

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 1–3

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. What does the narrator like to buy at the start of each term? ____

- A. stamps B. shoes C. stationery

2. Who joined the narrator in detention? ____

- A. Josie B. Michael C. Tom

3. Which clue showed that Josie didn't cheat in the football match? ____

- A. a shoelace B. a bruise C. a blade of grass

4. What did the students study in history class? ____

- A. ancient Rome B. Renaissance C. Inca Empire

5. What did the students use to have a contest in class? ____

- A. codes B. seeds C. beetles

6. To be friendly to the new student, what was the narrator doing? ____

- A. clapping B. singing C. winking

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why did the narrator take the class hamster home?

2. Why did the narrator give the lemon sherbet to the new student?

3. Why did the narrator whisper cheerful words to the seed?

4. Why did Clarissa lean far away from the new student in the class?

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 1-3

A. Write the words in the blanks.

contagious gladiator ingenious photosynthesis remind

- _____ 1. to help someone remember
- _____ 2. a warrior who fought in a stadium in ancient Rome
- _____ 3. plants use sunlight to produce food and oxygen
- _____ 4. a sickness can spread to other people
- _____ 5. very clever and creative

B. What did we learn about the narrator and the narrator's friends?

C. What did we learn about the new student in the class?

D. Matching: Match the characters with the correct information.

Characters

Information

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| ___ 1. the narrator | A. smells like strawberry jam |
| ___ 2. Josie | B. used to live in America |
| ___ 3. Michael | C. chases smaller students on the playground |
| ___ 4. Tom | D. sat in the empty chair beside Clarissa |
| ___ 5. Brendan | E. hopes to be just like Tintin one day |
| ___ 6. Mrs. Khan | F. became friends with the narrator at age three |
| ___ 7. Ahmet | G. has a room that is like a toy store |

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 4–6

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. What made the narrator think that Mr. Brown was not a boxer? ____

A. an elbow

B. a beard

C. a belly

2. What did the narrator give to the new student? ____

A. a pear

B. a watermelon

C. an orange

3. What is the narrator's third favorite food? ____

A. ketchup

B. ice cream

C. chocolate

4. Which of Dad's possessions did the narrator keep? ____

A. a violin

B. a record player

C. a dictionary

5. Where was Ahmet from? ____

A. Lebanon

B. Egypt

C. Syria

6. Who was watching Ahmet with a scowl? ____

A. Brendan

B. Josie

C. Mrs. Khan

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. How did Mrs. Grimsby feel about a refugee studying at the school?

2. Why did the narrator make a list of eleven questions?

3. Why did Josie's father tell Josie to stay away from Ahmet?

4. Why did Ms. Hemsy join the class?

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 4-6

A. Write the words in the blanks.

assembly eager foreign refugee safari

- _____ 1. from another country
- _____ 2. really wanting to do something
- _____ 3. a person who is forced to leave their home
- _____ 4. a trip to see wild animals
- _____ 5. all the students in school gather for a meeting

B. What did the narrator talk about with her mother?

C. How did the students try to make Ahmet feel welcome?

D. At this point, the reader may be wondering about certain things in the story. Can you write three questions you have about the story?

Question #1: _____

Question #2: _____

Question #3: _____

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 7–9

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. Who quickly scored two goals when they played football? ____

A. Ahmet

B. Josie

C. Brendan

2. Who sent Ahmet to detention? ____

A. Mrs. Khan

B. Ms. Hemsî

C. Mr. Irons

3. Where does Mum find newspapers to bring home? ____

A. train station

B. library

C. doctor's office

4. What caused Aunt Selma to move to Turkey? ____

A. the government

B. the weather

C. the economy

5. What did Ahmet do when he received a pomegranate? ____

A. He sneezed.

B. He smiled.

C. He fell over.

6. Who became popular in school after a fight? ____

A. Ahmet

B. Brendan

C. the narrator

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Do you think it was fair to send Ahmet to detention?

