

Grandpa's Indian Summer

Fiction

Content domain focus:

- 2b** retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction
- 2c** summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph
- 2d** make inferences from the text/explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text

Text summary

This is an extract from Jamila Gavin's novel *Grandpa's Indian Summer*. The novel tells the story of lovable Grandpa Chatterji, who invites his British-Indian grandchildren to spend the summer in Calcutta.

The story draws readers into the colour and bustle of an Indian city and activities include opportunities to discuss children's experiences of different cultures.

Unit summary

Through the initial questions, the children identify key details from specific points in the text and across the text as a whole. The questions then prompt them to make inferences based on information given in the extract. The final two questions ask the children to look across the whole story and identify the characters.



Teaching prompts

- Explore the children's existing knowledge of India and Indian culture. Have any children in the class visited India or come from an Indian background themselves? Have they read other stories in which characters experience a culture different to their own?
- Setting is an important feature of this extract, from the broad streets at the beginning to the "human river" of the busy city and the river itself. Explore the ways that the author evokes the setting using adjectives and metaphor.
- Remind the children that when they make inferences, they should try to make links with what they already know, or try thinking about how they would feel or what they would do if they were in the story.
- Explain that some of the questions are going to ask them to make summaries or bring information together from across the extract. If necessary, remind them that summarising involves putting information into their own words.

Revisiting the text

Ask the children to:

- draw pictures of the the scene the author describes in the city streets or the huge bridge over the river, and label their pictures with the adjectives used in the text
- imagine themselves as the characters in the story and make the scene into a short play. The busy street scene gives lots of scope for everyone to get involved

- highlight all of the adjectives in the extract
- write another scene from the story based on their knowledge and research about Indian culture.



Answers

Links to content domain requirements are in brackets after the answer.

1. to the river [2b]
2. Great Grandma [2b]
3. "puzzled"; "with puzzled voices" [2d]
4. a bridge [2b]
5. strong, wide [2b]
6. trams, cows, people carrying things on their heads [2b]
7. kites [2b]
8. No. They don't know that she likes swimming. They don't ask her any questions directly. [2d]
9. The characters travel by carriage through the streets of Calcutta, so Great Grandma can swim in the river. [2c]
10. Neetu, Sanjay, Grandpa Chatterji, Great Grandma [2c]



Assessment

The children will be secure in their understanding if they can find key details efficiently and effectively by using clues in the questions, e.g. looking for, and visualising, key words and phrases; looking for names if the question asks "Who?".

The children are able to make summaries if they identify key points and re-present them succinctly using their own words.

The children can demonstrate that they are able to make inferences by linking information from different points in a text and making links with what they already know from the text.

Next steps

Develop the children's scanning skills by challenging them to find particular words and phrases in a short text in a limited amount of time. Use visuals and ask them to find details in the image.

Develop the children's ability to make inferences by focussing on a piece of the description and details of the scene. Do they think the story is set in the modern day or the past?

Ask the children to imagine that they are part of the crowd in the streets of Calcutta. How would they describe the carriage and its occupants? What does the text tell them about the characters?