**Reading extract and questions:**

**Year 5-6**

**Major Fourpaws**

**Set A/B**

By the time they were ambling home from school, there were “Missing” posters everywhere – on trees, fences and even in shop windows. Identical furry black faces stared back at them with pale green eyes from every angle.

“Major Fourpaws,” scoffed Riley, “What a daft name!”

“Poor old Mr Nash,” said Carla, ignoring her friend, “he must be beside himself with worry. That moggy was his best friend after Mrs Nash … well, you know.” She didn’t like to think about it. It was hard enough watching her devastated neighbour stagger up to the cemetery every day.

A bit of a loose cannon, Riley had many fine qualities but picking his moment wasn’t one of them. He suddenly grabbed Carla’s tie-string bag and swung it around his head with a mischievous glint in his eye.

“Give it back, Riley,” begged Carla. “I need to get my P.E. kit washed for tomorrow.”

“Come and get it, then,” he taunted and swirled it even faster. So much so, that the cord broke and Carla’s bag sailed over the fence boarding up a piece of wasteland where an old house had been earmarked for demolition.

“Oh, well done!” snarled Carla.

“Don’t worry, I’ll get it,” laughed Riley. Despite Carla’s protests that he wasn’t allowed and it could be dangerous, he started climbing the wooden slats and heaved himself over. “Actually, I could use some help here,” he added after a moment or two.

Trying to ignore her nagging conscience, not to mention the accusing stares of Major Fourpaws, Carla bit the bullet and scaled the fence, nimbly dropping down the other side. Before her stretched a dense, green tangle of nettles, buddleia and brambles, competing for fertile ground amidst the crumbling bricks and concrete. A rustling nearby betrayed Riley’s presence.

“It must be here somewhere – I didn’t swing it that hard,” said Riley, sounding slightly resentful that his little joke had gone so spectacularly wrong.

“Shhh!” hissed Cala. “Did you hear that? It’s coming from over here.”

“What, is your bag calling to you?” mocked Riley, crashing through the undergrowth towards her, nonetheless. Carla put her finger to her lips and turned her head, trying to pinpoint the direction from which the sound was coming, before pushing aside some more foliage to reveal an old brick-red pipe.

“Phone! Torch,” said Carla, holding out her hand. Riley passed her his mobile and knelt down beside her. Reflected in the light, two familiar pale green eyes stared out at them pitifully from about a meter along the pipe.

“Hey, it’s all right little one,” cooed Carla. “We’ll soon have you out of there. Riley, go and get your dad – he’ll know what to do.”

“But he’ll kill me for coming in here,” he protested.

“I think both he and Mr Nash will consider this to be more important, don’t you?”

**Questions for *Major Fourpaws***

**Set A**

**Vocabulary:**

**1.** …*That moggy was his best friend …* What is a *moggy*?

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**2.** … *A bit of a loose cannon* … What does this mean in this sentence?

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**3.** … *an old house had been earmarked* … What does the word *earmarked* mean in this sentence?

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**Retrieval:**

**4.** Name two places on which “Missing” posters had been placed.

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**5.** After she had climbed over the fence, how could Carla tell where Riley was?

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**6.** How was Carla able to see inside the pipe?

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**Inference:**

**7.** *Riley had many fine qualities but picking his moment wasn’t one of them* … This means:

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**8.** Look at the paragraph beginning *Trying to ignore* … What do you think *buddleia* could be? **Circle one.**

 **a type of plant fencing a breed of cat old rope**

**9.** Look at the paragraph beginning *Trying to ignore* … How is Carla feeling at this point? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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**Summarise:**

**10.** Here are some summaries of different paragraphs. Number them from 1 to 4 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

Riley swings Carla’s bag around his head.

 Carla demands Riley’s phone.

 Riley climbs over the fence.

 Carla and Riley are walking home from school.

**Predict:**

**11.** What do you think Riley’s dad will do when he tells him? Use evidence from the text to support your prediction.

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**Compare:**

**12.** How does Riley feel about being behind the fence at the end of the text compared with when he first climbs over?

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**Questions for *Major Fourpaws***

**Set B**

**Vocabulary:**

**1.** *“Major Fourpaws,” scoffed Riley* … What does *scoffed* mean in this sentence?

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**2.** Look at the paragraph beginning “*Come and get it,*” … **Find** and **copy** a word that means*being knocked down*.

