

Reading - Summer 1 Week 2 - Home Learning

Session 2

Re-read the text and answer the attached questions. You can check your answers on the answer sheet afterwards.

How to share your work:

- Write your answers into your exercise book and take a picture of your work.
- Type your answers directly into the boxes on this page or use Google Docs to edit.

Once you've completed the work, submit your work to Google Classroom following this set of instructions:

1. Go to classroom.google.com
2. Click the class - Classwork - the assignment.
3. To attach an item, click 'Add or create' and select 'Google Drive', 'Link' or 'File' depending on what type of file you have created.
4. The status of your work will change to 'Turned in'.

Reading extract and questions:
The Railway Children by E.Nesbit (Chapter 1)

They were not railway children to begin with. I don't suppose they had ever thought about railways except as a means of getting to Maskelyne and Cook's, the Pantomime, Zoological Gardens, and Madame Tussaud's. They were just ordinary suburban children, and they lived with their Father and Mother in an ordinary red-brick-fronted villa, with coloured glass in the front door, a tiled passage that was called a hall, a bath-room with hot and cold water, electric bells, French windows, and a good deal of white paint, and 'every modern convenience', as the house-agents say.

There were three of them. Roberta was the eldest. Of course, Mothers never have favourites, but if their Mother HAD had a favourite, it might have been Roberta. Next came Peter, who wished to be an Engineer when he grew up; and the youngest was Phyllis, who meant extremely well.

Mother did not spend all her time in paying dull calls to dull ladies, and sitting dully at home waiting for dull ladies to pay calls to her. She was almost always there, ready to play with the children, and read to them, and help them to do their home-lessons. Besides this she used to write stories for them while they were at school, and read them aloud after tea, and she always made up funny pieces of poetry for their birthdays and for other great occasions, such as the christening of the new kittens, or the refurnishing of the doll's house, or the time when they were getting over the mumps.

These three lucky children always had everything they needed: pretty clothes, good fires, a lovely nursery with heaps of toys, and a Mother Goose wallpaper. They had a kind and merry nursemaid, and a dog who was called James, and who was their very own. They also had a Father who was just perfect - never cross, never unjust, and always ready for a game - at least, if at any time he was NOT ready, he always had an excellent reason for it, and explained the reason to the children so interestingly and funnily that they felt sure he couldn't help himself.

You will think that they ought to have been very happy. And so they were, but they did not know HOW happy till the pretty life in the Red Villa was over and done with, and they had to live a very different life indeed.

The dreadful change came quite suddenly.

Peter had a birthday - his tenth. Among his other presents was a model engine more perfect than you could ever have dreamed of. The other presents were full of charm, but the Engine was fuller of charm than any of the others were.

Its charm lasted in its full perfection for exactly three days. Then, owing either to Peter's inexperience or Phyllis's good intentions, which had been rather pressing, or to some other cause, the Engine suddenly went off with a bang. James was so frightened that he went out and did not come back all day. All the Noah's Ark people who were in the tender were broken to bits, but nothing else was hurt except the poor little engine and the feelings of Peter. The others said he cried over it—but of course boys of ten do not cry, however terrible the tragedies may be which darken their lot. He said that his eyes were red because he had a cold. This turned out to be true, though Peter did not know it was when he said it, the next day he had to go to bed and stay there. Mother began to be afraid that he might be sickening for measles, when suddenly he sat up in bed and said:

"I hate gruel - I hate barley water - I hate bread and milk. I want to get up and have something REAL to eat."



Questions for *The Railway Children*

Vocabulary:

1. ... *They were just ordinary suburban children.* Which of the below is closest in meaning to *suburban*? Tick **one**.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| live on the edge of a large town/city | <input type="checkbox"/> | live in the countryside | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| live in central London | <input type="checkbox"/> | live in a village | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. In the first paragraph, it says their house had '*every modern convenience...*' What does *convenience* mean in this sentence?

Choose the correct word and write it into this box.

comfort hardship electricity furniture

3. *They also had a Father who was just perfect – never cross, never unjust...* What does *never unjust* mean?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Retrieval:

4. What did the children currently use the railways for?

Click or tap here to enter text.

5. What did their father do if he was not ready to play games with the children?

Click or tap here to enter text.

6. What happened to upset Peter shortly after his birthday?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Inference:

7. How do you know something is going to happen to the family later in the story?

Click or tap here to enter text.

8. What evidence is there in the text that their mother cared for them a great deal? Give **two** examples.

1. Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Click or tap here to enter text.

9. How do we know that Peter is feeling better at the end of the extract?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Summarise:

10. Here are some summaries of different paragraphs. Number them from 1 to 5 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

Choose an item. The children are only aware of the railways as a way of getting around.

Choose an item. They children had everything they needed at home.

Choose an item. Peter is affected by the loss of his new engine.

Choose an item. Their mother writes things for them for different reasons.

Choose an item. The three children were called Roberta, Peter and Phyllis.

Compare:

11. How is their mother different to other ladies of that time?

Click or tap here to enter text.
