

Explorers 6

Teacher's notes for the Comprehension Test: *Nicholas Nickleby*

- Do this test after you have read the whole book with the class.
- Ask the children to fill in their name and the date at the top of the page.
- Tell the children that this is part of the *Nicholas Nickleby* story.
- Ask them to read the text silently.
- If there are any words they have forgotten, tell them not to worry. Tell them to read everything they can.
- When they have finished reading the text, ask them to read each question one at a time.
- Do not give any help.
- Then ask them to read the three possible answers that are given.
- Ask them to underline which answer they think is correct.
- Do not allow the children to talk or to copy each other's work.
- Collect the test papers, mark the scores and fill in the results on the class record sheet.

Explorers 6

Comprehension Test: *Nicholas Nickleby*

Name _____

Date _____

Just after seven o'clock the next morning, Nicholas arrived at the Snowball Hotel. He found Mr Squeers at the breakfast table with five little boys sitting in a row opposite him. On the table in front of him, Nicholas saw a pot of fresh coffee, fresh bread and a large plate of cold meat.

Mr Squeers held out a cup to the waiter. 'Just put a little milk in here – not too much! Milk is expensive. Now put in some water,' he said.

'Water, sir?' the waiter asked.

'Yes, fill the cup to the top. And don't forget – bring bread and butter for three people.'

The five little boys opened their eyes and licked their lips. They were very hungry.

Mr Squeers put a large piece of meat into his mouth. Then he waved to Nicholas.

'Come in and sit down, Nicholas!' cried Mr Squeers. 'We are having our breakfast.'

Mr Squeers was the only person eating, but Nicholas just smiled and said nothing.

The waiter brought the cup of milk and water.

'Here you are boys!' cried Mr Squeers. 'You are very lucky. Think of all the poor boys on the streets of London who don't drink milk for breakfast! Now, wait until I tell you to start.'

He gave the cup to the nearest boy and took more meat and some bread for himself. When he finished eating, he told the first boy to drink. 'Drink a little, then give the cup to the next boy!' he said. 'There's lots of milk for everyone!'

The waiter brought the bread and butter and Mr Squeers cut it into five small pieces.

'As you see, Nicholas, this is enough for five boys. Too much bread is bad for a boy.'

He gave the bread to the five boys. 'Hurry up, now,' he told them. 'We don't want to be late for the coach!'

When the coach arrived, they all went outside. As Nicholas climbed up into the coach, he felt someone pulling his coat. It was Newman Noggs. Newman looked quickly at Ralph Nickleby, who was talking to Mr Squeers. 'Take this letter!' Noggs whispered. 'Take it and read it. You will need it – your new life will not be easy.'

Choose and underline the correct answer.

1. Who arrived at the hotel soon after seven o'clock?
a) Mr Squeers b) five little boys c) Nicholas
2. What was on Mr Squeers' breakfast table?
a) a cup of coffee b) fresh bread c) a small plate of cold meat
3. Why did Mr Squeers ask for only a little milk in the cup?
a) Milk was expensive. b) He was not thirsty.
c) The boys did not like milk without water.
4. Why did the waiter say, 'Water, sir?'
a) He did not hear Mr Squeers. b) He was not polite. c) He was surprised.
5. How many people did Mr Squeers want to give bread and butter to?
a) three people b) five people c) seven people
6. Why did the boys lick their lips?
a) They were very hungry. b) They finished eating. c) They were hot.
7. Who ate meat for breakfast?
a) only Mr Squeers b) Mr Squeers and the first boy c) Mr Squeers and Nicholas
8. How many cups of milk and water were there?
a) one for each boy b) one for five boys c) one for the first boy
9. How do you know that Mr Squeers wanted the boys to eat quickly?
a) He had finished eating. b) It was late. c) He said, 'Hurry up'.
10. Why did Newman Noggs give Nicholas the letter?
a) to make Nicholas's new life easy b) to help Nicholas
c) to make Nicholas happy

Teacher's notes for the Word Recognition Test: *Nicholas Nickleby*

- Do this test after you have read the whole book with the class.
- Ask the children to fill in their name and the date at the top of the page.
- Tell the children that the words all come from the *Nicholas Nickleby* book.
- Tell the children to listen to each sentence that you read. Read the first sentence to the class and stress the word in bold print. Say the word in bold print again, on its own, when you have finished the sentence.
- Ask the children to choose which word they think it is from the three possible words they are given for that sentence.
- Ask them to underline the word of their choice. (If they make a mistake and want to change their mind, tell them to cross out the wrong answer and underline the correct answer.)
- Repeat this procedure with each sentence.
- Make sure the children know which number sentence you are reading each time.
- Do not give any help.
- Do not allow the children to talk or to copy each other's work.
- Collect the test papers, mark the scores and fill in the results on the class record sheet.

Test sentences and words

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| 1. I can't decide where to go shopping. | decide |
| 2. She has two intelligent daughters. | intelligent |
| 3. When I am nervous , I speak quickly. | nervous |
| 4. The pain was terrible and so I went to the doctor. | pain |
| 5. If they disappear , no one will find them! | disappear |
| 6. I was not sure that you could hear me. | sure |
| 7. If you don't know the answer, you can guess . | guess |
| 8. If it is not true, it must be false . | false |
| 9. Ann's necklace is worth a lot of money. | worth |
| 10. She asked the doctor to examine her son. | examine |

Word Recognition Test: *Nicholas Nickleby*

Name _____ Date _____

Underline the correct word.

1. a) beside b) side c) decide
2. a) intelligent b) interesting c) intellectual
3. a) never b) nervous c) newest
4. a) pan b) pain c) plane
5. a) appear b) disapprove c) disappear
6. a) shore b) sure c) share
7. a) rest b) guess c) guest
8. a) false b) falls c) faults
9. a) worse b) earth c) worth
10. a) examine b) magazine c) zoom in