Reading Comprehension for Thursday 12th November

Skill Focus: Retrieving information

**BIG BEN GETS A BATH!**

People from all over the world come to London and visit Big Ben but one week this August, they would have seen an unusual sight!

Five highly-trained abseiling experts started cleaning all four clock faces on 18th August. It will be the clock’s first scrub for 4 years. Experts think it will take a week to complete the cleaning so long as the weather stays fine.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Big Ben’s real name is the Great Clock of Westminster which is at the top of the Elizabeth Tower (named after the Queen). The Elizabeth Tower is part of the Houses of Parliament.

The Houses of Parliament clock (nicknamed Big Ben), which was built in 1859, will also be checked for damage to the dials. Each clock face is made up of 312 pieces of opal glass, which must be treated carefully. The hands of the clock were made in copper because it is lighter than other metals.

To keep the climbing cleaners safe, the clock’s hands have been frozen in the midday position.

1. Where is Big Ben?
2. What year was Big Ben last cleaned in?
3. Over 250 pieces of glass are used in Big Ben. True or false?
4. What material was chosen to make the hands of the clock and why?
5. How have they made sure the cleaners will not be in danger?
6. How many days will it take to finish the job?
7. What is the correct name for the building the clock is at the top of?

Reading Comprehension for Friday 13th November

Skill focus: Making inferences

A Busy Morning

“Ouchhhh!” screamed Toby. I ran into the living room to see Toby lying on the hard, wooden floor, tears rolling down his chubby, little cheeks. Behind me, I heard my mum walk into the room.

“What have you been doing to Toby?!” she shouted, her face turning a deep red. “Go upstairs; I haven’t got time for this today.”

“But-“ I started to explain.

“Upstairs. NOW,” Mum ordered. “And finish your packing, we need to leave for the airport in 20 minutes.”

I stomped up the stairs to my room. It wasn’t fair! Angrily, I started throwing things into my suitcase: sunglasses, a swimming costume, shorts, flip-flops.

1. How is Mum feeling when she walks into the room? How can you tell?
2. What does Mum think has happened and why?
3. What do you think the relationship is between Toby and the narrator?
4. Why do you think Mum says “I haven’t got time for this today”? What is she getting ready for?
5. Where do you think the family might be going?
6. Explain what clues there are to where the family are going.