



1 Every year we have to drive for days to get to Auntie Jean's house. When we arrive, Auntie Jean gives me a big hug and squeezes me till I turn blue. Worse still, she pinches my cheeks and tells me that I

should have been a boy.

2 Dad is always in such a good mood when we leave home. When the car is packed we always start off with Dad trying to sing

his favourite songs. His voice sounds like a squeaky walrus. I can't stand it.

My job is to put the dog in the back of our wagon and keep him happy. My brother's job is to ask every ten minutes, "When will we be there?"

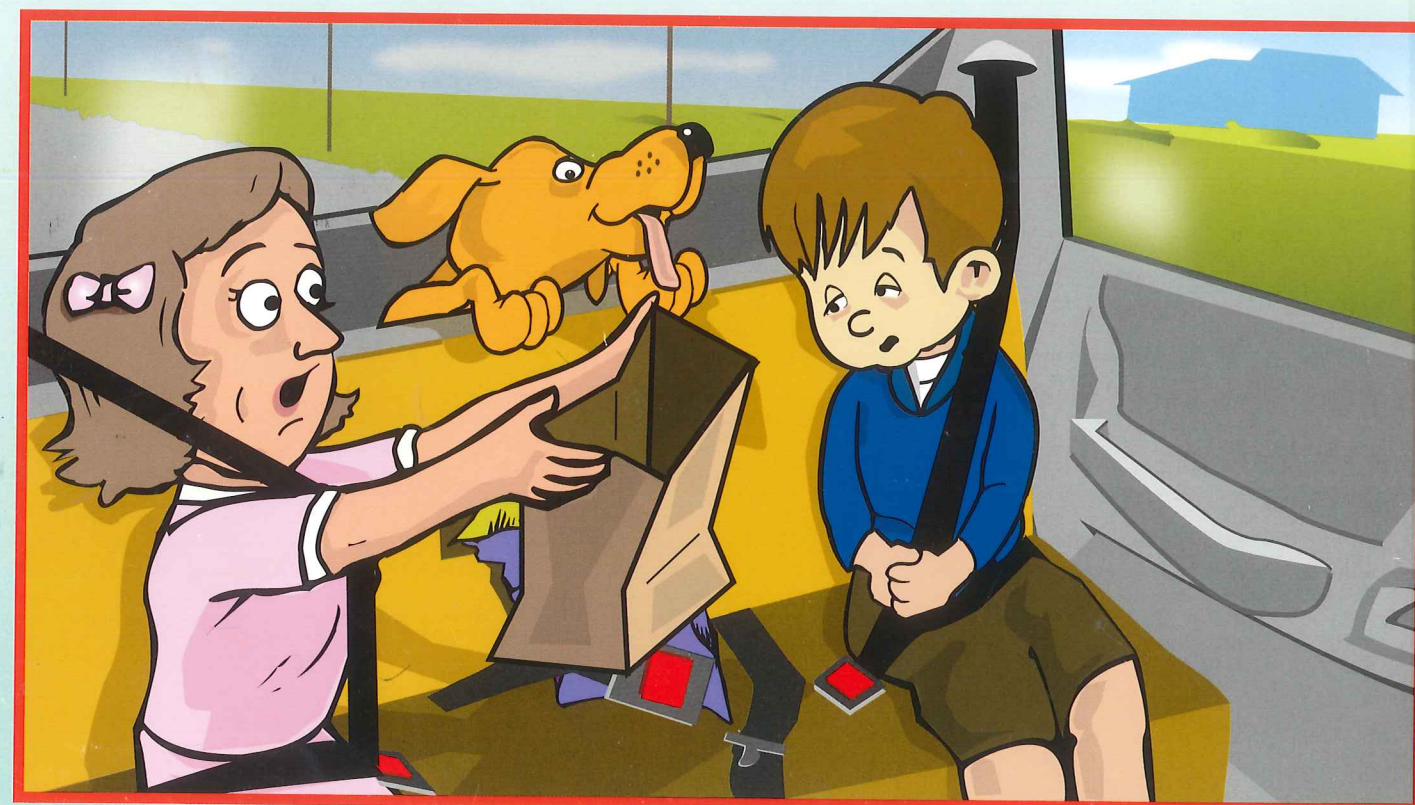
His other job is to be carsick and vomit all over me.

3 On our trip last year, all these cars kept chasing us up the highway and yelling at us. We just thought they were being friendly, so we waved at them. Finally, a man put his window down and screamed: "Your dog! Your dog!"

Oh no! Everybody felt sick, and then we all started to scream. Had I left the dog chained to the back of the car? I quickly turned around and saw the top of Benny's head. I sighed in relief. Then the man screamed, "Its tail is caught in the backdoor of your wagon!"