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**3.** Look at the paragraph beginning *Trying to ignore* … **Find** and **copy** a word that means*climbed*.

**Retrieval:**

**4.** Why was it so important for Carla to get her bag back?

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**5.** How did Carla signal to Riley to be quiet?

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**6.** Who did Carla tell Riley to fetch?

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**Inference:**

**7.** What do you think had happened to Mrs Nash? Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

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**8.** *Carla bit the bullet* … This means … **Circle one.**

 She chewed something hard. She gulped. She made a tough decision. She clenched her fists.

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**9.** Look at the paragraph beginning *“What, is your bag calling to you?”* … How do you think Carla is feeling about Riley at this point? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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**Meaning as a whole:**

**10.** Draw lines to match each part of the story with the correct quotation from the text.

*“But he’ll kill me for coming in here,”*

Past events

*A bit of a loose cannon …*

Setting

*Before her stretched a tangle of nettles, buddleia and brambles.*

Dilemma

… *after Mrs Nash … well, you know*.

Character

**Authorial intent:**

**11*.*** *“Oh, well done!” snarled Carla ..*. Explain why Carla used these words.

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**Compare:**

**12.** Carla’s mood changes throughout the text. How does it change? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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**Answers for *Major Fourpaws***

**Set A:**

**Vocabulary:**

**1.** a cat

**2.** someone who is unpredictable and not always in a good way/someone who does strange/surprising/shocking things without reason/warning

**3.** marked out for a particular reason/selected/reserved

**Retrieval:**

**4.** Accept any two from: trees/fences/shop windows.

**5.** She could hear him rustling (in the undergrowth)/a rustling nearby betrayed his presence

**6.** She usedthe torch on Riley’s mobile phone.

**Inference:**

**7.** He was basically a good person but he sometimes did things at the wrong time/without thinking/he doesn’t think before he acts

**8.** a type of plant

**9.** She’s worried that what she’s doing is wrong but she thinks she just has to do it anyway.

**Summarise:**

**10.**

 **2** Riley swings Carla’s bag around his head.

 **4** Carla demands Riley’s phone.

 **3** Riley climbs over the fence.

 **1** Carla and Riley are walking home from school.

**Predict:**

**11.** Accept answers that suggest Riley’s dad will come and help because everyone knows Mr Nash’s cat is missing but he will also tell Riley off for going where he shouldn’t have. Only accept an answer that he will refuse to come if it refers to Riley’s comment that his dad would kill him.

**Compare:**

**12.** At the end, Riley is a bit nervous because he has to get his dad even though it might get him into trouble. When he first climbs over, on the other hand, he is mainly relaxed and carefree (he mocks Carla), although he is also a little annoyed that his prank (swinging the bag) went wrong.

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**Answers for *Major Fourpaws***

**Set B:**

**Vocabulary:**

**1.** said with contempt, scorn or in a mocking voice/make fun of/ridicule

**2.** demolition

**3.** scaled

**Retrieval:**

**4.** She needed to get her P.E. kit washed for the next day.

**5.** She put her finger to her lips.

**6.** His dad.

**Inference:**

**7.** She had died recently (references to ‘devastated’ Mr Nash going to the cemetery).

**8.** She made a tough decision.

**9.** Accept answers referring to being slightly annoyed with Riley because he is mocking her and that she is trying to concentrate on listening so she wants him to be quiet (frustrated/cross/wishes he would be quiet for once/she puts her fingers to her lips to tell him to be quiet).

**Meaning as a whole:**

**10.**

*“But he’ll kill me for coming in here,”*

Past events

*A bit of a loose cannon …*

Setting

*Before her stretched a tangle of nettles, buddleia and brambles.*

Dilemma

… *after Mrs Nash … well, you know*.

Character

**Authorial intent:**

**11.** She was being sarcastic. Even though she said “Well done,” you can tell she didn’t mean it because it says she snarled and no one would be pleased if their friend threw their bag over a fence.

**Compare:**

**12.** At the beginning she is sad about the missing cat and concerned about her neighbour (“Poor old Mr Nash). When Riley takes her bag, she is first annoyed then anxious as it means climbing over the fence. In the end, she is serious and purposeful (“…go and get your dad …”) whilst being concerned for the cat (“… it’s all right little one …”)

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