

English

Comprehension - Mixed Questions (Written Answers)

What do I do?

In a comprehension assessment, you will be given a text to read, followed by questions. This text could be from a wide range of styles. It could be a story, poem or a non-fiction passage, such as an information text. Depending on the style of exam paper, you may be asked to write a full answer or choose from a number of multiple options.

Top Tips!

- Read the passage first to get a feel of the text.
- Try to imagine the text in your head and picture what it might look like.
- If you have read the text before (it might be a famous story), try not to rely on what you have read previously. Just answer the questions given and rely only on the text in front of you.

What skills do I need to improve?

Doing lots of practice questions will help with becoming familiar with question types but what else can you do to improve in this area?

- READ, READ, READ! Reading a variety of different materials will help to prepare you for the exam.
- Try to include newspaper articles, poetry and pre-19th century texts in your list of materials to read.
- When you've read a chapter, ask someone to ask you questions about it - discussion about what you've read will help you to understand it better and will enable you to understand other opinions and ideas.
- Why not see if you can continue the story by writing your own ending?

Christmas Pride

1 Standing tall, your branches wide,
tinsel sparkling, Christmas pride.
"How beautiful!" they all will say,
when gazing at you on Christmas day.

2 Fairy lights strung in a row,
giving off a warming glow.
Presents long and presents wide,
no one knows just what's inside.

3 If you could talk, although quite rare,
so many Christmas tales you'd share:
playing children, the Christmas feast,
carols too, to say the least!

4 But when the season closes down,
your clothes are gone, you do not frown.
For Christmas memories you hold dear,
and keep standing tall until next year.

Can you write your own Christmas poem? Share it with us on Facebook or Instagram @tutortastic!

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What do I do?

Read the following questions carefully and answer as best you can.

Questions

1

Who or what is the poem about?
Use examples from the text to support your answer.

2 marks

2

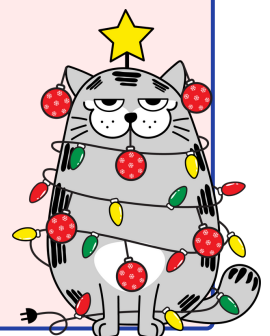
Why do you think the poem is called Christmas Pride?
Who or what do you think the pride is referring to?
Use quotes from the poem to support your answer.

3 marks

3

The poem contains **rhyming couplets**.
Find and copy two words that show an example of this feature.

1 mark



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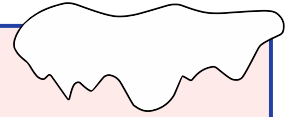


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What do I do?

Read the following questions carefully and answer as best you can.

Questions



4

But when the season closes down, your **clothes** are gone...
This is an example of the poet using figurative language.
What is this an example of?

1 mark

5

What effect do you think this creates for the reader?
Why do you think that this is effective?

3 marks

6

What is the mood of this poem?
Do you think this poem creates a happy or unhappy feeling of Christmas for the reader?
Use examples from the poem to support your answer.

3 marks



Did you try the challenge?
Share it with us!

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Answers

1

Who or what is the poem about?

Use examples from the text to support your answer.

Award 1 mark for the following correct answer:

- Christmas tree

Award 2 marks if children have used examples, such as the following, to support their answer:

- Branches
- Tinsel
- Fairy lights
- Presents under
- tall

3

The poem contains rhyming couplets.

Find and copy two words that show an example of this feature.

Award for 1 mark for any of the rhyming couplets in the poem:

- wide & pride
- say & day
- row & glow
- wide & inside
- rare & share
- feast & least
- down & frown
- dear & year

5

What effect do you think this creates for the reader?

Why do you think that this is effective?

Award up to three marks for:

- It creates empathy towards the Christmas tree.
- A recognition that the tree's 'clothes' are all of the decorations that it 'wears' during the festive season.
- Children may comment that it helps bring the Christmas tree to life and makes the reader feel closer to it.
- An answer of 3m must read well, include quotes from the poem and have a convincing reason as to why they think the use the metaphor 'clothes' is effective.

2

Why do you think the poem is called Christmas Pride?

Who or what do you think the pride is referring to?

Use quotes from the poem to support your answer.

Award up to three marks for:

- An opinion about why the poem is called Christmas Pride and stating who or what they think the pride is
- Children may suggest that the pride is the tree standing tall during Christmas
- Children may also mention that the tree feels proud of being a symbol of Christmas or that the children/town where it stands are proud of the tree.
- Other vocabulary that suggests proudness would be: standing tall, branches wide, sparkling
- Children may compare the tree to a soldier or a proud person
- An answer of 3m must read well, include quotes from the poem and have a convincing reason as to why they think the poem is called Christmas Pride.
- This answer requires full, coherent, sentences

4

But when the season closes down, your clothes are gone...

This is an example of the poet using figurative language.

In the quote above, the word clothes is an example of...

Award one mark for:

- a metaphor

6

What is the mood of this poem?

Do you think this poem creates a happy or unhappy feeling of Christmas for the reader? Use examples from the poem to support your answer.

Award up to 3 marks for:

- Children will have their own opinions about the poem but to gain the maximum marks, **they should support their answer by using quotes from the poem.**
- Children may describe a happy/positive mood and make reference to the Christmas tree not frowning but remembering all of the happy memories when the season is over.
- If an opinion is formed but no reason is given, no marks can be awarded.