

## **English Comprehension ANSWERS: Staying Together**

### **Understanding the text**

1. The scene is set during the Second World War.
2. It is set in 'a village hall somewhere in Wales'.
3. The characters are Carrie, Nick, Albert, Mr Evans and a woman.
4. They hold hands tightly because they do not want to be separated.
5. Nick sleeps in Carrie's room at home because he has bad dreams.

### **Looking at language**

- 6a. Bewildered means very puzzled and surprised.
- 6b. Auction means where people buy and sell things.
- 6c. Separated means split up.
- 6d. Doubtful means not sure.

### **Exploring the playscript**

- 7a. Accept individual answers for example 'sounding disgusted'.
- 7b. Accept individual answers for example 'Nick blinks in surprise'.
8. Accept answers based on evidence from the text:
  - Sounding disgusted
  - Sits on his suitcase and begins to read a book, not attempting to get any person to like him and take him home.
9. Accept answers that suggest she wants people to think he would be a nice boy to take home and would be no trouble.
10. Accept answers based on evidence " I always look after him" and " he's no trouble at all".
- 11a. Accept answers that suggest that Mrs Evans is kind and usually does what her brother tells her. She is also prepared to take a chance.
- 11b. Accept answers that suggest that Mrs Evans's brother is strict, bossy and used to getting his own way.
12. Accept answers that suggest Carrie does not get many compliments as she says "Nick is the pretty one, really".
13. Adult to mark personal answers. Making sure children use P.E.E. to answer the text.
  - Point – make your point
  - Explain – explain what you mean
  - Evidence – use evidence from the text to support your answer

### **Taking it further**

14. Adult to mark personal answers. Making sure children use P.E.E. to answer the text.
  - Point – make your point
  - Explain – explain what you mean
  - Evidence – use evidence from the text to support your answer

## **English Comprehension ANSWERS: The Balaclava Boys**

### **Understanding the text**

6. Tony's dad gave him a balaclava because he had earache.
7. The narrator's best friends are Tony and Barry.
8. The balaclava boys 'just went round together, wearing their balaclava's'.
9. The narrator didn't have a balaclava because his mum wouldn't buy him one.
10. His mum didn't realise that he was losing all his friends.

### **Looking at language**

- 6a. Wasn't bothered means didn't care.
- 6b. Go round with means keep company with.
- 6c. Be a sport means be reasonable.
- 7a. Rotten means stupid.
- 7b. Daft means silly and stupid.
- 7c. Fed up means miserable and annoyed.
- 7d. Handicraft means making things by hand.

### **Exploring the characters**

8. Accept answers that suggest Tony changed his mind when he saw that his friends wanted to wear it.
9. Accept answers that suggest they didn't do anything else but walk around, which didn't really make them a gang.
10. Accept answers that suggest they treated him unfairly. They were supposed to be his friends.
11. Accept answers that suggest the narrator said this only because he couldn't be part of the 'gang'. He really wanted to go around with them and, when they wouldn't let him he made out that the whole gang idea was silly.
12. Accept answers that suggest having a balaclava meant he could go around with his friends and not be left out.
13. Accept answers that suggest this is not a sensible way to choose your friends because it means friendship is dependent on what you wear rather than the sort of person you are.

### **Taking it further**

14. Adult to mark personal answers. Making sure children use P.E.E. to answer the text.
  - Point – make your point
  - Explain – explain what you mean
  - Evidence – use evidence from the text to support your answer