2. Why didn't the narrator's mother buy a Sunday newspaper?

3. Why did the narrator want to give a pomegranate to Ahmet?

4. Why did Ahmet attack Brendan?

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 7-9

A. Write the words in the blanks.

atlas confiscate pomegranate tiara turban

- _____ 1. a long cloth that is wrapped around the head
- _____ 2. to take something important away from someone
- _____ 3. a large book containing maps of the world
- _____ 4. a red fruit with many seeds inside
- _____ 5. a shiny metal decoration that is worn on the head

B. What happened when the narrator and Mum looked for a pomegranate?

C. What happened after the narrator gave Ahmet a pomegranate?

D. Read the sentences and circle true or false.

- True False 1. Ahmet was able to do tricks with the football.
- True False 2. Mr. Irons sent Ahmet to detention for kicking a ball away.
- True False 3. Mr. Irons is usually a kind and friendly teacher.
- True False 4. Mr. Irons' nose makes a whistling sound.
- True False 5. Mum reads newspapers on Sunday morning.
- True False 6. Lebanon is a country that is next to Syria.
- True False 7. Mrs. Marbles sold them a bright red pomegranate.
- True False 8. Ahmet enjoyed eating the pomegranate he received.

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 10–12

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. What forced Ahmet to leave Syria? ____

A. a flood

B. a war

C. an earthquake

2. Where did Ahmet's family travel by boat after leaving Syria? ____

A. Greece

B. Spain

C. Italy

3. Which member of the narrator's family was a refugee? ____

A. Dad

B. Aunt Selma

C. Grandma Jo

4. When was a member of the narrator's family a refugee? ____

A. Spanish Civil War

B. World War II

C. Vietnam War

5. What did the narrator give to Ahmet? ____

A. a book

B. a football

C. a radio

6. Who was Syrah? ____

A. Ahmet's neighbor

B. Ahmet's pet

C. Ahmet's sister

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why do you think Ahmet's pot was broken?

2. What is "Grey Day Week"?

3. Why did the students ask Ahmet many questions?

4. Why did the narrator think that Ahmet was similar to Tintin?

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 10-12

A. Write the words in the blanks.

chips crisps Kurdish prove scowl

- _____ 1. a language spoken in Syria, Iraq, Turkey, etc...
- _____ 2. to show that something is true
- _____ 3. to have a mean or angry look on your face
- _____ 4. the British word for "potato chips"
- _____ 5. the British word for "French fries"

B. Which story did Ahmet tell at the front of the class?

C. What happened when Uncle Lenny and Aunt Christina visited?

D. Choose the correct noun to complete each sentence.

board bombs kids plant star

1. Ahmet's _____ had grown faster than anyone else's.
2. Ahmet was really proud of his golden _____
3. Who are the bullies who dropped _____ on your house?
4. I got the Scrabble _____ from under my bed.
5. Messengers are usually the smallest _____ in a class.

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 13–15

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. Where did the narrator hear news that the borders were closing? ____

- A. at the market B. on the telly C. on the bus

2. What did the narrator pass to Tom in class? ____

- A. a sketch B. a message C. a pencil

3. Where did Josie want to put a Special Appeal? ____

- A. in the newspaper B. on the radio C. on a big poster

4. Whose address did the students find in the library? ____

- A. a police chief B. a judge C. a prince

5. What caused the narrator to feel scared at night? ____

- A. a nightmare B. a bird C. a strong wind

6. Which animals did the narrator describe as "good friends"? ____

- A. bugs B. snakes C. mice

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why did the narrator decide to call an emergency meeting?

