



Violet never wanted to move to Perfect.

Who wants to live in a town where everyone has to wear glasses to stop them going blind? And who wants to be neat and tidy and perfectly behaved all the time?

Violet quickly discovers there's something weird going on in the town – she keeps hearing voices, her mam is acting strange and her dad has disappeared.

When she meets Boy she realizes that her dad is not the only person to have vanished...and that the mysterious Watchers are guarding a perfectly creepy secret!

- 1) Look at the front cover: make a prediction about the story by using the title and the images on the front of the book.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

- 2) Read the blurb. Why do you think everyone goes blind in Perfect?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

- 3) Do you think that the place called Perfect is perfect? Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (3 marks)

Read the extract of chapter one, 'Boy'.

4) Clarify what the phrase, 'Perfect had been alive with the news...' means.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

5) What do you think the Doctor will help with?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

6) Find a word in the text which is similar in meaning to a risky manoeuvre.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

7) Why do you think the girl could be frightened?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

### **Grammar focus**

8) Find an example of an adverbial phrase in the text. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

9) Find an adverb in the text. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

10) Find an example of parenthesis in the text.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

## BOY

He waited. Hidden by dusk and the garden bushes against the bark of an oak tree. Watching. The spot gave him full view of the house and gravel driveway.

Worrying about being seen felt weird.

Perfect had been alive with the news of Doctor Eugene Brown's arrival for weeks. The doctor would help. Boy knew it, more than he'd ever known anything. He just had to get to the man before he changed.

As night closed in, George and Edward Archer strode by and mounted the stone steps to the house. The place lit up and Boy watched them move around inside.

Suddenly light darted across the grass by his feet and Boy pulled back further into the shadows. A silver car crunched along the driveway towards him and stopped. His heartbeat quickened. The engine purred to silence.

The large door of the house opened and the Archer twins stood silhouetted in the light from the hallway. As Boy watched, statue still, a shiver danced down his spine.

A man got out of the driver's seat; a woman from the passenger's side.

He hadn't imagined the doctor would have company. The woman looked nervous, staring across the roof of the car at the man. He smiled awkwardly at her then walked towards the twins, greeting them with a handshake. The woman followed and the four of them disappeared inside.

Boy ventured a little out of the shadows, stopping short as the doctor called, "Violet. Come in from the car, pet, it's chilly out there."

The back door of the car opened a little, then quickly slammed shut as a breeze rustled the leaves above him.

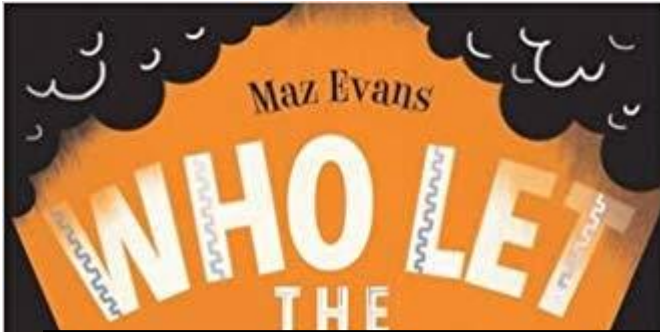
Boy held his breath and pulled back into hiding. The car door swung open again, and this time a small, frightened girl dashed out across the gravel towards the house.

Boy couldn't help laughing. She sped up, jumped the steps and rushed in through the front door, banging it shut behind her and plunging the yard back into darkness.

The car door hung open and Boy pushed it shut as he edged closer to the kitchen window. He just caught sight of the girl sliding into the room.

He sat down by the steps to wait.

## Day two



Elliot's mum is ill and his home is under threat, but a shooting star crashes to earth and changes his life forever. The star is Virgo - a young Zodiac goddess on a mission. But the pair accidentally release Thanatos, a wicked death daemon imprisoned beneath Stonehenge, and must then turn to the old Olympian gods for help. After centuries of cushy retirement on earth, are Zeus and his crew up to the task of saving the world - and solving Elliot's problems too?

