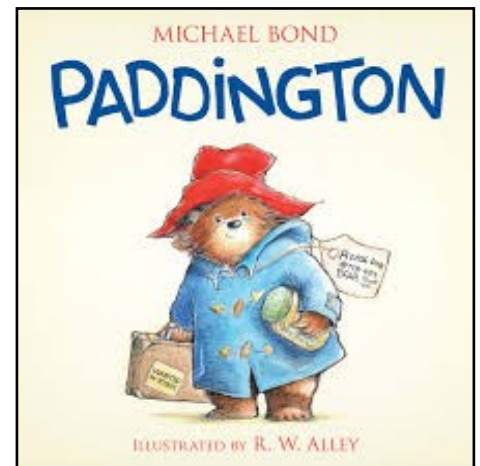






On Christmas Eve in 1956, Michael Bond was on his way home from his job as a television cameraman when he spied a very lonely teddy bear on a shelf in a shop window. He felt sorry for the little bear, so he bought it and took it home as a stocking filler for his wife. He decided to call the bear Paddington because they were living near Paddington Station at the time.

In the early days of 1957, while musing over a typewriter and a blank sheet of paper, Bond wondered idly what it would be like if an unaccompanied bear turned up at a railway station looking for a home. At that point he decided he would quite like to become a writer.



Michael Bond bashed out his first Paddington Bear story in ten days that spring. In *A Bear Called Paddington* Bond, created a bear from his memories of watching evacuee children in the second world war, luggage-labelled against loss in transit. In the opening chapter of the book, Henry Brown and his wife Mary are waiting at Paddington station for their daughter to chug home from school for the holidays. They spot an adorable little creature sitting on a small suitcase near the lost property office, wearing a hat and a label around his neck: "Please look after this bear. Thank you." The Brown family, unable to resist such a request, decide to adopt the little bear and take him home with them to their house at 32 Windsor Gardens.

Paddington was originally from Darkest Peru where he was brought up by his Aunt Lucy when he was orphaned after an earthquake when he was just a few weeks old. When Aunt Lucy went to live at the Home for Retired Bears in Lima, she decided to send her nephew to live in England to live. After teaching him to speak perfect English, Aunt Lucy arranged for him to stow away in a ship's lifeboat.

As Paddington settles down to family life with the Browns, their children and their housekeeper Mrs. Bird, he invariably becomes entangled in numerous misadventures.

In the Paddington books, the little bear has a close friend; Mr. Samuel Gruber, who owns an antique shop and most days Paddington and Mr. Gruber share their elevenses of buns and cocoa. If Paddington ever has a problem he will almost always turn to his friend Mr. Gruber for help and advice. The Brown's have a very unpleasant neighbour; Mr. Reginald Curry, who addresses Paddington simply as 'Bear!' Penny-pinching by nature, Mr. Curry always wants something for nothing and often persuades Paddington to run errands for him.

Paddington is rarely parted from his battered, brown, leather suitcase. It has his initials written on the side and a secret compartment in which he keeps all his important papers. Paddington is famous for his love of marmalade and he usually has a marmalade sandwich tucked beneath his hat 'just in case of emergencies'. Paddington's most important possession is his scrapbook where he likes to write about his adventures. It is also full of mementoes and the regular postcards that he receives from his Aunt Lucy in Peru.

Paddington is a very polite bear. He is very well-meaning and full of good intentions but his trusting nature can often get him into trouble. If people upset Paddington then they get treated to one of his famous hard stares! Fortunately for Paddington, whatever scrapes he gets into, things always turn out alright for him in the end.

---

1 Which of Paddington's belongings is the most important to him?

- A His old hat.
  - B His duffle coat.
  - C His scrapbook.
  - D His leather suitcase.
- 

2 In which year was the first Paddington Bear book published?

- A 1957.
  - B 1958.
  - C 1956.
  - D 1959.
- 

3 What inspired Bond to create the character of Paddington Bear wearing a luggage label?

- A His own experience of being an evacuee during World War Two.
  - B He was drawing on his childhood memories of seeing evacuated children at the train station.
  - C He copied an idea from a book about evacuees.
  - D He could remember his own children wore luggage labels when they were evacuated.
- 

4 'In the early days of 1957, while musing over a typewriter...'

