Do the preparation exercise first. Then read the text and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a–h next to the numbers 1–8.

1.....	tracks	a.	a ride at the fair with things to make you afraid
2.....	candyfloss	b.	the metal 'road' that a train travels on
3.....	to disappear	c.	to move very fast, from side to side, continuously
4.....	heat	d.	for all of time, for always
5.....	to vibrate	e.	something that no one can understand or explain
6.....	a mystery	f.	to stop being there
7.....	ghost train	g.	the noun of 'hot'
8.....	forever	h.	a sweet food made with sugar, usually pink or white, that you buy at the fair

Claire is not afraid of the ghost train ... at first.

'The ghost train is for children!' said Claire.

'People look afraid when they leave,' said Peter. He tried to pull her to The World's Best Ghost Train. 'It's fun!'

'They know it's not real, so why are they afraid? I'm going home.'

'OK,' Peter said. He bought a ticket for himself.

But there was one thing left to do at the fair – buy a candyfloss. It was very difficult to finish a candyfloss. They were too big and too sweet. It's possible, she thought, as she paid for the big pink sugar cloud. And tonight I'm going to eat a whole one. For that, she needed time. I'll walk home by the train tracks, she decided.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

It wasn't very dark yet. Of course, Claire knew not to walk on train tracks – it was dangerous. Last year some boys in the city died playing on the tracks. But there was nothing dangerous here because there were no trains in Fellside. There wasn't even a train station. The tracks just finished.

It was a mystery, but an old one and nobody thought about it now. They were just there, and that was it. Claire thought about another mystery. Where does candyfloss go when you eat it? It disappeared in her mouth so fast. There was a lot left. She needed to walk slower.

The tracks vibrated as she walked. She could feel it and then she could hear it too. It was getting stronger and louder. She looked back. A round light, small but getting bigger, was coming. It wasn't possible!

A train.

Claire fell to the right, off the track. The train passed her, empty, and then slowed and stopped.

Where is it going? she thought. The tracks end soon.

A man put his head out of the window and shouted. 'What are you doing? It's dangerous on the tracks!'

'But … there aren't any trains!' Claire said. Maybe there were no trains before, but there was a train now. It's not real, she told herself.

'This isn't real,' she said. But the heat coming from the train felt real.

'You can't walk on the tracks,' the driver said. 'You have to come on the train.'

'No!'

'Are you afraid?' he asked. 'It isn't real, remember? So what are you afraid of?' They were her own words to Peter.

She didn't want to, but she climbed the stairs of the train, candyfloss in hand.

'Sit,' he said, and the train slowly started moving again.

'Where are we going?' Claire asked.

'End of the line,' he said.

'Oh!' That wasn't far because the tracks ended near here.

She didn't want the candyfloss. It takes forever to eat it all, she thought. It's not possible.

'How long until we get there?' Claire shouted, because it was noisy inside the train too.

'The time it takes to eat all the candyfloss,' the driver of the real ghost train said. He turned his face. But now there was no face. There was nothing under his cap at all. 'Forever.'

Nicola Prentis

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

1.	Claire is afraid of the ghost train at the fair.	*True*	*False*
2.	Claire buys her first candyfloss.	*True*	*False*
3.	No one knows why there's a train track in Fellside.	*True*	*False*
4.	The train feels real.	*True*	*False*
5.	Claire eats all of the candyfloss.	*True*	*False*
6.	The driver is going to take Claire home.	*True*	*False*

2. Check your understanding: multiple choice

Circle the best answer to these questions.

1. Claire walks home by the train tracks because ...

   a. she wants a change. b. it's faster. c. it's longer.

2. When the train comes, she ...

   a. hears it before she sees it. b. sees it before she hears it. c. can't see it.

3. Claire doesn't finish her candyfloss because ...

   a. it's not real. b. it's not possible. c. she doesn't have time.

4. The train driver ...

   a. is real. b. is a ghost. c. works for the fair.

LIVEWORKSHEETS