

The school play



Instructions: Read the passage below and answer the questions on the next page.

Classes 6, 7 and 8 have been practising for the school play for a month now. The play is based on the story of Christmas.

It's the day of the play and the school is buzzing! Backstage, children are having their make-up done. The animals in the play are starting to get a bit hot in their costumes. Mary can't find her baby! One of the wise men is very sure that he will forget his lines and is looking really anxious.

The parents and other children come into the hall, looking around at the beautiful decorations. Classes 9 and 10 have worked on the decorations and the hall has been made to look exactly like Israel might have when Jesus was born. Everything is shades of brown with touches of green. So beautiful! As everyone enters the hall, they are given a candle to hold.

Just about then, the weather outside changes and it begins to rain. People walk in faster. Soon the curtains open to another beautiful scene out of Israel. The play goes really well. Nobody forgets their lines. There is one small hitch though when the donkey appears on stage with a cow's face and makes everyone laugh.

Just as it is nearing the end of the play, a thunderstorm begins outside. Suddenly, there is a power cut and pitch black darkness. Whatever will they do now?

The Principal has an excellent idea. She lights her candle and passes the flame on. Soon everyone's candles are lit and the play finishes by candle light. Everything looks even more beautiful in the golden light. They finish with singing 'Silent night; holy night' which is what the candles were meant for.

This is a Christmas play the children will never forget.



Questions

1. What is the play based on?

2. What does the word 'backstage' mean? Use a dictionary to help you.

3. What tense has been used by the author to describe the event, from paragraph 2? Why do you think she has chosen this tense?

4. Why does it say 'people walk in faster'?

5. Why do you think everything is brown with touches of green?

6. What time of the day do you think it is during the play? How do you know?



Answers:

1. The play is based on the story of Christmas.
2. 'Backstage' is the area behind the stage where the actors get dressed.
3. The author uses the present tense to describe the event. Maybe she has done this to give it a feeling of excitement.
4. It says 'people walk in faster' because it has begun raining outside and they need shelter.
5. The hall is decorated brown with touches of green because much of Israel is a desert and this will reflect the landscape of Israel.
6. I think it is evening / night during the time of the play. We know this because a power cut makes the hall go dark.

Answer key:

Please remember that you need to reward your child's ability to reason and use language creatively. The above are only examples of answers. If your child has constructed an answer that is different to this but that is grammatical and sound in its reasoning, mark it as correct.

