

What does this word or phrase suggest? – practice 1

Brrring! The school bell rang out sharply across the playground, announcing the start of the day. Jackson took a deep breath and glanced towards the door. Well, this was it. His first day at his new school. He scanned the playground quickly, in the hope of spotting just one familiar face; he recognised no one. He was going to have to face this one all on his own. He took another deep breath and set off for the door. He would be fine... wouldn't he?

Jackson wandered hesitantly along the corridor, unsure of where he was going. People scrutinised him as he went; he looked and felt like a fish out of water. It wasn't long before a colossal object, in the shape of a boy, stood in his path completely blocking his way. This couldn't be good, surely? Jackson swallowed hard and allowed his eyes to take in the sight of the boy's dirty, battered trainers; the dark grey trousers which were ripped at the knees; the bright red jumper which stretched around the thick arms and broad shoulders of its occupant, before finally reaching a rather surprising face. He was greeted by bright, twinkling eyes and a wide smile which seemed to spread from ear to ear.

"You must be Jackson," said the boy-giant in a deep but kindly voice. "My name's Thomas, but my friends call me Tiny...I'm your settling in buddy," he added with a wink.

"Nice to meet you, Tiny," replied Jackson with a relieved smile. Maybe this wasn't going to be so bad after all.

- 'He scanned the playground...' What does the word 'scanned' suggest about the way Jackson was looking?

- '...he looked and felt like a fish out of water.' What does this suggest about how Jackson was feeling?

- 'Jackson wandered hesitantly along the corridor...' What does this suggest about the way Jackson was walking?

- What does the phrase '...he added with a wink' suggest about Tiny's understanding of the situation?

What does this word or phrase suggest? - practice 2

Top tips for starting a new school

06/09/2016 09:30 am

By Josie Jones

Tip One: The internet is your ally! Take a look at the school website prior to your first day. Familiarise yourself with the daily routine; memorise the floor plan and locate your classroom; and most importantly, read about your teachers – forewarned is forearmed!

Tip Two: It's acceptable to be shy and nervous! You will be pushed completely out of your comfort zone and even the most confident person will find it a struggle. I can guarantee that at least one person will come and talk to you. Make the effort to talk back. Be open and honest about your feelings and make sure you ask them questions. Most people are only too happy to help.

Tip Three: Chin up and smile! Chances are that people will smile back! People are more likely to approach you if they see a welcoming face. If you appear solemn and have your eyes fixed on the floor, it will discourage people from approaching you. Remember – these are exciting times! Just think of all the new friends you are about to meet.

Good luck and stay strong!

- 'The internet is your ally!' What does this sentence suggest about the author's feelings about the internet?

- What did the author mean when she suggests that 'forewarned is forearmed'?

- 'I can guarantee that at least one person will come and talk to you.' Why do you think the author uses the word 'guarantee'?

- 'If you appear solemn and have your eyes fixed on the floor...' Explain what impression this might give to other people.

What does this word or phrase suggest? – practice 3

Hi Aunty Sylvie

Just a quick note to update you about my latest endeavours. I have to say that you were right – as always! It wasn't as bad as I'd envisioned it to be. The first few days were tough though. I kept forgetting everyone's name and I got lost an embarrassing amount of times, but there was always someone willing to help out and the teachers have been exceedingly patient with me so far.

As you suggested, I have found a new friend. He's at least 6ft tall already and his name is Tiny! Well, it's Thomas really but that's just his nickname. I thought I was about to experience a whole world of pain when I first encountered him. I was convinced that he was going to flush my head down a toilet and nick my lunch money. In reality, he's just a gentle giant and he's supported me enormously over the last few weeks. He likes football too, which is a bonus, and he's amazing in goal – no one can get a ball past him!

Anyway, I just wanted to thank you for your words of advice. They were much appreciated.

Love (your super intelligent and handsome nephew) Jackson x

- 'I got lost an embarrassing amount of times...' What does this suggest about the number of times Jackson got lost?

- '...the teachers have been exceedingly patient with me so far.' Does this suggest that Jackson believes his teachers will always be this patient?

- 'I thought I was about to experience a whole world of pain...' What does this suggest about Jackson's first impressions of Tiny?

- 'He's just a gentle giant really...' What does this tell us about Tiny's real personality?

Find and copy – answers

Practice 1

- ‘He scanned the playground...’ What does the word ‘scanned’ suggest about the way Jackson was looking?

The word ‘scanned’ means to look at all parts of something carefully in order to detect particular features. So Jackson would have been looking at all of the faces on the playground in the hope of seeing one he recognised.

- ‘...he looked and felt like a fish out of water.’ What does this suggest about how Jackson was feeling?

A fish out of water would be in a very unfamiliar environment and situation. This is how Jackson is feeling because he is in an unfamiliar school and surrounded by unfamiliar faces.

- ‘Jackson wandered hesitantly along the corridor...’ What does this suggest about the way Jackson was walking?

The word ‘wandered’ suggests that Jackson is walking aimlessly. The word ‘hesitant’ means to be unsure or tentative. So this suggests that Jackson is walking aimlessly along, unsure about where he is going.

- What does the phrase ‘...he added with a wink’ suggest about Tiny’s understanding of the situation?

A wink is often used when sharing a secret or a joke with someone. Tiny seems to be suggesting that he understands Jackson’s preconceived ideas about him based on his size and he is probably enjoying watching Jackson’s initial discomfort at their meeting.

Practice 2

- ‘The internet is your ally!’ What does this sentence suggest about the author’s feelings about the internet?

The word ‘ally’ means friend or supporter. The author suggests that the internet can be your friend. In this case by helping give you information about your new school.

- What did the author mean when she suggests that ‘forewarned is forearmed’?

This means that if you know about something beforehand, you can prepare for it. You may discover important information about what your new teachers like and dislike so you can prepare to impress them.

- ‘I can guarantee that at least one person will come and talk to you.’ Why do you think the author uses the word ‘guarantee’?

The word ‘guarantee’ is a formal promise or assurance that something will happen. This word is meant to assure you that someone will definitely come and talk to you.

- 'If you appear solemn and have your eyes fixed on the floor...' Explain what impression this might give to other people.

The word 'solemn' means serious or firm. A person who refuses to make eye contact and appears solemn may come across as rude or aloof. You may give the impression that you don't want people to talk to you so you may find it hard to make new friends.

Practice 3

- 'I got lost an embarrassing amount of times...' What does this suggest about the number of times Jackson got lost?

To be embarrassed is to be ashamed or humiliated about something. This suggests that he got lost enough times to feel ashamed about it.

- '...the teachers have been exceedingly patient with me so far.' Does this suggest that Jackson believes his teachers will always be this patient?

The phrase 'so far' suggests that, although the teachers are being patient at the moment, Jackson feels that they may not be so patient in the future.

- 'I thought I was about to experience a whole world of pain...' What does this suggest about Jackson's first impressions of Tiny?

This phrase suggests to us that Jackson thought he was about to get hurt by Tiny. Jackson must have considered Tiny to be a threat when he first saw him, probably due to his size and the fact that he was intentionally blocking Jackson's path.

- 'He's just a gentle giant really...' What does this tell us about Tiny's real personality?

The word 'gentle' means to be kind or tender. The word 'giant' refers to his enormous size. So this phrase suggests that Tiny was a very kind and tender person despite being very large.