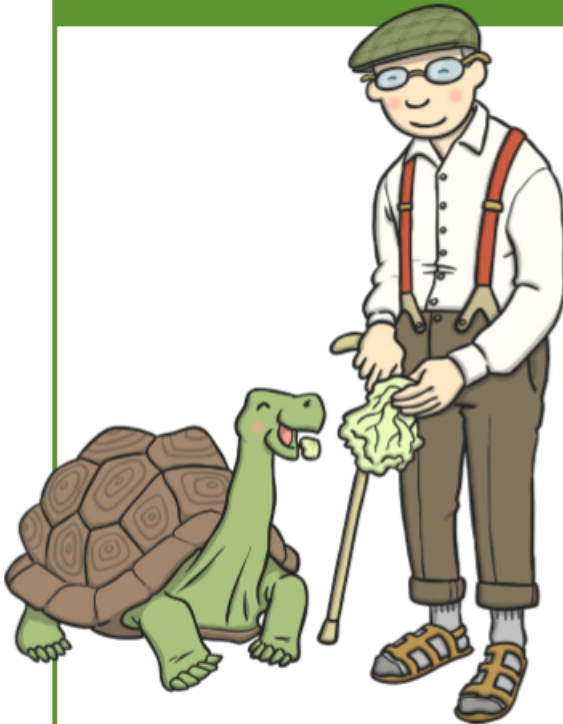Read this text and answer the questions at the end. You will also use this text for your writing lesson.

George the Giant Tortoise

George was a giant tortoise. He belonged to a lovely owner called Oliver, who looked after him very well, although before that he had belonged to Oliver's Grandpa Jack for many years. He was quite a rare type of tortoise and that made him very special.

Some people said George was spoilt but he didn't ask for much really. All he liked to eat was grass and hay, with a few dandelions now and then, or the occasional lettuce. He did have his own shed, that Grandpa Jack had made when he was alive, which even had its own heating! Most of the time, George lived in his shed but he loved to wander lazily around the garden sometimes when Oliver was playing on the lawn.

George thought that Oliver was the best owner any tortoise could wish for. Well, maybe joint-first in a best-tortoise-owner competition, as Grandpa Jack had been an extremely kind, caring owner too. In fact, George was very keen to show how grateful he was to his owner, and to prove that he was the best pet that Oliver could wish for.

As summer approached, the perfect opportunity came for George: the annual village fair would be holding the 'Perfect Pet Competition'. He was delighted. He would show everyone what a great pet he was and Oliver would be so proud. However, when Oliver read the leaflet aloud, George was devastated. 'Open to dogs, cats, rabbits and hamsters. No tortoises allowed'.

'Just furry creatures?' thought George. 'How unfair!' So he decided he wasn't going to let those rules stop him. With the village fair only a week away, the giant tortoise began to dig a hole behind his shed. Slowly, the hole became bigger and closer to the fence at the back of the garden. Eventually, the hole became a tunnel but each night, George would return to his shed before anyone noticed he was gone.
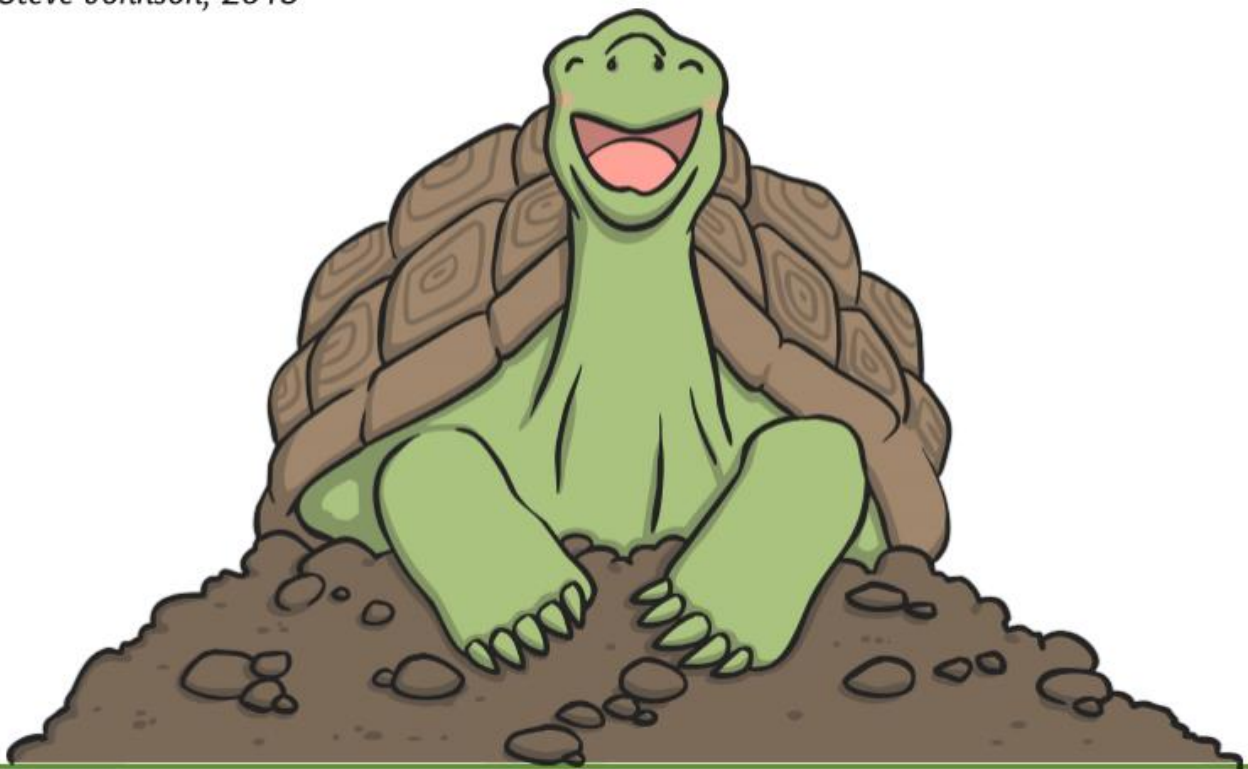
When the day of the fair arrived, the first competition entrant Harry the hamster had gone missing. Escaping from his ball, he was last seen behind the sofa and now couldn't be found. Only three more animals were left in the competition. Unfortunately, Rachel the rabbit had spotted the fruit and vegetable show and was taken home after eating her way through two record-breaking carrots, a large lettuce and Mrs Earnshaw's prize cucumber.

