

## The Tunnel By Pie Corbett Comprehension Answers

1. Give two reasons why Henry can't see a thing and has to 'feel his way to bed?'

Reason 1: blackout curtains stop him from seeing

Reason 2: light was off

2. Explain what the reader learns from being told that the stairs were 'unfamiliar.'

The reader learns he hasn't been living there for very long. He has recently moved to the house.

3. Use a table to compare life in the tenement block and life in the village.

Various answers

You could have used the photo to describe life in the tenement block

Village: peaceful, quiet, friendly, calm, slow pace of life, fresh air etc

4. What fate awaited the pig and why did most families keep one?

The pig was going to be slaughtered (killed). Most people kept pigs for food.

5. Find three clues that suggest how Miss Hall treated Henry.

Clue 1: checked that he had all his things to go to school

Clue 2: walked him to school

Clue 3: Miss Hall hugged him and gently stroked his hair

6. Why did everyone during the afternoon lesson look at the ceiling?

Everyone looked at the ceiling because they heard the screaming engine of the bomber

7. Explain Henry's trick and why did he use it?

Henry's trick is to close his eyes and count backwards from one thousand. He learnt this trick in London. It helped to keep his mind busy so that he didn't get frightened.

8. Explain what the expression 'a wing and a prayer' might mean

People use the saying 'a wing and a prayer' when they want to emphasize how little chance of success something has, and that the person is relying on luck to be successful.

9. Why did the crash make the village famous?

People travelled from miles to see the wreckage caused by the crash because dogfights were a rare sight in the sleepy valleys.

10. Give three reasons why Henry decided to run away.

Reason 1: homesick – Henry missed his mum

Reason 2: strangeness of his environment

Reason 3: the dogfight – the crash, having to hide under the table

11. What does the phrase 'thin coat' suggest about Henry's mum?

The phrase 'thin coat' suggests that Henry's mum is poor and didn't have a warm coat to wear as she was standing on the platform.

12. Explain the final two lines.

Final line 1: Miss Hill was not angry with him. She treated Henry with kindness, hugging him and gently stroking his hair. Miss Hill was glad he was brought back to Winsley Cottage.

Final line 2: It says 'Inside, the kitchen lamp glowed.' It shows that there is a light at the end of the tunnel for Henry, even if only in a small way when he gets back to the village.

13. Why do you think the story is called The Tunnel?

The story is called The Tunnel because the main theme is centred around Henry being frightened or hating the dark. So we know that Henry will have to face the darkness in the story. He does so during the climax of the story when he is in the tunnel at Sapperton.