

Inference and comprehension

Mum had just finished packing away the groceries and nipped upstairs to the bathroom. Neil watched her exit the room and swiftly pulled a dining chair forcefully across the porcelain tiled floor. There was a slight screech as the legs of the chair scraped along the tiles. He clambered up on to the chair, his eyes gleaming with excitement, and reached up to grab the handle of his favourite cupboard. As he opened the cupboard door, he eagerly peered inside in anticipation of what he might find. His expression quickly changed. Neil furrowed his brow and sighed outwardly, as he slumped himself against the chair. When mum re-entered the room, she could see that Neil was disappointed. "Now Neil, you know what the dentist said," she explained softly.

1. What was Neil hoping to find in the cupboard? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

2. How did Neil feel after he had looked inside the cupboard? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

3. Why did Neil's expression change?

4. How old do you think Neil was? Explain how you know this.

5. Why did Neil not find what he was looking for? Give evidence and explain how you know.

6. Can you find all the adverbs in the passage?

7. What caused the screech sound?

8. What title might you give the passage?

9. Find a word in the passage closest in meaning to 'climbed'.

10. What phrase is used to describe Neil's eyes?

Answers

1. Neil was hoping to find sweets/chocolate in the cupboard. We know this because the passage refers to the cupboard as his 'favourite cupboard' and mum made reference to 'what the dentist had said'. The passage also says 'he eagerly peered inside in anticipation of what he might find' and that 'his eyes gleamed with excitement'.
2. Neil felt disappointed and saddened. We know this because it says he furrowed his brow, sighed outwardly and slumped onto the chair.
3. His expression changed because he discovered that there were no sweets in the cupboard.
4. Neil was most likely a young child because he was unable to reach the cupboard without using a chair to climb on. He was probably aged under 10.
5. He didn't find what he was looking for because Mum had not bought sweets when she was shopping. This is because Neil must have holes in his teeth (or a similar dental problem) as the passage refers to 'what the dentist said'.
6. The adverbs are swiftly, forcefully, eagerly, quickly, outwardly and softly.
7. The screech sound was caused by Neil scraping the legs of the chair along the tiled floor.
8. Child's own answer
9. The word closest in meaning to 'climbed' is clambered.

10. The phrase used to describe his eyes was 'his eyes gleaming with excitement'.