



A Day At The Zoo

It was Tuesday, which meant one thing: school trip day! Florence bounded out of bed and slid down the banister. She heard her mum shout something behind her, but she didn't have time to listen to that: she was going to the zoo!

"I want to see the giraffes, and the elephants!" Florence mumbled through mouthfuls of half-chewed toast. Her dad looked at her with a glazed expression as she listed all of the animals she was desperate to see. "The ostriches are amazing, and the flamingos. Oh, and they've just got a new baby rhino!"

Florence had barely swallowed her toast before she leapt from the table and mounted the stairs three at a time. She snatched a handful of clothes from her wardrobe and struggled into them. "No school uniform, today," she sang to herself as she hopped around the floor trying to pull on a troublesome sock.

There was a map of the zoo from the last time the family had visited, pinned to the corkboard by the back door. Florence grabbed it and thrust it into her backpack. Her lunch was waiting on the counter, and that went in as well. Chocolate spread sandwiches: her favourite.

Outside, the streets were cloaked in a thin frost, and the air seemed filled with the steam-engine breaths of people racing to work. Florence loved living in the city, especially on days like this. There was something special about the crisp air and autumnal leaves. It seemed to wash away the grime and dirt that usually made it seem so murky.

The car-ride to school seemed endless. "Stop pestering me, dear," her dad said after Florence had encouraged him to go a bit faster for the tenth time. "We'll be there soon."

Eventually, the car bumped against the curb outside the school. Florence gave her dad a quick kiss and erupted out of the car. She gave her best friend, Ingrid, a high-five and they rushed into the classroom together; the bell sounded just as they took their seats.

It looked like some of the class had decided to wear fancy-dress. Theo was wearing a jumper with an enormous lion on the front, and Amara had chosen a headband with floppy zebra ears. Florence made sure she sat up as straight as possible: she didn't want anything to jeopardise the day.

With a quiet cough, Mr Barrington stood up in front of the class. He didn't look happy. "I'm very sorry class," he began. Florence's heart sank. "There has been a small fire at the zoo. All of the animals are fine, but we've had to postpone the trip. We won't be going to the zoo today."

Florence stared straight ahead. Her stomach felt heavy, and she had to fight to hold back tears. All the excitement had been for nothing. She was aware that the teacher was still talking, but she couldn't focus on any of the words, until she heard: "So we will be going tomorrow, instead."

Suddenly, everything seemed happy again. Florence smiled and gave Ingrid another high-five. They knew they could wait one more day. After all, it meant she could eat chocolate spread sandwiches twice.



1

On what day of the week is the school trip taking place?

1 mark

2

How does Florence feel about the trip?

Give two impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Impression	Evidence

3 marks

3

Why is the trip to the zoo postponed?

1 mark



4

Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
Florence's family had been to the zoo before.		
Amara is Florence's best friend.		
The teacher doesn't know when they will get to go on the trip.		
Florence's mum drove her to school.		

2 marks

5

Read the paragraph beginning: "Florence stared straight ahead."
Which word would best complete Florence's feelings at this point?

2 marks

Tick **one**.

Disappointed

☐

Overjoyed

☐

Elated

☐

Indifferent

☐

6

Look at the paragraph beginning: "It looked like some of the class had decided to wear fancy-dress."

Find and **copy a phrase** that shows Florence didn't want anything to go wrong.

1 mark

SATs Practice - Answers

1. Tuesday.
2. **Give 1 mark for two correct impressions, and 1 additional mark for each piece of correct evidence.**
 - **Florence is excited.**
 - She didn't have time to listen to her mum.
 - She bounded out of bed.
 - She listed all of the animals she wanted to see.
 - She asked her dad to drive faster.
 - *Accept any other responses that show Florence is excited.*
 - **Florence is disappointed that the trip is postponed.**
 - Florence's heart sank.
 - Her stomach felt heavy and she had to fight back tears.
 - She couldn't focus on what the teacher was saying.
3. There was a small fire.
4. **Give 1 mark for two correct answers. Give 2 marks for three or more correct answers.**
 - True
 - False
 - False
 - False
5. Disappointed.
6. She didn't want anything to jeopardise the day.