

P.E.E - The Railway Children

CHAPTER 1

They were not railway children to begin with. I don't suppose they had ever thought about railways except as a means of getting to places. They were just ordinary suburban children, and they lived with their Father and Mother in an ordinary red-brick-fronted villa, with coloured glass in the front door, a tiled passage that was called a hall, a bath-room with hot and cold water, electric bells, French windows, and a good deal of white paint, and 'every modern convenience', as the house-agents say.

There were three of them. Roberta was the eldest. Of course, Mothers never have favourites, but if their Mother had had a favourite, it might have been Roberta. Next came Peter, who wished to be an Engineer when he grew up; and the youngest was Phyllis, who meant extremely well.

Mother was almost always there, ready to play with the children, and read to them, and help them to do their home-lessons. Besides this she used to write stories for them while they were at school, and read them aloud after tea, and she always made up funny pieces of poetry for their birthdays and for other great occasions, such as the christening of the new kittens, or the refurnishing of the doll's house, or the time when they were getting over the mumps.

These three lucky children always had everything they needed: pretty clothes, good fires, a lovely nursery with heaps of toys, and a Mother Goose wall-paper. They had a kind and merry nursemaid, and a dog who was called James, and who was their very own. They also had a Father who was just perfect — never cross, never unjust, and always ready for a game — at least, if at any time he was not ready, he always had an excellent reason for it, and explained the reason to the children so interestingly and funnily that they felt sure he couldn't help himself.

P.E.E Questions (Point, Evidence, Explanation)

Point

*What's your **point**?*

First make a simple statement about what the writer does:

- The writer suggests that...
- The writer shows this by using...
- The writer describes... as...

Evidence

*Give **evidence** from the text to support your point.*

For example...

- For instance in the third paragraph...
- The writer states:

Explanation

***Explain** how the writer's methods affect the reader.*

Explain how key words and techniques from the evidence help to get these effects:

- The effect of this is...
- This makes the reader feel that.....
- This suggests that...

Look at the questions carefully.

Can you create the correct P.E.E answer, to each question, using the cards provided?

What did the children think of the railways at the beginning of the story?

twinkl.co.uk

What was the house like which the children lived in?

twinkl.co.uk

QUESTION CARDS

What was the mother of the children like?

twinkl.co.uk

What was the father of the children like?

twinkl.co.uk

POINT CARDS

Were these children lucky?

twinkl.co.uk

The children didn't have a special or particular opinion of the railways.

twinkl.co.uk

The children's house was very modern.

twinkl.co.uk

The mother of the children was a kind and nice woman.

twinkl.co.uk

The father of the children was a good man.

twinkl.co.uk

The children were lucky because they have everything they needed and wanted.

twinkl.co.uk

EVIDENCE CARDS

The author tells us that, 'I don't suppose they had ever thought about railways except as a means of getting to places.'

twinkl.co.uk

This is because the text tells us that the house has, 'a bath-room with hot and cold water, electric bells, French windows, and a good deal of white paint, and 'every modern convenience', as the house-agents say.'

twinkl.co.uk

The author tells us that, 'Mother was almost always there, ready to play with the children, and read to them, and help them to do their home-lessons.'

twinkl.co.uk

We can read that, 'they also had a Father who was just perfect — never cross, never unjust, and always ready for a game.'

twinkl.co.uk

EXPLANATION CARDS

In the text, it says, 'these three lucky children always had everything they needed: pretty clothes, good fires, a lovely nursery with heaps of toys, and a Mother Goose wall-paper.'

twinkl.co.uk

This tells us that, in the beginning, the children only used the railways to travel from place to place.

twinkl.co.uk

This is a list of all the modern technologies of the time, which you may find in the home.

twinkl.co.uk

We can see that she has a good relationship with her children and enjoys being with them.

twinkl.co.uk

This is a list of all the wonderful qualities their father has.

twinkl.co.uk

The children had many luxuries and were privileged to have lovely toys and clothes. This means that their family were able to afford this.

twinkl.co.uk

Now Your Turn...

Answer the following questions using the P.E.E method you have practised in the task above.

Is this story set in a different time to the current day?

What are the mother's feelings about literacy?

Was Peter ambitious?

Answers

1. What did the children think of the railways at the beginning of the story?

The children didn't have a special or particular opinion of the railways. The author tells us that, 'I don't suppose they had ever thought about railways except as a means of getting to places.' This tells us that, in the beginning, the children only used the railways to travel from place to place.

2. What was the house like which the children lived in?

The children's house was very modern. This is because the text tells us that the house has, 'a bath-room with hot and cold water, electric bells, French windows, and a good deal of white paint, and 'every

modern convenience', as the house-agents say.' This is a list of all the modern technologies of the time, which you may find in the home.

3. What was the mother of the children like?

The mother of the children was a kind and nice woman. The author tells us that, 'Mother was almost always there, ready to play with the children, and read to them, and help them to do their home-lessons.' We can see that she has a good relationship with her children and enjoys being with them.

4. What was the father of the children like?

The father of the children was a good man. We can read that, 'they also had a Father who was just perfect — never cross, never unjust, and always ready for a game.' This is a list of all the wonderful qualities their father has.

5. Were these children lucky?

The children were lucky because they have everything they needed and wanted. In the text, it says, 'these three lucky children always had everything they needed: pretty clothes, good fires, a lovely nursery with heaps of toys, and a Mother Goose wall-paper.' The children had many luxuries and were privileged to have lovely toys and clothes. This means that their family were able to afford this.