

Reading task 1: We are learning to retrieve and infer from the text:

BIG BEN GETS A BATH!

People from all over the world come to London and visit Big Ben but one week this August, they would have seen an unusual sight!

Five highly-trained abseiling experts started cleaning all four clock faces on 18th August. It will be the clock's first scrub for 4 years. Experts think it will take a week to complete the cleaning so long as the weather stays fine.

The Houses of Parliament clock (nicknamed Big Ben), which was built in 1859, will also be checked for damage to the dials. Each clock face is made up of 312 pieces of opal glass, which must be treated carefully. The hands of the clock were made in copper because it is lighter than other metals.

To keep the climbing cleaners safe, the clock's hands have been frozen in the midday position.

DID YOU KNOW?

Big Ben's real name is the Great Clock of Westminster which is at the top of the Elizabeth Tower (named after the Queen). The Elizabeth Tower is part of the Houses of Parliament.

Questions

1. Why do you think the title is called Big Ben Gets a Bath? **Explain your answer?**
2. Where is Big Ben and what year was Big Ben last cleaned?
3. What material was chosen to make the hands of the clock and why?
4. How do you think freezing the clocks will keep the climbers safe? **Explain your answer**

Task 2: We are learning to retrieve and infer from the text:

Opening night

Tim took another deep breath. Inside his chest, he could feel his heart pounding like a bass drum. Again, he took slow, deep breaths and picked up his script. Flicking through the pages, he read through his lines quietly to himself, mumbling under his breath. All his hard work over the last few months had been for tonight. Crossing his fingers tightly, he wished for good luck.

"Tim, are you ready? You're on in 2 minutes," said Mr. Smith.

"I think so, Sir," said Tim in a shaky voice.

"Don't worry, you'll be fine, Tim. Break a leg!"

Slowly, Tim stood up and made his way towards the heavy, red velvet curtain. He pulled it to the side and stepped through.

Questions:

1. How do you think Tim is feeling at the beginning of the text? **Explain your answer using evidence.**
2. What do you think Tim is waiting to do? **Explain your answer using evidence.**
3. Who do you think Mr. Smith is? **Explain your answer using evidence**

Task 3: We are learning to retrieve and infer from the text:

A taste of the good life:

My most admirable quality is
I have fantastic taste.
That is, until some little kid,
decides to dine on paste.

When I am quiet people sometimes ask
If a cat's got a hold of me.
But that's silly- most cats have their own...
They don't need two or three.

Selling seashells by the seashore
Often makes me rather twisted
But give me a picked pepper
And I simply can't resist it.

When I take a trip to the candy store,
life's at it's very best.
But when I go to the doctor,
I always get depressed.

What do you think the poem is about? **Explain your answer using evidence.**