

Teacher's Pet

VIPERS worksheet

Before reading

- What might this story be about?

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

Vocabulary

1. Define 'shimmied'.
2. What does 'visualise' mean?
3. Find an informal word that means 'arrogant'.
4. Give a formal equivalent of 'acting up'.
5. Explain what 'bleary' means.
6. Define 'dishevelled'.
7. Suggest a synonym for 'baffled'.
8. Find the informal expression that means 'improbable'.
9. What does 'infusion' mean, in this context?
10. Define 'raucous'.

Inference

1. What is the tiny hole in the hidden cupboard door for?
2. Why might playing the organ be a fitting pastime for Mr Rosenthal?
3. Where might Mr Rosenthal eat his lunch? Find evidence in the text to support your answer.
4. Where was Mr Rosenthal when he failed to turn up for the Friday afternoon lesson? What was he doing and why?
5. How does Ria's evening walk with her brother connect to the rest of the story?

Prediction

- *Stop at the line ending, '... his absence had reawakened her curiosity about him.'*
What do you think is going to happen?
- *Stop at the paragraph ending, '...then this bizarre reaction to the lunch menu!'*
Why did Mr Rosenthal react in this way? What do you think will happen next?

Explain

1. What is Mr Rosenthal teaching Ria's class about, when he asks her a question?
2. Why is Mr Rosenthal's car always in the school car park?
3. Why does Mr Rosenthal back away from Ria at the door to the classroom?
4. What pieces of information are the 'pieces of the puzzle' that Ria can't put together?
5. Why is Darius now pale and thin?
6. What was the scraping sound that Ria heard at the beginning of the story?

Retrieval

1. Who is Mr Stamp?
2. What was the name of the pupil who left last year?
3. Which subjects does Mr Rosenthal teach?
4. What activity had Ria been doing when she saw Mr Rosenthal drive back into school?
5. What events take place in the school hall in the evenings?
6. What creature did Ria see fly out of the window at the back of the school?
7. Which country is Darius' family originally from?
8. Where were Ria's grandparents born?
9. What is the name of the headteacher?
10. What is Mr Rosenthal lying in?

Summarise

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