Reading: a short story

Englisch · Klasse 7/8 · mittel · Lösungen

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Name: _____ Datum: _____

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The Last Bus

Jamal checked his phone: 22:47. The last bus left at 22:50, and the stop was two streets away. He ran. Behind him, footsteps — quick, then quicker. He didn't turn round. At the corner, the bus was already there, doors open. He jumped in, breathing hard, and only then looked back. A girl of about his age stood at the stop, holding out his wallet. „You dropped this," she said, just as the doors closed.

1 Answer the questions in full sentences.

Use the simple past, like the story.

a) Why is Jamal in a hurry?
Because the last bus leaves in three minutes and the stop is two streets away.

b) What does he hear behind him, and how does he react?
He hears footsteps that get quicker. He doesn't turn round and keeps running.

c) Who was following him and why?
A girl of his age was following him because he had dropped his wallet.

d) What is the problem at the end of the story?
The doors close before he can take his wallet — it stays with the girl.

2 Find the words in the text.

Read the text again slowly for each question.

a) a word that means „ran fast and jumped into" *jumped in*

b) a word for the thing you keep money in *wallet*

c) two words that show Jamal is afraid *e.g. He didn't turn round. / breathing hard*

d) the sentence that changes the whole story *„You dropped this," she said, just as the doors closed.*

3 Explain the effect. Write one or two sentences each.

Think about suspense: what the reader knows and what the reader expects.

a) Why does the author write „quick, then quicker" instead of „the footsteps got faster"?
The short, repeated words sound like the footsteps themselves. The reader feels the speed and the fear.

b) Why don't we learn until the end who the girl is?
The reader shares Jamal's fear. The surprise at the end only works because we didn't know.

c) What do you think Jamal feels when the doors close?
Relief that he is safe, then shock and probably embarrassment: he ran away from someone who wanted to help.

4 Write what happens next in five to seven sentences.

Keep the tense (simple past) and the tone (short sentences, suspense).

a) Does he get his wallet back? What does the girl do?
Own text. Check: simple past, five to seven sentences, a clear ending.