

THE TEAM



THE CLUB – THE FACTS

Name: Parrs Under 11s,
also known as “The
Parsnips”

Ground: Lornton FC, Low
Road, Lornton

Capacity: 500

Plays in: The Nettle
Honeyball Women’s League

Sponsor: Sweet Peas Garden
Centre, Mowborough

Coach: Hannah Preston

Assistant coach: Katie Regan

Veronika plays for “The Parsnips”, a girls’ football team. In the extract below, Veronika is running late and has just got back to her house. Her sister (Sofi), brother (Yuri) and uncle are all waiting for the arrival of the team bus to pick her up. She is very excited because this is the day of the team’s biggest challenge.

THE PARSNIPS

Girls FC 6: What's Ukrainian for Football?
by Helena Pielichaty

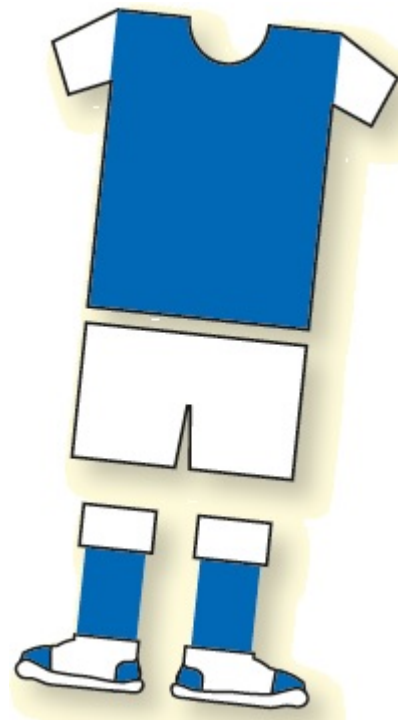
Waiting for me by the gate was Sofi, her wispy hair stuck to her chubby cheeks, her bottom lip jutting out. “You didn’t come when I called you! You didn’t come and I didn’t know where you were.”

“I am here now, silly,” I said, offering her my hand. She yawned and slid her hand in mine. It was warm and sticky.

“You didn’t come,” she repeated. “Veronika, your boots,” Uncle reminded me as I helped him and Sofi up the steps.

“Yes, Uncle, thank you.”

“Always look after your boots. Look after your boots and they will look after you...” Before I could reply, a banging on the front door startled all three of us. They were here! Megan, my captain, beamed at me, her face shiny and excited. “Last port of call for Sherburn Sands! All aboard! Who’s coming?”



Behind her, I could see our minibus parked in the middle of the street. Several faces peered through the windows and my team-mates waved at me.

“Please wait,” I said, panicking. “I just have to...” I turned, almost bumping into Yuri.

He dumped my bag at my feet. “Your belongings, ma’am.”

I frowned at him. What was this? My brother being helpful!

“Is everything in there? My toothbrush? My kit?” I asked anxiously.

He bowed. “Your toothbrush. Your kit. Your Highness.”

“You’re sure?” I said. If he was playing one of his tricks...

“I’m sure.” He gave me a sheepish grin.

“I believe you,” I said, giving him a swift kiss on the cheek. I dashed into the front room and kissed Uncle and Sofi, too, then darted back into the hallway. “Be good,” I instructed Yuri, hoisting my bag onto my shoulders and following Megan into the street. My heart began beating fast. It was actually happening. World Cup tournament, here I come!

I turned and waved at the three figures at the window – and for a moment I didn’t want to go. But only for a moment.



2.

1. Veronika's football team has two names.

What are the **two** names?

1. _____

2. _____

1 mark

2. What effect did the knock on the door have on Veronika and her family?

1 mark

3. (a) Who knocked on the door?

1 mark

(b) How can you tell this person was in a good mood?

1 mark

4. The Parsnips were going to a tournament.

Where was it being held?

