

Reading Comprehension with a Twist

Chapter 2: Suspicion Questions



Despite the things they had in common, the two friends had very different appearances. Benji, with his dark, frizzy hair and skin the colour of caramel, was the shorter of the pair. Freya stood a few inches taller, with fiery red hair and freckles scattered across her nose and cheeks. Their families had been friends for years before Freya and Benji were born, and they had grown up around each other.

“Don’t be so ridiculous!” Freya scoffed dismissively when Benji told her about his theory while walking home that afternoon. “Just think about it for a moment,” he beseeched her. “Wouldn’t it be amazing? Our teachers could actually be superheroes! Like some secret crime-fighting duo or something! One of them is always dashing off here or there at lunchtimes or whenever they’re not teaching us.”

“Superheroes are just for comic books,” replied Freya.

“No, they’re not!” insisted Benji. “They just don’t like to be known by their secret identities. I even saw something on the news the other day. Some guy had run out of a shop after stealing a bunch of stuff from the shelves. The shop owner had phoned the police but thought the guy had already got away. Then the news reporter said police found the thief around the corner, tied up with all the stuff he had stolen right there next to him. There was a note stuck on his chest saying: ‘Stealing isn’t cool. Don’t be a dinkus.’ It wasn’t the police who had caught him, and the thief was so confused that he said he couldn’t even remember what happened.”

“‘Don’t be a dinkus’? That’s pretty funny. But it’s hardly likely to be Mr Jay or Miss Higgins, is it?” asked Freya.

“I’m telling you, I have a weird feeling about this,” said Benji.

The next day, Freya hardly gave another thought to their conversation. Benji, on the other hand, was constantly on the lookout for clues. He kept a close watch on his teachers all morning, and he was rewarded at lunchtime: Miss Higgins received a phone call and Mr Jay gave her a friendly nod as she left.

“Your turn today!” Mr Jay said with a smile.

Both classes were combined again for the start of the afternoon while Mr Jay read the beginning of a story. The classes sat patiently, perched on tables and packed onto the carpet, and listened

while they digested their lunch. After about 20 minutes, Miss Higgins returned quietly and sat at the side until they reached a suitable place to pause.

"We'll leave it there for now," Mr Jay decided, closing his copy of the book as they reached a place where two sections of the chapter were separated from each other by three asterisks. "Here's a quick trivia question: does anyone know what these three asterisks are called, where we just stopped reading?"

There was a short silence, and it became clear that this question was beyond the classes' knowledge. Eventually, Miss Higgins raised her hand with a grin.

"Well, I know you already know!" Mr Jay laughed. "Go on then, Miss Higgins."

"It's a dinkus!" replied the other teacher.

"Indeed it is," said Mr Jay. "A funny old name, rarely used nowadays, but I like it!"

Amidst the mass of children, two jaws dropped open in astonishment.

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Chapter 2: Suspicion Questions

1. **Find** and **copy** one word or phrase from the first paragraph which describes Freya's hair.

2. *...freckles scattered across her nose and cheeks.*

Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word **scattered**? Circle **one**.

visible

spread

noticeable

prettily

3. *The two friends had very different appearances.*

What does the word **appearances** mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

- ☐ the way they speak
☐ the friends they keep
☐ how they look
☐ the behaviour they show

4. *Freya scoffed dismissively.*

How else could the author have written this phrase?

5. **Find** and **copy two** different words from the text which describe Benji's hair.

1. _____

2. _____

6. In the text, Benji beseeches Freya. Given the meaning of the word *beseeches*, what do you think Benji is doing? Tick **one**.

- ☐ teasing her
- ☐ begging her
- ☐ ignoring her
- ☐ looking for her

7. *The next day, Freya hardly gave another thought to their conversation.*
How else could the author have written this sentence?

8. *Amidst the mass of children, two jaws dropped open in astonishment.*
Re-write this sentence in your own words.

9. *Both classes were combined again...*
What do you think is meant by the word **combined** in this sentence?

10. **Find** and **copy** one word or phrase from the text which shows that the class behaved well whilst listening to Mr Jay's story.

Reading Comprehension with a Twist Chapter 2: Suspicion Answers

1. **Find** and **copy** one word or phrase from the first paragraph which describes Freya's hair.

Accept one of the following: **fiery; red; fiery red.**

2. *...freckles scattered across her nose and cheeks.*

Which of these words is closest in meaning to the word scattered? Circle **one**.

visible	spread	noticeable	prettily
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3. *The two friends had very different appearances.*

What does the word **appearances** mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

- ☐ the way they speak
☐ the friends they keep
☒ **how they look**
☐ the behaviour they show

4. *Freya scoffed dismissively.*

How else could the author have written this phrase?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Freya said without consideration'.

5. **Find** and **copy** **two** different words from the text which describe Benji's hair.
dark, frizzy

6. In the text, Benji beseeches Freya. Given the meaning of the word *beseeches*, what do you think Benji is doing? Tick **one**.

- ☐ teasing her
☒ **begging her**
☐ ignoring her
☐ looking for her

7. *The next day, freya hardly gave another thought to their conversation.*

How else could the author have written this sentence?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Freya had almost forgotten what they had spoken about by the following day.'

8. *Amidst the mass of children, two jaws dropped open in astonishment.*

Re-write this sentence in your own words.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Two of the children in the group were noticeably shocked.'

9. *Both classes were combined again...*

What do you think is meant by the word **combined** in this sentence?

Accept any synonym for combined, such as: together; mixed; merged; united.

10. **Find** and **copy** one word or phrase from the text which shows that the class behaved well whilst listening to Mr Jay's story.

sat patiently