

Read the story and then do these exercises to check your understanding.

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|-----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | The narrator often gets punished at school. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | He dyes his hair blond. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Old Splodge always wears a pink bow tie. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | The narrator is a calm, relaxed person. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | The kid on the train gets older with the Age Rager. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | The old lady lunges forward to grab the Age Rager. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 7. | The old lady looks pretty when she has changed. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 8. | Mean Face becomes a skeleton and then a baby. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 9. | The narrator's hair turns white because he is so scared. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 10. | Old Splodge doesn't believe his story. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your understanding: grouping

Write the descriptions under the correct character from the story.

He is always scared.	He looks skinny and threatening.	He gets into trouble a lot.	He is usually bad-tempered.
He thinks he is well-dressed.	She can't walk very well.	She is determined to get the machine.	He becomes a skeleton.

Narrator	Old Splodge
Old Lady	Mean Face

3. Check your vocabulary: gap fill

Complete the gaps with a word from the box.

punishment	terrified	dye	skeleton	boyfriend
the Principal	knob	laughing	smoking	grabbed

1. I got into trouble for _____ at Old Splodge's pink bow tie.
2. I didn't know he was _____ of the school.
3. I told Old Splodge I didn't _____ my hair.
4. On the train I met a kid _____ a cigarette.
5. Mean Face moved the _____ on the machine and got older.
6. The old lady _____ the Age Rager and pushed the knob.
7. Mean Face became a _____ and rotted away.
8. I was so _____ that my hair turned white.
9. I waited in fear for my _____ but it never came.
10. Miss Newham got a new _____ who wears a pink bow tie.

Discussion

Did you enjoy the story?

Why do you think Splodge disappeared at the end of the story?

Do you like the age you are now?

What do you think is the best age to be?