

A Hot Air Balloon Ride



B1 PET Reading

Part 3

5 Questions

For each question, choose the correct answer.

A Hot Air Balloon Ride

It was a clear morning, not a cloud in sight nor a breath of wind. We arrived at the open field, a large, colourful piece of material lay flat on the ground. Attached to it, a giant looking picnic basket. A feeling of excitement and fear rushed through me. What a way to spend a Sunday!

We stepped into the giant basket, a flame was lit and slowly the colourful material lying on the floor started to rise and take shape. It slowly lifted our picnic basket into the air. Up we floated into the early morning sky, the field below us getting smaller until it looked like a box that I could hold in my hand.

We got to watch the sunrise from our basket in the sky. We saw the sky change from pink to orange and then to a perfect blue. Now that it was a lot lighter and we could see just how far up we actually were, our stomachs did a little nervous spin and we held on tight to the edge of the basket!

We soon got used to the feeling of flying in the open air, and that's when a wave of calm filled my body. My shoulders dropped and I breathed evenly. My head felt clear as I realised there was no sound of car engines rushing to work, school bells ringing, or noisy classmates talking in the hallways. It felt like time was standing still, everything was frozen.



The balloon continued to carry us through the sky, now our big neighbourhood looked so tiny lying beneath us! As we travelled we could see all the cars on the busy roads, and all the houses, shops, schools and buildings that make up my neighbourhood. I could even see my house! Its red roof and our soccer goals in the garden.

Then it was time to return back to land. The balloon started to push us down and I couldn't help but feel a similar sinking feeling in myself too. I was sad that the ride was over and that I had to go back to such a busy, loud day. I had really enjoyed the peace of being up in the sky. It was a really wonderful experience and I will always try to remember that feeling of calm that I had in the hot air balloon.

- 1** How do we know that it was a clear morning?
- A. The sky was a perfect blue.
 - B. It was quite windy.
 - C. The sky turned from pink to orange.
 - D. There was not a cloud in the sky.

- 2** What made our stomachs feel nervous?
- A. We were spinning.
 - B. We could see how high we were.
 - C. The sky was changing.
 - D. We felt calm.

- 3** Why did it feel like time had stopped?
- A. There was no noise.
 - B. They weren't moving in the sky.
 - C. They were used to the feeling of flying.
 - D. The ground was frozen.

- 4** What sorts of things make up their neighbourhood?
- A. The plants and animals that live in an area.
 - B. My house and its garden.
 - C. My school and all of the people in it.
 - D. The buildings and roads in my area.

- 5** The storyteller feels a sinking feeling because
- A. they were coming back down to the ground.
 - B. they felt sick on the way down.
 - C. they didn't want to go back to a noisy day.
 - D. they never wanted the ride to end!

Answers

- 1 D
- 2 B
- 3 A
- 4 D
- 5 C