

Mr Gum and the Biscuit Billionaire

Mr Gum and the Biscuit Billionaire is the second book in the *Mr Gum* series by Andy Stanton. This extract is taken from the start of the book, and Polly, the main character, is feeling bored. She's desperate to go on an adventure, but she's stuck in the town of Lamonio Bibber.

It all started late one afternoon in the peaceful little town of Lamonio Bibber. Summer was almost at an end and the day stretched out long and lazy like a huge glossy panther made of time. The birds chirped in the trees, the rabbits chirped in their burrows, and a fox walked along the railway tracks whistling 'Greensleeves' and thinking fondly of a vixen he had once loved.

Up on Boaster's Hill a little girl sat reading a book called 'Cobbler Wins The Prizes'. Now this little girl's name was Polly and she was the sort of girl you could be friends with. She was brilliant at running and jumping and scabbing up her knees and she didn't have no time for nonsense, OK? She was brave and honest and true and when she laughed the sunlight went splashing off her pretty teeth like diamonds in search of adventure.

But where were the laughter and diamondy teeth now? Nowhere, because Polly was bored.

"'Cobbler Wins The Prizes' is full of escapades but that's just a book," she complained to herself. "Nothin' exciting never happens 'round here. An' that whopper dog Jake never even comes 'round to play no more!"

For alas, it was true. Polly hadn't seen big Jake all summer long. Oh, how she missed riding on his huge furry back and pretending he was a horse or a spaceship!

'Jakey!' she called hopefully, in case he just happened to be nearby, playing cards with a dormouse or something — but there was no answering woof to be heard.

'Sigh,' sighed Polly with a sigh. 'First no adventures an' now no Jakey. It's well unfair.'

And with that she lay back in the long grass. The hot sun beat down and soon she was drifting, drifting away...

An extract from *Mr Gum and the Biscuit Billionaire* by Andy Stanton.

1 What is unusual about the animals' behaviour in the first paragraph?

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 1 mark

2 Give one reason why Polly is feeling bored.

..... 1 mark

3 What do you think the word "escapades" means in line 14? Circle one.

a. magic tricks b. adventures c. jokes d. games 1 mark

4 Read what Polly says on lines 15-16. What do you notice about the way some of the words are written? Why do you think the author has done this?

..... 2 marks

5 Why do you think the author repeats the word "sigh" on line 21?

..... 1 mark

6 Do you think you'd like to be friends with Polly? Explain your answer.

..... 2 marks

7 Would you like to read the rest of this book? Explain your answer.

..... 2 marks

Total out of 10