

# The magician's nephew

These questions will help you practise:

- ★ understanding words in context
- ★ identifying how language choices enhance meaning
- ★ identifying key details
- ★ explaining inferences
- ★ identifying how information is related.

First came the hansom. There was no one in the driver's seat. On the roof – not sitting, but standing on the roof – swaying with superb balance as it came at full speed round the corner with one wheel in the air – was Jadis the Queen of Queens and the Terror of Charn. Her teeth were bared, her eyes shone like fire, and her long hair streamed out behind her like a comet's tail. She was flogging the horse without mercy. Its nostrils were wide and red and its sides were spotted with foam. It galloped madly up to the front door, missing the lamp-post by an inch, and then reared up on its hind legs. The hansom crashed into the lamp-post and shattered into several pieces. The Witch, with a magnificent jump, had sprung clear just in time and landed on the horse's back. She settled herself astride and leaned forward, whispering things in its ear. They must have been things meant not to quiet it but to madden it. It was on its hind legs again in a moment, and its neigh was like a scream; it was all hoofs and teeth and eyes and tossing mane. Only a splendid rider could have stayed on its back.

Before Digory had recovered his breath, a good many other things began to happen. A second hansom dashed up close behind the first; out of there jumped a fat man in a frock-coat and a policeman. Then came a third hansom with two more policemen in it. After it came about twenty people (mostly errand boys) on bicycles, all ringing their bells and letting out cheers and cat-calls. Last of all came a crowd of people on foot, all very hot with running, but obviously enjoying themselves. Windows shot up in all the houses of that street and a housemaid or a butler appeared at every front door. They wanted to see the fun.

Meanwhile an old gentleman had begun to struggle shakily out of the ruins of the first hansom. Several people rushed forward to help him; but as one pulled him one way and another another, perhaps he would have got out quite as quickly on his own. Digory guessed that the old gentleman must be Uncle Andrew but you couldn't see his face; his tall hat had been bashed down over it.

C.S. Lewis



1 What is a *hansom*?

Tick **one**.

- a butler ☐  
a horse ☐  
a driver ☐  
a horse-drawn carriage ☐

1  
(1 mark)

2 The sentence beginning *Her teeth were bared* contains descriptions about Jadis.

a) **Find** and **copy one** of them.

\_\_\_\_\_

2a  
(1 mark)

b) What does this description suggest about how Jadis looks?

\_\_\_\_\_

2b  
(1 mark)

3 *The Witch, with a magnificent jump, had sprung clear just in time and landed on the horse's back.*

Underline the group of words that shows the Witch was under pressure to land.

3  
(1 mark)

4 The horse was very wild.

Give **two** details from the text that support this statement.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

4  
(2 marks)

5 Do you think the queen was a good rider?

Explain **two** reasons, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5  
(3 marks)

**The magician's nephew (pages 18–19)**

**1** 1 mark – a horse-drawn carriage

**2** a) 1 mark – Eyes shone like fire; Long hair streamed out behind her like a comet's tail.

b) 1 mark – Jadis' eyes have an intense sparkling colour in the same way as the colourful flames of a fire sparkle and shine.

Her hair flows behind her in the same way as a comet's tail streams out behind it.

**3** 1 mark – just in time

**4** 2 marks – 1 mark each for two of the following: Its nostrils were wide and red./ Its sides were covered in foam./ It galloped madly./ It reared up on its hind legs./ Its neigh was like a scream.

**5** Award 3 marks for two reasons with reference to the text.

Award 2 marks for one reason with text evidence or two reasons without evidence.

Award 1 mark for one reason without evidence.

Standing on the roof as the carriage moved at high speed which means she has good balance and control./ Superb balance on the moving carriage./ She jumped from the carriage as it crashed and onto the horse's back./ She stood on the roof./ She jumped onto the horse's back.