2. Why did Tom want to write a letter to the Prime Minister?

3. Why did the narrator sit at the kitchen table and think for a long time?

4. Why did the narrator draw a diagram in the exercise book?

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 13-15

A. Write the words in the blanks.

border charity famous mission urgently

- _____ 1. we need to do things as quickly as possible
- _____ 2. helping people who need help
- _____ 3. known by many people
- _____ 4. the line that separates two countries or regions
- _____ 5. important work that we must do

B. What are some plans the students suggested to help Ahmet?

C. What happened when the students went to the library?

D. Read the sentences and circle true or false.

- True False 1. The narrator counts leopards to help get to sleep.
- True False 2. The narrator hopes the borders will be closed to refugees.
- True False 3. Romulus and Remus are new students at school.
- True False 4. The narrator and Ahmet had a meeting in the library.
- True False 5. The narrator will use gadgets and ropes for the mission.
- True False 6. Mrs. Finnick works in the school library.
- True False 7. The narrator found snakes in the kitchen wall last summer.
- True False 8. The narrator planned to tell Ahmet about the great idea.

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 16–18

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. Who did Ahmet live with in England? ____

- A. taxi driver B. foster mother C. teaching assistant

2. Who wrote the Royal Letter on the paper? ____

- A. the narrator B. Josie C. Ahmet

3. What did the students plan to buy with their pocket money? ____

- A. maps B. books C. tickets

4. Who did the narrator plan to visit? ____

- A. the Queen B. Ahmet's parents C. the Prime Minister

5. What did the students bring on their trip? ____

- A. pillows B. homework C. presents

6. Who traveled to the palace with the narrator? ____

- A. Michael B. Tom C. Ahmet

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why did the narrator's friends miss the bus after school?

2. Why did the narrator decide to make an emergency plan?

3. Why did the narrator need help with the machine at the station?

4. Do you think the plan to visit the palace is a good plan?

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 16-18

A. Write the words in the blanks.

anxious brilliant butler impressed reassure

- _____ 1. very smart
- _____ 2. thinking that someone has done something very well
- _____ 3. feeling worried, feeling nervous, feeling stress
- _____ 4. to make someone feel more relaxed
- _____ 5. a person who works in a rich person's home

B. Can you describe the Greatest Idea in the World?

C. What happened during the narrator's trip?

D. Put the events in the proper order by writing 1 – 7 in the blanks.

- ___ The narrator and Tom bought some tickets at a machine.
- ___ The narrator explained the Greatest Idea in the World to friends.
- ___ The narrator posted the Royal Letter.
- ___ The narrator and Tom rode the bus to the Tube station.
- ___ A taxi driver dropped off the narrator and Tom near the palace.
- ___ The students worked together to write the Royal Letter.
- ___ The narrator designed the Emergency Plan.

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 19–21

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. What did the narrator want to hand to a guard? ____

A. a coin

B. a note

C. a cup of tea

2. Which sound did they hear as the soldiers marched? ____

A. flutes

B. violins

C. trumpets

3. Where was the Queen? ____

A. another castle

B. in the garden

C. on the balcony

4. What did the narrator and Tom ride when they left the palace? ____

A. an ambulance

B. a taxi

C. a police car

5. Who was angry that the narrator had gone to the palace? ____

A. the Queen

B. Mr. Greggs

C. Mr. Rashid

6. Who was interviewed on the news? ____

A. the taxi driver

B. the narrator

C. Tom

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why did the narrator climb over the barriers and run on the red road?

2. Why didn't the paramedic take the narrator to the hospital?

3. How did neighbors know the narrator had gone to the palace?

4. Why did Mrs. Rashid hug the narrator?

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 19-21

A. Write the words in the blanks.

bigotry combat concussion crisis paramedic

- _____ 1. a very big problem that is difficult to solve
- _____ 2. a head injury after the head gets hit hard
- _____ 3. negative feelings about a certain group of people
- _____ 4. soldiers fight against each other
- _____ 5. a person who gives people emergency medical care

B. What happened when the narrator and Tom went to Buckingham Palace?

C. What happened after the narrator went home?

D. Read the sentences and circle true or false.

- True False 1. Some police officers were sitting on horses.
- True False 2. The narrator saw helicopters flying in the sky.
- True False 3. The guards invited the narrator to go inside the palace.
- True False 4. Davinder worked as a paramedic.
- True False 5. A guard ripped the narrator's note into many tiny pieces.
- True False 6. Lieutenant Kungu refused to give Tom's gifts to the Queen.
- True False 7. Officer Martina took the narrator to the police station.
- True False 8. Mr. Greggs and Mum had a very friendly conversation.

