

Giants *By Lydia Pender*

How would you like it -

Supposing that you were a snail,
And your eyes grew out on threads,
Gentle, and small, and frail -

If an enormous creature,
Reaching almost up to the distant skies,
Leaned down, and with his great finger touched
Your eyes

Just for the fun

Of seeing you snatch them suddenly in
And cower, quivering back
Into your pitiful shell, so brittle and thin?
Would you think it was fun then?
Would you think it was fun?

And how would you like it,
Supposing you were a frog,
An emerald scrap with a pale, trembling throat
In a cool and shadowed bog,
If a tremendous monster,
Tall, tall, so that his head seemed lost in the mist,
Leaned over, and clutched you up in his great fist
Just for the joy

Of watching you jump, scramble, tumble, fall,
In graceless, shivering dread,
Back into the trampled reeds that were grown so tall?
Would you think it a joy then?

Would you think it a joy?

1. Find and copy one word which means 'far away'. (1 mark)
2. Copy the phrase which suggests the snail was trying to protect itself. (1 mark)
3. Summarise the poem in a couple of sentences. (1 mark)
4. Give an adjective the poet uses to describe the snail's antennas. (1 mark)
5. Why do you think the poet chose to describe the human as 'an enormous creature' and 'a tremendous monster'? (2 marks)
6. Why do you think the poet ends each verse with a question? (2 marks)
7. Do you think the frog likes to be picked up? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks)

The Malfeasance

It was a dark, dank, dreadful night

And while millions were abed

The Malfeasance bestirred itself

And raised its ugly head.

The leaves dropped quietly in the night,

In the sky Orion shone;

The Malfeasance bestirred itself

Then crawled around till dawn.

Taller than a chimney stack,

More massive than a church,

It slithered to the city

With a purpose and lurch.

Squelch, squelch, the scaly feet

Flapped along the roads;

Nothing like it had been seen

Since the recent fall of the toads.

Bullets bounced off the beast,

Aircraft made it grin,

Its open mouth made an eerie sound

Uglier than sin.

Still it floundered forwards,

Still the city reeled;

There was panic on the pavements,

Even policemen squealed.

Then suddenly someone suggested

(As the beast had done no harm)

It would be kinder to show it kindness

Better to stop the alarm.

When they offered it refreshment

The creature stopped in its track;

When they waved a greeting to it

Steam rose from its back.

As the friendliness grew firmer

The problem was quietly solved:

Terror turned to triumph and

The Malfeasance dissolved.

And where it stood there hung a mist,

And in its wake a shining trail,

And the people found each other

And thereby hangs a tail.

1. Which section tells us that the malfeasance was going to the city for a particular reason?
2. Find a section which tells us how the malfeasance moves.
3. What did the malfeasance look like?
4. What does the word refreshment mean?
5. Which section tells us that it was night time?
6. Where does the story take place?
7. Find the word which tells us the people began to celebrate.
8. Which section tells us that the malfeasance has a mouth?
9. Can 'thereby hangs a tail' have more than one meaning?

'Listen to the Moon' by Michael Morpurgo

It was a long while later that Alfie first heard it. Neither had caught a fish, nor even felt a suggestion of a bite. Both were silent, and deep in concentration. Alfie was sitting there, hunched over the line, gazing intently down into the clear blue-green of the sea below, the fronds of weed waving mockingly up at him. That was when he heard something calling. The sound seemed at once strange to him, out of place somehow, not right. Alfie looked up from his fishing. It came from the island, a hundred yards or so away, from somewhere near the shore, a soft cry, a whimpering. A seal pup perhaps. But it was more human than that.

“YOU HEAR THAT, FATHER?” Alfie said.
“Just gulls, Alfie,” Jim replied. And, sure enough, there was a young seagull on the beach, scurrying along after its mother, neck outstretched, mewling, begging to be fed. But Alfie realised soon enough that wasn't at all the sound that he had heard. He knew gulls better than any other bird, but he had never before heard a young gull cry like that. The crying he had heard was different, not like a bird at all, not like a seal pup either. It was true that gulls were known to be good mimics – not as good as crows, but good enough. Alfie was perplexed, and

distracted now entirely from his fishing. The two gulls, mother and fledgling, lifted off the beach and flew away, the young bird still pestering to be fed, leaving the beach deserted behind them, but not silent. There it was again, the same sound.

“Not gulls, Father. Can't be,” he said. “Something else. Listen!”

