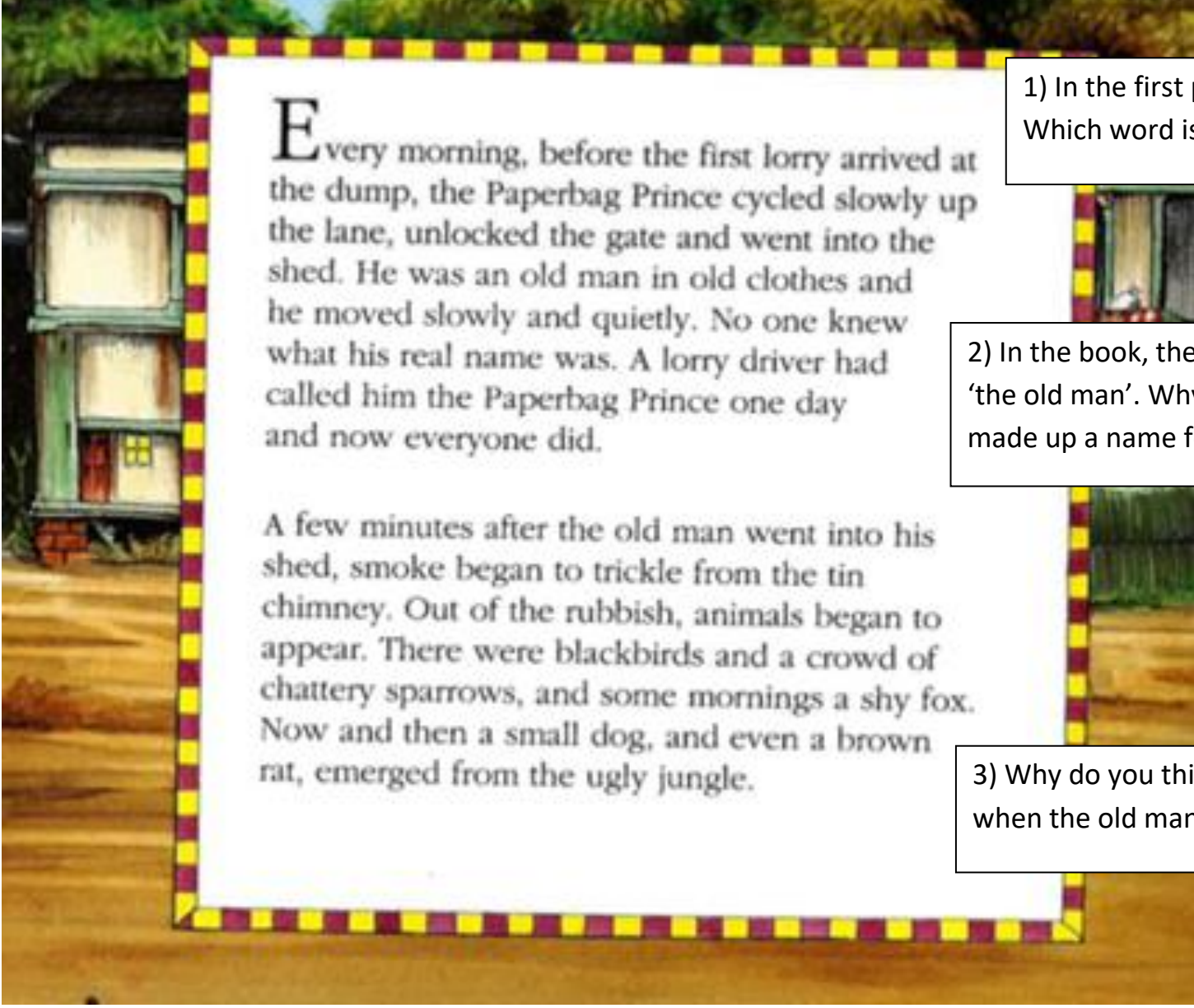


This week, we are focussing mainly on inference. Remember to use visualisation. Try to put yourself in the situation you are being asked about. Why would you do something? How would you feel?



