

# Reading Comprehension Answers

## Answers to 'The Street Beneath my Feet'

### Vocabulary and prediction

#### Meaning of the words

**Bedrock** - solid rock underlying loose deposits such as soil or alluvium.

**Soil** - the upper layer of earth in which plants grow, a black or dark brown material typically consisting of a mixture of organic remains, clay, and rock particles.

**Peek** - a quick or furtive look.

**Pipes** - a tube used to convey water, gas, oil, or other fluid substances.

**Trainers** - a soft sports shoe suitable for casual wear.

**Fossils** - the remains or impression of a prehistoric plant or animal embedded in rock and preserved in petrified form.

**Grass** - vegetation consisting of typically short plants with long, narrow leaves, growing wild or cultivated on lawns and pasture, and as a fodder crop.

**Magma** - hot fluid or semi-fluid material below or within the earth's crust from which lava and other igneous rock is formed on cooling.

**Pathway** - a track that constitutes or serves as a path.

**Adventure** - an unusual and exciting or daring experience.

**Gutters** - a low area (as at the edge of a street) to carry off surface water (as to a sewer)

**Recycle** - convert (waste) into reusable material

**Pavement** - any paved area or surface.

**Bugs** - a small insect.

**Offices** - a room, set of rooms, or building used as a place for commercial, professional, or bureaucratic work.

#### ***Shaded prediction words***

### Developing fluency

The words that were actually on the first page were: peek, pavement, pipes, gutters, soil, recycle and bugs.

### Vocabulary check

Peek - to take a quick look

Gushes - liquid flowing quickly in large amounts

Burrow - to dig into or through something

Recycle (ers) - to use again/turn waste into something usable

Chatter - to talk to someone in a friendly and informal way

## Quick Quiz

1. Can you name two things you can hear when walking along city streets.

Cars and buses roar past and beep loudly. People chatter and shout at each other.

2. What might you find just below the surface of the pavement?

You will find water pipes, wires and cables, earthworms, dead plants, soil, centipedes, and small bugs.

3. Discuss the reasons why it is important to have earthworms in the soil. How many different reasons can you find?

I found two reasons. The worms loosen up the soil so water can flow through it and they are expert recyclers, eating dead plants in the soil.

4. Find one word in the text which is closest to 'squirming'.

Wriggling

## Answers to 'The Train to Impossible Places'

### Make inferences about a character

*"What was that?" asked Suzy - She's jumpy, alert, curious.*

*None of her friends shared her enthusiasm - Suzy is different to her friends and has different interests.*

*She was fairly confident she had the answers right, but would need Mr Marchwood to confirm them - Suzy is incredibly good at physics but still likes her teacher to check.*

*"You've been overdoing the homework again," said her father - Suzy is exceptionally hardworking and enjoys doing her homework.*

*The homework was pretty simple - Suzy needs more challenging learning as she is obviously exceptionally good at science!*

*She decided not to disturb her parents. "Goodnight," she whispered - Suzy is very independent and well behaved for her parents. Her parents do not look after her very well and she has learnt to look after herself.*

## Quick Quiz

1. What phrase tells us that Suzy is worried even though there seems to be have been nothing that woke her up?  
A troubling little itch at the back of her mind
2. What is unusual about the clouds when she looks out of the window?  
The clouds were still
3. What do you think woke Suzy up?  
A noise from inside the house
4. What word suggests that the metal is shiny?  
Glint
5. What clues in the text tell you that the person was not expecting Suzy to be there?  
'The hammering sounds stopped immediately and she heard someone gasp.'  
'There was the noise of something heavy being dropped and a sudden scuffle of feet on the hall carpet'  
'A rustle and a flap, like bed sheets being folded.'

## Answers to 'Sea Fever'

### Clarify vocabulary

*These are some ideas of vocabulary you may have found difficult. You may have found other words.*

Word: spume

Definition: froth or foam, especially that found on waves.

Word: vagrant

Definition: a person without a settled home or regular work who wanders from place to place and lives by begging.

Word: whetted

Definition: sharpen the blade of (a tool or weapon).