1) Look at the front cover: make a prediction about the story by using the title and the images on the front of the book.

---

---

---

(2 marks)

2) Read the blurb. Clarify what a *cushy retirement* is.

---

(1 mark)

3) What do you think Elliot's problems are?

---

---

---

---

(2 marks)

# Chapter One

## A Not Quite Normal Day

It began on a Friday, as strange things often do. This particular Friday had been stranger than most, although it had started normally enough. Elliot Hooper got up at 7.30am as normal, made his Mum breakfast at 8.15am as

the better. Elliot Hooper hadn't set Brysmore alight. But Mr Sopweed was more than a little concerned that he might set the school on fire.

'It's a tricky one, Sir,' Elliot replied after a lengthy pause. 'It's really a question of everyone's best interests. And the simple fact is that I don't want to be at this school, the teachers don't want me to be at this school, the pupils don't want me or the teachers to be at this school, so perhaps it's time we admitted defeat and everyone got home in time for *Deal or No Deal*.'

Read the extract of chapter one, 'A Not Quite Normal Day.'

4) Why has the author repeated the word 'normal' in the first paragraph?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

5) Find a word that is a synonym for guided.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

6) What is Mr Sopweed worried that Elliot might do to the school?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

7) Find evidence that Elliot doesn't want to stay at school.

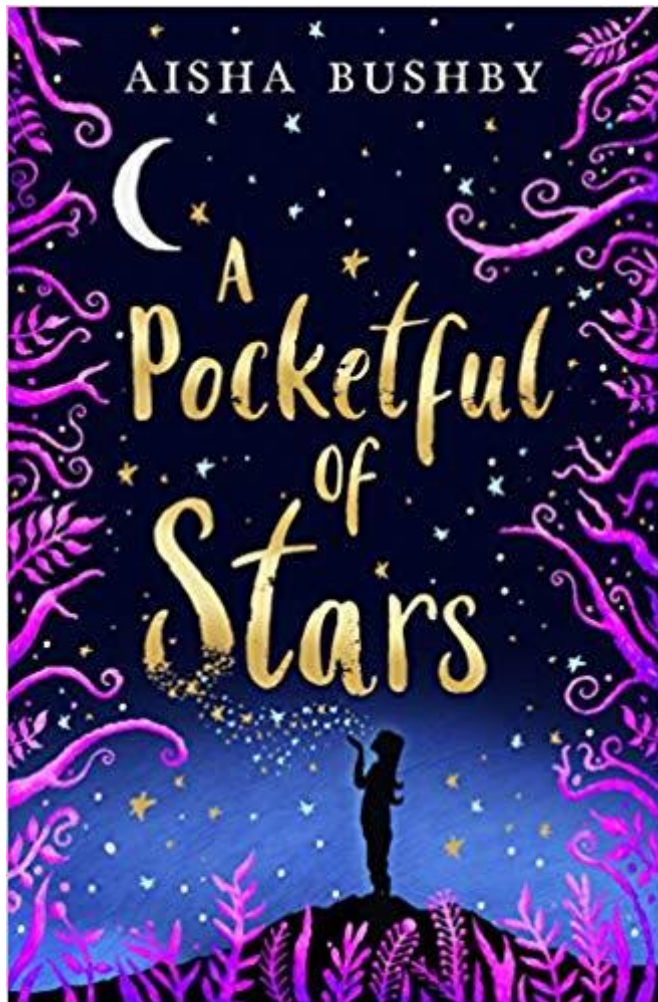
\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

### Grammar focus

8) Find an example of an apostrophe for contraction. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

9) Find 3 adjectives from the text. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

10) Find a hyphenated word in the text. \_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)



Safiya and her mum have never seen eye to eye. Her mum doesn't understand Safiya's love of gaming and Safiya doesn't think they have anything in common. As Safiya struggles to fit in at school she wonders if her mum wishes she was more like her confident best friend Elle. But then her mum falls into a coma and, when Safiya waits by her bedside, she finds herself in a strange alternative world that looks a bit like one of her games. And there's a rebellious teenage girl, with a secret, who looks suspiciously

Make a prediction about the story by using the title of the book.

