

Inference and comprehension

Mum had just finished packing away the groceries. She left the room and went upstairs. Neil listened as her footsteps on the stairs became softer, then swiftly pulled a dining chair forcefully across the tiled floor. There was a slight screech as the legs of the chair scraped the tiles. He clambered easily up on to the chair, his eyes gleaming with excitement, and reached up to grab the handle of his favourite cupboard. As he opened the cupboard door, he eagerly peered inside. His expression quickly changed. The cupboard was empty. Neil furrowed his brow and sighed outwardly, then climbed down and, without bothering to move the chair back, he slumped dejectedly on it.

A few minutes later, mum re-entered the room. She could see that Neil was disappointed. She quickly realised why. "Now Neil, you know what the dentist said," she explained softly.

1. What was Neil hoping to find in the cupboard? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

2. Why did Neil's expression change?

3. How old do you think Neil was? Explain why you think this.

4. Why did Neil not find what he was looking for? Give evidence and explain how you know.

6. Find all the adverbs in the passage. Write them down.

7. How did his mum know that Neil was disappointed?

8. What phrase is used to describe Neil's eyes?

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