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 22–24

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. Who taught the students to say the phrase “No Comment”? ____

- A. Tom’s father B. Josie’s mother C. Mrs. Khan

2. Who was waiting for the students outside the school gates? ____

- A. bullies B. guards C. reporters

3. Who made up a mean song to sing about Ahmet? ____

- A. football players B. bullies C. reporters

4. Which teacher was removed from the school? ____

- A. Mrs. Khan B. Mr. Irons C. Ms. Hemsî

5. Who did Mr. Fry blame for the narrator’s plan to go to the palace? ____

- A. Ahmet B. Tom C. the Queen

6. What is Ms. Hall’s job? ____

- A. detective B. palace guard C. reporter

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why was there an article about Ahmet in the newspaper?

2. Why did the narrator describe the day as a Rollercoaster Day?

3. Why did the narrator and Ahmet get sent to detention?

4. Why did the narrator’s mother think they should give an interview?

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 22-24

A. Write the words in the blanks.

cross expel huddle scruples translate

- _____ 1. feeling angry or upset
- _____ 2. to change a written work into a different language
- _____ 3. to gather closely together in a group
- _____ 4. to kick a student out of school
- _____ 5. knowing the difference between right and wrong

B. What happened during the meeting in Mrs. Sanders' office in Chapter 22?

C. What happened during the interview with the newspaper reporters?

D. Choose the correct adjective to complete each sentence.

cold famous little lucky round

1. We sat together in a _____ huddle.
2. The vans had large _____ satellite dishes.
3. Mr. Irons gave us all a _____ stare.
4. Ahmet is very _____ to have friends who help him.
5. Josie and Tom started acting like _____ people.

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 25–26

A. Read the following questions and choose the best answer.

1. Who sent a letter to the students? ____

- A. Mr. Irons B. the Prime Minister C. the Queen

2. Who was waiting for the students in Mrs. Sanders' office? ____

- A. guards B. bullies C. reporters

3. What did the Queen invite the students to do at the palace? ____

- A. plant a tree B. drink tea C. play football

4. What does the narrator do to make the insides feel calmer? ____

- A. jump up and down B. run side to side C. roll over and over

5. Where was Ahmet's mother located? ____

- A. Greece B. Turkey C. France

6. Who is Alexa? ____

- A. a palace guard B. government official C. the narrator

B. Read the following questions and answer in a complete sentence.

1. Why did many people greet the narrator, Ahmet, and other friends?

2. How do you think the narrator felt about the letter?

3. Why did the narrator cry after reading the birthday card?

4. Why did Ahmet want the narrator to read the letter from Ms. Duncan?

The Boy at the Back of the Class

Chapters 25-26

A. Write the words in the blanks.

asylum fortnight petition plight relieved

- _____ 1. a list of names of people who support a protest
- _____ 2. feeling better after feeling scared or nervous
- _____ 3. a period of two weeks
- _____ 4. a person gets special permission to live in a country
- _____ 5. someone is in a difficult situation

B. What did the Queen write in her letter to the students?

C. What happened during the celebration in class?

D. Read the sentences and circle true or false.

- True False 1. Many people recognized the narrator after the interview.
- True False 2. The narrator met the Queen in Mrs. Sanders' office.
- True False 3. The Queen's guards were angry at the students.
- True False 4. The Queen sent red candles to the students as a gift.
- True False 5. Mrs. Khan read the Queen's letter out loud.
- True False 6. The narrator plans to give a ruby to the Queen as a gift.
- True False 7. Ahmet plans to take his rucksack to the palace.
- True False 8. Ms. Duncan came to the school with some good news.