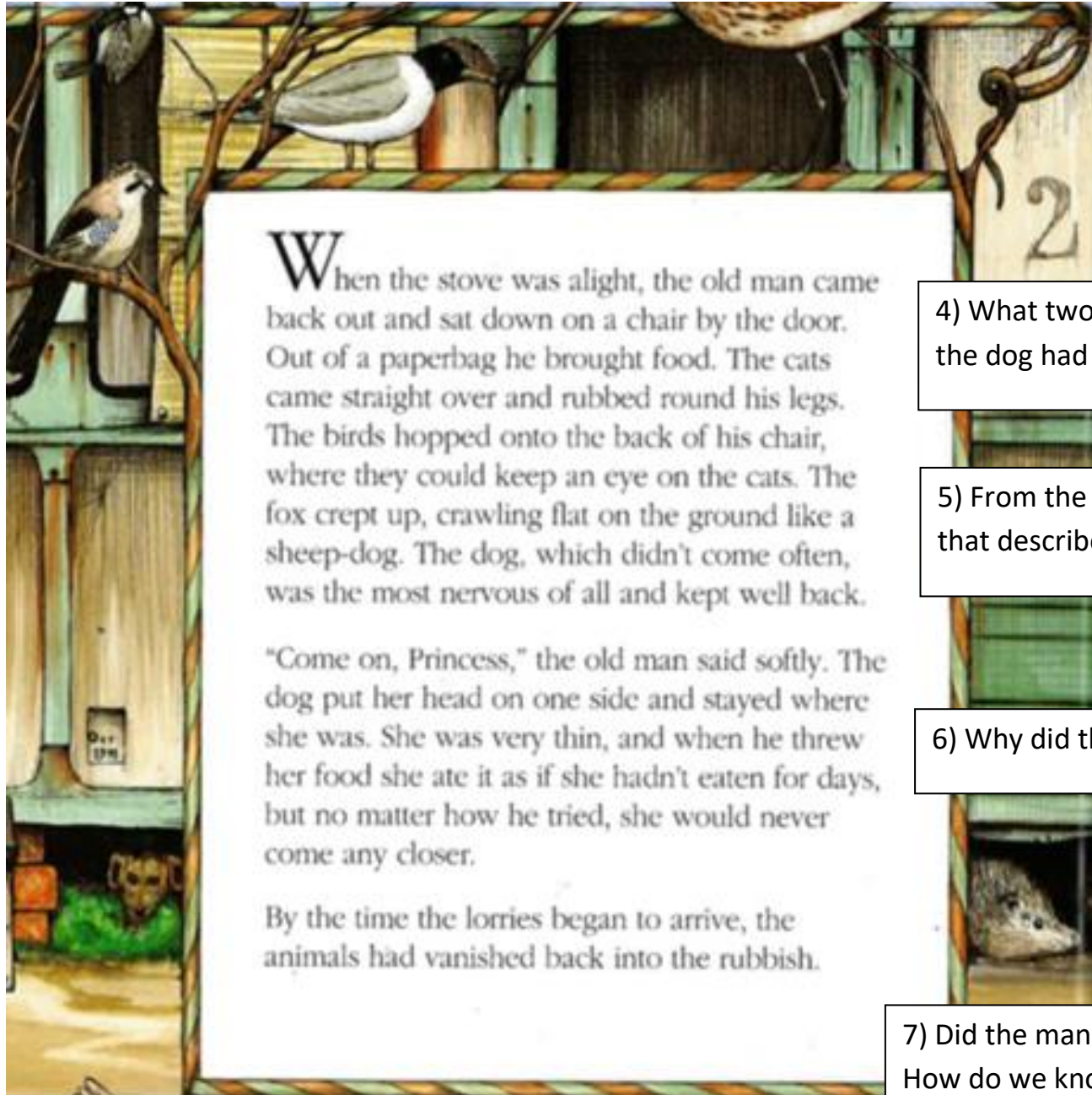
Every morning, before the first lorry arrived at the dump, the Paperbag Prince cycled slowly up the lane, unlocked the gate and went into the shed. He was an old man in old clothes and he moved slowly and quietly. No one knew what his real name was. A lorry driver had called him the Paperbag Prince one day and now everyone did.

A few minutes after the old man went into his shed, smoke began to trickle from the tin chimney. Out of the rubbish, animals began to appear. There were blackbirds and a crowd of chattering sparrows, and some mornings a shy fox. Now and then a small dog, and even a brown rat, emerged from the ugly jungle.

1) In the first paragraph, there is repetition. Which word is deliberately repeated? Why?

2) In the book, the main character is described as 'the old man'. Why do you think the lorry driver made up a name for him?

3) Why do you think the animals came out when the old man came?



