

Piggy in the Middle

VIPERS worksheet

Before reading

- What is 'piggy in the middle'?
- What do you think this story will be about?

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

Vocabulary

1. Find three words or phrases in the first paragraph that show the informal way the storyteller speaks.
2. Give three formal alternatives to the word 'scoffing'.
3. How would you express 'throwing it down with rain' in a formal register?
4. What does 'wouldn't be seen dead in them' mean?
5. What is the word for a female pig?
6. What is the collective noun for piglets born to one mother at the same time?
7. What is meant by 'minced'?
8. When the farmer is shouting at Lily, the author uses the verbs 'shouted' and 'yelled' twice each. What other words could the author have used, and why didn't she?

Inference

1. What does Olly think of the country compared to the city? Pick out phrases that tell us.
2. Are the kids in Olly's class mostly wealthy or not? How do you know?
3. Do you think Lily enjoys school? Try to pinpoint parts of the text that give you this impression.
4. Do you think a teacher would enjoy teaching Lily? What about Olly - would a teacher enjoy teaching him?
5. Why did Olly think Lily might stop coming to school?
6. Who is Olly's mother talking about in the last line of the story? Who is the 'piggy in the middle'?

Prediction

- *Stop at the paragraph that finishes, 'the rest of us wouldn't be seen dead in them.'*
What do you think is going to happen?
- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'probably the best school trip I will ever go on!'*
Now, what do you think is going to happen?
- Stop before the newspaper article.
What do you think is going to happen to Mallory? Do you have any other predictions?

Explain

1. Why is Olly looking forward to the school trip?
2. Is Lily interested in the trip? Find three pieces of evidence for your answer.
3. Why doesn't Lily want to feed the piglets?
4. Why does the sow get cross?
5. Is the class sympathetic to Lily's misfortune? How do you know?

Retrieval

1. Where is Olly's class going to on their school trip?
2. Where does Olly live?
3. What is Olly's teacher's name?
4. What kind of school does he go to?
5. Who is in Olly's group and who is in charge of them?
6. What two activities does Olly say they did?
7. What did the children do during lunch, other than eating?
8. Name the three varieties of pigs.
9. How many piglets are there?
10. What is in the piglet food?

Summarise

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