

'Journey to the River Sea' Comprehension

Use the text to help you answer the questions below.

💡 If you see a light bulb next to the question, you will need to think about your own thoughts or opinions, based on what you have read.

1. 'Miss Banks and her sister, Emily, believed that girls should be taught as thoroughly and carefully as boys' (p.1)

What does this tell you about the education the girls were receiving before the school opened?

Before the school opened the girls didn't receive the same quality of education as the boys did.

💡 2. The story is set in 1910. The school opened 30 years before that. In what year did it open?

1880

3. Why is it acceptable for Maia to chew her plait?

It was a day that was important for her and she was nervous about what was going to happen. She had seen her guardian enter the school so she knew she was going to find out about her future.

4. What is a 'hamlet'? (p.2)

A hamlet is a place where people live, that is smaller than a village, with only a few houses and not much else.

5. Why does Miss Banks think Maia is brave?

She thought she was brave because she had fought hard to overcome the death of her parents.

6. Why is the word 'home' in italics on p.3?

It emphasizes that she hasn't had a home for a long time and how excited she feels about it. It means a lot to her to have a home, rather than having to stay at school.

7. Why are the adults concerned about Maia's new life?

They know that her new life is taking her far away and to an unknown family.



💡8. How do you think Maia feels when all the girls are telling the class frightening things about the Amazon?

Appropriate answers, e.g. She is probably feeling a bit upset that the others are saying negative things, but also excited that she is able to say the positive things that are going to be there too.

9. Approximately how many weeks will it take Maia to reach Manaus?

6 weeks

10. Do you think Miss Minton is a popular person with people she meets? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Appropriate answers, e.g. I don't think Miss Minton is popular as she says that her sister's budgerigar is the only thing that will miss her. She also mentions that a family she worked for asked her to leave her job when she hit their child with her umbrella.

