

A Real Virtual World



Ever since I moved to the new house, life had been a little boring. Don't get me wrong, the house itself was cool – brand new, only just built and way bigger than our last place. It's just that we were miles away from any of my friends now. I used to play out on the street with Lucas and Cody all the time but now they hung out together, while I was stuck in the middle of nowhere.

'Come on Jamie,' my mum kept saying. 'Go and explore. See what you can find, maybe you'll meet some new friends.' Huh! Not much chance of that. Our house is one of the first to be finished on this new estate. Looking out of my bedroom window, I can see diggers and a few big metal containers but apart from that just empty, muddy fields.

It's not all bad though because I have been able to spend loads more time building new worlds on my tablet computer. Before we moved, I wasn't that good at it. Now I'm practising all the time, I can create some really original stuff. I'm starting a new world today, beginning with the best house I've ever designed.

Something really weird has happened this morning. Last night, I made a start on that new world. I was determined to make a great job of it, to show Lucas and Cody when I next saw them, so I began carefully with all the foundations I needed. After flattening some land, I dug trenches for where all the walls needed to be built on this amazing new house I had planned. It had taken me ages to find the right spot, exploring in the virtual world – the battery almost died on the tablet and I had to plug it in to charge it up.

Anyway, the strange thing is when I looked out of my window today across our back garden, the trenches were there. I mean – outside, for real! I wasn't sure at first, I thought I was being ridiculous and imagining it. However, I dashed to get the

tablet and loaded up my world. Holding it up to compare side by side, I was sure those trenches that had appeared outside beyond our garden fence looked exactly like those I'd designed myself.

I figured there was only one thing for it – I needed to keep building and see what happened.

It has happened again! This time, I know it's true! I built the first rows of bricks for the house on my tablet and deliberately chose some really obscure colours. Just to make absolutely certain, I changed my design too and dug out the space for a swimming pool in the space at the side. You know what? There it was this morning! Outside my window, behind the far edge of our garden: same bricks with the same swirling pattern of orange and blue, in the same shape as my virtual house on the tablet. To the right, a great hole big enough for a swimming pool! It's amazing – my virtual world is becoming real.

Maybe when it's finished, I can use it as my own personal hide-out. Like the biggest, best den ever. Imagine what Lucas and Cody will say when they come over to visit. I can't wait to keep building...

Early this morning, there was a knock on the door. This was before I'd even had chance to check on the progress of my real virtual house behind the garden. Hoping to see the beginning of my newest features, sad and disappointed I went to open the door.

Tall, with round glasses and wearing a yellow builder's hat and fluorescent yellow jacket, a serious-looking man stood at our doorstep as Mum and I arrived to answer the door together. There was some kind of Internet connection problem, he was explaining to my mum, looking occasionally down at me. Nothing to worry about and no-one to blame. Urgently needing to be fixed though he said, the Wi-Fi signal had been crossed and a device traced to our house had been accidentally saving files to their computer server, over-writing existing plans. I blushed.

Apparently, the builders hadn't thought anything of it when they first dug new trenches. They had been a bit bewildered when putting in the brightly coloured bricks and digging out the swimming pool, but suspicion had only really been aroused today when they viewed the plans for a shark-infested moat around the house, a drawbridge and watchtower!

Steve Johnson, 2015



Questions

For questions 1 to 4, please circle the correct answer.

1. The story is written from the perspective of:

Lucas

Cody

Jamie

Mum

1 mark

2. The story teller has recently...

moved schools

moved house

made a
new friend

bought a
computer

1 mark

3. What can Jamie see from his window?

grassy fields

his friend's
house

diggers and
empty muddy
fields

new houses

1 mark

4. What colour bricks did Jamie add to his house design?

orange and
blue

orange and
green

blue and green

blue and red

1 mark

total for
this page

5. Order these events as they happen in the story. Number them 1, 2, 3, 4.

The builders dig out space for a swimming pool.

Jamie learns to design houses on his tablet.

A man visits Jamie's house with an explanation.

The builders dig trenches which match Jamie's design.

1 mark

6. Using evidence from the text, complete the table with words and phrases to describe how Jamie felt at these points in the story.

2 marks

Section of the story	How Jamie felt
when the man knocks on the door	
when the problem with the Wi-Fi is revealed	

7. Find and copy part of a sentence which shows that Jamie had spent a long time designing his virtual house.

1 mark

8. While the man was talking to Jamie's mum, he looked down at Jamie 'occasionally'.

1 mark

Give one reason why he did this.

Answers

1.	The story is written from the perspective of:		
	Jamie	1	Content domain: 2b–retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for the correct option indicated.
2.	The story teller has recently...		
	moved house	1	Content domain: 2b–retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for the correct option indicated.
3.	What can Jamie see from his window?		
	diggers and empty muddy fields	1	Content domain: 2b–retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for the correct option indicated.
4.	What colour bricks did Jamie add to his house design?		
	orange and blue	1	Content domain: 2b–retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for the correct option indicated.
5.	Order these events as they happen in the story. Number them 1, 2, 3, 4.		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jamie learns to design houses on his tablet. 2. The builders dig trenches which match Jamie’s design. 3. The builders dig out space for a swimming pool. 4. A man visits Jamie’s house with an explanation. 	1	Content domain: 2b–retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for four correct answers.
6.	Using evidence from the text, complete the table with words and phrases to describe how Jamie felt at these points in the story.		
	<p>when the man knocks on the door - sad and disappointed</p> <p>when the problem with the Wi-Fi is revealed - embarrassed</p>	up to 2 marks	Content domain: 2d–make inferences from the text/explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for each answer as given in the table.

7.	Find and copy part of a sentence which shows that Jamie had spent a long time designing his virtual house.		
	'...the battery almost died on my tablet and I had to plug it in to charge it up' or 'it had taken me ages to find the right spot'	1	Content domain: 2b—retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for '...the battery almost died on my tablet and I had to plug it in to charge it up'. Also accept 'it had taken me ages to find the right spot'.
8.	While the man was talking to Jamie's mum, he looked down at Jamie 'occasionally'. Give one reason why he did this.		
	Answers stating that the man thinks the problem had something to do with Jamie.	1	Content Domain: 2d—make inferences from the text /explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text Award 1 mark for an answer stating that the man thinks the problem had something to do with Jamie.
9.	'They had been a bit bewildered when putting in the brightly coloured bricks'. Which word is closest in meaning to 'bewildered'? Tick one.		
	confused	1	Content domain: 2a—give /explain the meaning of words in context Award 1 mark for answer as indicated.
10.	At the end of the story, Jamie's house design included a shark-infested moat, a drawbridge and a watchtower. Find and copy a sentence from the beginning of the text which tells us why Jamie thinks he is able to create such complicated designs.		
	'Now that I'm practising all the time, I can create some really original stuff'	1	Content domain: 2h—make comparisons within the text Award 1 mark for 'Now that I'm practising all the time, I can create some really original stuff'.
11.	Jamie uses the words ' <i>stuck in the middle of nowhere</i> ' to describe where he is. These words show us that Jamie feels:		
	isolated and lonely	1	Content domain: 2b—retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction Award 1 mark for option indicated.
12.	The man at the door explained that the problem needed to be fixed 'urgently'. Give another word with the same meaning which could have been used instead.		
	Any word meaning immediately, at once, right away, instantly, promptly.	1	Content domain: 2a—give /explain the meaning of words in context Award 1 mark for any word meaning immediately, at once, right away, instantly, promptly.