

Q1.

Useful words

wrinkled

droopy

autumn

withered

gust

Billy's Sunflower

By Nicola Moon

Billy had a beautiful sunflower that he'd grown from a seed.

It was taller than Billy. It was taller than his big sister Laura. It was taller than his mum. It was even taller than his dad.



Every day Billy looked at its bright green leaves. Every day he admired its golden yellow petals. Every day he looked up at its tall straight stem.

"My flower is as tall as the sky," he told his friends.

Practice questions

A What did Billy grow from a seed?

a daisy

a rose

a sunflower

a buttercup

B How tall was Billy 's sunflower?

.....

C Who else was in the story with Billy? Tick 3

Ben _____ Mum _____

Laura _____ Dan _____

Dad _____ Louise _____

One day Billy noticed something different about his flower.

The bright green leaves didn't seem so bright.

The golden yellow petals weren't quite so golden.

And the tall straight stem wasn't quite so straight.

"What 's wrong with my flower?" he asked Dad.

"Perhaps it needs water," said Dad, as he rushed off to work.

So Billy watered his flower.

1 How had the **leaves** changed?

They weren't quite so straight.

They didn't seem so big.

They didn't seem so bright.

They weren't quite so golden.

2 What did Billy ask Dad?

.....

But the next day it was worse.

The bright green leaves were wrinkled and droopy.
The golden yellow petals were turning brown.
And the tall straight stem had bent over at the top.



Billy looked up at his sad, brown sunflower.

3 Which part of the sunflower was turning brown?

.....

4 Which part of the sunflower had bent over at the top?

the stem

the roots

the petals

the leaves

“What’s wrong with my flower?” he asked Laura.

“It’s autumn,” said Laura, and ran off to play with her friends.

“What is autumn?” Billy asked the girls.

Sally said, “It’s when leaves turn brown.”



“And days become shorter,” said Clare.

“And flowers die,” said Laura.

5 Why did Billy want to find out about autumn?

because Laura was playing with her friends

because he was worried about his flower

because it was cold

because the days were

6 What did the girls tell Billy about autumn?

Write **2** things.

1

2

Billy ran indoors to Mum.

“My flower’s got autumn and it’s getting shorter and turning brown and Laura says it’s going to die!” he cried.

Mum dried his tears.

“Autumn is when the world gets ready for winter,” she explained.

“The winter would be too cold and dark for your flower.”

Billy felt really sad.

“I don’t think I like autumn,” he said.



7 Why did Billy run inside to Mum?

He was too cold to stay outside.

He wanted to show Mum the flower.

He didn’t have any friends.

He was upset about autumn.

8 How did Mum help Billy?

Write **2** things.

1

2

He went out to look at his flower. It looked even more withered and brown, and the old sad flower was drooping down.

“I don’t want you to die,” said Billy.

A gust of wind rustled in the dying leaves, as if the flower was trying to speak.

Then Billy felt something.

PLOP!

Something landed on his head.

PLOP!

There it was again.

PLOP! PLOP!

And again and again.

“My flower is raining!”
cried Billy.

“My flower is raining SEEDS!”



9

brown

sad

drooping

What do these words tell you about the flower?

.....

10 Which words tell you Billy cared about his flower?

"I don't want you to die.

"My flower is raining!"

Something landed on his head.

The flower was trying to speak.

11 Why did Billy think the flower was trying to speak?

It started to rain.

Mum called him.

The wind rustled the leaves.

He could hear Laura talking.

12 Why did Billy say "My flower is raining!"?

He wanted to water the flower.

The seeds were falling like rain.

It had started to rain.

He didn't want his flower to die.

He ran indoors to find Mum and Dad and Laura.

They collected up a big bag of seeds.

"We can put them on the bird table, when winter comes," said Mum.

"The birds will be hungry in the cold weather."



"Not all the seeds," said Billy, picking out five of the biggest shiniest seeds. "I'm going to keep these ones."

When the winter came, Billy watched the birds flocking to the bird table to eat the seeds from his flower.

13 Why did Billy run to find Mum and Dad and Laura?

to show them
the seeds

because he
felt sad

because he was
getting wet

to show them
the birds

14 What did Billy keep?

.....

And when the winter had gone at last, he took his five special seeds and planted them carefully in the garden.



“I’m going to grow the tallest sunflowers in the world!” said Billy.

