Name: _____ Date: _____

The Last Bus Home

Year 5 reading comprehension · Story · 12 marks · About 25 minutes

By the time the bell rang for the end of football club, it had started to snow. Tessa zipped up her coat, took her little brother Ravi's hand and led him to the bus stop. The street was nearly empty, and the sky had turned the colour of dishwater.

Ten minutes passed. Then twenty. The snow settled on the shelter like icing sugar, but there was no sign of the number 14.

"Maybe it's not coming," said Ravi in a small voice. He was only seven, and his teeth had begun to chatter.

"Of course it's coming," said Tessa, in the most cheerful voice she could manage. She pulled a squashed bag of crisps from her pocket and made a show of choosing the biggest one. Inside, however, her stomach had twisted into a knot. Their house was three miles away, and she had never walked it. She had no idea where her phone was.

"Tell me a joke," said Ravi.

Tessa told three, and each one was worse than the last. Ravi laughed anyway, and somehow that made her feel braver.

Then, across the road, a light flickered on in the window of the corner shop. A man in a woolly hat unlocked the door and beckoned to them. "You two look frozen!" called Mr Hussein. "Come inside. You can ring your mum from the shop."

Ten minutes later, Tessa was holding a mug of hot chocolate and listening to her mum's voice on the phone. "Stay exactly where you are," she said. "I'm on my way."

When the car finally pulled up, Tessa noticed that her hands had stopped shaking. She had been the big sister tonight, she decided, and it had not been as easy as it looked.

1. Which bus were Tessa and Ravi waiting for? (1 mark)

_____

2. How old was Tessa's little brother Ravi? (1 mark)

_____

3. Find and copy one word that means "signalled to come over". (1 mark)

_____

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4. The writer says the snow “settled on the shelter like icing sugar”. What does this comparison suggest about the snow? (2 marks)

5. Tessa spoke “in the most cheerful voice she could manage”. How was she really feeling? Use evidence from the passage. (2 marks)

6. Why do you think Tessa made a show of choosing the biggest crisp? (1 mark)

7. What does the last paragraph suggest Tessa has learned about herself? (2 marks)

8. Write two sentences to sum up what happened in the story. (2 marks)

Writing task: Continue the story: write what Tessa and Ravi say to their mum on the journey home.

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