Improving Your Reading with Inference Iggy:
Uncle Toby's House



On and on they rode in the car until, after a while, they reached the small city of Pocono. A little later, they pulled up in front of Uncle Toby's house. It was a rambling, old mansion that once had looked very nice but now it was rather shabby and needed painting.

"Here is where Uncle Toby lives," said Daddy Martin. "Do you children remember it?"

"A little," admitted Ted. Neither he nor Janet had been there in years and Tommy had never visited Uncle Toby.

"I wonder if he's at home," went on Daddy Martin, as he got out of the car.

"There's someone on the porch," said Mrs Martin. "Oh, it's Mrs Watson, the housekeeper," she added. "But something seems to be the matter! I wonder what can have happened?"

As Mother Martin spoke, a strange, old lady came down off the broken porch and along the walk, hurrying out to meet the family at the front gate.

"Wait! Don't go in! Don't go in!" cried the strange, old lady, holding up her hand like a traffic policeman stopping a fast car. "Don't go in! They're having a terrible time!" As she spoke, odd sounds came out of the grim old house where Uncle Toby lived... very odd sounds.

1. Why was the strange, old lady holding up her hand? Tick **one.**
   - ☐ to wave hello to the family
   - ☐ to stop them from going further
   - ☐ to give someone a high five
   - ☐ to show how tall someone was

2. Give **two** facts from the text which imply that Uncle Toby's house was run down.

   1. _____

   2. _____

3. What do you think might have been happening inside Uncle Toby's house?

4. Put ticks in the table to show which sentences are true and which are false. One has been done for you.

The text implies that...	True	False
Uncle Toby's house had looked nicer in the past.	✓	
It had been a long journey to Uncle Toby's house.		
The family had arrived at the city of Pocono quickly.		
Ted and Janet didn't remember Uncle Toby's house clearly.		
Something unusual was going on at Uncle Toby's house.		



Answers

1. Why was the strange, old lady holding up her hand? Tick **one.**

   - [ ] to wave hello to the family
   - [x] **to stop them from going further**
   - [ ] to give someone a high five
   - [ ] to show how tall someone was

2. Give **two** facts from the text which imply that Uncle Toby's house was run down.
   Accept any two of the following answers: it was rather shabby; it needed painted; the porch was broken; it was described as a 'grim old house'.

3. What do you think might have been happening inside Uncle Toby's house?
   Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Uncle Toby might have been trying to catch a stray animal that had got into their house.

4. Put ticks in the table to show which sentences are true and which are false.
   One has been done for you.

The text implies that...	True	False
Uncle Toby's house had looked nicer in the past.	✓	
It had been a long journey to Uncle Toby's house.	✓	
The family had arrived at the city of Pocono quickly.		✓
Ted and Janet didn't remember Uncle Toby's house clearly.	✓	
Something unusual was going on at Uncle Toby's house.	✓	