

# A Load of Bull

## VIPERS worksheet

### Before reading

- What does 'a load of bull' mean?
- What do you think this story will be about?

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

### Vocabulary

1. Give two synonyms for the word 'outrageous'.
2. Suggest a formal way of saying 'super cool' that would fit in this context.
3. Give an accurate definition of 'incredible'.
4. Find the synonym for 'liar' in the paragraph beginning, '*Anyway, it took me less than half a day*'.
5. Give a formal equivalent for 'clocked him.'
6. What does 'gullible' mean?
7. Suggest a formal expression for 'to diss someone'.
8. How would you express 'sussed him' in a more formal way?
9. Explain what 'shedding' means.

### Inference

1. Why do army families move around quite often?
2. Does Nathan mind moving schools? Find evidence in the story to explain your answer.
3. What can you work out about the bull's temperament (personality), even before George throws the stone at it? Pick out the sentence that gives the reader a clue.
4. Why does George throw the stone at the bull?
5. What does the 'ominous' angle of George's arm suggest has happened to it?
6. Was George telling the truth about his uncle and aunt winning the lottery, or is this something that happened *after* he'd told Nathan about it?

### Prediction

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, '... got it shut up properly.'*  
What do you think is going to happen?

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, '... hurled the stone at the bull.'* Now, what do you think is going to happen?

## **Explain**

1. Why does Nathan tell tall stories at one school he goes to?
2. What is it about Nathan that might have made George choose to tell him stories?
3. Why does Nathan tell George that he does lots of activities after school?
4. Why is George humming as they walk away from the bull?
5. Why doesn't Nathan go to the nearby houses to get help?
6. Why is the boy in the hoody threatening George?

## **Retrieval**

1. What does Nathan say his parents were once given to eat?
2. Which celebrity does Nathan say once came to tea?
3. What two tall tales does Nathan say were once told to him by the same person?
4. What did George claim he did to the bull that charged him?
5. Who was supposed to have won the national lottery, according to George?
6. Where did Nathan's and George's mothers meet?
7. How far away was the bull when George threw the first stone at it?
8. What skewered George to the bull's horns?
9. How much money did George's relations win?

## **Summarise**

- Describe George in three words. Give evidence from the text.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.