

Pre-reading work

Fiction/Non-fiction

Match the words to their closest synonym.

tugging	scowling
grimacing	huge
swerve	sloped
vast	pulling
slanted	committed to
determinedly	curve

Skimming and scanning for information

Find the words above in the text below and highlight them.

Like a man-made magic wish, the aeroplane began to rise. The boy sitting in the cockpit gripped his seat and held his breath as the plane climbed into the arms of the sky. Fred's jaw was set with concentration, and his fingers twitched, following the movements of the pilot beside him: joystick, throttle.

The aeroplane vibrated as it flew faster into the setting sun, following the swerve of the Amazon River below them. Fred could see the reflection of the six-seater plane, a spot of black on the vast sweep of blue, as it sped towards Manaus, the city on the water. He brushed his hair out of his eyes and pressed his forehead against the window.

Behind Fred sat a girl and her little brother. They had the same slanted eyebrows and the same brown skin, the same long eyelashes. The girl had been shy, hugging her parents until the last possible moment at the airfield; now she was staring down at the water, singing under her breath, her brother trying to eat his seatbelt.

In the next row, on her own, sat a pale girl with blonde hair down to her waist. Her blouse had a neck-ruffle that came up to her chin, and she kept tugging it down and grimacing. She was determinedly not looking out of the window.

Summarise

Summarise the text in less than 15 words.

1. Find three pieces of evidence which show Fred is nervous.

3 marks

2. The brother and sister look alike. Find a piece of evidence to support this statement.

1 mark

3. Where was the plane flying to?

1 mark

4. 'She was determinedly not looking out of the window.'

What do you think this suggests about how the girl was feeling?

1 mark

5. What time of day was the flight?

1 mark

6. How many people were on the plane?

1 mark