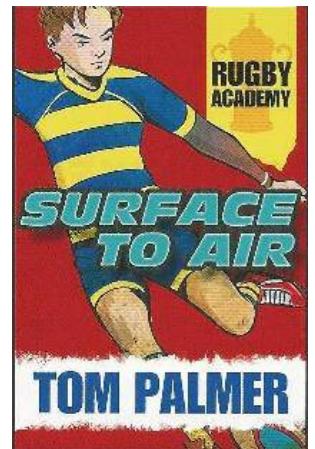


READING QUIZ

Surface to Air by Tom Palmer
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From Chapter 1

Rory stared in horror from the back seat as the bus he was travelling in veered the wrong way round a roundabout. He closed his eyes, held onto the seat in front of him and waited for the collision.

A few seconds later, Rory opened his eyes again. Everything was fine. He was an idiot. And he knew it. He was just going to have to accept the fact that he was in France and French people drive on the wrong side of the road.

It wasn't the only new thing to get used to. The billboard ads flashing past were for products Rory couldn't place. And the music on the bus radio was all stuff he'd never heard before.

At home, when Rory and his mum had looked at the town of Toulon on a map, they'd seen that it was by the sea on the south coast of France. So Rory had expected it to be a place of beaches and palm trees. He had not expected warehouses and dual carriageways, traffic jams and beeping horns. Rory couldn't even tell his mum about it. She was thousands of miles away, working for the RAF in the Central Asian Republic. Or somewhere.

To clear his mind of his troubles, Rory scanned the horizon for rugby posts. If he saw rugby posts, he'd be able to imagine kicking the ball over them. And that would help him relax.

Rory's two best friends from school – Owen and Woody – were on the back seat next to him. The three of them were travelling with the rest of the school rugby team to take part in a tournament. Their school – Borderlands – was representing the UK against a team from France, a team from Russia and a team from Italy. They were competing to be European Schools Rugby Champions.

1 Where is Rory sitting on the bus?

2 Why does Rory feel like an idiot after the roundabout?

3 How did Rory find out where Toulon is?

4 Is Toulon how Rory is expected it to be?

5 In the phrase, "Rory scanned the horizon for rugby posts", what does "scanned" mean?

6 Which school is representing the UK in the European Schools Rugby Championship?