

**Pages & Co. Tilly and the Bookwanderers R**  
**Anna James**

**M**atilda Pages pushed open the door of Pages & Co. and breathed in deeply, taking in the familiar scent of just-blown-out candles, dark chocolate and, of course, books. For a second she forgot that she was splattered with muddy water and simply relished the week's holiday that stretched out in front of her like the view from the gate of a fairground. But the bubble of calm popped as the damp seeped through her tights, making her shiver, and she marched through the door connecting the bookshop to the narrow house she lived in with her grandparents. She let the door crash behind her, tossed her school bag on the table – accidentally sending a pile of potatoes flying – and flopped dramatically into a chair.

She paused, waiting for her grandmother to react, and when Grandma finally turned, Tilly flung her head theatrically on to her arms on the table.

'Happy half-term, Tilly,' Grandma said, looking around in confusion. 'What on earth is the matter? And why are you taking it out on the potatoes?'

Tilly blushed and sheepishly started picking them up.

'And you're soaking – it's not still raining, is it?' Grandma said, peering out of the kitchen window. She gave her granddaughter's head an affectionate rub as Tilly kneeled to rescue a stray potato that had rolled into the cat basket. Tilly sighed and leaned against Grandma's legs.

'Grace went through a puddle on her bike and it splashed all over me.'

'Surely she didn't do it on purpose?' Grandma asked gently.

Tilly harrumphed in disagreement.

'Aren't you two as thick as thieves?' Grandma said.

'That was before, when we were just little. She has new friends now,' Tilly said. 'She got on to the netball team, and only wants to be with those girls now. She sits with Ammara and Poppy every day.'

'Have I met Ammara and Poppy?' Grandma asked.

'No, they went to St Enid's, and they stick together all the time.'

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### Retrieval

- 1.What was the name of the shop?
- 2.Who is Grace?
- 3.What pet did grandma own?

### Inference

- 1.What does the sentence 'Tilly blushed and sheepishly started picking them up' suggest about how Matilda then felt?
- 2.Why do you think the shop had 'just-blown-out-candles'? What might this suggest?
- 3.What kind of shop did Matilda's grandparents own?

### Vocabulary

- 1.What does the phrase 'as thick as thieves' mean?
- 2.What does the author mean by 'the bubble of calm popped'?
- 3.What does the word 'harrumphed' mean?
- 4.The author uses a simile in paragraph one – why is it effective?.
- 5.What does the word 'seeped' mean? Can you think of another word which could replace it?
- 6.Can you identify the verbs the author uses to show that Matilda was in a bad mood in paragraph one?