

## Перевести и ответить на вопросы.

### The story teller

There were three children in a compartment of a railway carriage one hot afternoon: a small girl and a smaller girl and a small boy, together with their aunt. The aunt occupied one corner of the compartment seat. The opposite corner seat was occupied by a man, who was a stranger to the party. The conversation between the aunt and the children was quite monotonous. "Don't was the word which the aunt repeated over and over again, and everything the children said began with "Why?"

"Don't, Cyril, don't," said the aunt, as the small boy began jumping on his seat.

The smaller girl began to recite a poem. She only knew the beginning, but she repeated it over and over again.

"Don't, my child, don't say it again," said the aunt at last.

"Come over here and listen to a story."

The children did not show much interest but they sat down on the aunt's side of the compartment. She did not seem to have a good reputation as a story-teller.

She began a most uninteresting story about a little girl who was good, and made friends with everybody because of her goodness.

"You don't seem to be a success as a story-teller," said the stranger from his corner.

"It's a very difficult thing to tell stories that children can both understand and like," the aunt said coldly.

"I don't agree with you," said the man.

"Tell us a story," asked the bigger of the small girl.

"Well, I'll try. Long, long ago," began the stranger, "there was a little girl called Bertha, who was very, very good."

On hearing this the children began to lose interest. All stories, they thought, seemed to be the same.

"She did all that she was told, she kept her clothes clean, learned her lessons very well and was very polite."

"Was she beautiful?" asked the bigger of the small girl.

"Not as beautiful as any of you," said the stranger, "but she was horribly good."

Now the children began to listen to the story with interest. The word "horrible" was something new. It made the story a little different.

"She was so good," continued the man, "that she won several medals for goodness. She always wore them on her dress. She had three medals and they clinked one against another as she walked."

"Horribly good," repeated Cyril.

"Everybody talked about her goodness, and the Prince of the country allowed her to walk in his park once a week. When Bertha entered the park she thought to herself: "If I were not so good I should not have been allowed to come into this beautiful park and enjoy all these wonderful things in it", and her three medals clinked against one another as she walked.

"Just then a big wolf came into the park to see if it could catch a little pig for its supper.

"Bertha was terribly afraid of the wolf and thought to herself: 'If I had not been so good I should have been at home at this moment...'

"The wolf was just walking away when he heard the medals clinking and stopped to listen. Then they clinked again quite near him. He jumped and caught Bertha... All that was left of her were the three medals for goodness."

"A most improper story to tell young children!"

"Well," said the stranger; "I kept them quiet for ten minutes, which was more than you were able to do."

"Unhappy woman!" he said to himself as he walked down the platform of his station. "For the next six months or so these children will attack her asking for an improper story!"

1. Who was there in the compartment of a railway carriage?
2. What sort of story did the aunt tell the children?
3. What was the children's opinion of the aunt's story?
4. Why did the children begin to listen with interest to the man's story?
5. What did the children say about the story when the man finished it?

Почему детям не понравилось начало истории незнакомца?

1. Choose the right variant.

- A *the*
- B *a*
- C *an*
- D —

- a) I'd like to have ... hamburger for ... breakfast.
- b) Pushkin is ... Russian poet.
- c) Can you play ... piano?
- d) Will you play ... chess with me?
- e) There is ... bench on the road.
- f) My favorite subject at school is ... History.
- g) We often go to ... theatre.
- h) What ... pity they haven't come.
- i) My friend likes to eat ... fish.
- j) — Give me ... apple, please.
- k) Is there ... school in the street?
- l) My father is ... engineer.

Choose the right variant.

- A *the*
- B —

- a) I went to ... France last year.
- b) I live in ... Tverskaya Street.
- c) ... UK includes ... Great Britain and ... Northern Ireland.
- d) My train leaves from ... Waterloo Station at 7.10 p. m.
- e) St. Bernard dogs are named after a monastery high up in ... Alps.
- f) Would you like to go to ... Kremlin?
- g) ... Everest is the highest mountain in the world.
- h) Where is ... John's raincoat?
- i) ... Volga flows into ... Caspian Sea.
- j) ... Urals are old and not very high.
- k) ... Earth is millions of kilometres from ... Sun.
- l) Moscow is on ... Moskva River.

### Articles

1. Put in: *a/an/—*.

- a) What \_\_\_\_\_ curious children!
- b) What \_\_\_\_\_ pretty girl!
- c) What \_\_\_\_\_ cheap flowers!
- d) What \_\_\_\_\_ big family!
- e) What \_\_\_\_\_ dark forest!
- f) What \_\_\_\_\_ blue eyes!
- g) What \_\_\_\_\_ tasty juice!
- h) What \_\_\_\_\_ important news!
- i) What \_\_\_\_\_ strange answer!

2. Choose the correct variant.

- A *a*
- B *the*
- C *—*
- D *an*

- a) On ... Monday we open at ... 9 o'clock.
- b) ... longest river in ... Europe is ... Volga.
- c) Sam is ... good sportsman.

- d) ... weather in July is usually ... hot.
- e) I like to stay at ... home on cold ... nights.
- f) You asked me ... question but I think you should know ... answer yourself.
- g) My brother read me ... extract from ... book which he had brought ... day before.
- h) ... was very bad in October.
- i) When he came into ... room, he saw ... man sitting on ... sofa.
- j) ... English king Richard the Lion Heart was ... tall, strong man.
- k) I am afraid you will have ... lot of troubles with ... this business.
- l) ... day was not bright yesterday. ... was covered with ... clouds.
- m) I don't want to miss ... concert which will take place at ... Philharmonic on ... 15<sup>th</sup> of ... April.
- n) On ... Sunday we shall go to ... country, and on ... Monday we shall come back.