

**YEAR 7**

Reading a Story

Three parts that get harder: a warm-up, where you should be now, then a stretch. Write the letter of the right option, or a number where one is asked for. The passage stays beside the questions. Questions name the paragraph to look in.

Sami has just started at a new secondary school. It is the end of his first week.

1 On Friday afternoon the corridors emptied faster than water from a bath. Doors banged, voices faded, and within five minutes Sami was alone outside the science block, patting every pocket for the third time.

5 The key was gone. It was not just any key. It was the key to the flat, on a red ribbon his grandmother had threaded through it so that, in her words, even a magpie could not lose it.

He retraced his steps: the dining hall, the library, the
10 long corridor with the trophy cabinet. Nothing. By the time he reached the reception desk, his throat felt tight and his eyes were stinging, and he was determined that nobody would see.

"Lost something?" asked the receptionist, without
15 looking up from her screen.

Before Sami could answer, a girl he recognised from his maths class pushed through the door. She was holding a red ribbon at arm's length, as if it might bite. "Found this in the library," she said. "Under the dictionaries.

20 Nobody ever goes under the dictionaries."

Sami laughed, mostly from relief. It was the first time he had laughed all week, and he noticed that the school seemed suddenly smaller, and warmer, and a little more

like somewhere he might belong.

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____

A. Warm-up

Find it in the text. The answer is there, so look before you guess.

- 1 Paragraph 1: when does the story take place?
 - (a) Monday morning
 - (b) Friday morning
 - (c) Saturday afternoon
 - (d) Friday afternoon
- 2 Paragraph 2: what is the key tied to?
 - (a) A red ribbon
 - (b) A blue ribbon
 - (c) A keyring
 - (d) A piece of string
- 3 Paragraph 2: who threaded the ribbon through the key?
 - (a) His mother
 - (b) His grandmother
 - (c) The receptionist
 - (d) A girl from his maths class
- 4 Paragraph 1: how many times had Sami patted every pocket?
- 5 Paragraph 5: where was the key found?
 - (a) In the dining hall
 - (b) By the trophy cabinet
 - (c) Under the dictionaries in the library
 - (d) Outside the science block

B. Where you should be now

Inference: what does the writer suggest without saying it?

- 6 'faster than water from a bath' (paragraph 1) is a
- (a) metaphor
 - (b) personification
 - (c) rhetorical question
 - (d) simile
-
- 7 What does that comparison suggest about the corridors?
- (a) They emptied very quickly
 - (b) They were wet
 - (c) They were very noisy
 - (d) They were full of water
-
- 8 Paragraph 3: 'his throat felt tight and his eyes were stinging' shows Sami is
- (a) ill
 - (b) trying not to cry
 - (c) angry
 - (d) sleepy
-
- 9 Why is Sami 'determined that nobody would see'?
- (a) He is hiding the key
 - (b) He is playing a game
 - (c) He does not want anyone at his new school to see he is upset
 - (d) He is not allowed in reception
-
- 10 The receptionist speaks 'without looking up from her screen'. This suggests
- (a) she is shy
 - (b) she knows where the key is
 - (c) she cannot see
 - (d) she is busy and not very interested
-
- 11 The girl holds the ribbon 'as if it might bite'. This adds
- (a) a touch of humour
 - (b) a feeling of danger
 - (c) sadness
 - (d) confusion
-

C. Stretch

Now think about how Sami changes, and why the story ends where it does.

- 12 How has Sami changed by the end?
- (a) From happy to sad
 - (b) From worried and alone to relieved and starting to belong
 - (c) From brave to frightened
 - (d) He has not changed
-
- 13 'the school seemed suddenly smaller, and warmer'. What has really changed?
- (a) The size of the building
 - (b) The weather
 - (c) How Sami feels about the school
 - (d) The heating
-
- 14 Why mention that it was the first time Sami had laughed all week?
- (a) To show he dislikes laughing
 - (b) To show the girl is a comedian
 - (c) To show it is Friday
 - (d) To show how lonely and worried his first week has been
-
- 15 What is the main idea of the story?
- (a) A small kindness can help someone feel they belong
 - (b) Keys should be kept on ribbons
 - (c) Libraries are full of lost things
 - (d) Schools are too big
-
- 16 How is the story told?
- (a) In the first person, by Sami
 - (b) In the third person, following Sami
 - (c) In the first person, by the girl
 - (d) As a letter
-