

New Clothes for Alex by Mary Dickinson

"I want to go home," Alex said as soon as they reached the shops. "There's too many people here. Someone is sure to tread on me."

"Of course they won't," said his mother. "And we're not going home until I've bought you some new clothes."

"I won't wear them," growled Alex, giving his mother his very fierce monster stare.

To his surprise she growled back!

Alex's mother went over to a shop window.

"Do you like any of those T-shirts or sweaters, Alex?"

"No," said Alex.

They moved to the next window.

"Do you like any of those shoes?"

"No," said Alex.

They moved to another window.

"What about those trousers?"

"Yuk, they're horrible," answered Alex.

"Oh Alex," his mother said sharply. "Where am I going to find something you like?"



Listening Comprehension: Questions and Answers

Q1: Who are the characters in this story?

A1: Alex and his mother./Mum.

Strategy: Ask the children to listen to the beginning of the audio to hear again the opening of the story and to raise their hands when something in the story tells them the answer to the question. Remind them that the answers to 'Who' questions are people or characters. Also remind them that questions are usually asked in the order in which the answers are found in the text.

Q2: What did Mum do that surprised Alex?

A2: She growled back at him.

Strategy: Ask the children to think about where in the text they are likely to find the answer. Listen again to that part of the text and ask the children to raise their hands when they hear the answer to the question. Remind them that the answer to 'What' questions will usually be found in the text and it will probably be an object or an action.

Q3: Did they find clothes that Alex liked? How do you know?

A3: No.

Strategy: Point out that this is a two-part question. The answer to a 'Did' question is usually either 'Yes' or 'No', but the second part is a 'How' question, which needs to be answered with an explanation.

Ask the children to think about where in the text they are likely to find the answer. Listen again to that part of the text and ask the children to raise their hands when they hear the answer to the question.

Name:**Class:****Date:**

1. Alex said he wanted to go home. Why? Tick one.

He was tired. ☐

He was hungry. ☐

He wanted to watch TV. ☐

There were too many people. ☐

2. Alex gave his mother his very fierce monster stare. What did she do next?

3. Which clothes did Mum and Alex look at? Tick three.

T-shirts ☐ shoes ☐

shorts ☐ sweaters ☐

vests ☐ trousers ☐

4. What was in the last window they looked at?

5. Did Alex like shopping for clothes? How do you know?

6. Do you think Alex will find clothes he likes? Explain.

Teaching text: New Clothes for Alex

Cracking the questions

Question	Answer	Focus	Strategy
1. Alex said he wanted to go home. Why? Tick one.	There were too many people.	1b	You just need to tick to show the answer. First, read all the choices in the question and think about the one you think is the best. Decide where in the text you will look for the answer. Remember your choice while you reread the most useful part of the text and check that you still think the same answer is right.
2. Alex gave his mother his very fierce monster stare. What did she do next?	She growled back at him.	1b	Read the question. Where in the text should you look for the answer to this question? Remember the question while you read that part of the text again. Look (scan) for the words 'very fierce monster stare'. The answer should be somewhere nearby.
3. Which clothes did Mum and Alex look at? Tick three.	Any three of: T-shirts, sweaters, shoes and trousers	1c	Read the question. Where in the text should you look for the answer to this question? Remember the question while you read that part of the text again. Look (scan) for the names of clothes.
4. What was in the last window they looked at?	Trousers	1b	Read the question. Where in the text should you look for the answer to this question? Remember the question while you read that part of the text again.
5. Did Alex like shopping for clothes? How do you know?	No. He wanted to go home./He said he wouldn't wear the clothes./He said he didn't like anything.	1d	The first part of the question needs a simple 'Yes' or 'No' answer. The second part asks for an explanation. You will need to use ideas in the text. Reread the whole text while you think about the question and try to find an idea to put in your explanation.
6. Do you think Alex will find clothes he likes? Explain.	Accept an answer with a reasonable explanation. E.g. Yes, because stories have happy endings. No, because he's not even looking at the clothes.	1e	'Do you think' questions always need an explanation. • Think about what you have already learned about Alex. • Think about other books you have read. This type of question is more interested in your explanation than in whether you say 'Yes' or 'No'. The question is trying to find out how much you understand about the meaning of the whole text.