

Fur Elise

VIPERS worksheet

Before reading

- What do you think the title means?
- What do you think this story will be about?

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

Vocabulary

1. What does 'vicious' mean?
2. Define 'nocturnal'.
3. Explain what 'contradicts' means.
4. Give a synonym for 'fiend'.
5. What does 'prissy' mean?
6. Suggest a synonym for the word 'vague'.
7. What does 'savaged' mean?
8. Explain what 'to waste away' means.
9. Give a synonym for 'disappeared'.
10. What does it mean, if something is 'in vain'?

Inference

1. Why does Daniel tell Tariq that the hamster is a 'cuddly little fluff-ball'? Pick out words or phrases that give the reader clues about Daniel.
2. Why might Elise not have bothered with Rookie's water bottle? If she left it behind on purpose, why did she bring Rookie's food?
3. What exactly does Mo think has happened to Jamal? Find evidence in what he says.
4. What might be the narrator's full first name? Give evidence from the story for your answer.

Prediction

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'Elise knew exactly what she was doing.'* What do you think Elise is planning?
- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'Besides, the hamster was probably asleep and wouldn't come out.'* What do you think is going to happen?

- *Stop at the line, 'I thought maybe it was over after that. I hoped so.'*
What do you think is going to happen at the very end of the story?

Explain

1. Does Elise really ask, "Would you like me to lick your face clean, Miss March?" Why does the narrator say this?
2. Give two reasons why Rookie is a particularly bad choice of class pet.
3. Why does Elise's mum offer Mo a lift home from school?
4. Why are Elise's jaws moving when Mo goes into her room?
5. What has happened to the Class Three goldfish?

Retrieval

1. What is the teacher's name?
2. What is the narrator's name?
3. What animal is Elise going to take home for the holidays?
4. Which holidays are these?
5. What happened to Tariq?
6. What has Elise failed to bring home from school?
7. What does Mo think Elise is cutting up?
8. What school pets go missing next after Rookie?
9. Who is Jamal?
10. Why is Elise taken to hospital?

Summarise

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