

At the Winter Olympics Fiction

Jessie Green and her family had travelled all the way from Birmingham, in the UK, to the city of Pyeongchang, in South Korea, for the Winter Olympics.

Jessie was particularly excited today because she was going to see the figure skating! Jessie loved watching the figure skating. She thought the ladies looked like princesses as they gracefully swished over the ice and the men reminded her of Prince Charming.

The Green family made their way to the Gangneung Ice Arena. It was a cloudy day in February and very cold. They wrapped up in coats, scarves and hats. It was likely to be cold inside the arena too.

As they walked through the streets from the train station, Jessie suddenly saw someone dressed up as Soohorang, the Winter Olympic mascot.

“Look!” said Jessie. “It’s Soohorang! In South Korea, people say the white tiger protects the country and its people.”

“Really?” said Mum. “I didn’t know that, Jessie.”

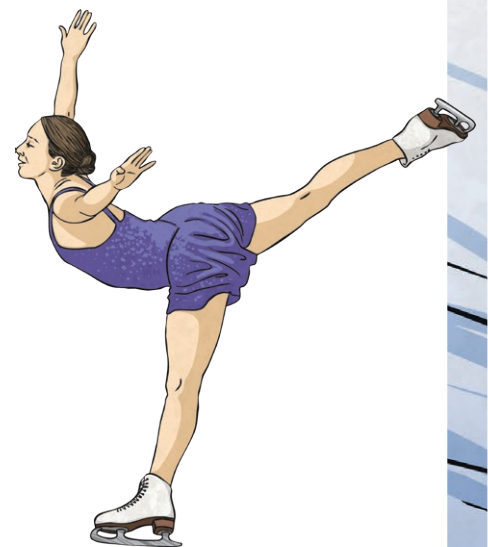
“This way!” Dad called, pointing to a large crowd gathered near an entrance to the arena. “Quickly, we haven’t got much time!”

Jessie could see a number of enormous TV screens around the queuing zone, where people could watch South Korea’s president, Moon Jae-in, give a speech to welcome all visitors to the country.

Eventually, the Greens were finally inside the ice arena. Jessie could hardly believe her eyes. There were people everywhere. Some were selling things and others were trying to find out where they were supposed to be.

Jessie’s dad found the block where their seats would be and they hurried through the crowds. Jessie held her mum’s hand tight. They climbed some steps and shuffled down the row of seats. As they sat down, the lights began to dim. An announcer introduced the first couple as they entered the arena to begin their dance.

Jessie couldn’t take her eyes off the skaters as they glided across the ice and took their places in the centre of the rink. The music started and the skaters began their beautiful dance.



Questions

1. Where did Jessie Green live? Tick one.

- Pyeongchang
- Manchester
- Birmingham
- London

2. Which adverb did Jessie use to describe the ladies' dancing?

3. Look at the paragraph beginning "The Green family made their way..." What do we learn about the weather?

4. Why was the white tiger chosen as the mascot animal of the Winter Olympics? Tick one.

- It represents beauty.
- It represents fun.
- It represents security.
- It represents danger.

5. What does the author mean when they say "Jessie couldn't take her eyes off the skaters"? Tick one.

- She couldn't close her eyes.
- She was wide awake.
- She was shocked.
- She was keen to see them skate.

6. Which mode of transport did Jessie use to travel to the ice arena?

7. Find and copy one word which suggests it took the family a while to get into the arena.

8. Explain why you think someone was dressed as Soohorang.

Answers

1. Where did Jessie Green live? Tick one.

- Pyeongchang
- Manchester
- Birmingham**
- London

2. Which adverb did Jessie use to describe the ladies' dancing?

gracefully

3. Look at the paragraph beginning "The Green family made their way..." What do we learn about the weather?

We learn that it is very cold and cloudy.

4. Why was the white tiger chosen as the mascot animal of the Winter Olympics? Tick one.

- It represents beauty.
- It represents fun.
- It represents security.**
- It represents danger.

