

What to do today

IMPORTANT! Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and with any weblinks or use of the Internet required.

1. Story time

Read the abridged version of *My Uncle is a Hunkle*.

- Use the *Suggested Reading Strategies* to help you read any new and difficult words you encounter.

2. Answering questions about a story

Read each of *Minal Cricket's Questions*.

- Think about an answer to each question.
- Tell someone in your family what you think.
- You've 'Bean' Challenged! Write your responses down in the spaces provided.

3. Reading and writing postcards

Read the *Postcard from Clarice's Grannie*, written to Clarice's Mum.

- Think about what things Mum might say back to Clarice's Grannie.
- On a blank *Postcard* write out Mum's message.
- Mention at least two of the disasters that happened.
- Punctuate your sentences carefully.
- Draw the picture side of your postcard.

Now try this Fun-Time Extra

- Write a real postcard to *your* grannie or other relative telling them what you have been doing recently.

Abridged version Clarice Bean: **My Uncle is a Hunkle** by Lauren Child

My Uncle is a hunkle. He says things like 'Gotcha baby!' and 'Eat Dirt Dingbat!' He is a fireman and is always rescuing people from tall toppling buildings which are going up in a cloud of smoke. Mum says we get on like a house on fire.

Mum got a phone call. It turned out Uncle Ernie slipped on a doughnut getting out of his police car. The nurse says would Mum nip out there to look after him.

Someone will have to babysit because Dad is about to go away in business. Mum rings around all her friends for a babysitter. Then she rings all around her friends' friends but everybody says they are busy.

I say, 'How about Uncle Ted?' Mum goes a bit pale. Uncle Ted is Mum's younger brother. Whenever he is around it gets really noisy. Uncle Ted and I love to watch westerns. Uncle Ted is teaching me cowboy techniques. Last week he lassoed the lamp.



When he arrives, Mum gives Uncle Ted some very strict instructions.

1. No breakages
2. No lassoing
3. Don't drive Mrs Stampney at Number 9 doo-lally
4. Make sure Kurt sees the daylight at least once every 24 hours
5. Don't let Marcie take the phone into her bedroom (*chat chat chat chat chat!*)
6. Keep an eye on Granddad. He tends to wander off

Uncle Ted says, 'Yes ma'am. I hear you loud and clear.'

Everything goes really well for the first two days but then Minal ruins everything by getting Albert the guinea pig out of his hutch without asking. I am cross and chase Minal around the kitchen. Minal is squealing and I am trying to flip his nose with a carrot. Lots of things get broken. Luckily for Minal Cricket, Uncle Ted comes in to rescue him. 'Drop the carrot, little lady,' he says to me.



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We all go outside and play football. Uncle Ted kicks the ball so hard it knocks Minal out. We have to drive to the emergency room at 50 miles an hour at least. Minal is fine. They give him an X-ray and a little carton of orange juice. Minal loves it because he can show off and lie under a blanket whimpering. I say he should have stitches but unfortunately the nurse doesn't agree. When we get home we find Granddad is missing. Mrs Stampney from Number 9 calls to say that she has found Granddad sitting in her sitting room. Watching the racing. She's quite grumpy about it.

I go into the garden to see if Albert has come back to his hutch. Robert Granger, the boy next door, pops over the wall. He says, 'Do you want to stroke my guinea pig?' I say, 'That's not your guinea pig, that's Albert. You are in BIG trouble with the police.' Robert Granger is so nervous he lets Albert wriggle out of his hands.



Albert charges through the railings. Minal follows and gets wedged in the railings like a giant squeaking tomato! Mum arrives back from the airport. She delves straight into her bag for her new bottle of bubble bath and rubs it on Minal's head. She squidges him out in almost less than two minutes. She says, 'Now I wouldn't mind a quiet cup of tea in the garden.' But then guess what happens? Nearly all the whole fire brigade turns up!

Uncle Ted says, 'Babysitting is the hardest job I've ever done.' I say, 'Harder than firefighting?' Uncle Ted says, 'You better believe it baby.'

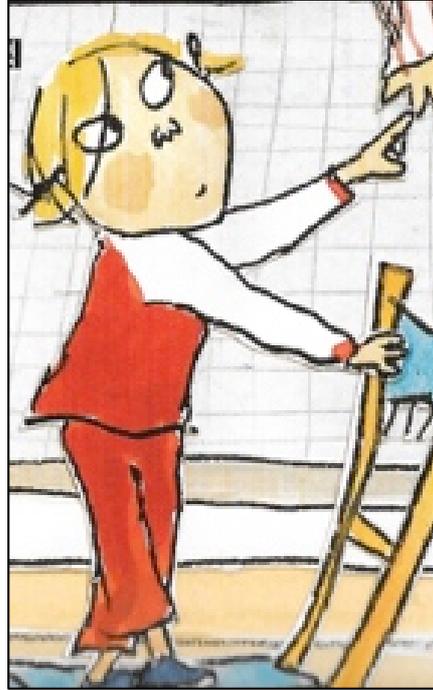
My Uncle is a hunkle. Mums says we get on like a house on fire.

