

Skill focus: Making inferences

A Busy Morning

"Ouchhhh!" screamed Toby. I ran into the living room to see Toby lying on the hard, wooden floor, tears rolling down his chubby, little cheeks. Behind me, I heard my mum walk into the room.

"What have you been doing to Toby?!" she shouted, her face turning a deep red. "Go upstairs; I haven't got time for this today."

"But-" I started to explain.

"Upstairs. NOW," Mum ordered. "And finish your packing, we need to leave for the airport in 20 minutes."

I stomped up the stairs to my room. It wasn't fair! Angrily, I started throwing things into my suitcase: sunglasses, a swimming costume, shorts, flip-flops.

1. How is Mum feeling when she walks into the room? How can you tell?
2. What does Mum think has happened and why?
3. What do you think the relationship is between Toby and the narrator?
4. Why do you think Mum says "I haven't got time for this today"? What is she getting ready for?
5. Where do you think the family might be going?
6. Explain what clues there are to where the family are going.

Skill focus: Retrieving information

"Ahoy me hearties!"

A man in Suffolk has built a giant pirate ship in his back garden. Tim Jones spent half a year creating the captain's cabin, deck and seven metre mast (more than 3 times the height of a door!)

He then added several humorous finishing touches including a toy parrot called Polly and a Jolly Roger pirate flag. Tim said, "I spent every free hour I had and weekends building it. It was a tiring time but now I know it was all worthwhile."

Tim said the idea for the pirate ship came from his themed birthday party. He gathered and used discarded wood to build the pirate ship at minimum cost. Some trees had to be cut down to fit it in.



The unusual garden feature has become well known by locals as the mast can be seen from the road. "It really makes me chuckle every time I walk past," said a neighbour.

"Everyone loves it," Tim said. "I'd love to make it bigger but I really don't have the room."

1. How many months did it take Tim to build the pirate ship?
2. Did it cost Tim a lot of money to build the pirate ship? How do you know?
3. "The neighbours don't like the pirate ship." True or false? Explain how you know.
4. What does the writer think about the pirate ship? Explain what word gives you a clue.
5. "The pirate ship is large." True or false? Explain how you know.
6. Is Tim pleased with his pirate ship? How do you know?
7. Why do you think the title of the article is "Ahoy me hearties!"?