

Reading: Forty Minutes

Read the passage, then circle the letter next to the correct answer for each question.

Forty Minutes

The bus to school takes forty minutes, and for thirty-eight of them, Sam reads.

He reads in a way that worries people. He does not look up at the stops. He does not notice his friends getting on. Once, the driver had to say his name four times at the end of the route, and Sam surfaced looking genuinely confused about where the school had gone.

His mother thinks he should look out of the window sometimes. "You'll miss things," she says.

Sam has tried to explain that he isn't missing anything — that a book is a place too, and that on the bus he has been to a desert, a submarine and the inside of a whale, all before eight in the morning. His mother says that is very nice, and that he should still look out of the window.

They have this conversation about once a week. Neither of them expects it to end.

1. How long does the bus ride to school take?
(A) Twenty minutes (B) Thirty minutes (C) Thirty-eight minutes
(D) Forty minutes
2. How many times did the driver have to say Sam's name?
(A) Once (B) Twice (C) Three times (D) Four times
3. What does Sam's mother want him to do?
(A) Read more slowly (B) Look out of the window (C) Sit closer to the driver
(D) Talk to his friends

4. In this passage, "surfaced" suggests that Sam —
- (A) stood up quickly (B) came back to the real world as if from underwater
- (C) got off the bus (D) fell asleep
5. What does Sam mean when he says a book is "a place too"?
- (A) Books should be kept in one place
- (B) Reading takes him somewhere in his imagination
- (C) He reads in the same seat every day (D) The library is his favourite place
6. "Neither of them expects it to end" suggests that —
- (A) Sam will soon stop reading (B) the bus route will change
- (C) both of them will keep saying the same things
- (D) his mother will stop speaking to him
7. What is this passage mostly about?
- (A) Sam and his mother disagreeing, in a friendly way, about reading
- (B) Sam missing his stop and getting lost (C) A bus driver teaching Sam a lesson
- (D) Sam's friends refusing to talk to him

Answer Key: 1) D · 2) D · 3) B · 4) B · 5) B · 6) C · 7) A