

The **BIG BANG** Fair

“As you all know, The Big Bang Fair is next week,” said Miss Spindle.

All of Class 6A sat up in attention. All but one. Anil leaned back in his chair and threw a weary glance around the classroom.

Everyone had been talking about The Big Bang Fair for weeks. Miss Spindle had promised a special prize for the best science project. Danny was building a ship with his grandfather. Cassandra was making a skyscraper. The twins were designing a worm hotel. Even Toby, the second-laziest boy in class, had gone to the seaside to collect shells.

Anil didn't understand all the fuss. Most of the class didn't even like science.

“You've all been asking me about the prize,” continued Miss Spindle, her eyes sparkling as she looked at them, “and I can now reveal what it is.”

An excited murmur rippled across the classroom. Anil smirked. It can't be that special, he thought. Probably a jar of sweets or a handshake from the Head. Good thing he hadn't bothered with a project yet.

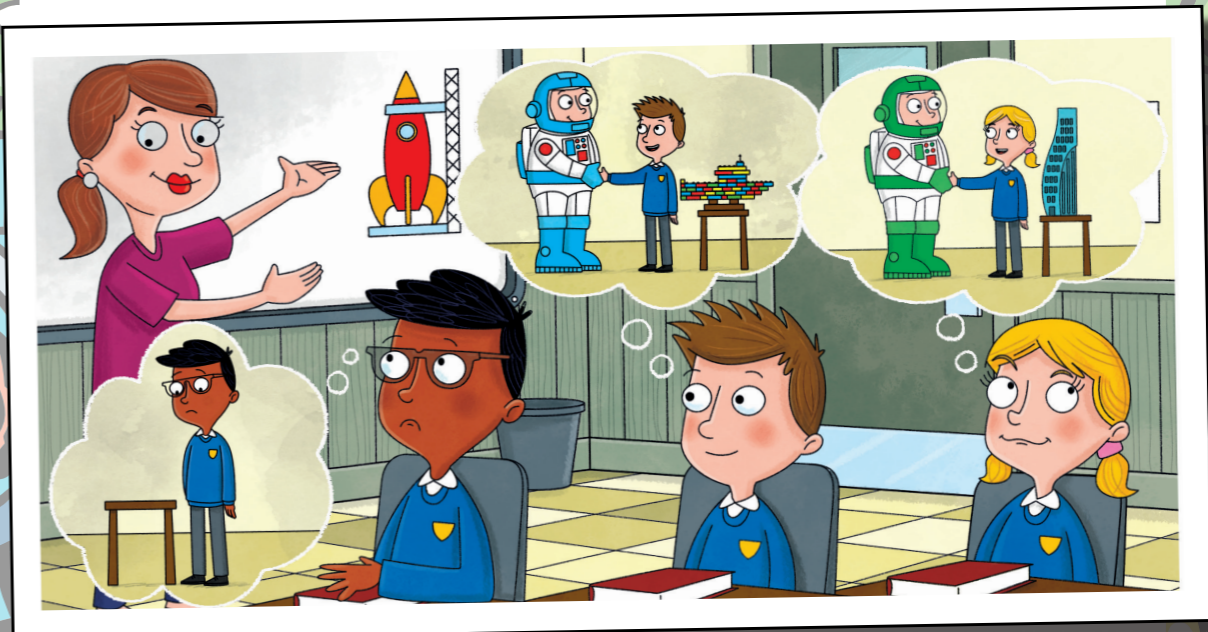
“The student with the best science project will visit the headquarters of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in America.”

Anil's mouth fell open.

“You mean NASA, Miss?” said Cassandra. “I know all about them. They're rocket scientists.”

“Yes, Cassandra,” said Miss Spindle. “Two of their astronauts will be visiting us to judge your efforts. You've had plenty of time to plan your projects so I expect you all to present your best work.”

Anil couldn't believe what he was hearing. There was less than a week to go until the fair. If he didn't have a project, he wouldn't just get into trouble. He'd be embarrassed in front of actual astronauts! Actual astronauts from NASA!



He groaned silently and put his head in his hands.

What was he going to do?

At lunch, Cassandra wouldn't stop talking about the prize.

“NASA's headquarters are going to be amazing,” she said. “I'd better decide what to wear.”

Anil snorted. “Who said you're going to win?”

“Nobody else is making a skyscraper,” retorted Cassandra, a scarlet flush reddening her cheeks. “It's even got lights and a garden roof.”

She folded her arms and looked at Anil. "And at least I have a project. Bet you haven't done anything, have you?"

"Have, too!" snapped Anil, the words out of his mouth before he could stop himself. "My project's so brilliant that the astronauts will beg me to work with them."

"Oh, yeah?" said Cassandra, eyeing him suspiciously. "What is it, then?"

"Can't tell you," said Anil. "It's a secret." And before she could ask him anything else, he stuffed the last of his sandwich into his mouth and walked off.

As soon as he got home that afternoon, Anil marched into the kitchen. Mum was wrestling his little sister, Priya, into a highchair.

"I need a project for The Big Bang Fair," he declared. "Something good enough to amaze a real astronaut."

"Ni-ni," squealed Priya, hurling a blob of custard onto the floor.

Mum tutted. "Have you checked in the shed?" she said.

"I think some of Grandad's old trunks are in there."

"I thought Grandad was a fossil hunter," said Anil, puzzled.

"How's that going to help?"

"Fossils are a kind of science," said Mum, ducking another scoop of custard. "And he collected lots of peculiar things on his travels. There must be something you can use. I'll help you look as soon as I've put Priya to sleep."

