

The old railway yard

Jack was scared. He was walking through an abandoned railway station on his way home. He came this way because it was a lot quicker but he was regretting his decision. His hairs on his neck were stood up like soldiers in a parade. His heart was racing and his stomach churned. As he paced through the creepy yard he tried to stay under the colossal shadows of the huge, ancient steam trains.

Then something strange happened. A light appeared in one of the driver carriages of the train. Hesitantly, Jack stopped and looked back. He could not see anyone in the driver's carriage! Jack had a decision to make. His head told him to go back home and get out of there as quickly as possible. His heart told him to go and explore the strange light!

Jack made his decision. He sprinted over to the carriage and heaved the door open. It creaked loudly and some dust dropped onto the floor. Jack started to walk through the old carriage which had rotten floorboards. As he got to the old fashioned handle that led into the driver's compartment, he paused for a moment. He took a deep breath and opened the door.

The air was still. The smell was dusty. The light flickered. Flick. Flick. Flick. But nobody was there. All of a sudden a deafening clank sounded. Jack looked out of the window and saw a tree move sideways. Then Jack had a realisation! It wasn't the tree moving, it was Jack. It was the train! The train was slowly winding down the track. Steam started to chug. Faster the train went. Faster and faster!

"How can this be?" whispered Jack to himself in amazement! He was sure he was the only person on the train.

- 1.) What signs are there that show us Jack was scared?
- 2.) Look at paragraph One. It tells us Jack tried to stay under the shadows of the train. Why do you think he tried to do this?
- 3.) What two words in the first paragraph tell us the trains are big?
- 4.) What word in paragraph 2 tells us Jack was uncomfortable?
- 5.) Draw and fill in a thought bubble about how Jack might have been feeling at the end of Paragraph 2. Use as much detail as you can.
- 6.) There are clues in the text that tell us the steam trains were old. Can you spot them all?
- 7.) Why do you think Jack paused before opening the door to the driver's compartment?
- 8.) What emotions would Jack be feeling in the final paragraph? Explain fully how you know or think this.
- 9.) What features are there that make this text a mystery story?