



**UNEXPECTED GUEST**

**JOHN LEWIS CHRISTMAS AD 2021**

# **Reading Comprehension Lesson**

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# Unexpected Guest

## Audio Description Text

On a bus, fourteen-year-old Nathan notices a burning ball of light streaking across the cloudy sky.

He gets off, then spies a smoking starshaped star ship amongst trees.

He turns and runs away.

When the space ship's young pilot, Sky, a girl from outer space, sees him. Her outfit has a glowing star on the chest.

At home, Nathan's parents and little sister are decorating the Christmas tree, while he's lying on the sofa playing with a flashing star badge. He seems to have an idea.

Back in the woods, Sky startles Nathan. He presses the badge, now fastened to his Christmas tree jumper. It lights up and plays a tune. He points to the similar star on her breastplate.

Now Nathan hangs some lights on a fir tree. Sky makes them twinkle by raising her hand.

At home, around the dinner table, Nathan's sister shakes her head when she sees him sneak mince pies into a napkin.

In the woods, Sky puts a pie into her mouth, including the tin foil tray. Nathan laughs and stops her and shows her what to do, just as it starts to snow. Sky marvels at the snowflakes.

As Sky fixes her ship, Nathan lobs a snowball at her. She dodges it and presses a button, causing a blast of snow from the ship knocking him over. They share a smile.

Now they're lying on the spaceship, watching a family movie on a tablet.

Later at night, Sky uses her magic to make fake reindeer and Christmas lights flash in a neighbour's garden. They duck behind a fence when he comes out. They turn to look each other.

Nathan's eating cereal at home when the kitchen ceiling lights starts to flash. He runs to the woods.

The spaceship is hovering just above Sky, bathing her in a column of shimmering light.

Nathan gives her his neatly folded Christmas jumper. It lights up, then Sky thanks him with a tender peck on the cheek.

She returns to the light.

As snow falls, taken Nathan sees a white light streak across the sky, creating a star just above their Christmas tree.

For a Christmas as magical as your first.

# Unexpected Guest

Song Lyrics:

I only knew you for a while, I never saw your smile, till it was time to go, time to go away.

Sometimes it's hard to recognise, love comes as a surprise and it's too late, it's just too late to stay... too late to stay.

We'll always be together, however far it seems.

Love never ends, we'll always be together, together in electric dreams.

Love never ends, we'll always be together, however far it seems.

For a Christmas as magical as your first.

[Click here to access the John Lewis Advert](#) or click the picture for the advert on Youtube:



[Click here to access the Audio Description Version](#) or click the picture for the advert on Youtube:



### **Teacher's Note:**

*Before introducing the comprehension task (based upon the audio description) try and get your learners to appreciate how difficult it is to visualise something that you are unable to see. This is especially difficult when that something is not being described to you.*

Get your learners to close their eyes or turn around in their chairs so that they cannot see the screen. Then play the regular advert (the version that does NOT have audio description) and ask them to think about what is happening.

Play the normal advert (link on previous page)

- What is happening in this advert?
- Where does it start?
- Where does most of the action take place?
- Where does it end?

For visually impaired people, not being able to see can be frustrating to say the least, so many companies accompany their adverts with an audio description. This helps people who are blind or have difficulty in watching TV as it describes what is happening on screen.

In much the same way, when we cannot see the screen, we too find it difficult to know what is happening and we tend to focus upon what we hear.

When we hear the background song, for example, we might think this advert is about two friends who have fallen in love and have to say goodbye to each other or that the advert is trying to sell us some electrical goods.

Now play the audio description of the advert but again play this without the video being seen.

Play the audio description version of the advert (link on previous page)

Return to the four questions asked earlier regarding the chronology of the advert.

- What is happening in this advert?
- Where does it start?
- Where does most of the action take place?
- Where does it end?

Why are we in a better position to be able to answer these questions? Discuss.

Now hand out the audio description (that has been cut up) and ask small groups of learners to piece it back together again, placing it in the correct chronological order.

When this has been done, they can check their answers by playing the advert itself.

When the correct order of the audio has been verified, the following questions can be given out and answered by using the text:

Back in the woods, Sky startles Nathan. He presses the badge, now fastened to his Christmas tree jumper. It lights up and plays a tune. He points to the similar star on her breastplate.

Now Nathan hangs some lights on a fir tree. Sky makes them twinkle by raising her hand.

