

Jimmy and the Pharaoh

Jimmy lay in his bed and closed his eyes. He was thinking about all the good things that happened on the school trip earlier that day. Mrs Richards had forced the class to wander around a boring old museum just because they were learning about the Ancient Egyptians. Everyone knew that visiting a museum was the worst kind of school trip teachers had ever invented, but luckily Jimmy had come prepared. He smiled as he thought about it. It wasn't the frog he'd let loose in the ladies' toilets that made him smile or when he'd let off a stink bomb during lunch - it wasn't even when he'd sneaked a fake poo into Alice Thornley's sandwich - no, it was what he'd 'borrowed' from the museum as a souvenir that Jimmy was so happy about.

Jimmy was too excited to sleep. He opened one eye and uncurled his fingers. Wow, he thought to himself, twiddling what looked like a model of a shiny beetle in his hand, Tutankhamun's lost heart scarab! He'd borrowed it when the boring old museum guide was droning on about the pharaoh's curse or something. It just kind of called out to him so he grabbed it when she wasn't looking. He kissed the scarab for good luck then tried to drift off to sleep. POOOOF!

Suddenly, out of thin air, a rather thin looking, half-naked man appeared, draped in expensive-looking jewellery. "Waaaaghh!" the man squealed as he jumped in fright.

"Arrgghh!" Jimmy squealed back.

The strange man seemed confused and peered around Jimmy's bedroom. "Okaaaaay," he said, shrugging. "Wasn't expecting that."

Jimmy stared at the scarab then back at the man.

"Anyhoo, let's get on with this shall we?" the man said cheerfully before clearing his throat. "Ahem. Right then. Osiris! Great God of the Underworld!" he boomed. "I am Tutankhamun, King of Egypt, living image of Amun! Will you let me pass?"

Jimmy pulled the covers high over his nose. The man waited, arms stretched in the air. Then he smiled. That's when Jimmy lost it.

"Mummy!" he shrieked.



1. What did Jimmy do to Alice Thornley's sandwich?



2. '...it was what he'd 'borrowed' from the museum...' Why do you think the word borrowed is written in inverted commas in the story?



3. What do you think caused the strange man to appear?



4. Write down how you think Jimmy was feeling at these points in the story:

a) Finding out the school trip was a visit to a museum. _____

b) When he let a frog loose in the ladies' toilets. _____

c) When the strange man appeared out of thin air. _____

Ancient Egyptian Dentists

Not everyone enjoys a visit to the dentist but imagine you lived 3000-5000 years ago during the age of the ancient Egyptians. Treating toothache was handled slightly differently than it is today...



Dentist! Dentist!

Here's what an Ancient Egyptian dentist might say:

"**Toothache?** Let's have a look... Ah yes, you've got mouth worms."

"**What? Never heard of mouth worms?** They're the cause of all tooth decay!"

"**Need something to take the pain away?** Dangle a dead mouse on your tooth. That should do the trick!"

"**Still aches?** Hmm... well, try praying to the Gods, and if that doesn't work stop being naughty because that's probably what's caused the problem in the first place!"

Dental Hygiene

Toothpaste – this could be a mixture of egg shells and horses' hooves, or sometimes a delicate blend of crushed rocks, mint, salt, pepper and dried iris flowers!

Mouthwash – bran and celery.

Antiseptic paste – incense and onion.

Pain relief – opium (an illegal drug today!).

Main Problems

- **Poor diet!** Egyptians didn't eat enough vitamins and minerals to keep their teeth and gums healthy!
- **Gritty bread!** A lot of sand and grit found their way into Egyptian food – especially bread. This wore down the enamel in people's teeth.
- **No money!** Lots of people couldn't afford to see a dentist so their teeth simply fell out!



1. According to the ancient Egyptians, what do mouth worms cause?



2. Imagine you were an ancient Egyptian dentist. Using the text, what two things could you suggest if someone had toothache?



3. Look at the ingredients for toothpaste. Why might some of these ingredients be bad for keeping your teeth and gums healthy?



4. Look at the main problems section. Pretend you are Pharaoh and come up with one way to improve the health of people's teeth:

Mummy!

