Year 3 reading comprehension: Big Talk at the Show

English · Reading comprehension
Level: Hard

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- Read the text first. There are 4 questions. Read each one carefully.
- Circle the best answer. Look back at the text to find the words that tell you.
- A grown-up can read the text aloud — that's fine.
- The answers are at the end. Check them together when you have finished.

Questions

Read this, then answer questions 1–4.

Big Talk at the Show

At the Royal Show, Jasper strutted between the rides with his hands in his pockets, telling anyone who would listen that he wasn't scared of anything. “The Thunderbolt?” he scoffed, pointing at the tallest ride. “That's for babies. I'll go on it twice.”

His little cousin Ava tugged at his sleeve. “You said that about the Ghost Train last year,” she reminded him.

Jasper ignored her. He marched to the front of the queue, but when the attendant lowered the safety bar in front of him, his face went the colour of milk. His knuckles whitened on the bar.

“Actually,” he called, “I think I've left my hat at the dagwood dog stand.” He wriggled out and hurried away, although his hat was sitting right on top of his head.

Ava watched him go. Then she climbed into the empty seat herself, and when the ride roared upwards, she was the one shrieking with delight.

1. Jasper gets off the ride mainly because

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** the ride is about to break down.
- ○ **B** he wants to give Ava a turn.
- ○ **C** he is too frightened to go on it.
- ○ **D** he really has left his hat at the stall.

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2. Ava's reminder about the Ghost Train suggests that

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** Jasper is truly brave, just as he says.
- ○ **B** Ava is frightened of the Ghost Train.
- ○ **C** Jasper has boasted before and then backed out.
- ○ **D** the Ghost Train is the scariest ride at the show.

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3. Jasper can best be described as

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** boastful, but not as brave as he pretends.
- ○ **B** fearless, because he says he isn't scared of anything.
- ○ **C** a boy who goes to the Royal Show.
- ○ **D** kind, because he lets Ava have his seat.

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4. Compared with Jasper, Ava shows that she is

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** quietly braver than her loud cousin.
- ○ **B** a girl who likes dagwood dogs.
- ○ **C** unkind, because she teases Jasper.
- ○ **D** too frightened to go on the Thunderbolt.

Answer key

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1. C — he is too frightened to go on it.

His face ‘went the colour of milk’ and his ‘knuckles whitened’, which show fear. His hat excuse can't be true, because the hat was ‘right on top of his head’. Ava does get the seat, but that isn't why he leaves.

2. C — Jasper has boasted before and then backed out.

Ava says ‘You said that about the Ghost Train last year’, and Jasper ‘ignored her’. She is hinting he boasted then and didn't go through with it, which is just what happens again.

3. A — boastful, but not as brave as he pretends.

He ‘strutted’ and called the ride ‘for babies’, so he is boastful. Then he ‘went the colour of milk’ and ‘hurried away’, so he isn't brave. He didn't give Ava his seat to be kind; he ran off.

4. A — quietly braver than her loud cousin.

Ava doesn't boast. She just ‘climbed into the empty seat herself’ and was ‘shrieking with delight’. Her reminder was true, not cruel, so she isn't being unkind.