Year 3 reading comprehension: The Council Letter

English · Reading comprehension
Level: Hard

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- Read the text first. There are 3 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 1–3.

The Council Letter

Aunty Val read the letter from the council twice, then dropped it on the kitchen table as though it were a dead cockroach.

“They want to cut down the old fig tree,” she said. “To make room for eleven more car spaces.”

“Maybe it'll be easier to park at the shops,” said Jarrah, who was nine and hated walking. He was already picturing a car space right outside the bakery.

Aunty Val snorted. “Easier to park! That tree was there before the shops were. It was there before your great-grandmother was born. Every flying fox in the valley sleeps in it.”

She marched to the dresser, pulled out a writing pad and uncapped a pen with a sharp click.

“What are you doing?” asked Jarrah.

“What I always do when somebody has a silly idea,” said Aunty Val. “I'm going to put them straight.” She wrote until dinner time, and then she wrote some more.

1. The word ‘snorted’ tells us Aunty Val feels _____ the idea that parking will be easier.

Circle one answer.

○ **A** amused by ○ **B** excited about ○ **C** scornful of

○ **D** unsure about

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2. Aunty Val drops the letter ‘as though it were a dead cockroach’. This suggests she

Circle one answer.

○ **A** had found an insect inside the envelope

○ **B** found the letter's news disgusting

○ **C** was too shocked to hold anything

○ **D** treasured the letter and wanted to keep it

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3. When Aunty Val says “I'm going to put them straight”, she means she will

Circle one answer.

○ **A** tell the shoppers where to park

○ **B** show the council they are wrong

○ **C** agree with the council's plan

○ **D** line the council workers up in a neat row

Answer key

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1. C — scornful of

Aunty Val repeats “Easier to park!” and lists the reasons the tree matters. Later she calls it a ‘silly idea’. Her snort shows she is scornful of it: she thinks it isn't worth taking seriously. People sometimes snort when they laugh, but nothing here is funny to her.

2. B — found the letter's news disgusting

Nobody wants to touch a dead cockroach. The letter says the council wants to ‘cut down the old fig tree’, which Aunty Val loves. She drops it as if it disgusts her. There was no real insect.

3. B — show the council they are wrong

She says she does this ‘when somebody has a silly idea’, then writes letters until dinner time. To put someone straight is to correct them, to show them they are wrong.