Word: yarn

Definition: a long or rambling story

## Language for effect

### 1. What is the effect of this personification?

It makes the sea and the wind come to life.

**What does it tell us about how the narrator views the sea and the natural world around it?**

The narrator views the sea as somewhere that makes him feel alive. It is almost like the sea and the natural world are his friends. He has a strong connection with the sea. He loves the power of the wind and how quickly it can change.

### 2. Can you find an example of alliteration?

Clear call    whale's way    where the wind's like a whetted knife

### 3. Can you find an example of repetition in the poem?

I must go down to the seas again

And all I ask

Call

**What effect does this have on the reader?**

'I must go down to the seas again' makes the reader feel that the sea must be a special place.

'And all I ask...' makes the reader feel that the author isn't wanting much, just to be on the sea.

The word 'call' makes the reader feel that the author is being drawn back to the sea as his rightful place to be.

### 4. Are there any other examples of figurative language?

The lonely sea                    a star to steer her the wheel's kick

the white sail's shaking    the call of the running tide    the white clouds flying

the flung spray    the blown spume    the seagulls crying

the wind's like a whetted knife

## Quick quiz

### 1. What is the narrator's opinion of the sea?

*This is an idea for an answer. I have underlined the key points. You may have different evidence or different key points. Make sure you have supported them with evidence!*

The author loves the sea. The evidence to support this is 'I must go down to the seas again'. He believes that the sea is calling him 'the call of the running tide'. He loves the strong winds and how alive they make him feel 'And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying'. He likes the sea in all weathers. It can be cruel or calm, he doesn't mind 'the wind's like a whetted knife'.

### 2. Use quotes from the poem and link them to the senses.

Sight: the white sail's shaking, a grey mist on the sea's face, a grey dawn breaking, the white cloud's flying,

Sound: the wind's song, the call of the running tide, a wild call, a clear call, sea-gulls crying, a merry yarn from a laughing fellow rover, a quiet sleep

Touch: the wind's like a whetted knife, the windy day

Taste and smell: flung spray, blown spume

**3. Who do you think the narrator of the poem is and what might he have done in his life?**

He was once a sailor or captain of a ship who spent his life at sea on voyages and adventures.

**What age do you think he is and why?**

I imagine that he is an old man who has been pulled back to the sea. The idea of being 'called' and the repetition of the idea that he must go back make this point.

# Dip and Pick Answers

117 bags of crisps in total.

$$18 \text{ bags Ready Salted } \frac{18}{117} = \frac{6}{39} = \frac{2}{13}$$

$$45 \text{ Cheese and Onion } \frac{45}{117} = \frac{15}{39} = \frac{5}{13}$$

$$36 \text{ Salt and Vinegar } \frac{36}{117} = \frac{12}{39} = \frac{4}{13}$$

$$\text{Prawn Cocktail } \frac{18}{117} = \frac{6}{39} = \frac{2}{13}$$

One possible approach...

169 bags of crisps, 25 Ready Salted, 24 Salt and Vinegar, 16 Cheese and Onion, 12 Prawn Cocktail.

What fraction of each type and how many bags of Worcester Sauce flavour were there?

For example:

S & V	C & O	PC	RS
5	5	5	9
5	5	6	8
5	5	7	7
5	5	8	6

etc.

6 bags of crisps.

$$\frac{1}{2} \text{ are Ready Salted} = 18$$

$$\frac{1}{9} \text{ are Salt and Vinegar} = 4$$

$$\frac{1}{3} \text{ are Cheese and Onion} = 12 \\ = 34 \text{ in total.}$$

2 bags are Prawn Cocktail.

2 bags are Prawn Cocktail.

Another 4 boxes = 8 bags.

10 bags of Prawn Cocktail altogether.

2 bags are Prawn Cocktail.

Another 4 boxes = 8 bags.

10 bags of Prawn Cocktail altogether.

$$\frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{9} + \frac{1}{6} =$$

$$\frac{3}{18} + \frac{2}{18} + \frac{6}{18} = \frac{11}{18}$$

$\frac{11}{18}$  is more than  $\frac{1}{2}$  but less than  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

He is incorrect.