody in the hall raised a hand. Everyone liked a trip over the playground. In the nursery they had music and water and sloshy paints and tricycles and bright plastic building blocks. And if you kept your head down and didn't talk too much or too loudly, it might be a good few minutes before anyone realised you were really from one of the other classrooms, and shooed you back.

So the hall was a mass of waving hands.

The headteacher gazed around him.

Then he picked four boys.

On the way out of the hall, Bill Simpson heard Astrid complaining to Mrs Collins:

'It isn't fair! He *always* picks the boys to carry things.'

'Perhaps the table's quite heavy,' soothed Mrs Collins.

'None of the tables in this school are heavy,' said Astrid. 'And I know for a fact that I am stronger than at least two of the boys he picked.'

'It's true,' Bill said. 'Whenever we have a tug of war, everyone wants to have Astrid on their team.'

'Oh, well,' said Mrs Collins. 'It doesn't matter. No need to make such a fuss over nothing. It's only a silly old table.'

And when Astrid and Bill took up arguing again, she told them the subject was closed, rather sharply.

Back in the classroom, everyone settled down at their tables.

REVIEW

Was there anything you liked about this text?

Was there anything you disliked about this text?

Was there anything that puzzled you?

Were there any patterns or connections that you noticed?