“Taller than Dad?” asked Laura.

“Taller than anyone,” said Billy.

15 This story is both sad and happy. Explain why.

It is sad because

.....

It is happy because

.....

16 What did Billy find out about sunflowers?

Tick **3** things.

Sunflowers stay green in winter. _____

Sunflowers turn brown in autumn. _____

Sunflower seeds are shiny. _____

Sunflower stems are always straight. _____

A sunflower will never die. _____

Birds like to eat sunflower seeds. _____

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M1. Billy's Sunflower

- A A sunflower. practice (AF2)
- B As tall as the sky.
Taller than Billy/him.
Taller than his big sister (Laura)/his mum/his dad/all his family. practice (AF2)
- C Laura, Dad, Mum. practice (AF2)
- 1 They didn't seem so bright. 1 (AF2)
- 2 "What's wrong with my flower"
• what was the matter with his/the flower.

Also accept: "Why was his flower different"
Unacceptable: "Does my flower need water?"
What was wrong. 1 (AF2)
- 3 The (golden yellow) petals. 1 (AF2)
- 4 The stem. 1 (AF2)
- 5 Because he was worried about his flower. 1 (AF3)
- 6 *Award 1 mark for any two of the following:*
(It's when) leaves turn brown.
(The) days get shorter.
Flowers die.
Unacceptable: It was autumn. 1 (AF2)
- 7 He was upset about autumn. 1 (AF3)

8 Award 1 mark for each reason.

One mark can be awarded for responses relating to Mum comforting Billy:

She dried his tears • she wiped his tears away.

She calmed Billy down • she comforted him.

One mark can be awarded for an answer indicating that Mum explained autumn was a natural part of the year, for example:

She explained more • she told him more about autumn.

She told Billy what autumn really means.

She told him that autumn was when the world gets ready for winter.

She said winter would be too cold and dark for his flower.

She told him about winter.

Also accept:

She tried to stop him worrying about it.

**Unacceptable: Mum talked to him • she explained it.
Autumn is when flowers die.
Copying sections of text without explanation.**

1 or 2 (AF3)

9 It was going to die/was dying/dead.

Also accept:

It needed watering.

The flower was very old • the flower was not healthy.

**Unacceptable: It's got autumn.
They describe it.
It was like that.
It has changed • it tells you how it had changed.
An answer that repeats question stem such as:
"It was sad and turning brown"
• "That his flower was brown, sad and drooping".**

1 (AF5)

- 10 "I don't want you to die." 1 (AF2)
- 11 The wind rustled the leaves. 1 (AF3)
- 12 The seeds were falling like rain. 1 (AF3)
- 13 To show them the seeds. 1 (AF3)
- 14 *Accept answers that refer to seeds and the number and/or properties of the seeds, for example:*
Five of the (biggest, shiniest) seeds.
Also accept:
Some seeds.
Unacceptable: These ones.
A seed.
A bag of seeds. 1 (AF2)
- 15a *Award 1 mark for explanation for each emotion*
It is sad because...
Billy was sad when his sunflower died.
The/his/Billy's/(old) sunflower died • it died.
Billy thought his sunflower was going to die.
The sunflower was turning brown/drooping down.
Unacceptable: Billy cried.
It dropped to bits/pieces. 1 (AF6)

15b *It is happy because...*

He is happy at the end because he is looking forward to growing new sunflowers • he had some seeds to grow a new sunflower.

He kept 5 seeds • he had some/more/new seeds.

He is looking forward to it being spring so that he can grow some new seeds.

He planted his 5 seeds in the garden.

He is going to grow the tallest sunflower in the world.

Also accept:

Answers that refer to the original flower at the beginning of the story, such as:

“He had a big sunflower” • “His sunflower grew very tall”
• he cared for his sunflower.

Unacceptable: He has got a new flower • he’s got a new one.
He had 5 new flowers • he grew more.
It was raining seeds.
He liked his sunflower • he grows a sunflower
(*not specific*).

1 (AF6)

16 *Award 1 mark for all three ticks in correct place.*

Sunflowers stay green in winter.

Sunflowers turn brown in autumn. ✓

Sunflower seeds are shiny. ✓

Sunflower stems are always straight.

A sunflower will never die.

Birds like to eat sunflower seeds. ✓

Unacceptable: More than three ticked.

1 (AF2)

