# The harbour bell

Reading · Year 6–7 · ±13 min Hard

Name: ..... Date: .....



**Today you learn:** You understand a short text and find details, the order of events, the main idea and how a character feels.

## Remember

Read the **whole text** first. The **main idea** is what the whole text is about, not just one sentence.

**Details** are written in the text: find the part and read it again.

When the text does not say something outright, you work it out from clues: what do the people do or say? This is called an **inference**. You can often work out an unknown word from the sentences around it.

A **simile** says that one thing is like another and uses **like** or **as**.

For 'why' questions give a reason, for example with **because**, and answer in a full sentence.

EXAMPLE

**The bell sounded like a giant's heartbeat. (simile)**

1 Hard

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Harbour Bell

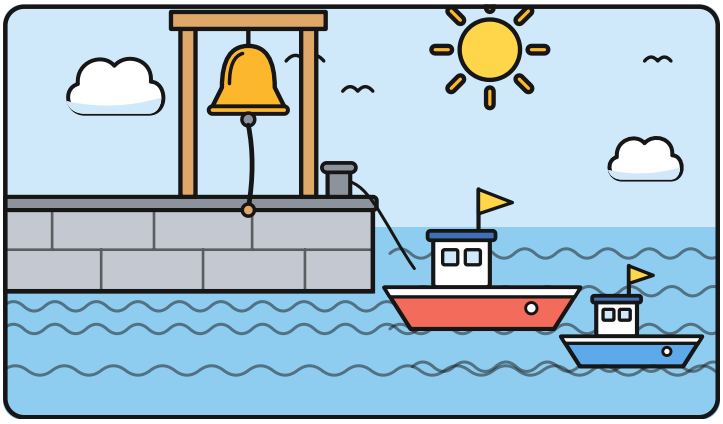
Every morning at six o'clock, Leo's grandad rang the old bell at the end of the harbour. The deep sound told the fishermen that the tide had turned and it was safe to sail. Leo loved that sound. It was slow and low, like a giant's heartbeat.

One Monday, the harbour was silent. Grandad was sitting on his front step, rubbing his sore hands. 'The rope is too heavy for me now,' he sighed. 'I don't think I can ring the bell any more.'

Leo was determined to help. He ran to the harbour, but the rope was too heavy for him as well. So he fetched his friend Amira, and together they pulled with all their strength. The bell swung out and boomed across the water. A little late, the fishermen waved from their boats.

After that, Leo and Amira rang the bell every morning before school. Grandad watched from his chair with a big smile and drank his tea.

What is the main idea of the text?



- ◯ A boy is afraid of the sea.
- ◯ Two children take over the job of ringing the harbour bell for Grandad.
- ◯ The fishermen are late for work.

**2** Hard

Tick true or false.

| | True | False |
|---|---|---|
| Leo's grandad rang the bell every morning at six o'clock. | ☐ | ☐ |
| On Monday, Grandad rang the bell as usual. | ☐ | ☐ |
| Leo could pull the rope on his own. | ☐ | ☐ |
| Amira helped Leo to ring the bell. | ☐ | ☐ |
| The fishermen were angry that the bell was late. | ☐ | ☐ |

**3** Hard

Put the events in the right order: 1 to 5.

- ☐ The bell rang across the water.
- ☐ Leo fetched his friend Amira.
- ☐ Grandad said the rope was too heavy for him.
- ☐ The harbour was silent on Monday morning.
- ☐ Leo tried to pull the rope alone.

**4** Hard

What does 'determined' mean in the text?

◯ sad ◯ very sure that he wanted to do it ◯ tired

**5** Hard

Which detail shows that the bell matters to the fishermen?

◯ It is an old bell. ◯ It sounds like a giant's heartbeat.

◯ It tells them when the tide has turned and it is safe to sail.

**6** Hard

Why was the rope a problem for Grandad? Answer in a full sentence.

.....

.....

**7** Hard

Copy the words from the text that compare the sound of the bell to something else.

.....

**8** Hard

How did Grandad feel at the end? Use a clue from the text.

.....

.....

**9** Hard

Finish the summary with words from the text.

Leo's _____ could not ring the bell because the rope was too _____. Leo fetched his _____ Amira, and together they _____ the rope.

**Choose from:** pulled | friend | grandad | heavy

**10** Hard

Would you like to ring the bell? Write a sentence and give a reason.

_____

_____

**How did it go?** ☺ 😐 ☹

Stuck? Turn the sheet round and read the tip for your number.

**Help card**

**1.** What is the whole text about, not just one sentence?
Who takes something over from whom?

**2.** For each sentence, find the part of the text. For the last one, think about what the fishermen do.

**3.** Read the text from 'One Monday'. What happens first and what happens next?

**4.** Look at what Leo does next. Does he give up or try straight away?

**5.** What do the fishermen do with the sound of the bell?

**6.** Look at what he does with his hands and what he says about the rope.

**7.** Look in the first paragraph for a comparison that uses like.

**8.** Look at what his face does in the last sentence.

**9.** Read the second and the third paragraph again.

**10.** Use because to give your reason.


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# Answers: The harbour bell

For the parent · Year 6–7 · Hard

**Today you learn:** You understand a short text and find details, the order of events, the main idea and how a character feels.

Check it together. When something is wrong, first ask: how did you work that out? Give the tip before the answer.

1. Two children take over the job of ringing the harbour bell for Grandad.
   Tip: What is the whole text about, not just one sentence? Who takes something over from whom?

2. 1: True · 2: False · 3: False · 4: True · 5: False
   Tip: For each sentence, find the part of the text. For the last one, think about what the fishermen do.

3. 1. The harbour was silent on Monday morning. 2. Grandad said the rope was too heavy for him. 3. Leo tried to pull the rope alone. 4. Leo fetched his friend Amira. 5. The bell rang across the water.
   Tip: Read the text from 'One Monday'. What happens first and what happens next?

4. very sure that he wanted to do it
   Tip: Look at what Leo does next. Does he give up or try straight away?

5. It tells them when the tide has turned and it is safe to sail.
   Tip: What do the fishermen do with the sound of the bell?

6. For example: His hands were sore and the rope was too heavy for him.
   Tip: Look at what he does with his hands and what he says about the rope.

7. like a giant's heartbeat
   Tip: Look in the first paragraph for a comparison that uses like.

8. For example: He felt happy, because he watched with a big smile.
   Tip: Look at what his face does in the last sentence.

9. grandad · heavy · friend · pulled
   Tip: Read the second and the third paragraph again.

10. For example: Yes, because I like loud sounds.
    Tip: Use because to give your reason.


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