Year 6 reading comprehension: The Night Train

English · Reading comprehension
Level: Hard

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 Night Train

The night train to Broken Hill slid out of Central Station like a silver snake. Inside, the carriage was a sleepy cocoon of low lights and soft snoring. Isla pressed her nose to the window as the lights of Sydney shrank to tiny dots. Her aunt had warned her that the journey would take forever. Outside, the moon kept watch over the sleeping plains. Isla had planned to stay up all night and finish her book, but her eyelids felt like lead. By dawn, the red desert was a vast sea of dust and stone. Broken Hill came into view, and the station was a sight for sore eyes. Isla felt the long night slip behind her like a closed book.

1. Why does Isla’s aunt say the journey would ‘take forever’?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** To say the train was broken.

○ **B** To say the journey would never end.

○ **C** To stress how long the trip would feel.

2. What is really happening when ‘the moon kept watch over the sleeping plains’?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Moonlight shone over the land all night.

○ **B** The moon was following the train on purpose.

○ **C** A guard was looking up at the moon.

Answer key

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1. C — To stress how long the trip would feel.
No journey takes forever. The exaggeration warns Isla that the trip is long.

2. A — Moonlight shone over the land all night.
The moon cannot watch. The writer gives it a human job, keeping watch, to describe light falling on a quiet land. Ask: could this really happen? If not, find what is really going on.