

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

**WALT retrieve information and infer from a text**

Good morning Year 6. Well done with continuing with your online learning. Here is the padlet for this week in case you would like post what you are reading:

<https://padlet.com/abroomfield/olq4kpg82df09a4v>

Here is your reading comprehension for today. The comprehension will continue tomorrow:

**Task 1** (Text and questions from tes.com by ©The Beryllium Baboon, 2017)

Read the text below called 'The Cave'. Highlight or note down any words that are unfamiliar and look them up in a dictionary.

The Cave

Mary slept fitfully. She tossed and turned without ever properly waking up, and dreams of anxiety came and went as the moon inched its way reluctantly across the cloudless sky. For the first time in many a night she was woken by neither the cries of her hungry young son, nor the late arrival of her workaholic husband.

The previous day had been a long and tiring one. Alfie had been grumpy, and had refused his milk all afternoon. Only by late evening had he finally given up and gone to sleep. The heating had broken down in the morning and the plumber hadn't answered his phone. On top of that, Rob's Garage had contacted her after lunch to explain that the repairs to the car were going to take much longer than expected; apparently the drive shaft was corroded and the gear box had to be replaced. Where the money was going to come from she didn't know. She had tried to phone Jake at the office for support but had just got through to his voice mail every time. Her best friend Belinda, to whom she would normally turn for help, was on holiday and her elder sister Kate was away in Kent on business.

As she awoke, Mary felt her pillow dig sharply into her neck and she moved her head to one side to relieve the pain. A sudden shallow scratch appeared on her left cheek and she sat up with a cry of surprise. Raising her hand to her face, she dislodged the culprit - a small grain of sand - which fell silently and sulkily to disappear into the gloom by her hips.

Her bed felt hard – like stone. She put a hand down onto the mattress to discover that her favourite soft cotton sheets were unexpectedly damp and strangely unyielding under her exploring fingers. A fraction of a second later she was wide awake, mind racing, as she realised that she was not in her bed - nor even in her bedroom! Her heart drummed a frightened rhythm on her ribs and the pupils of her lovely eyes widened in a desperate quest to gather light for her brain. Mary's right amygdala screamed at her to take action, but what action? She scrambled to her feet and hit her head hard on a rocky ceiling. Tears appeared in her eyes but she blinked them angrily away and searched in the darkness for a landmark.

Over there! A lighter patch of dark – no bigger than a grape! With her left hand outstretched, and her right hand shielding her bruised head, she bent over at the waist, crouched as much as comfort would allow, and carefully made her way towards the light.

To keep her fear at bay, she focused her thoughts on other things: the price of children's clothes; the baby aardvark at the zoo – recalling that "It feeds on ants and termites." She remembered the local newspaper report of the man who had apparently gone missing "without trace" from his seaside holiday home last week and that her husband was particularly fond of cheesecake.

## **Task 2**

Answer these questions about the 'The Cave' text. The marks are next to each question in brackets.

1. Look at paragraph 1. (1 mark)  
What two things have been waking Mary recently?
2. The moon ***inched its way reluctantly across the cloudless sky***. (2 marks)  
What does the word ***reluctantly*** suggest about how time seems to be passing?  
Explain your answer.
3. In question 2, the moon is described as ***reluctant***. (1 mark)  
This is an example of: (Tick one)
  - a) Exaggeration
  - b) Personification
  - c) Antonym
  - d) Simile
  - e) Understatement
4. **Find and copy one** word which suggests that Mary's husband works a lot. (1 mark)
5. What do you think is the name of Mary's husband? (2 marks)  
Why do you think this?
6. Why had the previous day been ***long and tiring***? (2 marks)  
Give **three** reasons.
7. How do you know that Mary is worrying about her finances? (1 mark)
8. From whom does Mary usually ask for advice when things go wrong? (1 mark)
9. Why was Mary's sister away from home? (Tick one)
  - a. She was on holiday.
  - b. She was looking to purchase some French wine from a dealer.
  - c. She had taken a wrong turning off the M25.
  - d. She was seeing a heart specialist in a hospital.
  - e. She was looking for a new puppy from a rescue centre.
  - f. She was on a lecture tour of the south east of England.
10. Look at the third paragraph which begins: ***As she awoke...*** (1 mark)  
What scratched Mary's cheek?

11. Mary realised she was not in her bedroom and became **wide awake**. (1 mark)  
How do you know that she could not see very well at this moment?
12. After she hit her head, Mary looked for a landmark in the darkness. (1 mark)  
In what direction did she move?

The answers are here:

Answers

1. Her (young) son and her (workaholic) husband.
2. If you are *reluctant* you don't want to do something and will probably move slowly to do it. Also if you *inch along* you go slowly – because an inch is a small unit of length. Therefore time appears to be passing **slowly**.
3. **Personification**
4. Workaholic
5. Jake...  
It says: She had tried to phone Jake at the office. We know her husband works a lot and it seems likely that she would phone her husband if something had gone wrong.
6. i) Her baby son had been grumpy.  
ii) The heating in the house had broken down.  
iii) The car needed extra repairs.
7. In the text it says: "Where the money was going to come from she didn't know."
8. Her best friend Belinda
9. **She was looking to purchase some French wine from a dealer.**
10. A grain of sand
11. It says that: "Her eyes widened to gather light for her brain."
12. towards the light