\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

, 'had never seen eye to eye' mean?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

n to a coma?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

1) What impression do you get of the character Safiya?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

# Chapter 1



Mum always turns into a game. Even boring days out to the theatre.

‘When the play starts,’ Mum says, ‘count the number of times the cast say Rapunzel’s name. Apparently they say it seven times in the first seven minutes!’ She pauses, looking between me and my best friend Elle. We glance at each other and frown. ‘Seven!’ Mum repeats, like this should mean something to us. ‘The witching number?’ She looks disappointed. ‘Oh, never mind.’

I can’t help but laugh. Mum’s games don’t always make sense, because her brain works in mysterious ways.

We’re at a coffee shop next door to the theatre, having cake and hot chocolate while we wait to watch an afternoon performance of *Rapunzel*.

‘Fine, you think of a better game to play while we watch,’

Read the extract of chapter one, ‘**Chapter 1.**’

4) What impression do you get of the character, ‘Mum?’

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

5) What does mum think the number 7 means?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

6) Find the word which means to pull a miserable face.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

7) Find the synonym for look.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

## **Grammar focus**

8) **Expand the noun phrase, ‘a coffee shop.’**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

9) **Find and copy an example of a subordinate clause.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

10) **Expand the contraction ‘we’re.’**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(1 mark)

## Day four

In the first book in the number one bestselling Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz, fourteen-year-old Alex is forcibly recruited into MI6. Armed with secret gadgets, he is sent to investigate Herod Sayle, a man who is offering state-of-the-art Stormbreaker computers to every school in the country. But the teenage spy soon finds himself in mortal danger.

1) Look at the front cover: make notes on the text and the images on the front of the book.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

2) Read the blurb. What does '**forcibly recruited**' mean?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

3) What 'mortal danger' do you think Alex Rider could be in?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

4) According to the text, what is Alex Rider's first mission?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

Read the extract of chapter one, 'Funeral voices'.

4) How do you think the first line is effective?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_(1 mark)

5) How do you think Alex feels when he looks out of the window?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_(1 mark)

6) Why do you think Alex didn't go downstairs immediately?

\_\_\_\_\_(1 mark)

7) What does Alex 'already know' at the end of the extract?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_(1 mark)

### Grammar focus

8) Find an example of a subordinate clause.

\_\_\_\_\_(1 mark)

9) Find an expanded noun phrase in the text

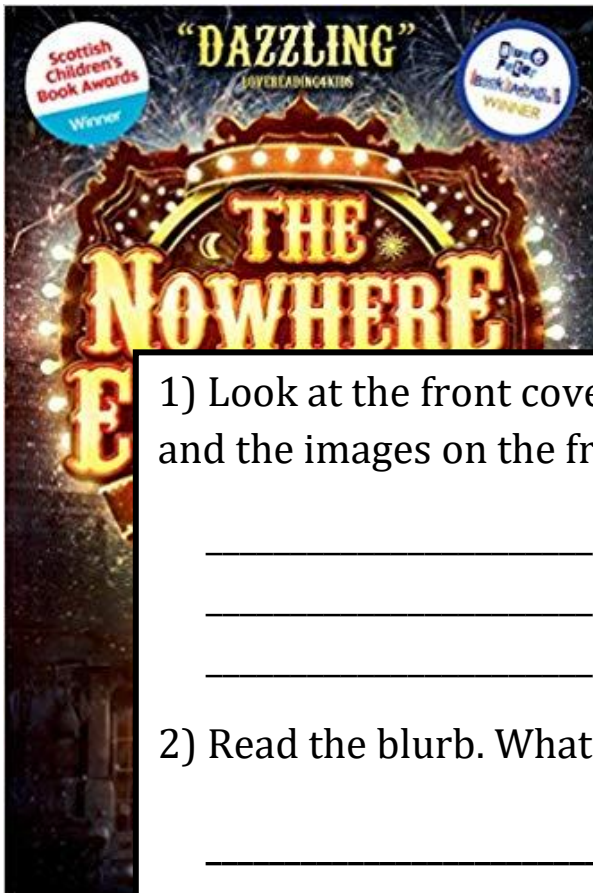
\_\_\_\_\_(1 mark)

