

## **Set a Good Example**

### **Sunday, 7 pm**

I'm writing this in my new bedroom, which is microscopic. Mum seems to think it would be better utilised as a storeroom, because boxes are covering every inch of available floor space. I doubt that I'll ever see any of my possessions again. Mum is in a foul mood, which is probably because I've just told her exactly how I feel about leaving our beautiful house for this dismal top floor flat with no garden and fifty thousand stairs. She said I need to be less pessimistic and "set a good example" to my little brother, but I don't think two-year-olds notice either way. I've just stubbed my toe on a box for the third time — it'll probably go black and fall off. I'm going to bed.

### **Monday, 11.30 am**

This school is nothing like my old one: the playground is tiny, the corridors are too busy and the classrooms are cramped. I'm sat between two particularly irritating boys, who seem to think that throwing stationery at my head is infinitely exciting. Mr Bullstrode, my Maths teacher, actually resembles a bull. He's a huge man with dark, curly hair, who snorts when he's cross — which is most of the time, apparently. He says he's put me between these two apes so I can "set a good example". So I am writing my diary to show them that writing is a good thing to do.

### **Monday, 12.30 pm**

Perhaps it's not a good thing to do in Maths. I've been issued with a lunchtime detention on my first day. Not the best of starts.

### **Monday, 9 pm**

The only good feature of my new bedroom is that you can see into other people's flats. At the moment, I'm observing a large man wearing a fluffy dressing gown and curlers in his hair, dancing around his bedroom with an imaginary partner. He looks a bit familiar. Now he's grabbed a rose and stuck it between his teeth. I think he's doing the tango, but he looks rather cross about it.

1. What does the word *pessimistic* mean in the text?

Tick **one** box.

rude

☐

annoying

☐

naughty

☐

despairing

☐

1 mark

2. How old is the writer's brother?

.....

1 mark

3. In what **two** ways does Mr Bullstrode *resemble a bull*?

1).....

2).....

1 mark

4. What does the word *apes* suggest about what the writer thinks of the two boys?

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1 mark

5. Who do you think the dancing neighbour is?

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1 mark

6. What does the writer think about her new home?  
Use the text to support your answer.

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3 marks