

The empty caption

Fiction | 6 questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Read once for the main idea. Look back at the passage while answering. Find words that support each answer.

The museum club had prepared a display of local photographs. Each picture had a caption giving the place and date. Sam's favourite showed a row of children standing beside a wooden cart, but the space beneath it was blank.

"I could write something," he said. "It looks like a village fair."

Mrs Dyer handed him the envelope that had held the photograph. On its back were two words: Mill Lane. There was no date and no explanation of the cart.

Sam looked closely at the picture. One child held a bunch of flowers; another had a basket. These details fitted his idea of a fair, but they could fit other occasions too.

"What if we say what we know?" he asked.

They wrote: Children with a cart, Mill Lane. Date and occasion unknown. Beneath that, they added a question inviting visitors to share information with the museum.

On the first afternoon, a visitor recognised her grandfather in the photograph. She did not know the date, but she offered to look through her family papers. Sam kept the original caption in place. For now, the empty space had become an honest description and an invitation to investigate.

Questions

Choose one answer for each question. You can refer to the passage. The answer notes start on a separate page.

1. What information was on the envelope?

- A. The date of the village fair
- B. The names of every child
- C. The name of the photographer
- D. The words Mill Lane

2. Who did the visitor recognise?

- A. The photographer
- B. Her grandfather
- C. Her own child
- D. Mrs Dyer

3. What does “occasion” mean in the caption?

- A. The age of the photograph
- B. The event or reason for the gathering
- C. The material used for the card
- D. The location of the envelope

4. Why did Sam avoid stating that the picture showed a fair?

- A. The museum did not display photographs of fairs
- B. The visitor had already supplied a different date
- C. The visible details could fit more than one event
- D. Mrs Dyer knew it was taken at a wedding

5. Why was the caption kept after the visitor spoke?

- A. Sam did not want to recognise the grandfather
- B. The original envelope had been lost
- C. She had not yet supplied the missing date or occasion
- D. The museum refused all family information

6. What is the story’s main idea?

- A. Distinguish known facts from plausible guesses
- B. A caption should always give a precise date
- C. Old photographs are useful only when everyone is named
- D. A first guess should be kept even when questioned

Answers and explanations

Try the questions before reading these notes. A practice score is not an exam grade.

1. D. The words Mill Lane

The envelope had only the two words “Mill Lane” on its back.

2. B. Her grandfather

The visitor recognised her grandfather in the photograph.

3. B. The event or reason for the gathering

The unknown occasion is why the children were gathered with the cart.

4. C. The visible details could fit more than one event

Sam realises that flowers and baskets fit his guess but also other occasions.

5. C. She had not yet supplied the missing date or occasion

Recognising a person helps, but the visitor still needs to investigate the missing facts.

6. A. Distinguish known facts from plausible guesses

Sam replaces an unsupported guess with known information and a clear statement of what is unknown.

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