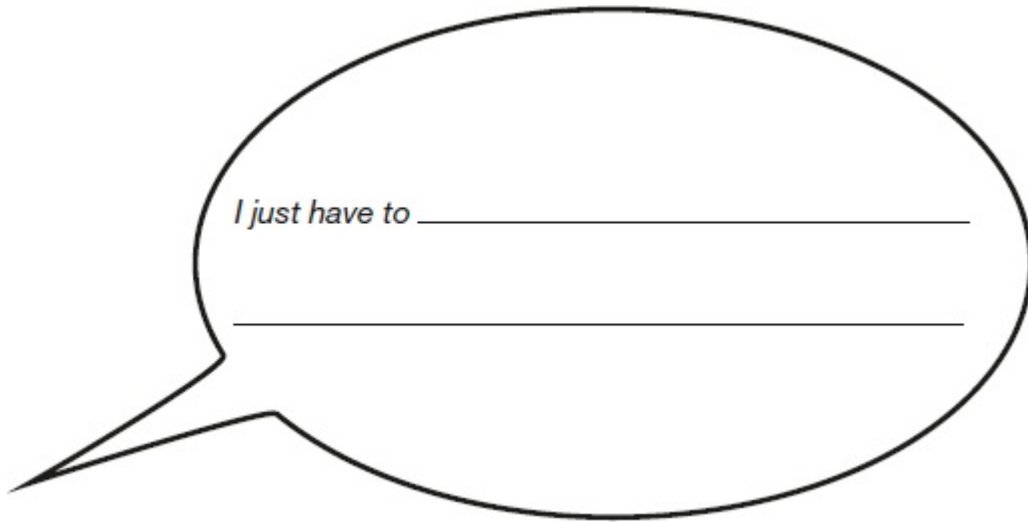
1 mark

5. Look at page 6.

"I just have to..."

Veronika stopped speaking in the middle of a sentence.

What was she going to say?



1 mark

6. (a) **Find** and **copy one** word which shows that Yuri was not very careful when he put Veronika's bag down.

1 mark

- (b) How can you tell that Veronika did **not** trust Yuri to pack her bag properly?

Give **two** ways.

1. _____

2. _____

2 marks

7. Look at the paragraph beginning: "*I believe you...*"(page 6).

How can you tell that Veronika was feeling excited?

Give **two** ways.

1. _____

2. _____

2 marks

8. *My heart began beating fast* (page 6).

Find and **copy two** other words from the same paragraph which mean that something is quick.

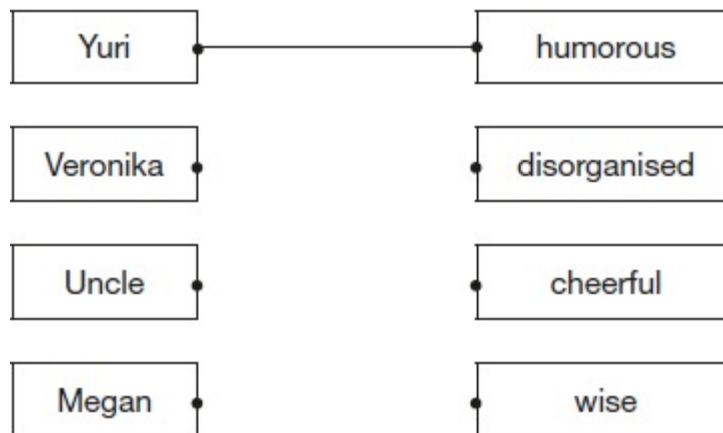
1. _____

2. _____

2 marks

9. Draw **three** lines to match each character to the most suitable description.

One has been done for you.



1 mark

10. Why has the information on page 4 been included?

Tick **one**.

so that their fans learn which league the team plays in

☐

so that the coach knows who is playing on the team

☐

so that readers have background information about the story

☐

so that readers can pick their favourite character

☐

1 mark

11. Number the following events 1 – 5 to show the order in which they happened.

The **last** one has been done for you.

Veronika waved to her family.

Yuri handed Veronika her kit bag.

Veronika met Sofi.

Veronika walked out to the bus.

Veronika helped Uncle up the steps.

1 mark