



## Reading level 2

### Finding Information

#### Aunt Meili

'I must wash my hands. This chilli is making my fingers itch,' said Aunt Meili as she put down her chopping knife. 'You didn't wash your hands Qing. Are you scared of water?' 'No. It's because I hate vegetables.' Qing pushed her chopsticks away.

'If you eat just fish,' said Aunt Meili, 'you will turn into a cat.' 'That's the silliest thing I have ever heard,' said Qing. 'Who ever heard of a person turning into a cat?'

'Did I ever tell you the story about a little girl I knew?' said Aunt Meili. She picked up the chopsticks and put them back on top of Qing's bowl. 'She had big eyes and a long neck, just like you.' She began to stroke the top of Qing's head.

'Don't tell me she turned into a cat!'

'It didn't happen overnight... It happened bit by bit.' Aunt Meili ran her fingers down the side of Qing's neck, behind her ears. 'On the first day she didn't eat vegetables, she became very fussy, just like a cat.'

'This is a silly story,' insisted Qing.

Aunt Meili continued. 'On the second day, she became scared of water, just like a cat.'

Qing played with her napkin, pretending not to listen.

'On the third day, she started to scratch behind her ears, just like a cat.' Aunt Meili went to the sink to wash the chilli from her fingers. 'And on the fourth day, she grew a tail and was eaten by a dog.'

'The back of my ears are itching,' cried Qing.

'Fussy, scared of water, scratching... When was the last time you ate vegetables?'

Qing grabbed her chopsticks, aimed straight for the cabbage and closed her eyes.

What happens to the little girl in Aunt Meili's story?

Give each event a number (1–6) to show the order in which it happened.

The first one has been done for you.

- \_\_\_ grows a tail
- \_\_\_ starts to scratch
- 1 stops eating vegetables
- \_\_\_ becomes fussy
- \_\_\_ is eaten by a dog
- \_\_\_ becomes scared of water

**Answer:** States the following order: 5, 4, 1, 2, 6, 3

#### Explanation

The student is required to deal with competing information because the story Aunt Meili tells is interspersed with comments from her and Qing, and is not told in one continuous section. This requires the student to retrieve multiple pieces of information scattered across the text.

There are clear signposts that may help the student: 'on the first day', 'on the second day', etc. The reader must scan over the text to locate these signposts and then match the information from the text to the paraphrased information in the question.

#### Text complexity

The text has many familiar aspects. It is a short, linear, dialogue-based narrative between an aunt and her niece in a kitchen while preparing dinner. The vocabulary is a range of familiar words with a few words that may be slightly less familiar e.g. 'silliest', 'fussy', 'chopsticks', and 'overnight'.

The key aspect of complexity in this text comes from its level of subtlety. The main idea, that the aunt plays a trick on her niece, is strongly implied through multiple clues scattered across the text but is never explicitly stated and requires the reader to make the connections.