

# Jacky Daydream

Jacqueline Wilson

*Jacqueline Wilson is one of our best known children's writers. Many of her books have been made into films or TV shows. She writes mostly about difficult situations that some children – generally girls – have to deal with.*

*This extract is from the beginning of her autobiography Jacky Daydream and tells about her birth. Her mother was unlucky because it wasn't an easy birth – but it was more than 60 years ago and things have changed a lot since then!*

- <sup>1</sup> I was more than a fortnight late for my own birth. I was due at the beginning of December and I didn't arrive until the seventeenth. I don't know why. It isn't at all like me. I'm always very speedy and I can't stand being late for anything.
- <sup>4</sup> My mum did her level best to get me going. She drank castor oil and skipped vigorously every morning. She's a small woman – five foot at most in her high heels. She was nearly as wide as she was long by this time. She must have looked like a beach ball. It's a wonder they didn't try to bounce the baby out.
- <sup>8</sup> When I eventually got started, I still took forty-eight hours to arrive. In fact they had to pull me out with forceps. They look like a medieval instrument of torture. It can't have been much fun for my mother – or me. The edge of the forceps caught my mouth.
- <sup>11</sup> When I was finally yanked out into the harsh white light of the delivery room in the hospital, my mouth was lopsided and partially paralysed.
- <sup>13</sup> They didn't bother about mothers and babies bonding in those days. They didn't give us time to have a cuddle or even take a good look at each other. I was bundled up tightly in a blanket and taken off to the nursery.
- <sup>16</sup> I stayed there for four days without a glimpse of my mother. The nurses came and changed my nappy and gave me a bath and tried to feed me with a bottle, though it hurt my sore mouth.
- <sup>19</sup> I wonder what I thought during those long lonely first days. I'm sure babies *do* think, even though they can't actually say the words. What would I do now if I was lying all by myself, hungry and frightened? That's easy. I'd make up a story to distract myself. So maybe I started pretending right from the day I was born.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. 'I was more than a fortnight late for my own birth' (paragraph 1).

(a) Explain what the author means by this statement. ....

.....

(b) Why does it surprise her? .....

.....

2. (a) Tick the best way to end the sentence:

*If her mother stood in her bare feet she would have been:*

over five-foot tall

exactly five-foot tall.

under five-foot tall.

(b) Write the words from the text which give you this information.

.....

3. Why did the author suggest they might have tried to 'bounce the baby out' (paragraph 2)?

.....

4. Write the word(s) that show the author's attitude to forceps as a tool to help mothers to give birth. Why do you think she described them in this way?

.....

5. 'When I was finally yanked out into the harsh white light of the delivery room in the hospital' (paragraph 4). Suggest another word or words to replace the word 'yanked' in this sentence without changing the meaning.

.....

6. This text includes both facts and opinions. Tick the opinions from this list:

I was more than a fortnight late

They had to pull me out with forceps

It isn't like me

They look like a medieval instrument of torture

7. Which job do you think the nurses found it difficult to do for the baby? Explain your answer using a quotation from the text.

.....

.....

8. The text is an autobiography - a life story written by the person who it's about. Give two features of an autobiography.

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9. What link does the author make between her early experiences as a baby and her current career as a famous author of fiction? Explain your answer fully, using ideas from the text.

.....

2M11

2 marks

2C8

2 marks

2LfE2

1 mark

2LfE2

1 mark

2C1

1 mark

2TC1

1 mark

2C4

1 mark

2C10

2 marks

2C9

1 mark