

Grade 8 English Home Language Worksheet

Listening Comprehension – song

Listen to the song, which will be played twice. When you have listened to it, you will be asked to write down answers to questions.

Suggested Solutions

Play the following song to learners twice. Then ask them the questions.

THE REDBACK ON THE TOILET SEAT

by Slim Newton

There was a redback on the toilet seat
When I was there last night.
I didn't see him in the dark,
But boy I felt his bite.

I jumped high up into the air
And when I hit the ground,
That crafty redback spider
Wasn't nowhere to be found.

I rushed into the missus,
Told her just where I'd been bit.
She grabbed a cut-throat razor-blade
And I nearly took a fit.

I said, "Just forget what's on your mind
And call a doctor please,
'Cause I got a feeling that your cure
Is worse than the disease."

There was a redback on the toilet seat
When I was there last night.
I didn't see him in the dark,
But boy I felt his bite.

And now I'm here in hospital
A sad and sorry sight,
And I curse the redback spider
On the toilet seat last night.

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I can't lie down, I can't sit up
And I don't know what to do,
And all the nurses think it's funny
But that's not my point of view.

I tell you its embarrassing,
And that's to say the least,
That I'm too sick to eat a bit
While that spider had a feast.

And when I get back home again
I tell you what I'll do,
I'll make that redback suffer
For the pain I'm going through.

I've had so many needles
That I'm looking like a sieve,
And I promise you that spider
Hasn't very long to live.

There was a redback on the toilet seat
When I was there last night.
I didn't see him in the dark,
But boy I felt his bite.

But now I'm here in hospital
A sad and sorry sight,
And I curse the redback spider
On the toilet seat last night.

Questions

1. Why did the speaker not see the spider? (1)
- 2.1 Give an example of exaggeration from the poem. (1)
- 2.2 What effect does the exaggeration have? (2)
3. Why does the speaker call the spider crafty? (1)
- 4.1 What did the man's wife grab? (1)
- 4.2 What does he mean when he says he "nearly took a fit"? (1)
5. What did the man think his wife was going to do? (1)

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6. Why do the nurses think “it is funny”? (1)
7. What is the man hoping to do when he gets home? (1)
8. This poem is meant to be funny. Discuss the forms of humour in the poem, and then say if you find the poem funny and why, or why not. (5)

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Answers

1. It was dark.
- 2.1 He jumped high up into the air when he was bitten. (1)
- 2.2 This makes the poem funny, because the image created in the listener's mind is of his overreaction to what happened. (2)
3. The spider vanished before he could be seen. (1)
- 4.1 A cut-throat razor. (1)
- 4.2 He was horrified/terrified/shocked/appalled. (1)
5. She planned to cut out the poison. (1)
6. He was bitten on his behind and is now in great discomfort. (1)
7. He wants to find and kill the spider. (1)
8. The poem is funny because:
 - the place of the bite
 - his over-reaction
 - the wife's grabbing the razor and terrifying him even more (2)

The learner then needs to explain whether he/she finds this particular kind of humour funny and why/why not.

(3)

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