

What does this word or phrase suggest? – practice 1

Brrring! The school bell resonated intrusively across the playground, announcing the start of the day. Jackson took a long, deep breath and glanced anxiously towards the door. Well, this was it. His first day at his new school. He scanned the playground swiftly, 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 determinedly towards the door. He would be fine... wouldn't he?

Jackson wandered hesitantly along the corridor, uncertain 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 obstructing his way. This couldn't be good, surely? Jackson swallowed hard and allowed his eyes to absorb 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 settling upon a rather surprising face. He was greeted by bright, twinkling eyes and a wide, beaming smile which appeared 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.

- 'The school bell resonated intrusively across the playground...' What does this suggest about how the bell sounded?

- 'People scrutinised him as he went...' What does the word 'scrutinised' suggest about the way people were looking at Jackson?

- '...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 time to scrutinise the school website prior to your first day. Become acquainted 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 are being pushed completely out of your comfort zone and even the most self-assured person will consider it to be a challenging experience. I can guarantee that at least one person will approach you. Be open and honest about your feelings and insecurities (we have all been in situations like this before). Strike up a conversation by asking them questions about themselves or the school; most people are more than happy to help.

Tip Three: Chin up and smile! The likelihood is that most people will smile back! People are more inclined 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 – this could be a life defining opportunity! Just think of all the new friends you are about to meet.

Good luck and stay strong!

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

- 'Be open and honest about your feelings and insecurities...' What does the word 'insecurities' suggest about your possible feelings at this time?

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

- '...it will discourage people from approaching you.' What does this phrase suggest about people's reaction to you?

- 'Remember – this could be a life defining opportunity!' What do you think the author is suggesting with this statement?

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 correct – as always! It wasn't as hideous as I'd envisioned it to be. The first few days were punishing though. I kept forgetting everyone's name and I got lost an embarrassing amount of times, but there was always someone prepared to help out and the teachers have been exceedingly patient with me so far.

As you predicted, I have found a new friend. He's at least 6ft tall already and his name is Tiny! Well, it's Thomas actually 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 lavatory and steal my lunch money. In reality, he's just a gentle giant and he's supported me enormously over the last few weeks. He's partial to a game of football too, which is a bonus, and he's awesome in goal – no one can get a ball past him!

Anyway, I just wanted to thank you for your guidance. It was much appreciated.

Love (your super intelligent and handsome nephew) Jackson x

- 'It wasn't as hideous as I'd envisioned it to be.' What does this suggest about how Jackson thought his first few days would go?

- '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 partial to a game of football too...' What does this tell us about Tiny's thoughts about football?

Find and copy – answers

Practice 1

- ‘The school bell resonated intrusively across the playground...’ What does this suggest about how the bell sounded?

The word ‘resonated’ suggests that the bell produced a deep, full, reverberating sound. The word ‘intrusively’ suggests that it was an annoying, unwelcome noise which was difficult to ignore.

- ‘People scrutinised him as he went...’ What does the word ‘scrutinised’ suggest about the way people were looking at Jackson?

The word ‘scrutinised’ means to examine or inspect something closely and thoroughly. It appeared to Jackson that people were studying him closely, probably because he was new.

- ‘...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

- 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.

- ‘Be open and honest about your feelings and insecurities...’ What does the word ‘insecurities’ suggest about your possible feelings at this time?

The word ‘insecure’ means to be full of self doubt, or to lack confidence in your own abilities. The author is suggesting that you be honest about your ability to cope with this new situation.

- ‘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.

- ‘...it will discourage people from approaching you.’ What does this phrase suggest about people’s reaction to you?

The word ‘discourage’ means to cause someone to lose confidence or enthusiasm. The word ‘approach’ means to move towards someone. This suggests that people will lose confidence in coming to greet you.

- ‘Remember – this could be a life defining opportunity!’ What do you think the author is suggesting with this statement?

The phrase ‘life defining’ suggests that the action of starting a new school could have a significant impact on your life so far, or on the direction your life could take.

Practice 3

- ‘It wasn’t as hideous as I’d envisioned it to be.’ What does this suggest about how Jackson thought his first few days would go?

The word ‘hideous’ can mean the same as appalling or dreadful. Envisioned means to imagine something as a future possibility. This sentence suggests that Jackson had considered his first few days at school to be an awful event and something to dread.

- ‘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 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 partial to a game of football too...’ What does this tell us about Tiny’s thoughts about football?

If you are partial towards something you favour it, or are biased towards it. This tells us that Tiny enjoys playing football and that Jackson is happy about this as he does too.