It came from somewhere beyond the shoreline altogether, from the direction of the old Pest House, or from the great rock in the middle of the island. Alfie was quite sure by now that no gull, however clever a mimic, could possibly cry like that. And then it came to him. A child! A child cries like that! Gulls didn't cough, and Alfie could hear quite clearly now the sound of coughing.

“There's someone there, Father!” he whispered. “On the island.”

“I hear it,” Jim said. “I hear it all right, but it don't seem hardly possible. Can't see no one there, nothing

Retrieving Information

- 1) Use a dictionary to find the definition of:
 - a) fronds
 - b) intently
 - c) perplexed
- 1) Find and copy a word that shows the noise that Alfie hears is a sad one.
- 2) What is the relationship between Jim and Alfie?

Making Inferences

- 1) How do you know that Alfie spends a lot a time out on the coast?
- 2) Have Alfie and Jim just arrived or have they been out for a while? How do you know?
- 3) Why do you think that Alfie whispers to his father at the end of the extract?

Writer's choices

- 1) Why do you think the writer has started with the line, “It was a long while later that Alfie first heard it.”? What mood does this create?
- 2) Why do you think the author describes the weed as “waving mockingly”?

Challenge question

- 1) Why might Jim think that is not possible for a child to be on the island?

Leisure

What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this is, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.
By William Henry Davies (1871-1940)

Which three animals are mentioned in the poem? (1 mark)

What is the meaning of the word 'boughs'? Choose one. (1 mark)

stars in the sky

branches of a tree

blades of grass

streams of water

Several lines start with the repeated phrase 'No time'. What is the purpose of repeating these words? (1 mark)

What do you think the author means by 'streams full of stars'? (1 mark)

Find and copy a phrase which could mean 'too occupied with worry'. (1 mark)

Look at the line 'No time to turn at Beauty's glance' Why is a capital letter used for the word 'Beauty'? (1 mark)

In your own words, explain what message the poet is trying to give the reader. Give 3 points. (3 marks)

The title of the poem is 'Leisure'. How does the word 'leisure' link to the theme of the poem? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

The Kindest Of Strangers by Lauren Cook

A cold wind blew and leaves whipped up and danced around the ankles of an old man crouched in a doorway. His coat, clutched around his shoulders, offered little warmth and he shivered, holding his hand out in the hope of a coin or two.

Around him, people hurried by, wrapped in thick coats and scarfs, bent into the wind, oblivious to him.

It was two whole days since he'd eaten and his stomach growled with hunger.

Just then, something caught his eye. His heart leapt at the sight of a coin falling close to his feet. He picked it up, turning the coin over in his hand. It was enough for a cup of tea and something to eat. His mouth watered and he pulled himself up from the pavement and turned to shop window behind him. Light poured from the window of the tea-room. He pushed open the door and a wave of warmth washed over him. The woman behind the counter peered at him. Hungrily, he eyed the food behind the counter.

"Yes?" came the sharp voice of the woman behind the counter. "Can I help?"

He looked up. "A cup of tea please", he said. "And a currant bun too. Warm, if it's no trouble."

"Takeaway?" The woman spoke the words more as an instruction than a question. "Yes", he replied. She turned away to serve him and he looked back towards the window. He stopped. There, with her nose pressed against the glass, was a small girl. Her hair was matted, her hands dirty and her clothes hung like rags on her small body. Even through the window he could see the dark circles under her eyes and the grey colour of her skin.

"That's £1", the woman snapped. The old man handed over the money.

He glanced back to the window and the little girl, shivering in the cold. Shuffling to the door, he pulled it open. The girl turned at the sound.

1) Can you find an example of personification? (retrieval)

2) What does 'crouched in a doorway' tell us about the character? (background knowledge and inference)

3) Why do you think the man was 'in a hope for a coin or two'? (inference)

4) What does the word 'oblivious' mean? (vocabulary and context)

5) What kind of person do you think the lady in the shop is? Which words tell you this? (inference using evidence from the text)

6) How was the little girl similar to the main character? (compare and contrast)

7) What do you think the man will do when he leaves the shop? (prediction)

The Kindest of Strangers (continued)

"You look cold" he said. She nodded. "Here", he said, offering out the paper bag. "You need this more than me". His stomach growled **angrily in protest**.

The girl **eyed the bag**, then reached out and grabbed it. "Thanks mister", she said and ran off. He watched her disappear into the darkness of the night.

