

Comprehension Answers

1) **What does the narrator think of Ben Fox and Sandra Morris? Give at least two pieces of evidence.**

He thinks they are posers / snobs / too good for everyone else / they are lucky to have the best of everything / they are good looking (ask children to find the quotes to back up the opinions)

2) **Why does the narrator think that life is not fair?**

He isn't good looking like the others – he has pimples, which grow big and burst.

3) **How is the narrator planning to “even things up”?**

He's going to get Sandra to answer some questions using a lie detector test – the questions will be embarrassing so she'll not be so perfect anymore.

4) **Do you think “Boffin” is the narrator's friend's real name? What evidence would suggest this?**

It seems likely that it is a nickname. This is because boffin is sometimes a word for someone really clever, or who knows a lot. And Boffin is described as a “brain” and someone who makes inventions that always work.

5) **“Sandra smiles with that lovely smile of hers.” How does this contrast with how the narrator described Sandra earlier?**

The narrator is describing her in a nice way without any nasty comments to go with it. It suggests he actually does like her. We're starting to get more of a hint that maybe he has feelings towards her.

6) **How does the narrator's mood change over the course of the story? What evidence is there? Why do you think this might be?**

He starts off excited to put Sandra and Ben in their place. He thinks it's a chance for him to feel better as these perfect people won't seem so perfect after they've been embarrassed. But later, he realises he's embarrassing Sandra, and he feels bad about this. This may also be because he realises how much he likes her. Ask pupils to provide evidence from the text to back up these ideas.

7) **For what reason can the narrator not see the right person in the room?**

Because he hasn't realised yet that he is the one she loves. And no-one else in the room has the same colour eyes as him.

8) **Why do you think the narrator wishes he could sink through the floor?**

He realises he's been, in the words of his own question, “an idiot”. He's embarrassed because he's ended up making himself look more of a fool than his victims.

9) **What is clever about the title of the story?**

To expose means to reveal something about someone – so the title is hinting at exposing secrets. Also, “ex” as a prefix can mean NOT, or a FORMER something (e.g. ex president), so something that someone used to be but isn't anymore. So it's showing that he wanted to stop them from being posers anymore and be embarrassed.