5. What does the author mean when they say "Jessie couldn't take her eyes off the skaters"? Tick one.

- She couldn't close her eyes.
- She was wide awake.
- She was shocked.
- She was keen to see them skate.**

6. Which mode of transport did Jessie use to travel to the ice arena?

Jessie took the train to travel to the ice arena.

7. Find and copy one word which suggests it took the family a while to get into the arena.

eventually

8. Explain why you think someone was dressed as Soohorang.

Pupil's own responses, such as: I think someone was dressed as Soohorang to remind people of the mascot of the Olympic Games and the protection that the tiger represents.

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Jessie Green and her family had travelled all the way from their home town of Birmingham, in the UK, to the city of Pyeongchang, in South Korea, for the Winter Olympics.

Jessie was particularly thrilled today because she was journeying to see the figure skating! Jessie adored watching the figure skating. She thought the skaters looked as if they moved by magic, barely touching the ground with the swish of their blades.

The Green family made their way to the Gangneung Ice Arena. Being near the coast in February meant that the temperature was very cold. Everyone was cosy in their coats, scarves and hats.

As they walked through the streets from the train station, Jessie noticed someone dressed up as Soohorang, the Winter Olympic mascot.

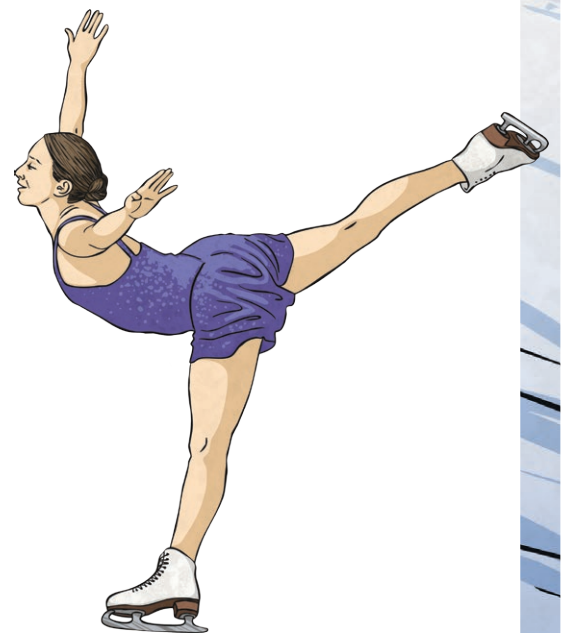
“Look!” said Jessie. “It’s Soohorang! In South Korea, people believe the white tiger protects the country and its people, but because it is the mascot for the Winter Olympics, it will also protect the people who watch the sports and the athletes themselves.”

“Really?” said Mum. “That’s interesting.”

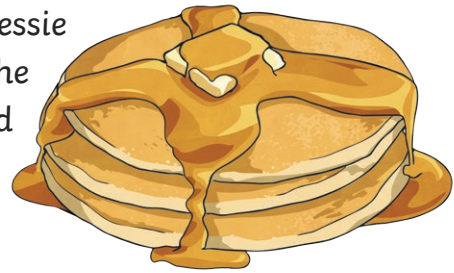
“This way!” Dad called, in an exasperated tone. “We need to hurry!”

Jessie could see several enormous TV screens outside the arena, where people could watch South Korea’s president, Moon Jae-in, give a speech to welcome all visitors to the country.

Eventually, the Greens were finally inside the ice arena. Jessie could hardly believe her eyes. It was huge and there was so much to look at. There was a large food market selling foods from every country she could think of. There were performers on stilts, walking along handing out maps for the venues of each event. People were selling programmes for all the sports taking place over the two weeks of the Games. You could even pretend you were an athlete and dress up in winter sports clothes to have your photo taken in front of a snowy mountain background!



