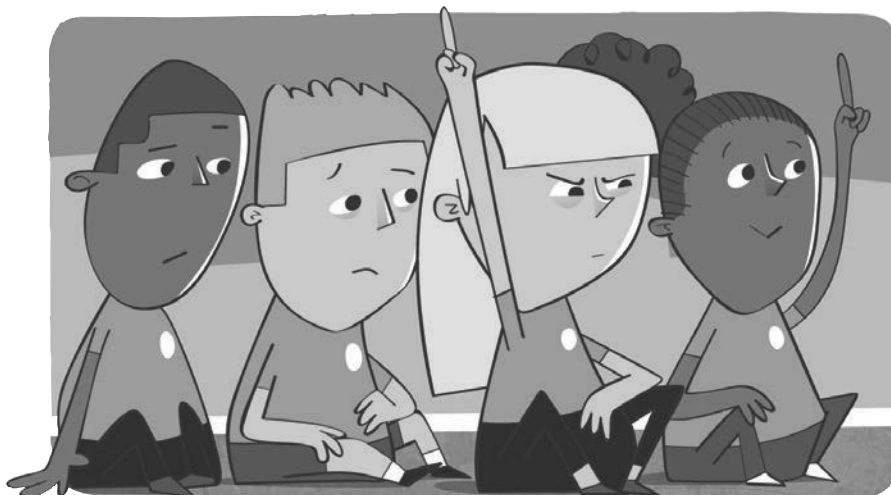


Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

The Recorder Concert



My name is Jessica but everyone calls me Jess. On the morning of the concert, Mrs Padley asked all the recorder players to pick someone to hold our music. I picked Emma Walsh to hold mine. I should have picked Joanne because she's my best friend, but I picked Emma because she had a look on her face that said 'pick me or else'. Emma is sort of one of the popular girls in school. She has long, shiny blonde hair like something out of a shampoo advert. Everyone wants to be her friend, but she's not really very nice.

Emma made me regret it straight away. "You'd better play well," she sneered. "Don't embarrass me."

1 Why did Jess pick Emma Walsh? Tick **one** box.

She was her best friend.

☐

She was scared of her.

☐

She had long, shiny blonde hair.

☐

She played the recorder.

☐

2 Why do you think Jess says that Emma Walsh is 'sort of one of the popular girls in school'? Give **one** reason.

The concert wasn't until afternoon assembly, and I had butterflies about it all day. I hadn't really practised enough and had been planning to mime so it wouldn't matter if I got the notes wrong. The problem was that Emma was bound to notice, and I was sure that in her eyes it would count as an insult to her very important position as Holder of the Music.

When assembly finally came, I was nervous, but ready to march to my fate. Possibly everything would have been just fine if Mrs Padley hadn't sent me back to get my jumper. In the time it took me to run back to the classroom and pick up my jumper, everyone else was on the other side of the playground and going in to the hall.

I decided to take a short cut across the wild-flower garden. Maybe it was my anxiety about annoying Emma Walsh. Or maybe it was just the universe's way of getting me back for not picking Joanne. The only thing

I know for sure is that I tripped over a loose stone and tumbled into the pond in the wild-flower garden like a dolphin doing a trick. My musical debut was a washout. Literally.



Mrs Padley was kind. She found me spare clothes, and, from the back of the hall, I watched my comrades squeak their way through 'The Grand Old Duke of York'. And, actually, I felt a little bit relieved that I hadn't had to play after all.

Emma Walsh was crazily angry. Turns out she went up to the front before realising I wasn't there and had to stand there like a lemon for the whole concert. Joanne thought that was really funny, so she's forgiven me. On the other hand, I'm pretty sure Emma will never speak to me again. Though, on reflection, maybe that's not such a bad thing.

3

Look at the paragraph beginning: *The concert wasn't until afternoon assembly*. Why is 'had butterflies about it' a good description? Tick **one** box.

Butterflies are pretty.

☐

Butterflies zoom around.

☐

She liked butterflies.

☐

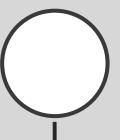
Butterflies made her feel calm.

☐

She had a fluttery feeling in her stomach.

☐

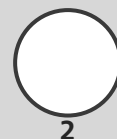
She felt as if she'd eaten a butterfly.

☐

4

Look at the paragraph beginning: *The concert wasn't until afternoon assembly.*

What are the clues in this paragraph that things are going to go wrong for Jess? Write **two** clues.



5

Look at the paragraph beginning: *The concert wasn't until afternoon assembly.*

Why does Jess describe Emma's job as a 'very important position'? Tick **one** box.

Jess is being sarcastic and doesn't think Emma's job is as important as Emma thinks it is.

☐

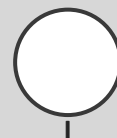
Jess is being sincere and thinks Emma's job is very important.

☐

Emma doesn't think the job is very important.

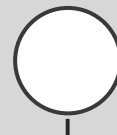
☐

Emma wishes she didn't have to hold the music.

☐


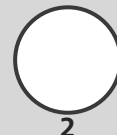
6

Look at the paragraph beginning: *When assembly finally came ...*
Find a group of words that tell us that Jess was nervous, but was determined to go through with things.



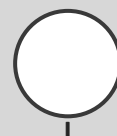
7

In your own words, write two reasons Jess gives to explain why she tripped into the pond.



8

Find and copy a phrase from the text that helps us to picture how Jess tumbled into the pond.



9

Look at the paragraph beginning: *I decided to take a short cut ...*
What does the word 'debut' mean? Tick **one** box.

Recorder

☐

Debate

☐

First performance

☐

Concert

☐

10

Look at the paragraph beginning: *Mrs Padley was kind.*
Find and copy a phrase that tells you that the recorder players were not very good.

11

Read the paragraph beginning: *Emma Walsh was crazily angry.*
What might Joanne say to Jess? Tick **one** box.

"I will never speak
to you again."

☐

"I want to be Emma's
best friend."

☐

"I thought it was
really upsetting."

☐

"I thought it was
hilarious."

☐

12

Look back over the whole story. What have we learned about the character of Jess?
Find **three** pieces of evidence.

For teacher use

Your mark	_____ out of 15
What went well	
How to improve	

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