Year 3 reading comprehension: The Bus Seat

English · Reading comprehension
Level: Medium

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.

The Bus Seat

The bus was packed, and Archie had grabbed the last seat. At the next stop, an old man climbed on, with a walking stick in one hand and a heavy bag of shopping in the other. He swayed as the bus pulled away.

Archie looked out the window. He looked at his shoes. Then he looked at the old man's hand, gripping the rail so tightly that his knuckles were pale.

Archie stood up. “Would you like to sit down?” he asked.

The old man smiled and lowered himself into the seat with a sigh. When Archie got off, the old man tapped his stick twice on the floor, like a little round of applause.

1. The old man taps his stick twice on the floor. This suggests that he

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** is about to fall over.
- ○ **B** is checking that his stick still works.
- ○ **C** is thanking Archie.
- ○ **D** is angry that the bus is so slow.

2. Archie looks out the window and then at his shoes most likely because he

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** doesn't want to give up his seat at first.
- ○ **B** is admiring the view outside.
- ○ **C** is watching for his bus stop.
- ○ **D** has dropped something on the floor.

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3. How does the old man seem to feel about Archie?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** afraid of him
- ○ **B** grateful and impressed
- ○ **C** annoyed that Archie took so long
- ○ **D** cross that Archie spoke to him

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4. Archie can best be described as

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** a boy who catches the bus
- ○ **B** rude to older people
- ○ **C** considerate, even though it takes him a moment
- ○ **D** selfish, because he looks away at first

Answer key

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1. C — is thanking Archie.

The old man ‘smiled’, and his taps were ‘like a little round of applause’. He is saying thank you. He is sitting safely, so he isn't about to fall.

2. A — doesn't want to give up his seat at first.

Archie had ‘the last seat’. He looks ‘out the window’ and ‘at his shoes’, away from the old man, because he doesn't want to give it up yet. Then he looks at the man's hand and changes his mind.

3. B — grateful and impressed

He ‘smiled’, sat ‘with a sigh’ of relief, and gave Archie ‘a little round of applause’. He is grateful. Nothing shows he minded the wait.

4. C — considerate, even though it takes him a moment

He notices the man's ‘knuckles were pale’, then ‘stood up’ and asked ‘Would you like to sit down?’ Looking away for a moment doesn't make him selfish overall.