

The Sting

VIPERS worksheet

Before reading

- What are the meanings of the word 'sting'?
- What do you think this story will be about?

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

Vocabulary

1. Define 'babbling'.
2. Find a word that means 'unable to cope' or 'finding everything too much'.
3. Explain what a 'refugee' is.
4. Define 'subtle'.
5. Suggest a synonym for the word 'campaign' in the paragraph that begins, *'He was quite subtle with the bullying...'*
6. Explain what 'smirked' means.
7. What is meant by 'preoccupied'?
8. Give two synonyms for the word 'hurled'.
9. Define 'gibbering'.

Inference

1. Why does the narrator compare Hassan's first day to walking into a school in Syria? Find the phrase in the first two paragraphs that makes this clear.
2. What has happened to Sam's ball? Why do you think this?
3. Why does Jack get angrier as Hassan gets happier and more confident?
4. How does Mr McFarren feel about Hassan? Find evidence in the story to show this.

Prediction

- *Stop at the line ending, 'I guess Hassan picked up on that way before I did.'*
What do you think is going to happen?
- *Stop at the line ending, '...he didn't tap his shoes on the floor.'*
Now, what do you think is going to happen?

- *Stop at the paragraph ending, 'He did take care of it, too!'*
What do you think Hassan is going to do?

Explain

1. Is the narrator sympathetic towards Hassan before they become friends? Find three pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. Is Jack sympathetic to refugees? How do you know?
3. In what way does Jack 'move the battle' to the playground?
4. Why does the narrator compare Noah and Ethan to Crabbe and Goyle?
5. Why does Hassan keep each rubber scorpion he finds?
6. Why do Hassan and the narrator decide to call the scorpion Malfoy?

Retrieval

1. Where does Hassan come from?
2. Is the narrator male or female?
3. What is Hassan's native language?
4. Why did Hassan's family come to the UK?
5. What game is Hassan particularly good at?
6. What unusual thing does Hassan do as he gets changed?
7. Who sent Hassan the money he needed and why?
8. What type of scorpion did Hassan buy?
9. Who ended up keeping the scorpion?

Summarise

- Describe Hassan in three words. Find evidence in the text to justify your choices.
- Summarise the story in no more than ten words.