

Graded reading: Bad secrets (level 1) – exercises

Do the preparation exercise first. Then read the text and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

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|-------------------------|--|
| 1..... a desk | a. to hit something with the foot |
| 2..... to trust someone | b. a type of table for working or studying |
| 3..... to vibrate | c. a punishment in which a student has to stay at school for longer after the other students have gone |
| 4..... to hurt someone | d. to move from side to side very quickly |
| 5..... a bruise | e. an injury where your skin is purple |
| 6..... a detention | f. to cause physical or emotional pain to someone |
| 7..... your fault | g. to believe that someone is good and honest and won't hurt you |
| 8..... to kick | h. your responsibility for a mistake or doing something wrong |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Maria forgot her sports kit. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. Maria's mother is angry when the school phone her. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. At first, Maria thinks Peter's problem is easier than hers. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. Principal Hughes understands Maria's problem. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. Maria notices something about Peter in detention. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. Maria thinks Peter has a secret like hers. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. We don't know who Maria is afraid of. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. Maria decides to tell her mum about her problems. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best answer to these questions.

1. Peter ...
 - a. often walks out of class.
 - b. walks out of class for the first time.
 - c. never walks out of class.

2. When Maria forgets her sports kit, her mother is angry because ...
 - a. she wants Maria to do PE.
 - b. she thinks Maria has lost her sports kit.
 - c. Maria won't tell her the problem.

3. When Peter and Principal Hughes are talking in the principal's office, ...
 - a. Peter offers to say sorry.
 - b. Peter offers to pay for the desk.
 - c. they talk but we don't know what they say.

4. In detention ...
 - a. Peter tells Maria a secret.
 - b. Maria decides to do PE.
 - c. Maria thinks Peter has a secret.

5. Maria thinks she has something in common with ...
 - a. Peter.
 - b. Mr Hughes.
 - c. her mother.

6. Maria decides to ...
 - a. keep her secret.
 - b. tell someone her secret and get help.
 - c. talk to Peter.

Discussion

Do you agree that bad secrets are only bad until you tell someone?