10) Add a relative clause to this sentence:

Alex Rider, \_\_\_\_\_ was woken by the first chime

(1 mark)

When the mysterious Nowhere Emporium arrives in Glasgow, orphan Daniel Holmes stumbles upon it quite by accident. Before long, the 'shop from nowhere' -- and its owner, Mr Silver -- draw Daniel into a breath-taking world of magic and enchantment. Recruited as Mr Silver's apprentice, Daniel learns the secrets of the Emporium's vast labyrinth of



1) Look at the front cover: make a prediction about the story by using the title and the images on the front of the book.

---

---

---

(2 marks)

2) Read the blurb. What does '**orphan**' mean?

---

(1 mark)

3) Clarify what it would mean to be an apprentice.

---

(1 mark)

4) What is one effect of Mr Silver's disappearance?

---

(1 mark)

Read the extract of chapter one, **'Prologue.'**

4) What does **'abuzz with rumour and hearsay'** suggest about the place?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

5) Why has the author use italics for the speech in the first part of the extract?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

6) Find a word similar to conspiracies.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

7) What does **intricate** mean?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

### Grammar focus

8) Write a question you have about The Nowhere Emporium that has appeared on the street. Remember to punctuate accurately.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

9) Find and copy an adverbial phrase.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

10) Improve, 'the shop' by expanding this noun phrase.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

might sell, all the while hoping to catch a glimpse of movement through the darkened windows.

The shop was indeed built from bricks the colour of midnight, bricks that shimmered and sparkled under the glow of the gas streetlamps. Blocking the doorway was a golden gate so fine and intricate that some wondrous spider might have spun it. Over the windows, curling letters spelled out a name:

# THE NOWHERE EMPORIUM

**Day six**

*Amir is mad. He's crazy. But the hospital wouldn't let a crazy person in. They must have interviewed him and checked his qualifications. But maybe he didn't even meet them? Maybe he hasn't even come from India. He might have arrived on an alien spaceship and snuck in here in the middle of the night.*

Eleven-year-old Joe can't remember a life outside of his hospital room, with its beeping machines and view of London's rooftops. His condition means he's not allowed outside, not even for a moment, and his few visitors risk bringing life-threatening germs inside his 'bubble'. But then someone new enters his world and changes it for ever.



# THE BOY ON THE BUBBLE

1) Look at the front cover: make a prediction about the story by using the title and the images on the front of the book.

---

---

---

**(2 marks)**

2) Read the blurb. What does Joe's condition mean he can't do?

---

**(1 mark)**

3) Why do you think that this book is titled, 'The Bubble Boy?'

---

**(1 mark)**

4) How do you think Amir relates to this story?

---

**(1 mark)**

“I’ve got a tattoo. Guess what it is?”

“A giraffe?”

“On my ankle?”

“Okay, an elephant.”

Beth touches me on my arm.

“Come on, Joe,” she says. “You’re not even trying.”

“Sorry. Show me it?”

She smiles then pulls up the right leg of the overalls that all visitors have to wear, even family.

“Last guess?”

“Spider-Man?”

“No.” She laughs. “*You* can get that one when you’re older.”

We look at each other and say nothing.