“Jessie!” said Dad, with a smile, “I could go and get you some kimchi from that South Korean stall.” Jessie screwed up her face, remembering the kimchi she had tried at the meal last night. The fermented vegetables were not her thing at all.



“Er, no thanks, Dad. But you could get some hotteok. Those pancakes were delicious!”

Dad laughed, saying, “Maybe later. We must find our seats first.”

They found the block where their seats would be and pushed through the crowds. Jessie held her mum’s hand tight. They climbed the steps and squeezed along the row of seats. As they sat down, the lights dimmed and the first figure skating couple entered the arena to begin their program.

Jessie was mesmerised. She followed the figure skaters with her eyes as they glided effortlessly across the ice. They became motionless in the centre of the rink as they waited for the music to begin. As the first notes played, they began to work their magic for a silent audience.

Questions

1. Which city had the Green family gone to for the Winter Olympics? Tick one.

- Birmingham
- South Korea
- UK
- Pyeongchang

2. Explain what you think Jessie means when she says the skaters were **moved by magic**.

3. Give two reasons to explain why it was so cold.

4. Look at the paragraph beginning "Look!" said Jessie.
What are the main points in this paragraph?

5. Find and copy one word which means **to be fed up**.

6. Match up the sentences.

Soorang

Moon Jae-in

Gangneung

is the venue for the figure skating.

is the mascot of the Winter Olympics.

is South Korea's president.

7. Write two things Jessie saw when she entered the arena.

- a) _____
- b) _____

8. Why do you think Dad smiles as he tells Jessie about the kimchi stall?

9. Explain why Jessie held her mum's hand tight.

10. How is Jessie feeling at the end of the story? Explain how you know.

Answers

1. Which city had the Green family gone to for the Winter Olympics? Tick one.

- Birmingham
- South Korea
- UK
- Pyeongchang**

2. Explain what you think Jessie means when she says the skaters were **moved by magic**.

Accept any suitable answer, such as: I think 'moved by magic' means that the skaters make it look easy and that they are floating as if they are magically moving on the ice.

3. Give two reasons to explain why it was so cold.

It is cold because it is February and the arena is near the coast.

4. Look at the paragraph beginning "Look!" said Jessie.

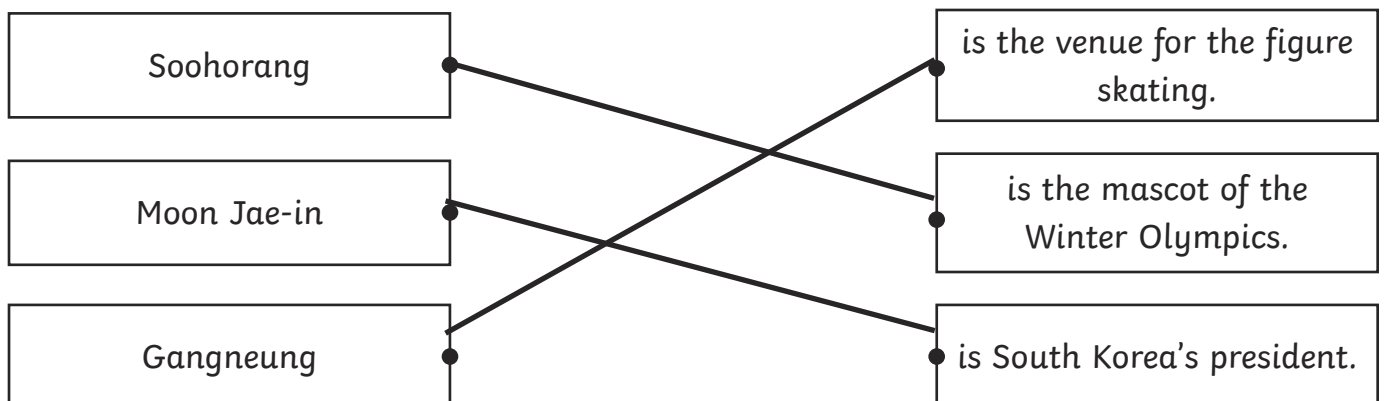
What are the main points in this paragraph?

