

Stanley and the Strange Red Button

Stanley Small slumped his head onto the jigsaw and sighed. He was sooooo bored. He closed his eyes and listened to the rain pitter-patter on the window and wondered if it was ever going to stop. Why-o-why did his parents send him off to stay with his boring Uncle Sven and boring Aunt Maude for the whole summer holidays? It wasn't fair! They'd given him this 2000-piece flower-jigsaw to do and it was driving him insane! He wanted adventure, not mind-numbing boredom! "Uuughhh!" he moaned loudly. For the first time in his life, Stanley Small wished he was back at school.

"Stanley, sit up straight!"

He opened one eye and peered up. Boring Aunt Maude stared back. "Now, Stanley," she said in her annoying squeaky voice. "Uncle Sven and I are popping out to walk around some gardens. While we're gone please remember the house rules. No television, food or those ghastly computer games, understand?"

"Yes, Aunt Maude," Stanley said, rolling his eyes.

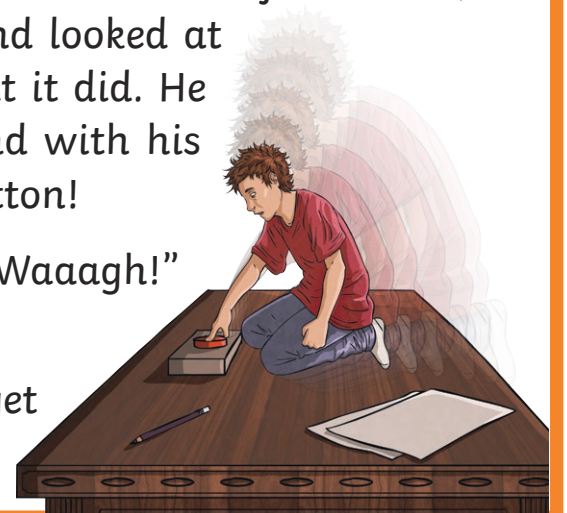
"One more thing," Uncle Sven added, waddling in to the room. "Under no circumstances are you to enter my study. It's completely off-limits and highly dangerous, is that quite clear?"

Stanley's eyes widened. "Er, yes, of course, Uncle Sven," he said. "Have a lovely time!"

As soon as they had closed the front door, Stanley raced upstairs. "Dangerous?" he said to himself as he turned the handle to his uncle's study. "How exciting..." He slowly opened the door and peered inside. Dusty books hung from high shelves, whilst the floor was littered with sheets of paper. At the end of the room, in the middle of a messy desk, was a strange red button. Stanley walked over and looked at it. The words 'DO NOT PRESS' were written on top. He smiled, wondering what it did. He slowly looked from left to right, then took a deep breath. Closing his eyes, and with his heart beating fast, Stanley Small then reached forward and pushed the red button!

Suddenly, there was a flash of red light and Stanley began to feel rather strange. "Waaagh!" he yelped as he shrunk to the size of an ant!

He looked around. The carpet was like a jungle. How on earth am I going to get out of this one? he thought to himself...



1. Why did Stanley wish he was back at school?



2. Why do you think Stanley's eyes widened when Uncle Sven told him his study was highly dangerous?



3. What happened when Stanley pressed the red button?



4. What do you think Uncle Sven will think when he finds out Stanley has been in his study and pressed the red button?

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Answers

1. Why did Stanley wish he was back at school?

He wished he was back at school because he was bored/school would be more fun.

2. Why do you think Stanley's eyes widened when Uncle Sven told him his study was highly dangerous?

Accept any answer that infers excitement with justification, e.g. He was excited because if it was dangerous he might be able to have an adventure.

3. What happened when Stanley pressed the red button?

When Stanley pressed the red button, there was a flash of red light and Stanley began to feel rather strange. Then he yelped and shrunk to the size of an ant!

4. What do you think Uncle Sven will think when he finds out Stanley has been in his study and pressed the red button?

Award up to two marks for suitable answers that include realistic thoughts/emotions of the character, including:

- anger/concern that his room has been entered
- disappointment/anger that Stanley has disobeyed him
- worry that Stanley may be hurt / in danger
- worried about what he will have to say to Stanley's parents
- concerned over his invention being broken/tampered with