She used to say she was sorry. I used to tell her it was

then look away, pretending nothing’s happened.

She pulls down her sock and I look at the tattoo, which is gray and red with a bit of blue in the middle.

“Looks like a smudge.”

“It’s a turtle dove! . . . And it itches.” She scratches the turtle dove so hard that I think it might come off. I shake my head at my sister. Beth covers her tattoo and gets up, and we stand side by side with the monitor beeping every thirty seconds beside us. We look out at the big gray building opposite with the sun shining on its windows and all the people inside sitting at their desks, staring at their computers. I see them come in and I see them leave, and during the nights and over the weekends I see the empty seats and the lights on dim until Monday morning when all the people come back again.

The air conditioner clicks, pushes cold air around the room, and makes me shiver. Beth asks me if I’m okay and

### **Answer questions on your whiteboard**

4) Why do you think visitors have to wear overalls? (1 mark)

5) Why do they, ‘look at each other and say nothing?’ (1 mark)

6) Find evidence that the narrator of the story doesn’t leave the room. (1 mark)

7) List four different pieces of punctuation that are used in this extract. (1 mark)

8) Find and copy an adverbial phrase.

9) Why does the word, ‘nothing’s’ have an apostrophe?

## Day seven

Budi's plan is simple. He's going to be a star. Budi's going to play for the greatest team on earth, instead of sweating over each stitch he sews, each football boot he makes. But one unlucky kick brings Budi's world crashing down. Now he owes the Dragon, the most dangerous man in Jakarta. Soon it isn't only Budi's dreams at stake, but his life. A story about dreaming big, about hope and heroes, and never letting anything stand in your way.

**MITCH JOHNSON**

"A brilliant debut."

*John Rowe* author of The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas

1) Look at the front cover: make a prediction about the story by using the title and the images on the front of the book.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

2) Read the blurb. What is Budi's plan?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

3) What could have happened to make Budi owe the dragon?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

4) Why is the front cover effective when comparing it to the final line of the blurb?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

Read the extract of chapter one, **'It's now or never.'**

4) What does the word, **'surges'** mean?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

5) Why has the author use italics for the first part of this chapter?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

6) Why does Budi have blood trickling down his leg?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

7) What does, **'the crumbling apartment blocks rise up like a stadium on every side'** suggest about where Budi and Uston are playing football?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

### Grammar focus

8) Find and highlight an example of parenthesis in the text.

9) Find and copy two verbs from the text.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

10) Improve, 'the crowd' by expanding this noun phrase.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

*of their heads.  
puff their cheeks*

*the edge of the  
coming defender.  
l, cutting inside*

*ch has taken the  
arms stretched  
fingers.*

*split second – a  
bar. The crowd  
pt.*

I run off to celebrate and slide on my knees. The little stones on the ground scrape against my skin, and as I get up I feel blood trickling down my leg. I rattle the rusty corrugated fence so it sounds like thousands of fans jumping and cheering in the stands. The crumbling apartment blocks rise up like a stadium on every side, and I roar loud enough for even the deaf old men on the fifth floor to hear. I put my fingers and thumbs together to make the shape of a heart, and pound my chest where the Real Madrid badge should be. The Indonesian wonder kid strikes again!

The heart shape is my trademark celebration. Whenever Uston scores he crosses his chest and points to the sky, even though he's supposed to be Muslim. We keep telling him that Allah will be angry if he makes the sign of the cross, but Uston says it doesn't matter because he's only pretending. I still don't think it's worth the risk.

Rochy comes over and puts his arm around my shoulders.

"What a goal, Budi! You left them for dead!"

## Day eight



There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it. He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets - not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite!

But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help.

That's where my best friends Josie, Michael and Tom come in. Because you see, together we've come up with a plan.

1) Look at the front cover: make a prediction about the story by using the title and the images on the front of the book.

---

---

---

(2 marks)

2) Read the blurb. Clarify what a refugee is.

