

Ex Poser

Before Reading

Story Building

Here are some paragraphs from the story, 'Ex Poser', by Paul Jennings. Read them (to help you there is a glossary) and then answer the questions which follow.

There are two rich kids in our form. Sandra Morris and Ben Fox. They are both snobs. They think they are too good for the rest of us. Their parents have big cars and big houses. Both of them are quiet. They keep to themselves.

Anyway, today I have the chance to even things up. Boffin is bringing along his latest invention – a lie detector. Sandra Morris is the victim. She agreed to try it out because everyone knows that she would never tell a lie.

He switches on the machine and a little needle swings into the middle of the dial. 'Here's a trial question,' he says. 'Are you a girl?'

Sandra nods.

'You have to say yes or no,' he says.

'Yes,' replies Sandra. The needle swings over to TRUTH. Maybe this thing really works.

'OK,' says Boffin. 'You only have seven questions, David. The batteries will go flat after another seven questions.' He sits down behind his machine and twiddles the knobs.

This is going to be fun. I am going to find out a little bit about Sandra Morris and Ben Fox. It's going to be very interesting. Very interesting indeed.

Answer these questions:

1. What is the narrator doing? Why is he doing it?
2. What did Boffin invent?
3. How many questions can the narrator ask?
4. If you were the narrator and had three questions to ask (true or false) what would these questions be?

1. _____?

2. _____?

3. _____?

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Characters

Look at the following quotes from the text. What do they tell us about some of the characters? Then answer the question that follows.

Ben Fox always wears expensive gym shoes and the latest fashions. He thinks he is good-looking with his blue eyes and blond hair. He is a real poser.

Sandra Morris is the same. And she knows it. Blue eyes and blonde hair too. Skin like silk. Why do some kids get the best of everything?

Boffin is a brain. His inventions always work. He is smarter than the teachers. Everyone knows that. And now he has brought along his latest effort. A lie detector.

Me, I landed pimples. I've used everything I can on them. But still they bud and grow and burst. Just when you don't want them to. It's not fair.

Sandra goes red. Ben Fox goes red. I have got them this time. I am sure they have something going between them. I will expose them.

Question: Tick the box of the character being described. (*You can tick more than one box for each description*)

| | Sandra | Ben | Boffin | Narrator |
|-------------------------|--------|-----|--------|----------|
| Has blonde hair | | | | |
| Asks questions | | | | |
| Changes colour | | | | |
| Has blue eyes | | | | |
| Is clever | | | | |
| Has spots | | | | |
| Has fashionable clothes | | | | |