

# Reading extract and questions:

## Year 5-6

### Take Care



“Wow!” cried Letty as she tore off the metallic wrapping paper. “It’s just what I always wanted.”

‘Always’ actually stretched back about six months to when her great friend Paolo had got one. Letty had frequently expressed her awe and envy about Paolo’s skateboard to her dad and his new girlfriend, Andrea, ever since.

Finally, her birthday had arrived; her wishes had come true. Now, she cradled the skateboard in her arms like a newborn infant.

“I hope it’s the right one,” said Dad. “I wasn’t sure, so I asked Paolo’s mum about it.”

“It’s perfect,” whispered Letty, unable to tear her eyes away from it.” Dad grinned triumphantly at Andrea.

“I hope you’re going to look after it,” she said, frowning at Dad. “What with the pads and helmet, it wasn’t cheap. Me and your dad have had to make some sacrifices, you know.”

Letty glanced up at her dad. “Don’t worry,” he smiled, “I looked into that as well. I checked out what they were wearing at the skatepark to make sure I got the right ones. And, yes, I will insist that you wear them. After all, you wouldn’t be able to do much skateboarding in hospital now, would you?”

That afternoon, Dad offered to take Letty to the park to try it out; Andrea tagged along too. They started a little way away from the skatepark so that Letty could practise on the smooth, gentle slopes of the many paths that criss-crossed the park. Of course, Letty had already been allowed a few goes on Paolo’s but she had seen how impressive the older kids – the serious skaters – were on the ramps, rails and half-pipes; there was no way her first go on her brand new board was going to be in front of them.

Eventually, she declared that she was ready to brave the spotlight and they walked over to the skatepark. All the way, Andrea was warning her not to let her skateboard out of sight. She knew what these kids were like. Anyway, it just made sense to know where your most precious things are at all times, she explained. That was why she never lost anything.

Letty let herself in gently while Dad and Andrea sat on a bench nearby. She knew that it would take a lot of practise and she shouldn’t be too ambitious too quickly. After a while, she gave herself a break and went to have a closer look at the others. She even built up the courage to ask some of them for tips.

Suddenly, Dad and Andrea were at her shoulder. “Where is it? What have you done with it?” demanded Andrea. Even Dad was looking serious. Letty looked around. It had gone! She had just put it down over there, but now it had disappeared. A frantic search followed. Letty fought back the tears as she desperately hunted all around.

“Is this yours, mate?” said a voice. Letty turned around to see a tall, skinny lad with long hair holding out her most prized possession. “I found it over there by those bushes. You have to be careful: wheels and rolling, if you know what I mean. Letty could have hugged him but thought better of it. He also held out a smartphone with an expensive leather case. “Is this yours too?”

Andrea snatched it out of his hands with barely a thank you. “You know, you really ought to take care of your things,” he said with a mischievous wink before returning to his friends.



# Questions for *Take Care*

## Vocabulary:

1. Look at the paragraph beginning *'Always' actually stretched ...* Find and copy one word that means *voiced*.

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2. ... *I will insist that you wear them ...* What does the word *insist* mean in this sentence?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. ... *A frantic search followed ...* Which word below is closest in meaning to *frantic*? Tick **one**.

panicky

careful

thorough

hurried

## Retrieval:

4. What was Dad's new girlfriend called?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Letty get as well as the skateboard?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Name **two** pieces of equipment that were at the skatepark, according to the text.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ b. \_\_\_\_\_

## Inference:

7. Complete the table below with **one** piece of evidence to support each statement.

	Evidence
Dad cares very much for Letty.	
Andrea does not care very much for Letty.	

8. *"It's just what I always wanted."* What evidence is there that Letty is exaggerating?

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9. *"... you wouldn't be able to do much skateboarding in hospital ..."* What did Dad mean by this?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Summarise:**

10. Number the following sentences from 1 to 5 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- The family went to the skatepark.
- Letty unwrapped her present.
- Andrea snatched her phone back from the boy.
- Letty practised on the paths in the park.
- Letty's skateboard disappeared.

**Meaning as a whole:**

11. Draw lines to match each part of the story to its correct quotation.

Past events	<i>... she desperately hunted all around.</i>
Setting	<i>Andrea snatched it out of his hands with barely a thank you.</i>
Action	<i>... her great friend Paolo had got one.</i>
Character	<i>... the many paths that criss-crossed the park.</i>

**Authorial intent:**

12. "... She knew what these kids were like ...". How does this help you to understand what Andrea is like?

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