



Year Level: Year 3/4
Genre: Biography

The Escape King

Harry Houdini did his first magic trick when he was just six years old. He made a pea suddenly appear in a cup.

When he was only nine years old, Harry joined a circus. Soon he was doing amazing escape tricks. People he didn't know came and tied him up. They sat and watched as he freed himself from the knots.

The next job for Harry was working with a locksmith. He learned how to pick all sorts of locks. Knowing how to pick locks helped him to do even more amazing tricks, and very soon he was called the "Escape King".

Once he got out of a coffin which was buried under the ground. Another time he got into a wooden box which had metal tape all around it. The box was then dropped into the sea. Harry only took 59 seconds to get out.

QUESTIONS:

Main Idea (MI)

1) This story was about...

- a) a man who was a great locksmith.
- b) a boy who joined a circus and became famous.
- c) a boy who grew up to become famous for escaping.
- d) a man who could pick any lock.

Facts and Details (FD)

2) How old was Harry when he did his first trick?

- a) ten
- b) seven
- c) sixteen
- d) six

Sequencing(S)

3) What happened to Harry after he turned nine?

- a) He ran away from home.
- b) He got a job making locks.
- c) He joined a circus.
- d) He got a job tying people up.

Cause and Effect (CE)

4) Learning how to pick locks was helpful because...

- a) Harry could open every door.
- b) Harry kept his job with the locksmith.
- c) Harry was able to invent new and stronger locks.
- d) Harry learnt better tricks.

Words in Context (WC)

5) The word 'pick' is used in the text. This means...

- a) to scrape.
- b) to annoy.
- c) to open.
- d) to point.

Predicting (P)

6) Why do you think Harry was called the 'Escape King'?

- a) He was very good at escaping from many places.
- b) He was very good at disappearing.
- c) He could pick locks quickly.
- d) He liked to be buried.

Conclusions and Inferences (CI)

7) You can tell from the story that Harry was good at escaping because...

- a) he could tie good knots.
- b) he only took 59 minutes to get out of a box.
- c) he was able to free people quickly.
- d) he only took 59 seconds to get out of a box.

Sequencing(S)

8) The first trick Harry did was...

- a) making a pea disappear.
- b) making a box disappear.
- c) making a pea appear in a box.
- d) making a pea appear in a cup.

Predicting (P)

9) Why did people like watching Harry escape?

- a) They were entertained.
- b) They thought he couldn't perform the trick.
- c) They didn't believe him and thought he would fail.
- d) They wanted to know how he did his trick.

Fact and Opinion (FO)

10) Which of these tells what someone thinks or feels?

- a) Harry Houdini joined a circus.
- b) Harry Houdini was the greatest escape artist.
- c) Harry Houdini was the "Escape King."
- d) Harry Houdini did amazing tricks.