What does the word 'musing' mean in this context?

- A Thinking.
- B Slumped.
- C Looking.
- D Reading.

---

5 At what time of day did Paddington and Mr. Gruber meet for hot drinks and a snack?

- A At about noon.
  - B First thing in the morning - 09:00am.
  - C They would meet around four o'clock every weekday afternoon.
  - D Around 11:00am.
- 

6 What tragedy occurred when Paddington was a very young Bear in Peru?

- A There was a huge earthquake and his Aunt Lucy died.
  - B He lost his mother in a terrible flood.
  - C Both his parents died in an earthquake.
  - D His uncle died in a railway disaster.
- 

7 What does Paddington Bear often have to do for his neighbour?

- A He has to mow the grass in his garden.
  - B He has to do lots of little jobs for him.
  - C He has to clean his windows.
  - D He has to clean his car.
- 

8 How did Paddington Bear travel to England?

- A He hid in a boat.
- B He caught a flight from Lima.
- C He hitch-hiked.
- D He travelled by train.

---

9 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 Paddington frequently carries a bright red suitcase.
- Option 2 Paddington continues to receive regular postcards from Peru.
- Option 3 Michael Bond worked as a cameraman prior to becoming an author.
- Option 4 Paddington Bear is a very courteous character.

- A Options 1 and 2.
- B Options 2 and 3.
- C Options 1, 3 and 4.
- D Options 2, 3 and 4.

---

10 Which of the following statements is true?

- Option 1 Paddington Bear always carries a marmalade sandwich in his leather suitcase.
- Option 2 The Paddington Bear stories were written on a typewriter.
- Option 3 Mr. Curry is a miserly character.
- Option 4 Henry and Mary Brown employ a housekeeper called Mrs. Finch.

- A Options 1 and 3.
  - B Options 2 and 3.
  - C Options 1, 3 and 4.
  - D Option 4 only.
-

## Words meaning 'nice'.

Please can you put all the adjectives in the table below into the correct boxes?

Words that could describe a nice meal:

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

That could describe a nice view:

8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	

amiable
appetizing
breathtaking
caring
charming
delectable
considerate
friendly
glorious
delicious
generous
impressive
luscious
gentle
helpful
kind
scrumptious
unspoiled
tasty
likable
obliging
sympathetic
mouthwatering
picturesque
panoramic
thoughtful
understanding
unselfish

That could describe a nice person:

14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	

## Words

1	oasis
2	obstacle
3	occupation
4	offspring
5	opponent
6	optician
7	optional
8	origin
9	orchard
10	oval
11	mackintosh
12	majority
13	massive
14	meadow
15	mechanic
16	minority
17	mosquito
18	mussel
19	monsoon
20	muscle

## Homonyms

1	admit
2	band
3	free
4	digit
5	excuse
6	trip
7	glare
8	aim
9	kind
10	light
11	pack
12	decline
13	can
14	scales
15	might
16	hail

### A nice meal:

appetizing
delectable
delicious
luscious
mouthwatering
scrumptious
tasty
<b>A nice view:</b>
breathtaking
glorious
impressive
picturesque
panoramic
unspoiled
<b>A nice person:</b>
amiable
caring
charming
considerate
friendly
generous
gentle
helpful
kind
likable
obliging
sympathetic
thoughtful
understanding
unselfish

## Comprehension

1	C	His scrapbook.
2	A	1957.
3	B	He was drawing on his childhood memories of seeing evacuated children at the train station.
4	A	Thinking.
5	D	Around 11:00am.
6	C	Both his parents died in an earthquake.
7	B	He has to do lots of little jobs for him.
8	A	He hid in a boat.
9	D	Options 2, 3 and 4.
10	B	Options 2 and 3.