The main points in this paragraph are: Soohorang is the mascot of the Winter Olympics; South Koreans believe the white tiger protects the country and people; The mascot will protect the athletes and spectators.

5. Find and copy one word which means **to be fed up**.

exasperated

6. Match up the sentences.



7. Write two things Jessie saw when she entered the arena.

Accept any two of the following: A large food market selling foods from every country; Performers on stilts handing out maps for the venues; People selling programmes for all the sports taking place.

8. Why do you think Dad smiles as he tells Jessie about the kimchi stall?

Accept any suitable answer, such as: Dad smiles when he tells Jessie about the kimchi because he knows she didn't like it when she tried it the night before and he is teasing her.

9. Explain why Jessie held her mum's hand tight.

Jessie holds her mum's hand tight to make sure doesn't get lost in the crowds.

10. How is Jessie feeling at the end of the story? Explain how you know.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Jessie is really excited and happy to be there because the author describes her as being 'mesmerised' and that she 'follows the skaters with her eyes', which means she cannot stop looking at them.

At the Winter Olympics Fiction

It was a cold, overcast day as Jessie Green and her family began their journey from the hotel in Pyeongchang to the ice arena in the province of Gangneung. They had arrived in South Korea two days previously from Birmingham in the UK for the Winter Olympics.

They had purchased the tickets for the figure skating event months ago and it seemed to Jessie that the day would never arrive. However, here she was, wrapped up in a scarf, hat and gloves and walking along the road where the arena was located.

Jessie saw a character that she recognised, lumbering along the street ahead of them, handing out leaflets to people along the road.

“Hey! It’s Soohorang!” squealed Jessie.

“Who?” asked Mum, looking bemused.

“Soohorang. The mascot for the Winter Olympics. It’s based on the white tiger because in South Korea people say the white tiger protects the country and its people. That means it will protect the athletes, spectators and everyone involved in the Games.”

“I see. That’s good to know!” smiled Mum.

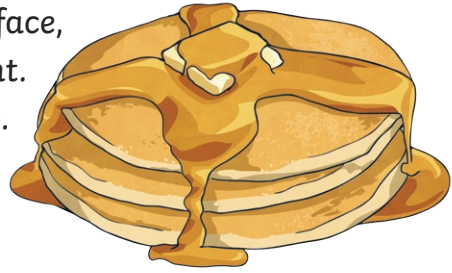
“This way!” Dad called, pointing to a large crowd gathered near an entrance to the arena. “Come on, we need to get a move on. It’ll start soon and I’m not sure we’ll be allowed in once the skaters are performing.”

Around the outside of the arena, massive screens broadcast South Korea’s president, Moon Jae-in, giving a speech to welcome all the visitors to the country.

The Greens joined the throngs of people making their way into the arena. Jessie had never seen anything like it in her whole life. There were food stalls selling foods from all around the world, performers on stilts wobbled between the crowds handing out maps to all the events, and jugglers, acrobats and entertainers welcomed the newcomers. Bright colours, movement and noise bombarded the senses.



“Jessie!” said Dad, with a smirk. “Fancy some kimchi from the South Korean stall?” Jessie screwed up her face, remembering the kimchi she had tried last night. The fermented vegetables were an acquired taste.



“Er, no thanks Dad. But you could get some hotteok. Those pancakes were delicious!”

Dad laughed, saying “Maybe later. We must find our seats first.”

They eventually spotted the block where their seats were as they jostled through the crowds. Climbing the steps, they squeezed along the narrow row of seats. As they took their seats, the lights were lowered and the first figure skating couple entered the rink.

Jessie was transfixed as she followed the figure skaters with her eyes. They glided effortlessly across the ice. Motionless in the centre of the rink, they waited for the music to commence. A pin drop could be heard in the audience. As the first notes sounded, the skaters swished smoothly across the ice like swans. At that moment, Jessie decided what she wanted to be when she grew up.