"Hey! Where you've been?" A boy called out to the girl. "What you got there?"

"Some old bloke gave me a cake **he didn't want**". She opened the bag and peered in. "Yuk", she said. "Currants. I hate currants", **tossing the bag** into a nearby bin.

"I'm stuffed anyway", she laughed. "I've eaten too many sweets!"

"Come on!" called the boy. "We're not finished trick and treating yet. Your outfit's wicked by the way. You look half-dead!" **A cold wind blew and leaves whipped around the ankles of an old man, crouched in a shop doorway.** His stomach growled with hunger as passers-by, wrapped in thick coats and scarfs hurried by, oblivious to him.

What does 'angrily in protest' mean?

Why do you think she 'eyed the bag'?

Do you think the old man 'didn't want the food'? Why?

What does the word 'tossing' tell us about the girl?

Why do you think the author has repeated the first paragraph to finish the story?

Dodge and the Tornado

Chapter 1

Dodge tilted his head to the wind and sniffed the air. It smelt dry and dusty like it always did just before it rained. He listened. A strange roar rumbled in the distance, like a heavy train thundering down the track. He tilted his head again, trying to get a better view but the buildings were in his way. He looked along the street towards the park, then back towards the underpass where he had sheltered for the night. Strange, he thought. No humans. That was never a good sign.

The roar was getting louder. He scampered up the hill to get a better view. Raising his front paws against an old bin, Dodge stared over the buildings towards the vast plains of the American Midwest. There, in the near-distance, tearing up everything in its path and reaching high into the sky like a giant spinning-top, was a raging mass of swirling wind. He'd seen something like this before - the humans called them tornadoes - but this one was the biggest yet, and it was headed straight for the town. Dodge made a little whimpering noise and sprinted towards the underpass.



The wind was getting stronger. Leaves, rubbish and old plastic bags danced in circles in the air as Dodge darted between them. Trees bent unnaturally on the street-side and tiles torn from roofs landed like missiles on the road. Dodge focused on the underpass. It was a strong-looking bridge made to carry heavy lorries. If he could make it there, he would be safe. The roar of the tornado was louder than ever now; the sound of ripping metal adding to the deafening noise as the wind whipped at his fur. He weaved through a mist of dust and rubble and with a huge leap dived into the underpass. He nuzzled under his blanket, clenching it with his teeth. With his eyes tightly shut and with the tornado raging around him, he wondered where Banjo was.

1. **Find and copy two phrases** which suggest that Dodge sensed something was going to happen.
2. What did Dodge think was strange?
3. Why was it never a good sign that there were no humans?
4. What was Dodge trying to see?
5. **Find and copy two phrases** which tell us that Dodge was scared.
6. **Find and copy a phrase** which gives objects human-like features.
7. Why did Dodge think the underpass would be a safe place to go?
8. Who do you think Banjo is? Why?

Evacuation

During World War II, many people were evacuated from the cities to the countryside, where it was believed they would be safer from bombing. In total, over 3.5 million people were evacuated during the war.

Most of the evacuees were children but other evacuees included mothers with very young children, pregnant women, disabled people and teachers and helpers to look after the children.

Evacuation happened in distinct waves, with the first wave of evacuations beginning on the 1st September 1939, two days before Britain officially declared war on Germany. Other waves were at the start of the Battle of Britain in June 1940 and at the start of the Blitz in September 1940.

On evacuation day, children travelled with their teacher or helper by train to their destination. They had to wear an identity label and take their gas mask, ration book, identity card and food for the journey. Many children also took a suitcase containing clothes and other personal items.

When they reached their destination, billeting officers were responsible for arranging for children to stay with host families. For many children, this involved being selected from a line by their host. This was an upsetting experience for some children, who felt unwanted or rejected.

Many children were evacuated to countryside towns and villages in Britain but some were evacuated overseas and lived with host families in places as far away as Australia and Canada.



1. Who was evacuated during World War 2? Give **two** answers.
2. When did evacuation first start?
3. Who did the children travel with on the day of their evacuation?
4. What items did children have to take with them? Choose **three**.
 - ration book
 - gas mask
 - money
 - food for the journey
5. Why was it an upsetting experience for some children?
6. What is the best way to summarise this text?
 - benefits of being evacuated
 - recommending evacuation
 - general information about evacuation
 - a personal account of being evacuated
7. Would you like to be evacuated? Explain your reason and give evidence from the text to support your answer.