Reading Strategies

When you come across a word you don't know, use these strategies to help you read it!

<p><u>Sound out</u> the word <i>First strategy to use!</i></p>	
<p>Break words into <u>syllables</u> e.g. <i>go-ing</i></p>	<p>Look for <u>smaller words</u> within words <i>be-fore</i></p>
<p><u>Skip</u> the word and read the rest of the sentence to work out what it says</p>	<p>Did the sentence you read <u>make sense</u>?</p>
<p>Use the <u>pictures</u></p>	<p>Remember the text</p>
<p><u>Remember Key Words</u> is the to and with I am</p>	

Minal Cricket's Questions



Using the numbers 1, 2, 3 etc., put these events from the story in the correct order:

_____ Robert Granger says Albert is actually his guinea pig Belinda.

_____ Everyone has to go to hospital with Minal Cricket.

_____ Mum leaves to visit Uncle Ernie.

_____ The fire brigade turns up at Clarice Bean's house.

'Mum says we get on like a house on fire'. This means... (tick the correct answer)

Uncle Ted's house is burning. _____

Uncle Ted and Clarice get on really well. ____

Clarice wants to be a fire officer. _____

What did Uncle Ernie slip on when he had his accident?

What is the third important instruction Mum gives Uncle Ted?

What does *doo-lally* mean?

Who do you think was more upset, Clarice because Minal Cricket had got Albert out of his hutch or Uncle Ted because Clarice and Minal were squabbling?

I say _____

Explain your answer using the word because to give your reasons

Why does Clarice say she thinks Minal should have stitches at the hospital?

What does Clarice think of Robert Granger?

How do you think Minal Cricket felt on getting squidged out of the railings by his Mum?

Who do you think would have been more tired at the end of the day – Mum, Ted or Clarice Bean? Explain why you think that.

_____ because _____

Dear Jo,

How awful about your poor brother Ernie! He must have really hurt himself, slipping on a doughnut like that. Silly boy! He was always getting himself into scrapes when he was little, too. Ted says that he is going to come and look after the children while you visit Ernie. That will be fun for everyone and I am sure absolutely nothing will go wrong when Ted is babysitting.

Do write back when you are home and let me know how things went.

Much love,

Mum xxx



***Mrs Joanna Cotton,
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LF1 5JG***

ANSWERS TO MINAL CRICKET'S QUESTIONS

Using the numbers 1, 2, 3 etc., put these events from the story in the correct order:

3. Robert Granger says Albert is actually his guinea pig Belinda
2. Everyone has to go to hospital with Minal Cricket
1. Mum leaves to visit Uncle Ernie
4. The fire brigade turns up at Clarice Bean's house

'Mum says we get on like a house on fire'. This means... (tick the correct answer)

Uncle Ted's house is burning. _____

Uncle Ted and Clarice get on really well. YES

Clarice wants to be a fire officer. _____

What did Uncle Ernie slip on when he had his accident?

He slipped on a doughnut.

What is the third important instruction Mum gives Uncle Ted?

Don't drive Mrs Stampney at no. 9 doolally.

What does *doo-lally* mean?

Really irritated, a bit mad....

Who do you think was more upset, Clarice because Minal Cricket had got Albert out of his hutch or Uncle Ted because Clarice and Minal were squabbling?

Either is acceptable as long as the reasons given are good and persuasive.

Explain your answer using the word because to give your reasons

E.g. Clarice was more upset because she feels that she was trusted to look after the guinea-pig and It was a very responsible job.

E.g. Uncle Ted because he has promised his sister that he will keep all the children safe and happy

Why does Clarice say she thinks Minal should have stitches at the hospital?

She is very annoyed with her little brother and wants him to suffer (a bit). Also it will be exciting.

What does Clarice think of Robert Granger?

She thinks he is a scaredy cat, easily scared and very nervous

How do you think Minal Cricket felt on getting squidged out of the railings by his Mum?

Any answer which is well reasoned will be acceptable.

Who do you think would have been more tired at the end of the day – Mum, Ted or Clarice Bean? Explain why you think that.

They must give cogent reasons.