

Week Beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Guided Reading

## Not Even a Whisper

Harry was loud. Really loud. So loud in fact, that his friends said they had overheard Mr. Tomkins talking to Mrs. Khan just outside the staff room and that both teachers had called him 'Noisy Harry Nicholls' just like it was his real name. He never stopped talking. "If talking was an Olympic sport, you'd win gold for Great Britain!" his grandpa used to say when Harry and the family went to visit. "When you die, they'll put you in the grave and just as they're about to fill the hole in, there'll be a knock on the coffin lid and they'll hear a voice saying, 'Just one more thing..!'" his mother joked one evening at dinner. "Harry Nicholls, BE QUIET!" was all Mrs. Khan ever seemed to say in maths lessons. And English, science, design, PE... All this meant that this week was going to be really, really, really weird. It was Deaf Awareness Week, and Harry was staying quiet. Every day, for one whole hour, he would be completely silent. For charity.

You see, Harry's little brother Ben had been born with a problem in his ears. The doctors said he would never hear normally in his life. When he was a baby, they had fitted special hearing aids on his ears but the treatment had not really worked. Then, when Ben was a little older, he had an extraordinary operation. Harry's mum said that Ben had been given some incredible technology called 'cochlear implants'. Harry did not really know how they worked, but work they did! Thanks to the remarkable implants and their high-tech wires, sound could now 'miss out' the damaged parts of Ben's ears and travel straight into his brain - amazing! It was astounding. So astounding in fact, that Harry had talked about nothing else for about a fortnight after the operation. Now that Deaf Awareness Week had arrived and presented Harry with a chance to help other people like his brother by raising money, he had chosen to take on the hardest challenge he would ever face: maintaining complete silence.

On Monday, he chose to be silent during dinner.  
"I can't believe it!" said his mum.  
"He's really doing it!" exclaimed his dad.  
"....." said Harry.

On Tuesday, he chose to be silent at lunchtime.  
"He's even eating quietly!" said his best friend Evan.  
"Aren't you going to tell us about football last night?" asked another friend.  
"....." said Harry.

On Wednesday, he chose to show his grandma and grandpa just how silent he could be.  
"Is Harry alive?" giggled his grandma.  
"Oh, I could get used to this!" grinned his grandpa.  
"....." said Harry.

On Thursday, he chose to be silent in maths.  
"Well, I never!" gasped Mrs. Khan.  
"Harry, what's 36 divided by 4?" asked Evan.  
"....." said Harry.

On Friday, he had been silent for nearly his whole hour when the head teacher, Mrs. Rani, called him up to the front of assembly.  
"Harry has nearly finished his sponsored silence. Let's count him down!" ordered Mrs. Rani.  
"5... 4... 3... 2... 1..." cried the school.

"IT'S OVER!" shouted Harry at the top of his lungs, his voice bouncing off the walls and echoing down the corridors.

"IT'S OVER! IT'S OVER! IT'S OVER!"

The whole school clapped and cheered. Harry had done it!

"Now just let me quickly tell you how hard this was..." Harry began.

Read the text, identify any unfamiliar words and answer the questions below.

1. What is the name and nickname of the main character?
2. What is his maths teacher called?
3. Who said Harry could win gold at the Olympics for talking?
4. For how long each day would he be silent?
5. Why is he staying silent?
6. What can we infer about Harry's personality?
7. List three words that tell you that the operation was wonderful.
8. Why was Harry supporting deaf awareness week?
9. Complete the sentence with the correct day; "Harry was silent at lunchtime on...".
10. What do the dots suggest in the sentence "....." said Harry.
11. What does "at the top of his lungs" suggest?
12. Identify three features of the sentences "IT'S OVER! IT'S OVER! IT'S OVER!" which show that Harry is happy and excited that he has finished his challenge.
13. True or false? Harry had a cochlear implant.