



There used to be an empty chair at the back of my class, but now a new boy called Ahmet is sitting in it. He's nine years old (just like me), but he's very strange. He never talks and never smiles and doesn't like sweets - not even lemon sherbets, which are my favourite!

But then I learned the truth: Ahmet really isn't very strange at all. He's a refugee who's run away from a War. A real one. With bombs and fires and bullies that hurt people. And the more I find out about him, the more I want to help.

That's where my best friends Josie, Michael and Tom come in. Because you see, together we've come up with a plan. . .

1) Look at the front cover: make a prediction about the story by using the title and the images on the front of the book.

_____ (2 marks)

2) Read the blurb. Clarify what a refugee is.

_____ (1 mark)

3) What impression do you get of the character Ahmet from the blurb?

_____ (1 mark)

4) What do you think the plan could be that they have come up with?

There used to be an empty chair at the back of my classroom. It wasn't a special chair. It was just empty because there was no one sitting in it. But then, one day just three weeks after school started, the most exciting thing that could ever happen to anyone, happened to me and my three best friends. And it all began with that chair.

Usually, the best thing about starting a brand-new term is that you get extra pocket money to buy new stationery with. Every year, on the last Sunday of the summer holidays, my mum takes me on an Extra-Special Adventure to hunt down my stationery set for the new school year. Sometimes I get so excited that my feet feel jumpy inside and I don't know which shop I

want to go into first. There aren't many nice stationery shops where I live – they only ever have boring dinosaur sets for boys or princess sets for girls. So Mum takes me on the bus and train into the city where there are whole streets of shops – even huge department stores that look like tall blocks of flats from the outside.

Read the extract of chapter one, 'The empty chair.'

4) What do you think the most exciting thing that could ever happen was?

_____ (1 mark)

5) Why would the narrator get extra pocket money at the start of a brand new term?

_____ (1 mark)

6) What impression do you get of the character who is telling the story?

_____ (2 marks)

Grammar focus

7) Why has the author used a dash in the final part of the extract?

_____ (1 mark)

8) Find and copy a subordinate conjunction in the text.

_____ (1 mark)