

Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

The Case of the Horrible Hiccups

Ruby woke up late one Tuesday morning. She leapt out of bed, ran to the bathroom, threw on her clothes and dashed into the kitchen. She grabbed a piece of toast from her mum's plate and started to gobble it down while she crammed her belongings into her bag.



"Ruby, slow down! You should eat more slowly," warned her mum.

1 Why was Ruby in a hurry? Tick **one** box.

She had hiccups.

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She couldn't decide what to wear.

☐

She had woken up late.

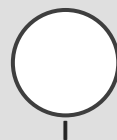
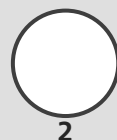
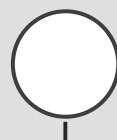
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She wanted to eat Mum's breakfast.

☐

2 Find and copy **four** words from the first paragraph that tell you that Ruby was in a hurry.

3 What did Mum think about Ruby being in such a hurry?



“No, I’ll be ... HIC!”

“I tried to tell you. Now you’ve got hiccups,” said Mum.

“They’ll go away ... HIC!” said Ruby, and she left for school.



But Ruby’s hiccups did not go away.

When Ruby saw her best friend, Luke, she said, “Will you come to the library with ... HIC ... me? I need to find out how to ... HIC ... make these hiccups stop!”

“Of course,” said Luke. “We’ll look for clues and together we’ll solve the mysterious case of the horrible hiccups.”

In the library, they logged onto computers. Ruby quickly found a website with suggestions that claimed would solve her problem.

The first solution was to drink a glass of water while her head was upside down. She tried to do this, but she snorted water up her nose and had a coughing fit.

The second solution was to hold her breath. She tried that, but the hiccups kept on interrupting her, so she couldn’t hold her breath for long.

The third solution was to blow into a paper bag. But a passing teacher took the bag away and told her not to be so silly.

Ruby was dejectedly searching for better ideas when Luke crept up behind her and tapped her on the shoulder.

“AAAAH! You gave me a fright! I didn’t hear you coming!” gasped Ruby.

“That was my plan,” said Luke. “I found a website that said that scaring people can make their hiccups vanish.”

And it worked. Ruby’s hiccups were completely gone. “Thanks to you, Detective Luke,” grinned Ruby, “The Case of the Horrible Hiccups has been solved.”

4

At first, why was Ruby **not** worried about her hiccups?

5

"Will you come to the library with ... HIC ... me? I need to find out how to ... HIC ... make these hiccups stop!"

Why does the author write '... HIC ...' in the middle of the sentences above?

6

Where did Ruby go to look for solutions to stop her hiccups?

7

Draw lines to match the solutions Ruby read about and what happened when she tried them.

Hold your breath •

• Ruby was told off by a teacher

• Drink with your head upside down •

• Ruby kept hiccupping so she couldn't do it

Blow into a paper bag •

• Ruby had a coughing fit

8

Ruby was dejectedly searching for better ideas ...

What does the word 'dejectedly' mean? Tick **one** box.

Thoughtfully

☐

Cheerfully

☐

Eventually

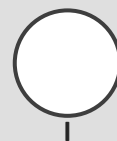
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Miserably

☐

9

Explain why Luke wanted to frighten Ruby.



10

a) Why did Ruby call Luke 'Detective Luke'?

b) Why did the author call the story 'The Case of the Horrible Hiccups'? Tick **one** box.

Because the author couldn't think of a better title

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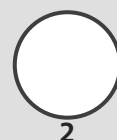
Because the author wanted it to be like a detective story

☐

Because Ruby wanted to put the hiccups in a box or suitcase

☐

Because Ruby looked on the internet

☐


For teacher use

Your mark	_____ out of 12
What went well	
How to improve	