

Colour Blind

Look at the title. What do you think this poem will be about?

Read the poem and complete the questions below.

Warm up

Read paragraph 1.

1. Who is blind? _____ Has she always been blind? _____
2. What question does the poet ask her? _____

3. Why do you think the poet asks her this question? What do you think her answer will be? _____

Essential Vocabulary

4. Underline the word 'tender'. Is this a warm or cold word? _____
Is it hard or soft? _____ Is it with or without love? _____
5. What two words does Deborah use to describe the school shirt? _____

6. What does this tell us about (a) the shirt itself? _____
_____ (b) Deborah's mother and father? _____

7. Show someone at home how Deborah found the poet's eyes to close them. Was it fast or slow, gentle or rough? _____
8. Why do you think the poet describes her fingers as if they are walking? _____

9. What does this tell us about Deborah? _____

Main Questions

Read paragraph 2.

10. Despite being blind, is Deborah a happy person? _____ How do you know?

11. Does Deborah dream in colour, black or white? _____

How do you know? _____

Read paragraph 3.

12. Is the poet polite to Deborah? _____ How do you know? _____

Read paragraph 4.

13. How does Deborah describe the colour yellow? _____

14. Does she see all colours as positive? _____ Give an example _____

Read the last few lines.

15. Draw the poet's eyes when these lines are spoken. →

Are they open or closed?

16. What, then, do you think the final line means: to physically see, to understand or to experience? _____

Reflection

17. Do you think Deborah allows her disability to stop her experiencing life? _____

18. Close your eyes. Ask someone at home to give you an object. Touch it, smell it and listen to it. What colour do you think it is and why? _____

19. Has this poem helped you to understand visually impaired people better? _____

If so, how? _____