Year 6 reading comprehension: The Morning Ferry

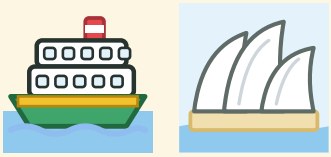
English · Reading comprehension
Level: Medium

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- Read the text first. There are 2 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 1–2.



The Morning Ferry

That morning at seven, the Manly ferry pulled away from Circular Quay. Seagulls trailed the stern like a white scarf blown by the wind. Hugo, a new commuter, clutched his coffee and watched the harbour glide past. Ahead, the Opera House was a cluster of white shells on the water’s edge. The engines groaned, and the old deck shuddered beneath his feet. Hugo had a lot on his plate that day. A million people were crammed into the cabin. By the time they reached Manly, the sun had risen above the headland. Hugo stepped onto the wharf, and his worries were water off a duck’s back.

1. Why does the writer say the engines ‘groaned’?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** To make the old engines sound strained, like a tired person.

○ **B** To say the passengers were complaining.

○ **C** To say the engines were switched off.

2. What does the writer really mean by ‘a million people were crammed into the cabin’?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** The cabin was very crowded.

○ **B** The cabin was nearly empty.

○ **C** A million people really were on board.

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Answer key

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1. A — To make the old engines sound strained, like a tired person.

Engines do not have voices. The writer gives them a groan, a human sound, to show the noise and strain. The picture or feeling is the reason the writer chose the words.

2. A — The cabin was very crowded.

A ferry cabin cannot hold a million people. The exaggeration shows that it was packed. Ask: could this really happen? If not, find what is really going on.