**The Railway Children**

**By**

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English reading comprehension task.

Listen and read along with the story (a link is provided to an audio copy).

After you have read each chapter answer the questions.

Do not try to read all the book at once, read only one or two chapters a day.

Think carefully about the characters and the story. There are lots of different subplots in the story, how many can you find?

Link to Online Story:

https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=utube+railway+children+free+audiobook +uk&&view=detail&mid=8EAC2A2EA94746F746928EAC2A2EA94746F74692&&FORM=VDRVRV

**The Railway Children: Chapter 1**

1) Is the opening sentence effective? Why?

2) Describe the characters we have met so far. Use quotes to support your descriptions.

3) At the end of chapter 1, Peter says, “*Only* the rats!” Why is the word ‘only’ in italics?

**The Railway Children: Chapter 2**

1) Why did the children move around quietly in the morning?

2) What did the line of whitewash at the top of the coal heap show?

3) Do you think Peter was right to steal the coal? Why/why not?

**Extension**

Read the description of the train.

What was the children’s impression of the first train they saw?

Use examples from the text to support your answer.

**The Railway Children: Chapter 3**

1) Why do you think the author calls one of the trains the Green Dragon?

2) Should the children have written a letter to a stranger (the old man)? Why/why not?

3) Mother says ***earnestly*** that the children must never ask strangers for things. What does ***earnestly*** mean? Look it up in a dictionary. Can you find any synonyms for the word?

**Extension**

Read the letter Peter wrote to the old man.

Write down three reasons why you know that this letter was written by a child. Use examples from the text to support your answers.

**The Railway Children: Chapter 4**

1) How did the Russian man end up on his own at the station?

2) Read the last line of the chapter. Why does Bobbie say slowly, “to pity… *all* prisoners and captives”?

3) What do you think will happen next in the story?

**The Railway Children: Chapter 5**

1) How does the author let you know that Bobbie thinks using their petticoats as flags was a silly idea?

2) Why did the other children think Bobbie was heartless at the end of the chapter?

3) Was it a good idea to try and stop the train? What would you have done? Can you think of a better way?

**Extension**

How does the author convey the children’s fear in this extract?

Think about the words she chooses, the types of sentences and how the children speak and behave.

Use examples from the text to support your answer.

**The Railway Children: Chapter 6**

1) How did the Russian man react to the news of his family? Why do you think he reacted this way?

2) Mother was tired when she walked home. Can you find some synonyms for “walk” to show that show she was walking slowly?

3) Most of this book is written in 3rd person. How does this chapter begin differently? Who do you think is the narrator at this point?

**Extension**

Read the character description of Bobbie.

Think of some words and phrases that sum up Bobbie’s character and use

examples from the text to support your answer.

**The Railway Children: Chapter 7**

1) How did Peter hurt his foot?

2) Why was Bobbie’s face burning but her hands cold when she read about her father in the newspaper?

3) Why do you think Mother and Bobbie didn’t tell the other children about their father? Would you have told your younger brother or sister? Why/why not?

**Extension**

Bobbie writes a letter to the old man telling him about what has happened to her father, how she feels about it and asks him to help her find out who set him up. What do you think the letter might say? Have a go at writing it!

*To my dear friend…*

**The Railway Children: Chapter 8**

1) Why are the words ‘hare’ and ‘hounds’ in inverted commas when the author talks about the children playing?

2) Why does the author call the boy the “red-jerseyed hound”?

3) Why did Mother think the children had brought a dog home?

4) Why didn't Jim’s grandfather want Bobbie’s mother to know what he was doing?

5) How might things have turned out differently if the children did not help Jim in the tunnel?

**The Railway Children: Chapter 9**

1) How has the way the children have lived changed throughout the book?

2) The author says, “Of course *you* know what was going to happen, but Bobbie was not so clever.” What *is* going to happen? How do we know but Bobbie doesn’t?

3) Why did the author finish the story with, “It is best for us to go quietly away… no one else is needed now.” What does she mean by that?