

Thursday 2nd July

Reading comprehension - A Jockey's Life

Read the poem and complete the questions below.

Warm up

1. On what might you see a jockey? _____
2. What is a jockey supposed to do? _____
3. Are jockeys known for being big, strong men or small and slim? _____
Why might this be important when competing in a horse race? _____

Essential Vocabulary

4. Write the word 'cooped'. Now underline the hidden word where a chicken lives.

_____ Draw one:

5. Is a chicken coop big or small, light or dark, spacious or cramped?

6. Why do you think grandad uses the word 'cooped up' before going for a walk?

7. Find the word 'stallion'. Is a stallion male or female, big and strong or small and weak? _____

8. Find the poem's punchline. How does this tell us the poem is quite old?

Main Questions

9. Who do you think enjoyed their adventures the most: the writer or his brother?

_____ Why do you think this? _____

10. How old do you think the writer was when Granddad told him this poem? _____

- (a) 0-5 years old
- (b) 5-6 years old
- (c) 10-11 years old
- (d) 12+ years old

Why do you think this? _____

11. Pretend you are granddad telling your grandchildren this poem. Practise reading the poem out loud.

12. Do you think the jockey believes life is easy or hard? _____

How do you know? _____

13. Do you think the jockey is good at his job? _____

How do you know? _____

14. Is the jockey somebody who gives up easily? _____

How do you know? _____

15. Who do you think the jockey is talking to in this poem? _____

16. What do you think he is trying to say? _____

17. Why do you think granddad had to explain this poem to his grandchildren? _____

- (a) they were not very bright
- (b) the poem used old language which they didn't understand

Reflection

18. Why did the poem 'A Jockey's Life' make granddad and the writer laugh?
