# **Guided Reading Plan for Week**

Two comprehensions for this week.

Today the reading comprehension is based on a poem by Michael Rosen.

You do not have to do this in one go – you can take a couple of days to do it.  Maybe today, you could read the poem and on another day, have a go at the questions.

The second one is based on a picture and can just be answered verbally.

# The Longest Journey in the World
## by Michael Rosen

"Last one into bed

has to switch out the light."

It's just the same every night.

There's a race.

I'm ripping off my trousers and shirt –

he's kicking off his shoes and socks.

"My sleeve's stuck."

"This button's too big for its button-hole."

"Have you hidden my pyjamas?"

"Keep you hands off mine."

If you win

you get where it's safe

before the darkness comes –

but if you lose

If you're the last

you know what you've got coming up is

the journey from the light switch

to your bed.

It's the Longest Journey in the World

"You're the last tonight," my brother says.

And he's right.

There is nowhere so dark

as that room in the moment

after I've switched out the light.

There is nowhere so full of dangerous things –

things that love dark places –

things that breathe only when you breathe

and hold their breath when I hold mine.

So I have to say:

"I'm not scared."

That face, grinning in the pattern on the wall
isn't a face –
"I'm not scared."


That prickle on the back of my neck
is only the label on my pyjama jacket –
"I'm not scared."


That moaning-moaning is nothing
but the water in a pipe –
"I'm not scared."

Everything's going to be just fine
as soon as I get into that bed of mine.
Such a terrible shame
it's always a shame
it takes so long
it takes so long
it takes so long
to get there.


From the light switch
to my bed.
It's the Longest Journey in the World

# Questions

1. What time of day is the poem set and how do you know?

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2. What is the setting of the poem (what room in a house is it set)?

_____

3. What is the relationship between the narrator and the other character in the poem?  Explain how you know?

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_____

4.  Explain what the '*race*' is in the poem?

_____

_____

# Questions

5. What does the person who loses the race have to do?

_____


6. In the poem, what is described as '*nowhere so dark*'?

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_____


7. Copy one thing from the poem that the narrator imagines are '*dangerous things*'.

_____

_____

# Questions

8. How do you think the narrator feels when they've '*switched out the light*'? Explain why you think that. (Use 'I think…. because…' in your answer)

_____

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9. Why do you think the narrator keeps saying *"I'm not scared."*? (Use 'I think…. because…' in your answer)

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10. Why do you think the author, Michael Rosen, has repeated the line '*it takes so long*' three times? (Use 'I think…. because…' in your answer)

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# Answers (some of yours might be slightly different for the inference questions)

1. What time of day is the poem set and how do you know?

It is set in the evening at bedtime because they are putting on their pyjamas.

2. What is the setting of the poem (what room in a house is it set)?

The setting is in a bedroom because it says "Last one into bed".

3. What is the relationship between the narrator and the other character in the poem?  Explain how you know?

The other character is the narrator's brother because it says 'my brother' in the 4th verse.

4.  Explain what the 'race' is in the poem?

The children are trying to be the first to get undressed and into bed.

5. What does the person who loses the race have to do?

The loser has to turn off the light.

6. In the poem, what is described as 'nowhere so dark'?

The bedroom at the moment the light is turned off.

# **Answers**

7. Copy one thing from the poem that the narrator imagines are '*dangerous things*'.

Things that love dark places <u>or</u> Things that breathe only when you breathe

8. How do you think the narrator feels when they've '*switched out the light*'? Explain why you think that. (Use 'I think…. because…' in your answer)

I think that they feel scared because they hear and see scary things in the dark like faces in the pattern on the wall.

9. Why do you think the narrator keeps saying *"I'm not scared."*? (Use 'I think…. because…' in your answer)

I think that the narrator is trying to stop themselves from being scared by saying it again and again because they might believe what they are saying.

10. Why do you think the author, Michael Rosen, has repeated the line '*it takes so long*' three times? (Use 'I think…. because…' in your answer)

I think he has done that to show the reader how long it takes to get from the light switch in to bed because it takes some time to read those lines.