

READING QUIZ

Secret FC by Tom Palmer **Published by Barrington Stoke** **From Chapter 1. The Railway Children**



It was the first day back at school after the summer break. Six weeks of fun and holidays over. Finished.

But Lily, Zack and Khal weren't sad to be back. They were over the moon.

The three of them stood in the playground and looked round the school grounds. Nothing had changed. Kingsfolly Junior School was just as it had always been.

The school building was old and brown. The small car park was packed with the teachers' cars. The wood over beyond the playground were as dark and creepy as ever. And the playground itself was marked out as a football pitch, ready for the first game of term.

"Kick off at morning break?" Lily asked.

Zack & Khal nodded. Zack was short and stocky, with dark hair in tight plaits. Khal was tall and had a thin face.

"Yeah," Khal said. "I can't wait."

"Nor me," Zack agreed.

Lily pushed her curly blonde hair away from her face. "It's been a long time since we played football," she said.

And it had been a long time. A very long time.

Kingsfolly Junior School was in the middle of the city. The triangle of ground on which it sat had a very busy road on one side, and several railway tracks on the other two. Trains thundered past the school every couple of minutes.

The part of the city Lily and the others lived in was so built-up that there was no room for fields and parks. No room for football. There were just houses and shops and warehouses and roads and railways, all packed in together.

There was only one place children could play football without being flattened by trains and cars. The school playground.

And that was why there were all so excited about being back at school. They hadn't played a proper game of football for weeks!

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| 1 | For how many weeks was their school holiday? |
| 2 | Why do you think the wood beyond the playground was "creepy"? |
| 3 | Who has curly blonde hair? |
| 4 | What sort of noise do the trains sound like every couple of minutes? |
| 5 | Where was the only safe place to play football? |
| 6 | Why were the children were excited to be back at school? |