Later at night, Sky uses her magic to make fake reindeer and Christmas lights flash in a neighbour's garden. They duck behind a fence when he comes out. They turn to look each other.

In the woods, Sky puts a pie into her mouth, including the tin foil tray. Nathan laughs and stops her and shows her what to do, just as it starts to snow. Sky marvels at the snowflakes.

Now they're lying on the spaceship, watching a family movie on a tablet.

On a bus, fourteen-year-old Nathan notices a burning ball of light streaking across the cloudy sky.

Nathan's eating cereal at home when the kitchen ceiling lights starts to flash. He runs to the woods.

The spaceship is hovering just above Sky, bathing her in a column of shimmering light.

As snow falls, taken Nathan sees a white light streak across the sky, creating a star just above their Christmas tree.

At home, Nathan's parents and little sister are decorating the Christmas tree, while he's lying on the sofa playing with a flashing star badge. He seems to have an idea.

Nathan gives her his neatly folded Christmas jumper. It lights up, then Sky thanks him with a tender peck on the cheek.

As Sky fixes her ship, Nathan lobs a snowball at her. She dodges it and presses a button, causing a blast of snow from the ship knocking him over. They share a smile.

He gets off, then spies a smoking starshaped star ship amongst trees.

He turns and runs away.

She returns to the light.

When the space ship's young pilot, Sky, a girl from outer space, sees him. Her outfit has a glowing star on the chest.

At home, around the dinner table, Nathan's sister shakes her head when she sees him sneak mince pies into a napkin.

## Orientation Questions: Retrieval

1. Where is Nathan at the start of the advert?
2. How old is Nathan?
3. What does Nathan see while A] on the bus and B] when he gets off the bus?
4. What does Sky have on her chest?
5. What does Nathan play with while lying on the sofa?
6. Where is this badge when he presses it in the woods? [On his Christmas jumper]
7. Why do you think Nathan shows Sky this flashing star?
8. How does Sky make the fairy lights twinkle?
9. Who sees Nathan sneaking mince pies into a napkin?
10. What does she do that shows us she does not approve?
11. Why do you think Nathan takes more than one mince pie?
12. What does Sky marvel at? Why might this be?
13. Do you think Sky has eaten a mince pie before? Why do you think this?
14. When do Nathan and Sky share a smile? What does this tell us?
15. How is this idea of friendship developed? Think of three points.
16. What does Nathan see at the end of the advert?
17. How magical was Sky's first Christmas? Why was this?

Answers:

1. On a bus.
2. 14
3. A] A burning ball of light streaking across the cloudy sky.  
B] A smoking space ship amongst the trees.
4. A glowing star.
5. A flashing star badge.
6. On his Christmas jumper.
7. Allow for personal response.
8. She raises her hand.
9. His Sister.
10. She shakes her head.
11. So he can share them with Sky as a gesture of friendship.
12. Snowflakes – this is probably the first time she has seen snow, it does not  
snow on her home planet.
13. No – she eats it in one whole mouthful and doesn't take the foil off.
14. After the snowball fight. This tells us they are becoming good friends.
15. I. They watch a family movie together. II. Nathan is with Sky when they make the neighbours lights flash. III. Nathan gives Sky his Christmas jumper as a present.
16. A white light streaking across the sky, Sky's spaceship returning to her home planet.
17. Allow for personal response.

Vocabulary:

Find and copy one word that means the following:

A vertical line usually made of stone.	To take something somewhere secretly.	To throw.
To give a small, quick, gentle kiss.	A long thin mark easily noticed.	To avoid being hit by something.
To move your head down, especially to avoid being hit by something.	Special	Glowing or sparkling

Answers:

column	sneak	lobs
peck	streaking	dodges
duck	magical	shimmering

Evaluative Question:

How successful do you think this advert was? Give reasons for your answer.  
Discuss.

How does this advert compare to previous Christmas adverts?

*John is a recognised specialist in developing children's reading and comprehension.*

*The creator of Reading Explorers, Top Class Comprehension and Reading Rocketeers, his seminars and CPD training focus on the teaching, learning and enjoyment of reading.*

*An independent Literacy consultant, he aims to support schools to improve their performance and secure best practice. Above all, it is to ignite within us a passion for books and a genuine love for the written word.*

*His enthusiasm and expertise can be seen throughout his work and his resources and training are used worldwide.*

*Find out more ways in which John can support your school with Reading and Spelling CPD by visiting - [JohnMurrayCPD.co.uk](http://JohnMurrayCPD.co.uk)*