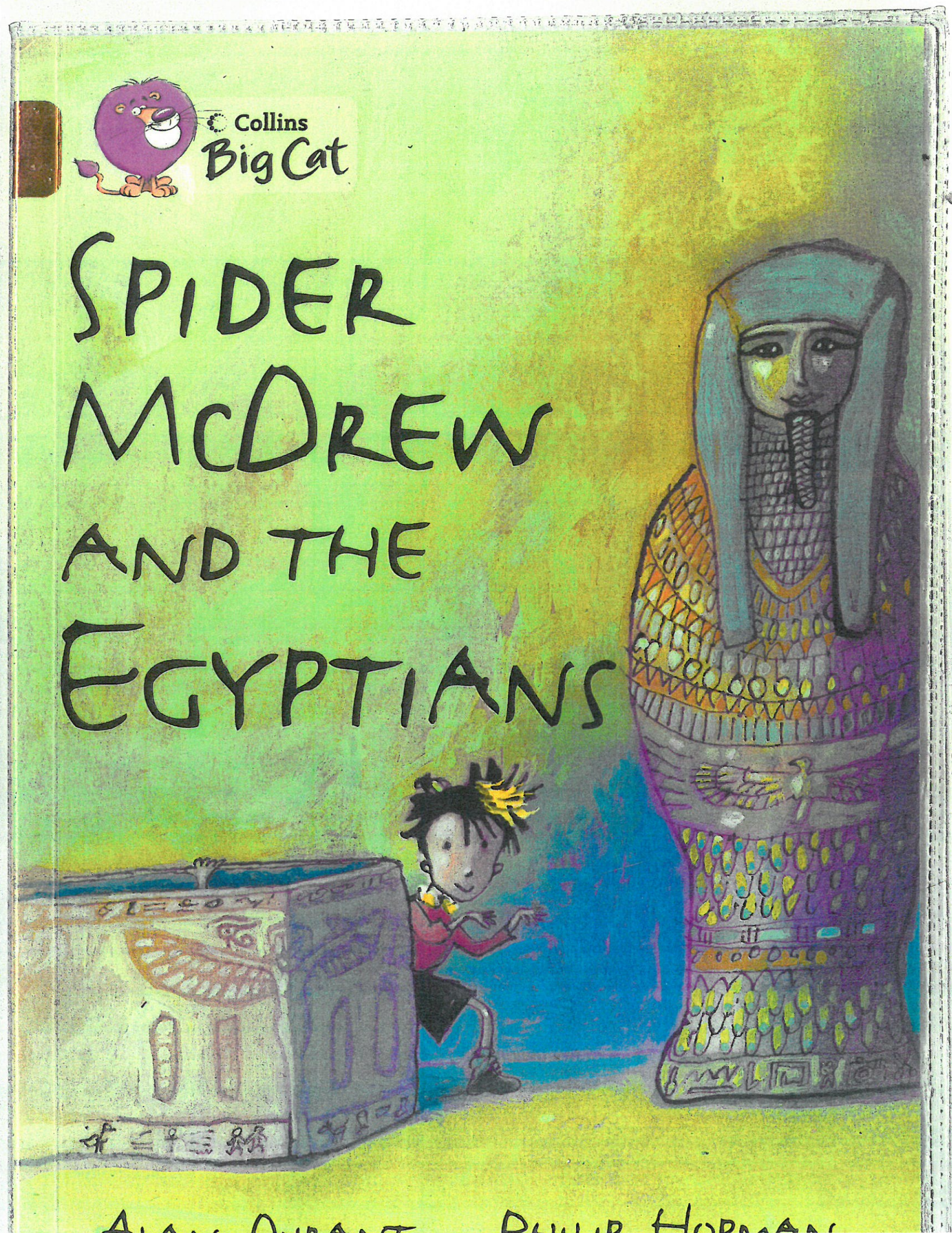


Inference questions



What does that mean?

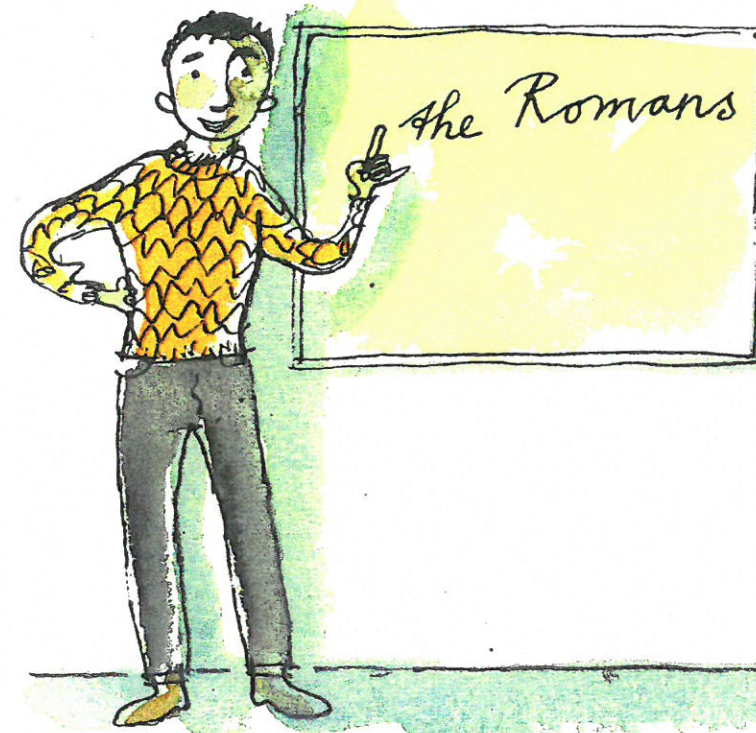


CHAPTER 1

Spider McDrew was a hopeless case. Everyone said so - his mum, the teachers at Parkfield School, the other children in his class. They said it when they looked at him with his sprouty hair like the leaves of a spider plant (that's why his nickname was Spider). They said it when he had clothes on all inside out and back to front ... and they said it when he got things wrong. He got things wrong a lot because he tended to carry on thinking about something after everyone else had stopped, so he was often one step behind.



2



Spider's class was learning about the Romans. They had looked at books about Romans and coloured in maps of the Roman Empire. Soon they were going to dress up in Roman costumes and do a school assembly. To prepare for it, their teacher, Mr Smithers, was taking them on a day trip to the museum.

"Has anyone been before?" he asked the class. A few children put up their hands.

3

Think

- Can your child read this independently?
- What prior learning (about real life) would they need in order to answer these typical inference questions?
- How can you help to diminish the difference in this knowledge?

→ Can you list all the work that had taken place about the Romans?

Why did Neil Phillips say that happily?

"Please sir, I went to see the mummies, sir," Darren Kelly said breathlessly. "They was wicked."

"Were wicked, Darren," Mr Smithers corrected him.

"Yes, sir, they was," Darren confirmed.

"Mummies had their brains pulled out through their noses," Neil Phillips added happily.



"Ugh, yuk!" exclaimed Hannah Stewart.

"Thank you, Neil, I don't think we want to hear any more about that," said Mr Smithers.

Spider McDrew put up his hand.

"Yes, Spider?" said Mr Smithers.

Spider smiled. "I've got a mummy," he said.

What is a mummy?



Why did the author use this word?

What alternatives could the author use?

At once, the class erupted into loud laughter.

"Spider's got a mummy!" cried Kip Keen.

"We've all got a mummy," groaned Jason Best.

"You're mad, Spider," Darren Kelly remarked.



What was so funny?

What's the confusion here?