



# Bus, Boat or Box - Schools of the World

## Comprehension Questions

1. Why might the author begin by questioning the reader about their school experience?

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2. The author gives several reasons for needing an alternative to a school building. Give three of these.

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3. How does the author depict first-world education as different from education in the developing world?

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4. How does the author show us that platform schools have been successful?

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5. Give one example of an educational provision that has developed to deal with a very specific problem.

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6. Why might the writer start the first paragraph after the 'Flooded and Bombed' subheading with asking the reader to imagine being in a natural disaster?

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7. According to the writer, why is it important for students and teachers to receive the 'School in a Box' as soon as possible?

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8. What is one innovation used in the boat schools programme?

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9. Name two difficulties experienced by those running the Cave School in China.

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10. What does the author mean by 'the darkest days' of the Holocaust?

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# Bus, Boat or Box - Schools of the World

## Comprehension - Answers

1. Why might the author begin by questioning the reader about their school experience?  
**Answers may vary here but pupils should be thinking about engagement of the reader from the offset of the article, introducing the subject of the text, speaking directly to an audience of students rather than adults.**
2. The author gives several reasons for needing an alternative to a school building. Give three of these.  
**Children might be involved in a natural disaster, living in poverty or a war zone.**
3. How does the author depict first-world education as different from education in the developing world?  
**The author shows first-world education as available to everyone generally while education in the developing world is constrained by issues of poverty and war. The author describes it as the 'privilege of the wealthy' and mentions the great sacrifices parents must go through to provide an education.**
4. How does the author show us that platform schools have been successful?  
**The author mentions a series of numerical facts about the schools – they have educated 6000 pupils and are now in 12 stations. The author also mentions the growth of the group to include job related training. The schools have now been in operation for over 30 years, showing the success of the group.**
5. Give one example of an educational provision that has developed to deal with a very specific problem.  
**A number of different provisions could be mentioned here – refugee camps using the 'School in a Box' program, the boat schools to combat monsoon weather, the tent schools set up after the earthquakes in Haiti made the school buildings unsafe.**
6. Why might the writer start the first paragraph after the 'Flooded and Bombed' subheading with asking the reader to imagine being in a natural disaster?  
**Again this question relates to trying to get the reader into the mindset of those who experience hardship. It also mirrors the 'flooded' element of the subheading above it linking the subheading with the following paragraphs for cohesion.**
7. According to the writer, why is it important for students and teachers to receive the 'School in a Box' as soon as possible?  
**The author mentions the educational and emotional well-being of being involved in a school environment again. Often the pupils cannot utilise the local education system and would struggle to succeed without education. The schools give hope to pupils and parents.**
8. What is one innovation used in the boat schools programme?  
**Innovations include wireless technology, solar panels for electricity and the use of computers in the classroom. The schools are fully mobile, taking advantage of the swollen state of the rivers during monsoon season rather than being constrained by it.**



9. Name two difficulties experienced by those running the Cave School in China.

**These might include the bats and birds in the cave, the lack of equipment, the lack of electricity and water and the lack of money for teachers and supplies. The government eventually chose to close the school as well since it made Chinese education seem primitive.**

10. What does the author mean by 'the darkest days' of the Holocaust?

**The author uses a common alliterative phrase here to show the bleakness of the Holocaust period for the Jewish people living through it. It reminds the reader of the lack of hope - 'dark' being connoted with evil while 'light' is connoted with good.**

