

Baker's Dozen

VIPERS worksheet

Before reading

- What is a baker's dozen?
- What do you think this story will be about?

For the prediction questions, stop at the indicated point for each question.

Vocabulary

1. What is meant by 'rolled over' in this context?
2. Define 'sanctions'.
3. What does 'exclusion' mean?
4. Find a verb equivalent to 'exclusion'.
5. What is meant by 'on the same page'?
6. Explain (politely!) what the slang expression 'to moon at someone' means.
7. Find a formal expression that means 'joining in'.
8. Define 'patronising'.
9. What does 'simpered' mean?
10. Find a synonym for 'examined closely'.

Inference

1. Is Callum's family wealthy? How do you know?
2. What does the P.T.A. lady think about Callum? Pick out three sections of text that show this.
3. What is Callum's opinion on prison?
4. Why does Callum run all the way home from school? What is the effect of what he put in the cakes?

Prediction

- *Stop at the line, 'He hadn't done the deed yet, but he'd done all the preparation.'*
What might Callum be going to do?
- *Stop at the line, ' "You made these Callum?" she asked, entirely failing to hide her astonishment.'*
What is going to happen next?

Explain

1. Why is St. Mary's the fourth primary school Callum has attended in three years?
2. Does Callum mind being expelled from schools? How do we know?
3. In what way is Callum's gran's bathroom cupboard a 'gold mine'?
4. Does Callum want to eat one of his cakes? What strategies does he use to avoid it?
5. What is a laxative and what does it do?
6. Why isn't there a cake stall at the fête?

Retrieval

1. What is the name of Callum's current school?
2. Where did Y6 go on their school trip, and to what kind of place?
3. What school is he supposed to be going to next?
4. What did Callum do to the bags in the cloakroom?
5. What has Callum used to disguise the ground up medicines?
6. Why did Callum decide to make cupcakes instead of one large cake?
7. Where did Callum get his icing equipment?
8. What is the name of the headteacher?
9. How many is a baker's dozen?
10. What kind of pet does Miss Trenton have?

Summarise

- Describe Callum in three words. Explain your choices with evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.