Oliver sat in the front row watching as the last two animals were brought onto the stage. Daisy the dog walked on with her owner from the right hand side. Colin the cat strolled in from the left. As soon as they saw each other, Colin clawed his way straight up the stage curtains. Daisy dashed below, barking madly at Colin. As each of their owners chased after their pets, Oliver laughed and thought how much better his own pet was.

At that precise moment, a small mound of muddy soil began to rise up from the ground in front of the stage. Everyone stopped in amazement to look, wondering what was beneath it. Slowly — of course, it had to be slowly — two small feet pushed their way out of the soil. Close behind came George's little round face, as he pulled himself up through the surface of the ground into full view.

Oliver leapt over to his pet with a smile as everyone burst into a round of applause. One of the judges stepped forward and placed a big blue rosette onto George's shell, with a gold Number 1 in the middle. Underneath it read: Perfect Pet Competition Winner!

Steve Johnson, 2015

<u>Questions</u>

When answering the questions, remember to underline key words and read around them. Read the sentences the words are in and the sentences before and after if you need to. Think carefully about what they questions are asking you to do. Where there is a choice of answers, check all possible answers before making a decision.

1. Who was Oliver?
   a) A giant turtle
   b) A giant
   c) A cat
   d) An owner

2. Which one of these did George like eat?
   Which words tell you that this discovery was amazing? Tick **two.**
   a) tulips
   b) biscuits
   c) grass and hay
   d) sandwiches

3. Who was Jack?
   a) The tortoise
   b) Oliver's friend
   c) Grandpa
   d) A neighbour

4. *He was quite a rare type of tortoise…*
   Which phrase is closest in meaning to *quite a rare type of tortoise?*
   a) Quite an unusual type of tortoise
   b) Quite a strange type of tortoise
   c) Quite a good type of tortoise

5. Where did George live?

6. How did George feel towards his owner?
   a) Angry
   b) Patient
   c) Grateful
   d) Unhappy

7. Look at the text again.
   Find and **copy** the information from the text to complete the fact file below about George.
   a. Type of Tortoise
   b. Owner
   c. Favourite Foods

8. Who could not enter the 'Perfect Pet Competition'?

9. Look at the paragraph beginning *As summer approached…*

   Find and copy a word from this paragraph that means yearly.

10. Describe how George managed to enter the competition. Give **two** ways.

11. Look at the paragraph beginning '*Just furry creatures?'…*

    Find and copy one phrases which shows that George was not supposed to be out in the garden alone.

12. Look at the paragraph beginning *When the day of the fair arrived…*
    Find and copy one phrases in the paragraph that suggests something special or unusual.

13. Order these events as they happen in the story.
    a) George emerges in front of the stage.
    b) The 'Perfect Pet Competition' is advertised.
    c) George begins to dog a hole.
    d) George wins a big blue rosette.

14. *Everyone burst into a round of applause.* (Paragraph 9).
    Explain why everyone started clapping. Give **two reasons**.

15. **Find and copy** a phrases that tells us that Oliver was keen to see his pet at the end of this story.

You can also use the following website and login details to read different books. You could also talk to somebody at home about what you have read or write about them as a book review.

epic!

Class Sign In Instructions

Laptop or Chromebook

Have your students open their web browser and

1. Go to **www.getepic.com/students**

2. Sign in with your class code **pqr4175**

3. Select their name and they're in!

iOS/Android

Have your students open the Epic! app and

1. Click on **"Have an account? Sign In"** then click on **"Students & Educators"**

2. Sign in with your class code **pqr4175**

3. Select their name and they're in!