

Comprehension answers

1. Which of the children discovers the creature first?

Anthea

2. What reasons does Anthea give that the creature cannot be a snake?

She says that it cannot be a snake because it has feet and fur.

3. Why does Robert not want Cyril to sleep with a snake around his neck?

Because the two boys share a bedroom, and Robert seems to be afraid of snakes.

4. Why does Anthea try to stop the other children from using the spade to dig?

Anthea is worried that the spade might hurt the creature.

5. Anthea *'began to scratch like a dog does when he has suddenly remembered where it was that he buried his bone.'* What do you think the author is trying to show with this simile?

Answers should acknowledge that a dog trying to get to its bone would be digging frantically/excitedly. The author is trying to show how excited/focused Anthea is about digging out the creature.

6. What do the words *'their hearts jumped'* tell you about how the children were feeling?

Answers should acknowledge that *'their hearts jumped'* shows that the children's hearts were beating faster or skipping a beat, suggesting that the children felt shocked/frightened/excited.

7. The Sand-fairy says to the children:

"Why, you talk as if I were nobody in particular."

What do you think it means by this?

Answers may include one or more of the following: that the creature is somebody important; the creature is shocked that the children don't know who it is; the creature is offended that the children think it might be frightened.

8. The creature says it is called a 'Sand-fairy' in plain English. What is its other name?

Psammead.

9. What made the Sand-fairy seem *'a shade less disagreeable'*?

Robert calling the Sand-fairy the 'wonderfullest' creature he'd ever seen.

10. Find and copy two words in the sentence below that show that the Sand-fairy is upset:

'It looked so grieved and hurt that Jane hastened to say, "Of course I see you are, now. It's quite plain now one comes to look at you."'

Grieved and hurt.

