



Name: _____ Class: _____

Read the text and answer the following questions.

Mr Goggins was cycling down the path, late for school, feet pedaling furiously up and down, and his coat flapping behind him. The alarm hadn't gone off, he couldn't find his shoes and his bike had had a puncture. Altogether, these things were unheard of for Mr Goggins, and had contributed to making him late. He hated being late.

“Oh no, it's the school bus!” thought Mr Goggins, as he heard the noise of the old engine droning slowly past him. He looked up and saw the steamed up windows of the old bus, and the marks of where children had drawn letters and pictures with their fingers in the condensation.

He caught sight of William, one of his pupils, at the front of the bus. Their eyes briefly connected, and he wondered why William suddenly had a shocked expression on his face. At exactly that moment, something grabbed him from the side. He felt his bicycle fall away from him, but didn't feel any pain or a sensation of falling. Before he had time to think or wonder what was happening, he found himself transported into a small, dark room, completely alone. Where was he? Where was his bike? One minute he was riding along the path, the bus struggling up the hill next to him, the next he was here?

His first thoughts were for his class. They would be waiting for him, and they would be wondering where he was. But that was the point, he had no idea. How was it possible that one minute he was riding his bicycle, and the next he was here? Where was here? Fear took hold of him, like a hand clutching at his chest.

His eyes tried to adjust to the darkness, and he strained to look around and take in his environment. The room was almost pitch black with no windows, and just a slight trickle of light filtering through the gap under the door facing him. Panic was building in Mr Goggins' mind. He moved slowly to the side wall and stretched his arms out, using them as his eyes to touch the walls that were enclosing him. Shuffling slowly, he moved along, feeling the damp, rough bricks under his trembling fingertips as he went. His heart was beating out of his chest, and his mouth was as dry as stone. He came to the door, found the handle and tried to open it. It was locked. His ears picked up a noise. He made out the sound of slow footsteps approaching the door. He took two hurried steps back, as he heard a key turn slowly in the lock...



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Answer the following questions about the text.

1 In the first paragraph, which word is closest in meaning to contributed in this text?

caused, developed, competed, recommended

2 What does the author mean when they say, 'these things were unheard of for Mr Goggins'?

3 Why was Mr Goggins concerned when he saw the school bus?

4 In the first paragraph, which word is closest in meaning to **droning** in this text?

accompanying, communicating, rumbling, moving

5 What were Mr Goggins' first thoughts when he first found himself in the dark room?

6 What type of teacher do you think Mr Goggins was and why?



The Mystery of the Missing Teacher

Activity Sheet



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7 Why does the author sometimes use short sentences?

8 Can you find an example of a metaphor or a simile in the text?

9 Number the events 1-5 to show the order in which they happened.

The door handle turned.	
Mr Goggins' bike had a puncture.	
Mr Goggins' and William's eyes connected	
Mr Goggins used his fingers to feel his way around the room.	
Mr Goggins found himself alone.	

10 Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Mr Goggins hurt himself, falling from the bike.		
All the children on the bus saw what happened to Mr Goggins.		
Mr Goggins couldn't see where he had been taken to.		
Mr Goggins didn't know who had captured him.		



The Mystery of the Missing Teacher

Activity Sheet



Name: _____ Class: _____

Write down five questions you could ask, to help you improve your understanding of the text.

1

2

3

4

5