Dad stopped the car and we all jumped out. Part of the rope that he took for my brother to play with was hanging out the back door. Benny was safe and so was I.

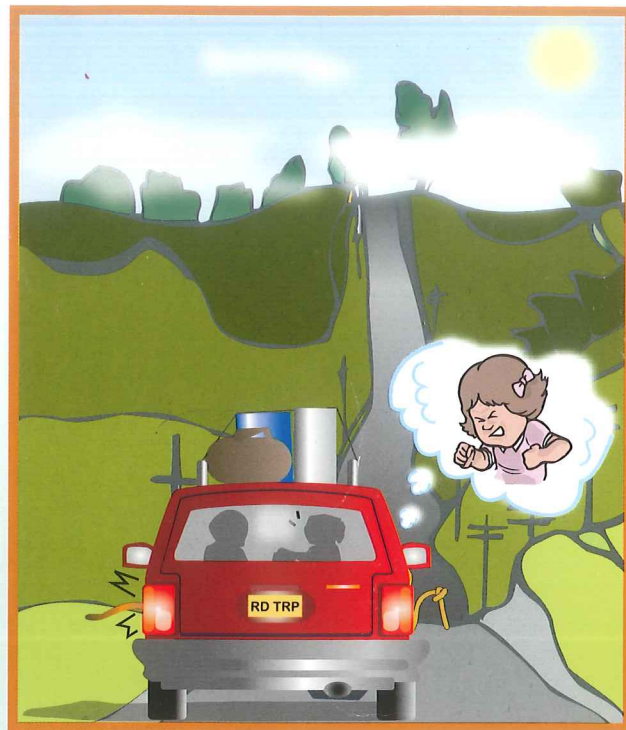
4 At lunch we always eat at the same fish and chip shop. I usually end up wearing my brother's fish and chips about an hour later. When Dad gets tired of driving, we



stop at cheap and smelly motels.

5 One year all the motels were full and we slept in the car. I couldn't sleep a wink all night. Dad and Mum snored so loudly they sounded like they were sawing wood. Benny had wind all night so the car reeked. When we got out of the car in the morning, we found Benny had also left a smelly message all over our board games.

6 This year's trip is turning out to be no different. The day winds on slower than ever. We have to use stinky roadside toilets and listen to Dad's dying-cat voice. My brother is sick yet again. I can't wait to have my cheeks pinched.



Questions

1 Who is in a good mood when they leave home?

- a Dad
- b Auntie Jean
- c Benny

2 Why does the narrator always wear her brother's fish and chips?

- a She thinks it's fashionable.
- b Her brother gets carsick.
- c It's a game they play.

3 What was sticking out of the back of the car?

- a a dog's tail
- b a piece of rope
- c a dog

4 What was one reason the narrator couldn't sleep in the car?

- a Her brother was being sick.
- b Her parents kept snoring.
- c Her dog made a mess.

5 Which animal isn't used to describe Dad's singing voice?

- a a squeaky walrus
- b a windy dog
- c a dying cat

6 Why can't the narrator wait to have her cheeks pinched?

- a It will be better than everything else that's happened on the car trip.
- b She likes having her cheeks pinched.
- c She really enjoys seeing her Auntie Jean.

Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues.

The brackets show the text sections ().

screamed cheap arrive
favourite reeked

- 7 To get to your destination (1)
- 8 The most popular (2)
- 9 Yelled very loudly (3)
- 10 The opposite of expensive (4)
- 11 Smelt really bad (5)

Grammar

Find a **verb** (an action word) in these sentences from the text.

- 12 Every year we drive to Auntie Jean's.
- 13 Auntie Jean pinches my cheeks.
- 14 Dad sings his favourite songs.
- 15 Dad and Mum snored in the car.

Back To The Text...

- 16 The person telling the story is a
a young girl. b young boy.
- 17 In which part of the library would you find this text?
a fiction b non-fiction

18 Who do you think this text is most likely written for?

- a children b adults

Sequencing

Look back through the card to find what happened first. Choose **a** or **b**.

- 19 a They would have fish for lunch.
b Cars kept chasing them up the highway.
- 20 a Dad starts singing.
b We pack the car.
- 21 a They checked if Benny was safe.
b They found the message that Benny left in the car.

Think About This

22 The illustration on the front page is described in section

- a one. b two.
- c three. d four.

23 The word *reeked* in section 5 is best replaced by

- a raced. b jumped.
- c stunk. d crashed.

Challenge Option

Writing: Write about a holiday trip you have had recently.