---

(1 mark)

3) What impression do you get of the character Ahmet from the blurb?

---

(1 mark)

4) What do you think the plan could be that they have come up with?

---

---

(2 marks)

Read the extract of chapter one, **'The empty chair.'**

4) What do you think the most exciting thing that could ever happen was?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

5) Why would the narrator get extra pocket money at the start of a brand new term?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

6) What impression do you get of the character who is telling the story?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

**Grammar focus**

7) Why has the author used a dash in the final part of the extract?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

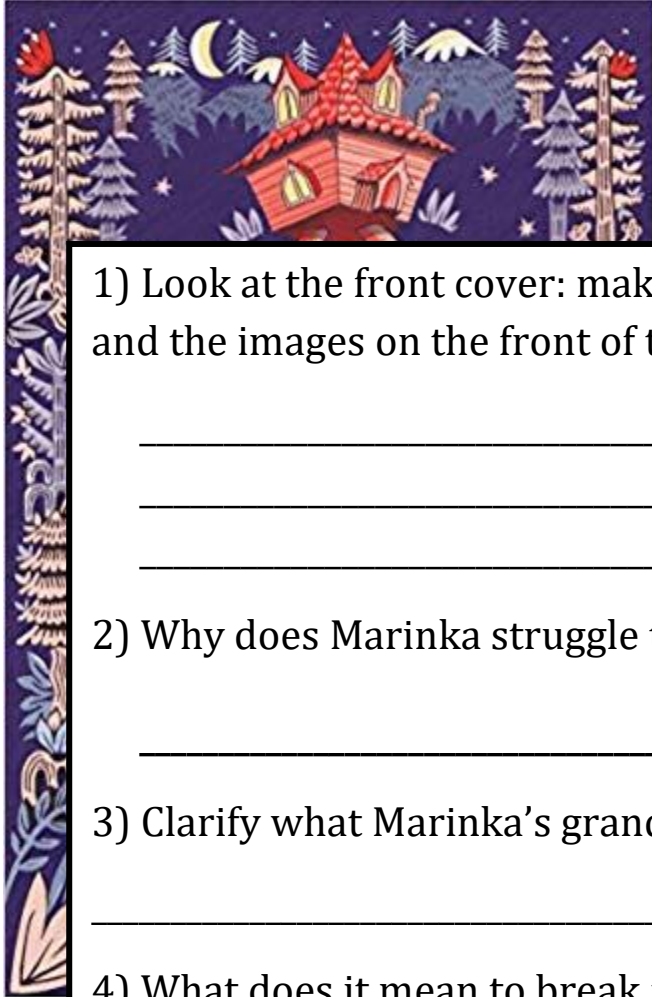
8) Find and copy a subordinate conjunction in the text.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

9) Find an adverb in the text.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

## Day nine



Marinka dreams of a normal life, where her house stays in one place long enough for her to make friends. But her house has chicken legs and moves on without warning.

For Marinka's grandmother is Baba Yaga, who guides spirits between this world and the next. Marinka longs to change her destiny and sets out to break free from her grandmother's footsteps, but her house has other ideas...

1) Look at the front cover: make a prediction about the story by using the title and the images on the front of the book.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

2) Why does Marinka struggle to make friends?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

3) Clarify what Marinka's grandmother does.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

4) What does it mean to break free from someone's footsteps?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1 marks)

Read the extract of chapter one, 'Prologue.'

4) Explain what the narrator's house does a few times a year.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

5) What is the same about where the house ends up?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

6) Infer how the character might feel when their house moves again. Explain your answer.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

7) Find evidence that the narrator is desperate to have company.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (2 marks)

**Grammar focus**

8) Find and copy a modal verb in the text.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

9) Find and copy the word which is close in meaning to the word 'bleak'.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)

10) Find an adverbial phrase in the text.

\_\_\_\_\_ (1 mark)