Ancient Egyptians of long ago
liked to look after their dead.
They wrapped the body in bandages,
from feet right to their head.

Before all this they had to hook
the brain from up the nose.
They bashed and whisked and stirred it
into a goo that runs and flows.

They cut the body to get inside;
to rip out liver and lung;
the stomach, the guts; the nasty bits -
in canopic jars they slung.

The heart they left: Egyptians thought
the core of mind and soul.
It stayed in there, the kidneys too,
and washed the body whole.

It then was cleaned with wine and spice
and stuffed to seem like real
they dried it out with natron salt -
that's not the end of the deal.

That's the time for bandages;
wrapping the mummy up tight
with amulets, gifts and goods,
and jewels that sparkle bright.

The mummy was laid in a sarcophagus:
a coffin that's rather grand,
set for the afterlife; weighing the heart;
they're judged for the promised land.

Met by Osiris, the underworld God,
the heart was weighed for sin -
the heavy ones were eaten up,
but good ones made it in!



1. What verbs describe what the Egyptians did to the brain?



2. Which parts of the body were left inside before the mummy was washed?



3. 'A coffin that's rather grand'. What does 'grand' mean here?



4. Look at the final line: 'but the good ones made it in!' What do you think this means?

Dodge and the Tornado

Dodge tilted his head to the wind and sniffed the air. It smelt dry and dusty like it always did just before it rained. He listened. A strange roar rumbled in the distance like a heavy train thundering down the track. He tilted his head again, trying to get a better view, but the buildings were in his way. He looked along the street towards the park then back towards the underpass where he had sheltered for the night. 'Strange,' he thought. No humans. That was never a good sign.

The roar was getting louder. He scampered up the hill to get a better view. Raising his front paws against an old bin, Dodge stared over the buildings towards the vast plains of the American Midwest. There, in the near-distance, tearing up everything in its path and reaching high into the sky like a giant spinning-top, was a raging mass of swirling wind. He'd seen something like this before - the humans called them tornados - but this one was the biggest yet, and it was headed straight for the town. Dodge made a little whimpering noise and sprinted towards the underpass.

The wind was getting stronger. Leaves, rubbish and old plastic bags danced in circles in the air as Dodge darted between them. Trees bent unnaturally on the street side and tiles torn from roofs landed like missiles on the road. Dodge focused on the underpass. It was a strong-looking bridge made to carry heavy lorries. If he could make it there, he would be safe. The roar of the tornado was louder than ever now; the sound of ripping metal adding to the deafening noise as the wind whipped at his fur. He weaved through a mist of dust and rubble and with a huge leap dived into the underpass. He nuzzled under his blanket and clenched onto it with his teeth. With his eyes tightly shut and with the tornado raging around him, he wondered where Banjo was.



1. What did the 'strange roar rumbling in the distance' sound like?



2. How do you think Dodge was feeling when he made a little whimpering noise?



3. Do you think Dodge is a human or a dog? Prove it by finding and copying two pieces of evidence from the text.



4. Who do you think Banjo is and what might have happened to him/her?

MIDWEST EXPRESS

TORNADO RIPS THROUGH TOWN

Devastation hit the American Midwest yesterday as one of the largest tornados in living memory ripped through the town of Greensburg.

Greensburg, a small farming town in south-west Kansas with a population of less than 2000 people, was left in ruins as the tornado destroyed buildings, uprooted trees and overturned cars.

Local forecaster Michael Lacy described the tornado as "Massive, and about a mile wide."



With windspeeds of up to 266 mph, the tornado tore through businesses, schools and homes. Even the local hospital and water tower were destroyed.

Many people were hurt and are currently being cared for in neighbouring towns.

There are over 1000 tornados reported in the USA every year. That's more than anywhere in the world.

The American Midwest and South - a region known as 'tornado alley' - is the worst-affected area, where winds can sometimes reach 300 mph.

Officials will be visiting Greensburg today to assess the damage.



1. How many people live in Greensburg?



2. The Greensburg tornado had windspeeds of up to how many miles per hour?



3. Using the report, explain what 'tornado alley' is.



4. What do you think the people thought about the disaster in the neighbouring towns?