When the stove was alight, the old man came back out and sat down on a chair by the door. Out of a paperbag he brought food. The cats came straight over and rubbed round his legs. The birds hopped onto the back of his chair, where they could keep an eye on the cats. The fox crept up, crawling flat on the ground like a sheep-dog. The dog, which didn't come often, was the most nervous of all and kept well back.

"Come on, Princess," the old man said softly. The dog put her head on one side and stayed where she was. She was very thin, and when he threw her food she ate it as if she hadn't eaten for days, but no matter how he tried, she would never come any closer.


By the time the lorries began to arrive, the animals had vanished back into the rubbish.

4) What two pieces of evidence suggest that the dog had been badly treated in the past?

5) From the first paragraph, write two verbs that describe how animals move.

6) Why did the animals leave?

7) Did the man want the dog to come to him? How do we know?



All day long lorries came, tipping black bags and broken bits of houses into untidy piles. Seagulls gathered to fight and flap over the mountains of new bags.

The old man poked through everything. He collected wood for his stove and old clothes to wear. He smoothed out old paperbags and piled them up inside wardrobes. Next to his shed there were twelve wardrobes all jammed tight with thousands of paperbags. That was how he got his name.

People seemed to throw stuff away for no reason at all. His carriage was full of last year's radios and beautiful coloured bottles. He had eighty-seven odd shoes, fourteen video recorders, and nineteen television sets, but he had no electricity nor any wish for it.

8) Where is the alliteration in paragraph one?

9) Was the old man proud?  
How do we know?

10) How did the old man become known as the paperbag prince?

11) Why do you think the radios were thrown away?

12) Why do you think the man collected videos if he had no electricity?





13) Look at the picture of the old man. We know that he wears clothes taken from a rubbish tip, and yet he looks neat and tidy.

What does this tell us about the about the man?

14) Why do you think the man is wearing two hats?

15) What do you think a skylark is? Why?

One day the lorries stopped coming.

The Paperbag Prince sat on his seat in the summer sunshine. A skylark was singing high in the air above him and along the lane it was silent. There was no thundery rumble of heavy lorries approaching. There was nothing, just the skylark. It was wonderful.

"Perhaps it's a holiday," he said to no one in particular, but it wasn't. He leaned back in his chair with his face tipped up towards the warm sun, and was soon fast asleep.

16) Was the man worried that the lorries did not come? How do we know?

17) Why did the man say, "Perhaps it's a holiday,"?

**A**t lunchtime someone shook him awake.

"Hello," said a young lady.

"What? Eh?" said the man, coming back to life. "Who are you?"

"I'm Sarah. I'm from the council."

"Where are the lorries?" asked the old man.

"That's why I'm here," said Sarah. She spoke loudly and slowly as if the old man was an idiot.

"There's no need to shout. I'm not an idiot."

"Of course you're not," Sarah shouted.

"The rubbish dump's been closed. We're going to burn all the rubbish in a new machine."

At last, thought the old man and said,  
"What about this place?"

"It's yours again," said Sarah, handing him some papers. "The council don't need it any more. You can have it back."

18) Was the young woman in a hurry?  
How do we know?

19) If the woman didn't think the man was an idiot, why might she have raised her voice?

20) Why does the man think, "At last." What does this tell us about him?

## Answers

- 1) Old. It stresses that the man is old and old fashioned/ not from this time.
- 2) To make fun of him. Because they don't know his name and it identifies him because of his habit of collecting bags.
- 3) The animals knew he brought food. They trusted him.
- 4) She kept back from him. She was very thin. She ate as if she hadn't eaten for days. She would never come any closer.
- 5) hopped, crept, came
- 6) The food was gone. They knew the trucks would come.
- 7) Yes. 'However hard he tried'
- 8) fight and flap
- 9) No, he wore rubbish.
- 10) He collected and saved paper bags.
- 11) People wanted the latest models. (last year's models)
- 12) He did not like things being wasted. He thought they had a value.
- 13) He cared about how he looked, but not what others thought about him.
- 14) To leave his hands free to pick up other things.
- 15) A bird. There is a lot about nature in the book. The skylark sings and it is flying.
- 16) No. he does not investigate, he just goes to sleep.
- 17) It was a reasonable guess why the lorries were not there.
- 18) She shakes him awake, rather than waiting for him.
- 19) She might have thought he was hard of hearing.
- 20) He has been waiting for/hoping that this would happen.