Questions

1. Look at the first two paragraphs. Write three things you are told about the main characters.

2. Write two synonyms for the word in **bold**.
"Who?" asked Mum, looking **bemused**.

3. Find the information for the following statements.

The city where the Winter Olympics were taking place was _____.

The area where the ice arena was _____.

4. Explain how Jessie's dad knew they did not have much time to find their seats.

5. Why might the Greens not have been allowed to enter the arena if the skaters were performing?

6. Find and copy one word which means **to be still**.

7. Put these statements in the order they occurred, from 1 to 6.

- They saw the Winter Olympic mascot walking along the road.
- Acrobats welcomed people once inside the arena.
- Jessie wanted some hotteok.
- The Green family bought tickets for the Winter Olympics.
- The family travelled to Pyeongchang in South Korea.
- They saw the South Korean president broadcasting a speech to the visitors.

8. Explain why you think the author used the words 'spotted', 'jostled' and 'squeezed' in the last two paragraphs.

'spotted' _____

'jostled' _____

'squeezed' _____

9. Explain what you understand by the following sentence.
A pin drop could be heard in the audience.

10. It could be said that Jessie was very pleased to attend the figure skating. Justify this statement by referring to the text.

Answers

1. Look at the first two paragraphs. Write three things you are told about the main characters.

Accept any three of the following: They were called the Green family; They were in South Korea; They were there for the Winter Olympics; They were in Pyeongchang walking to the Gangneung Ice Arena; They had arrived in South Korea two days before; They were from Birmingham in the UK; They had bought tickets for the figure skating event months ago.

2. Write two synonyms for the word in **bold**.

“Who?” asked Mum, looking **bemused**.

Accept any two suitable synonyms, such as: baffled, perplexed, surprised, puzzled.

3. Find the information for the following statements.

The city where the Winter Olympics were taking place was **Pyeongchang**.

The area where the ice arena was **Gangneung**.

4. Explain how Jessie’s dad knew they did not have much time to find their seats.

Accept any suitable answers, such as: Jessie’s dad knew they didn’t have much time to find their seats as a large crowd had gathered by the doors of the arena.

5. Why might the Greens not have been allowed to enter the arena if the skaters were performing?

Accept any suitable answers, such as: Once the skaters were performing, the Greens might not have been allowed to enter the arena because it could have distracted them and affected the quality of their performance.

6. Find and copy one word which means **to be still**.

motionless

7. Put these statements in the order they occurred, from 1 to 6.

3 They saw the Winter Olympic mascot walking along the road.

5 Acrobats welcomed people once inside the arena.

6 Jessie wanted some hotteok.

1 The Green family bought tickets for the Winter Olympics.

2 The family travelled to Pyeongchang in South Korea.

4 They saw the South Korean president broadcasting a speech to the visitors.

8. Explain why you think the author used the words 'spotted', 'jostled' and 'squeezed' in the last two paragraphs.

Accept any suitable answers, such as:

'spotted' **suggests it was so busy, they had difficulty seeing where the seats might be.**

'jostled' **reinforces the idea that there were so many people there, they found it hard to get to their block.**

'squeezed' **creates the effect of the effort and difficulty they had getting into their seats.**

9. Explain what you understand by the following sentence.

A pin drop could be heard in the audience.

Accept any suitable answer, such as: I think that this sentence means that the audience was so quiet when they were watching the skaters, that you could have heard the tiniest noise in the arena.

10. It could be said that Jessie was very pleased to attend the figure skating. Justify this statement by referring to the text.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Jessie was pleased to be there, and we know that because at the beginning of the story, we are told that "Jessie thought the day would never come" suggesting she was looking forward to it. The author has used the word "transfixed" to describe how Jessie behaved when the figure skaters appeared. These words mean she could not stop looking at them and was thoroughly engaged.