

Lucky

Read On

Summarising

1. Without referring to the text, decide if the following statements made about the story 'Lucky' are true (T), false (F) or if the information is unknown (U)

1. Janine travelled to work on the bus every day
2. Janine has an obsession with numbers
3. Janine was working in a temporary job while Maggie was in hospital
4. Maggie has been Dr Paul Anderson's lover for many years
5. Janine would have lunch with her work colleagues most days
6. Paul went to the Library café to look for Janine
7. Paul showed Janine the library because he was in love with her
8. Janine is convinced that fate will bring her and Dr Anderson together
9. Paul's wife was jealous of Janine
10. Paul gave Janine a flower as a token of his love

2. The story is to be made into a short film. Give the short film a new title, and then give a brief description of the story as a press release (maximum 30 words).

3. *Choose a scene from the story:*

On the train

In the office

In the library /café

Before the launch party

(Your own idea)

Work in a small group and write a short dialogue or scene from a play to illustrate the event.

Act out your play or read your dialogue to the rest of the class!

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Beyond the text

Claustrophobia

a) **Claustrophobia** – a morbid fear of confined spaces

Do you or does anyone you know suffer from claustrophobia? What happens when someone suffers from this condition?

Where might people suffer from claustrophobia? Think of five places where this might happen – at least one of them must be a public place!

b) **Smell** – a sense by which gases, vapours, substances finely divided, are perceived

It has been said that smell is the most powerful of the senses when it comes to recalling past events. Smells are often associated with something that happened to us in the past. Do you agree?

A further dictionary definition about **smell**, goes on to say – *the specific sensation excited by such a substance; a pleasant scent or (often) an unpleasant one.*

In other words, the word smell can mean both the *sense* and the *scent*.

c) **Smell and Claustrophobia together**

i) As we know, in the story ‘Lucky’, Janine travelled to work everyday by public transport; by train, in fact. Anyone who has travelled on public transport during a busy period, like the rush hour, will know that smells on a crowded train or bus can be unforgettable, and that these smells will change depending on a number of things, like the weather. In wet weather the smells will be very different from those on a hot day, for example. Make a list of the smells you might find on crowded train or bus, and put them into two columns, pleasant smells and unpleasant smells. What do you imagine will be the longer list?

Pleasant smells	Unpleasant smells

ii) Would it be possible to learn from any of the smells you have written above (from either column) something about the person who brought the smell with them or caused them to happen? For example, would you know if someone was well or ill, rich or poor by the smell they gave off?

Now listen to this poem by the Manchester based poet Gaia Holmes, as she reads her poem 'Claustrophobia'. Make a list of all the smells she talks about on the bus ride.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____



The poet, Gaia Holmes

iii) Is it possible to smell loneliness, grief or guilt? What would they smell like? Make a list of other emotions. Decide what they would smell like!

iv) Listen to the poem again and see if you can hear which of the following words meaning 'smell' (in either sense) are used. Which ones are positive and which ones are negative?

- Smell
- Perfume
- Scent
- Breath
- Gulp
- Suck
- Sap
- Stinks
- Reeks