



WHAT AM I ?

1 Hi, my name is Scout. I am 35 years old. Many people think I am crazy because of my job. I put myself in danger every week.

I spend most of the week getting ready for shows. I help move cattle, horses and other animals. I have to shuffle them into large trucks. We are in a different town

each week, so I travel a lot. When we get there we have to unpack all the animals and settle them. This has to be done first. There's never a chance to stay in one place too long. For many months of the year my home is an old caravan.

- 2 I practise my tricks each day. I put on my make-up and pull faces at the mirror. My costume has a red nose and a tiny top hat. I wear a pair of bright, baggy pants with a hoop waist. Yellow suspenders stop them from falling down. I also wear shiny red shoes. They aren't too big, because I have to move fast.
- 3 My job looks like fun to the crowd. I have to keep the crowd laughing with my jokes. I often make fun of people in the crowd. Even my props have to be funny, like my bright yellow car. I often ask somebody in the crowd to come for a ride in my car. Then they find out that the car has no motor and they have to push me.
- 4 Well, what is dangerous about that you may ask? It is the other part of my act that is scary. I have to be in a ring when a rider comes out on a wild bull. When the rider falls off, I have to get the bull away from him. That means putting myself in danger. What makes it more difficult is that I have to make it all look funny. Imagine laughing when you're face-to-face with a mad bull.
- 5 People doing my job get hurt. I have a lot of respect for wild bulls and horses, but

I have made mistakes. A bad cut or a cracked rib doesn't even rate.

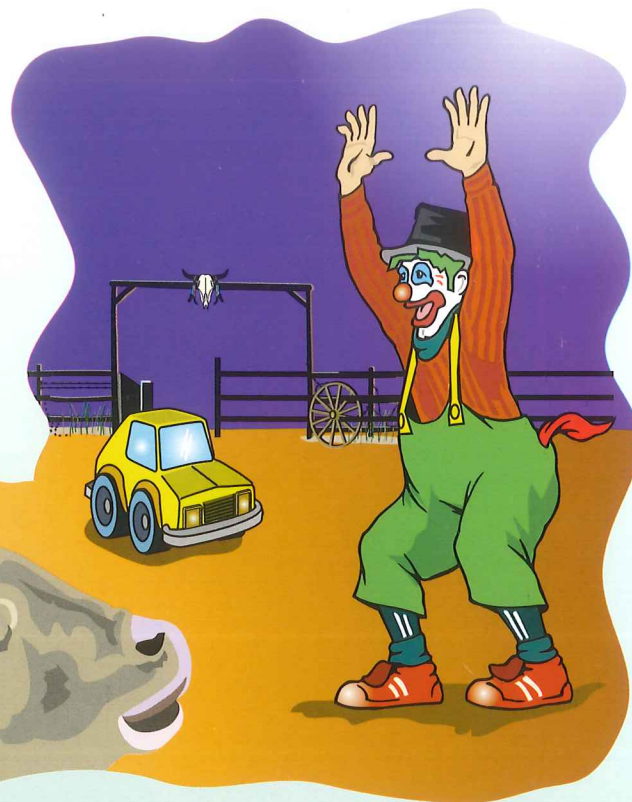


6 Why do I do it?

I do it because I love helping the riders and I love the thrill of it. But most of all I do it because I'm a performer and I love to make people laugh.

Do you know what I am?

See you at the rodeo. I hope you enjoy it!



Questions

- 1 Where does Scout live for many months of the year?
 - a He lives in one town.
 - b He lives with horses.
 - c He lives in a caravan.
- 2 Scout wears
 - a a big hat and small shoes.
 - b a tiny hat and small shoes.
 - c a tiny hat and big shoes.
- 3 What is funny about Scout's car?
 - a It has no motor.
 - b It is bright yellow.
 - c A member of the audience rides in it.

- 4 What is dangerous about Scout's job?
 - a He has to make people laugh.
 - b He has to protect a rider from a bull.
 - c He has to run fast.
- 5 What does Scout love about his job most of all?
 - a He loves making people laugh.
 - b He loves the thrill of it.
 - c He loves helping bull riders.
- 6 What is Scout's job?
 - a Bull Rider
 - b Circus Clown
 - c Rodeo Clown



Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues.

The brackets show the text sections ().

imagine settle thrill crowd practise

- 7 To calm down and relax (1)
- 8 To do something repeatedly to improve (2)
- 9 A large group of people (3)
- 10 To picture something in your mind (4)
- 11 Excitement or pleasure (6)

Alphabetical Order

The following words appear in the text.

When placed in alphabetical order, which one would be first?

- 12 week, when, waist, wild
- 13 mad, mistakes, myself, move
- 14 funny, face, for, from
- 15 town, trucks, thrill, tiny

Back To The Text...

- 16 Which section talks about doing a lot of travelling?
 - a section 4
 - b section 1
- 17 In section 5 the word *cut* is used as a
 - a noun.
 - b verb.
- 18 Who do you think this text is most likely written for (audience)?
 - a children
 - b clowns

Think About This

- 19 The illustration on page 2 is about
 - a the clown's make-up.
 - b the clown's costume.
 - c teasing bulls.
- 20 The format and sequence of all the illustrations is meant to
 - a trick you.
 - b show a series of jobs.
 - c slowly reveal the identity of the job.

What does Scout do first? Choose *a* or *b*.

- 21
 - a Makes the crowd laugh.
 - b Practises the tricks.
- 22 The word *shuffle* in section 1 could best be replaced with
 - a move.
 - b throw.
 - c drive.
 - d float.
- 23 When do we learn just how dangerous the job is?
 - a Section 2.
 - b Section 3.
 - c Section 4.



Challenge Option

Design: Design and draw your own clown costume.