Theme 1 Victorians | Fiction

THE CIRCUS

Section A

Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and put a ring around your choice.

The Gradgrind children, Louisa and Thomas, are caught watching the circus without permission. Father asked, "What do you do

1 **next?"** **now?"** **here?"** **then?"**

"Wanted to see what it was like," returned

2 **Thomas.** **Louisa.** **Mrs Gradgrind.** **Mr Bounderby.**

Father said he found it difficult to believe that

3 **Thomas** **Louisa** **Mrs Gradgrind** **Mr Bounderby**

had brought

4 **Thomas** **Louisa** **Mrs Gradgrind** **Mr Bounderby**

to a scene like this . "Thomas and you here!" cried Mr Gradgrind. "In this

5 **difficult** **uncomfortable** **unnecessary** **degraded**

position! I am amazed."

On their way home they met

6 **a clown** **Mr Gradgrind** **a policeman** **Mr Bounderby**

an equally strict Victorian gentleman. "What's the matter?" he said.

Section B

1 What does Mr Gradgrind believe his children should be doing?

2 Why do you think the children decided to make a secret visit to the circus?

3 What does the phrase 'red and disconcerted' imply?

4 What did Mr Gradgrind think that Thomas had done?

5 What reasons did Mr Gradgrind give for being 'amazed' at finding Thomas at the circus?

6 How did the children know Mr Bounderby?

7 "We were peeping at the circus," muttered Louisa haughtily, without lifting her eyes, "and father caught us." What does this sentence suggest about how Louisa was feeling?

8 Who regretted 'ever having a family at all'?

9 What did Mrs Gradgrind think the children should have been doing instead of looking at circuses?

Section C

Imagine a circus has come to your town. Write a short story in which you are caught making a secret visit to the show.