

Wheel Away

Nathan and Daniel were both ten years old and best friends. Nathan and Daniel first met when they were in grade three at Fairview Grammar, a boarding school for boys whose parents lived either a long way from the city, interstate or overseas. Nathan's parents owned a farm near Nairne in South Australia and Daniel's parents lived in Singapore. Every school holidays Daniel would go with Nathan to the farm. Each day the boys delighted in fishing down by the creek which ran through the property or simply hanging around the farm exploring.

It was on one of these lazy summer days that the boys found an old pram at the back of the machine shed. It had enormous metal handles and huge springs. Nathan's mother agreed to let them modify the pram.

Permission granted, the boys took the wicker top off the pram and bent the handles so it was possible to kneel inside the pram and control it better. Behind the house was a steep hill with lots of rocky outcrops. This was the perfect place to experiment with the prototype.

The boys started with clear gentle runs on the lower slope. When the two inventors had gained more confidence they tried higher runs that required accurate steering and skillful manoeuvring between the treacherous rocks. The ultimate test was to drag the pram to the top of the hill and run the whole slope.

Nathan was a natural. He controlled the pram like a professional and the pram accelerated. That was until one wheel hit a rock slab and detached itself from the pram. The runaway pram launched into the air like a space shuttle being launched from NASA. It landed heavily in the hen yard, much to the alarm of his mother's prize hens. Dazed and bruised, Nathan emerged from the wreckage as his mother came to investigate.

"It's time to go fishing," Daniel shouted.

"Yeth, you might be right," Nathan replied as he spat out the pieces of straw he had collected in his mouth as souvenirs of his adventure.

QUESTIONS:

Main Idea (MI)

1) What is the main idea of paragraph 1?

- a) Two boys enjoy fishing on a farm.
- b) Two boys attend Fairview Grammar.
- c) Boarding schools are for boys whose parents live a distance away.
- d) Two friends from boarding school have a holiday on a farm.

Words in Context (WC)

2) What would you be doing if you modified something?

- a) Making an object more modern.
- b) Changing the form or shape of an object in some way.
- c) Taking an old item and recycling it.
- d) Making repairs.

Facts and Details (FD)

3) What did the boys require before they started the modifications on the pram?

- a) tools
- b) a shed to work in
- c) money to buy equipment
- d) permission

Sequencing (S)

4) After the boys had discovered the old pram they decided to...

- a) go fishing down by the river.
- b) convert the pram into a go kart.
- c) collect eggs from the hen house.
- d) explore the farm and surrounding properties.

Cause and Effect (CE)

5) What happened to the invention as a result of it accelerating down the slope?

- a) It went so fast that it crashed into a rock.
- b) Nathan wasn't able to control it.
- c) It hit a rock which caused the wheel to dislodge.
- d) It eventually came to a stop in the hen house.

Comparing and Contrasting (CC)

6) What did the author compare their invention to?

- a) a space shuttle
- b) NASA
- c) a launched missile
- d) a rocket in space

Predicting (P)

7) What do you think will most likely happen next time the two boys visit the farm?

- a) They will modify something else to make it fly.
- b) They will go fishing down by the creek.
- c) They won't visit the farm at all.
- d) They will spend their holiday reading and hiking.

Figurative Language (FL)

8) 'The runaway pram launched into the air like a space shuttle lifting off from NASA.' This is an example of a...

- a) pun.
- b) exaggeration.
- c) simile.
- d) metaphor.

Conclusions and Inferences (CI)

9) What could you conclude about the boys?

- a) They were both adventurous and creative.
- b) They did not enjoy living at the boarding school.
- c) They didn't like to take risks.
- d) They had no respect for their mother.

Author's Purpose (AP)

10) The author chose this text to...

- a) entertain readers with an amusing narrative.
- b) persuade readers to carry out experiments.
- c) explain to readers how to follow instructions.
- d) describe how accidents can happen.

Summarising (SM)

11) The best summary for this story is...

- a) two boys invent a new toy.
- b) two boys make a nuisance of themselves.
- c) two boys spend the summer holidays together.
- d) two boys entertain themselves with a potentially dangerous activity.

Fact and Opinion (FO)

12) Which of the following statements is an opinion?

- a) Students stay at a boarding school if their parents live overseas.
- b) The pram was elevated into the air.
- c) The boys were very good friends.
- d) Boarding schools provide the best education for their students.

TEACHER SHEET



Wheel Away:

Year Level: 5/6

Genre: Narrative

Comprehension Skills and SATs Support:

Main Idea (MI)
Words in Context (WC)
Facts and Details (FD)
Sequencing (S)
Cause and Effect (CE)
Comparing and Contrasting (CC)
Predicting (P)
Figurative Language (FL)
Conclusions and Inferences (CI)
Author's Purpose (AP)
Summarising (SM)
Fact and Opinion (FO)
Interpret, Appreciate and Evaluate a Narrative Text
Identify and Appreciate the Use of Imagery and Figurative Language

Answers:

- 1) What is the main idea of paragraph 1?
d) Two friends from boarding school have a holiday on a farm.
- 2) What would you be doing if you modified something?
b) Changing the form or shape of an object in some way.
- 3) What did the boys require before they started the modifications on the pram?
d) permission
- 4) After the boys had discovered the old pram they decided to...
b) convert the pram into a go kart.

TEACHER SHEET



Wheel Away: (cont.)

- 5) What happened to the invention as a result of it accelerating down the slope?
c) It hit a rock which caused the wheel to dislodge.
- 6) What did the author compare their invention to?
a) a space shuttle
- 7) What do you think will most likely happen next time the two boys visit the farm?
b) They will go fishing down by the creek.
- 8) 'The runaway pram launched into the air like a space shuttle lifting off from NASA.' This is an example of a...
c) simile.
- 9) What could you conclude about the boys?
a) They were both adventurous and creative.
- 10) The author chose this text to...
a) entertain readers with an amusing narrative.
- 11) The best summary for this story is...
d) two boys entertain themselves with a potentially dangerous activity.
- 12) Which of the following statements is an opinion?
d) Boarding schools provide the best education for their students.