

**Wednesday's Activities:**

1. **Speed Reading:** Set the timer for 5 minutes. Can you read the text and answer the questions in the given time?
2. **Practise your spellings.**
3. Why not explore a fun website and have a go at revising word classes. Go to <http://www.redkid.net/madlibs/>.

## Rollercoasters

9 The rollercoaster has been a fashionable ride for many  
17 years, with one of the first recorded rollercoasters  
26 opening in Paris in 1817. Historically, it is believed  
35 that the rollercoaster was inspired by sledging on the  
43 icy Russian Mountains. The popularity of the coaster  
53 did not spread initially. It wasn't until 1884 that the  
60 first notable and highly admired rollercoaster was  
70 opened in New York, USA, with a runaway train style  
80 ride. The coaster ran on wooden tracks and was an  
82 instant success.

91 Today, a rollercoaster track can either be a complete  
98 circuit or a shuttle-track, allowing the cars —  
106 individual or multiple — to run in both directions.

110 Modern rollercoasters are, of  
114 course, much faster than  
118 the original models and  
121 safety standards have  
123 notably increased  
125 since then.



## Quick Questions

1. When did the first well-known rollercoaster open? Where?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Find and copy two words which tell you that rollercoasters are well-liked.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How do rollercoasters of the past compare with the modern day?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Summarise the information about the original rollercoasters in 20 words or less.  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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### Extension:

## Help!

10 The trees were like inky giants menacingly looming over  
17 the house with twisted, reaching arms. Their decaying  
25 leaves rustled loudly and the air smelled damp.

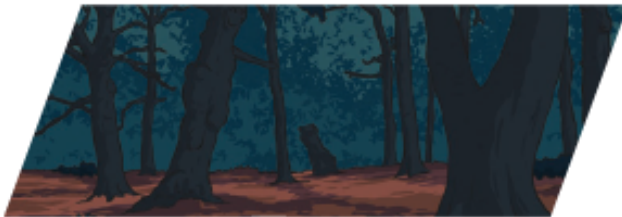
35 Lucy arrived at the door. Her chest tightened. Her eyes  
44 widened. She lifted her shaking, clammy hand to knock  
55 on the door but before she could touch it, it creaked  
56 open...

61 They wouldn't find her here.

70 Slowly edging across the threshold, her heart began to  
78 pound. Thoughts were racing wildly around her head  
87 as she tentatively peered into the darkness, trying to  
98 see if the coast was clear. After moments of silence and  
107 stillness, she had reassured herself; judging by the state  
116 of the house, nobody had ventured there in years.

117 Relief.

126 Then, from the floors above, a small, almost inaudible  
130 voice called, "Help... me..."



## Quick Questions

1. Where did the voice come from?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Define: inaudible.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was her 'heart pounding'? Give two reasons.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What do you predict Lucy will do next? Use the text to support your answer.  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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