



## Reading

### *A Foggy Night*

Not long ago, Jason Walker, 32, decided to go to the Harbour Cinema to see a film called 'Daredevil'. He had offered to take his wife but she had preferred to stay at home to watch her favourite programme on television.

Jason parked his car in the yard at the shipping office where he worked. He preferred to do that rather than park outside and risk vandals damaging his precious car. The walk to the cinema took only a couple of minutes, and he thoroughly enjoyed the film. In his mind, he was the hero performing all manner of daring feats.

When Jason came out of the cinema, he was annoyed to see that a dense mist was rolling into the harbour and across the docks. With some difficulty, he found his car, got in it and prepared to leave. He leaned forward to peer through the mist. As he did so, he accidentally sounded the horn on his car. To his surprise, he heard an echoing horn from somewhere in the vicinity. He pressed the horn again to see whether the echo was caused by the mist, by another car or by something else. A few seconds later, an echoing noise filtered through the mist.

Jason was puzzled. He scratched his head thoughtfully and concluded that a sailor on a ship out in the harbour must be trying to outdo him. He pressed his horn again and held it down for a few seconds.

'That will teach him!' he thought to himself. To his surprise and annoyance, there was an even louder and longer blast in reply.

'All right. You win!' he thought. 'I'm going home.'

Jason gave one final blast on his horn and backed his car out of the parking space. Then he had the biggest shock of his life. As he turned the steering-wheel, he heard a deafening grinding and crashing noise. The bow of a large freighter loomed up through the mist ahead of him and became firmly embedded in the quay.

Jason turned white with shock and then red with embarrassment when he realised what had probably happened. The captain of a ship had mistaken the sound of his car horn for some kind of signal guiding him into the docks. He wondered if the freighter had risked the mist to pick up a perishable cargo. Sometimes ships tried to get away with entering or leaving the harbour without a pilot. An experienced local pilot would never have tried to dock in mist and darkness. A dozen thoughts raced through his mind as he wondered what to do. He realised that the security guard at the company yard had seen and recognised him.

Men shouted down at him from the ship, and Jason attempted to explain what had happened. Then a thought struck him, so he drove off and sped home.

'I wonder ... I wonder ...' he thought as he neared his home. 'If I'm wrong, I'm in deep trouble ...'

Jason parked his car outside his house, opened the door and rushed in. His wife moved to greet him but all he said was, 'Hi! Urgent!' and rushed to his desk. He fumbled through piles of paper until he found what he wanted: the insurance policy for his car. He scanned the policy and then sighed with relief.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

English Language

Comprehension – A Foggy Night

Instructions: Answer all questions.

1. Jason Walker offered to take his wife to the cinema. What was her response?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1pt)

2. How might vandals damage Walker's car?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1pt)

3. In line 8, suggest a reason why the fog annoyed Walker.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ (1pt)

4. In line 16, how could a sailor be trying to 'outdo' Walker?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1pt)

5. In line 18, what does 'That' refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_ (1pt)

6. What made Walker think that there was no pilot on the freighter?

\_\_\_\_\_ (2pts)

B. Match the underlined words with their meanings by placing the correct letter on the line.

| Words used in the story                                 | Meaning                        |
|---|--------------------------------|
| _____ risk <u>vandals</u> damaging his ... car (line 5) | a. read quickly                |
| _____ a <u>perishable</u> cargo (line 28)               | b. took legal action against   |
| _____ <u>fumbled</u> through piles of paper (line 39)   | c. refused                     |
| _____ He <u>scanned</u> the policy (line 40)            | d. hooligans who damage things |
| _____ legally <u>obligated</u> to pay (line 42)         | e. searched in a clumsy way    |
| _____ the <u>designated</u> automobile (line 43)        | f. read quickly                |
| _____ the owners ..... <u>sued</u> Jason (line 44)      | g. appointed, nominated        |
| _____ the company ... <u>declined</u> to (line 46)      | h. responsible                 |