After shovelling down his tea, Anil took a torch and headed to the bottom of the garden. He didn't know what he would find in Grandad's old trunks. So long as it helped him impress the astronauts and beat Cassandra.

The shed was hidden behind a curtain of ivy. Dad had meant to tidy it up when they'd moved in, but he hadn't had time. Anil cracked open the door. The shed was shrouded in a veil of darkness. He cast his torch across the space. Cobwebs glistened from the rafters. Something scurried in the shadows. He licked his lips and glanced back towards the house. Mum was still feeding Priya. She saw him looking and waved. He swallowed and turned back to the shed.

"Don't be such a scaredy-cat," he whispered.

Taking a deep breath, he stepped inside.



1 How did Anil feel about the science project at the beginning of the story?

Tick **one**.

He was keen to show off his project.

He was nervous that he might not win.

He was not interested in taking part.

He was excited to hear what the prize was.

1 mark

2 Draw **four** lines to show who was working on each project.

Danny

designing a worm hotel

Cassandra

making a skyscraper

the twins

building a ship

Toby

collecting shells

1 mark

3 How did Anil feel after Miss Spindle revealed the prize?

Use evidence from pages 1 and 2 to support your answer.

2 marks

4 Describe Cassandra's character, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Think about:

- what she says
- what she does.

3 marks

5 Look at the paragraph beginning: *The shed was hidden...*

How can you tell that the shed had not been used for a long time?

1 mark

6 a. How can you tell Anil was nervous about entering the shed?

Write **two** ways.

1.

2.

2 marks

b. Why was Anil nervous about entering the shed?

1 mark

The Big Bang Fair

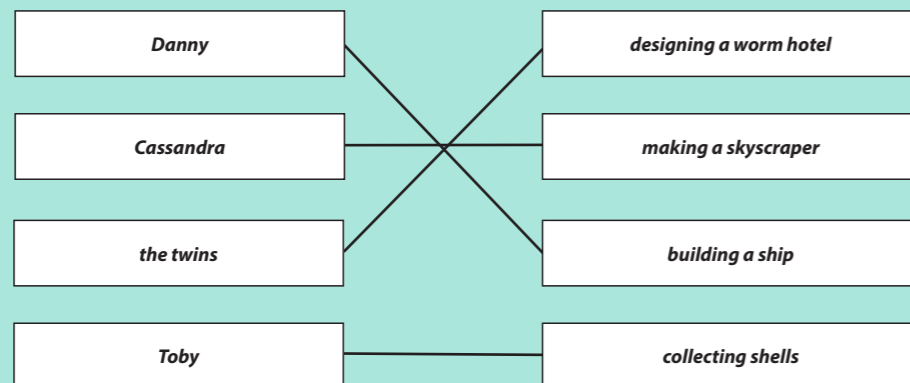
II 1 2b retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction

1m Award **1 mark** for:

- He was keen to show off his project.
- He was nervous that he might not win.
- He was not interested in taking part.
- He was excited to hear what the prize was.

II 2 2b retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction

1m Award **1 mark** for all four lines drawn correctly:



II 3 2d make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text

2m Acceptable points:

Acceptable points	Acceptable evidence
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ shocked ➤ surprised ➤ alarmed ➤ worried. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ his mouth falls open ➤ he realises he only has a week to prepare his project ➤ he puts his head in his hands ➤ he groans.

***Please note:** the examples of development listed here are not exhaustive. Please allow any other sensible evidence provided it is indicative of Anil's feelings.

2m Award **2 marks** for reference to any of the above acceptable points indicating Anil's emotions at this point in the story with development, eg:

- you can tell he is shocked because his mouth falls open when Miss Spindle tells the class about the prize
- I know that Anil is worried about his project because he groans when Miss Spindle says the winner gets to meet astronauts.

1m Award **1 mark** for reference to any of the above acceptable points indicating Anil's emotions, without development, eg:

- he's shocked
- I think he's surprised about the prize.

Do not accept answers which incorrectly identify Anil's feelings, eg:

- Anil is excited by the prize.

II 4

2c summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph

2d make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text

up to 3m

Acceptable points:

Acceptable points	Examples of what she says or does
➤ arrogant / confident / thinks she is going to win the science prize without question	➤ already planning her trip to NASA's headquarters ➤ "I'd better decide what to wear" ➤ boasts about her skyscraper project – "It's even got lights and a garden roof"
➤ competitive / wants to win / jealous of her competitors	➤ eyes Anil suspiciously when he tells her about his brilliant project ➤ gets annoyed when Anil suggests she will not win the special prize
➤ clever	➤ knows about NASA ➤ making a skyscraper with lights and a garden roof
➤ argumentative / stands up for herself	➤ defends herself against Anil's mocking
➤ curious	➤ wonders what Anil's project is going to be
➤ sensitive	➤ folds her arms across her chest ➤ flushes scarlet when Anil is mean to her.

***Please note:** the examples of development listed here are not exhaustive. Please allow any other examples of what Cassandra thinks or does provided they are indicative of a character trait.

3m

Award **3 marks** for identifying two or more characteristics, where at least one of them is developed with evidence of what Cassandra says or does, eg:

- I think Cassandra is very confident because she's already planning her outfit for the NASA trip but she doesn't even know if she's going to win. Also, I think she's clever because she knows that NASA are rocket scientists and she is also competitive because she wants her skyscraper to win first prize
- she argues with Anil about who is going to win the fair. She's clever because she is making a skyscraper with a garden roof and lights which takes lots of skill
- she is competitive and wants to win the NASA trip. Also I think she is a bit interested when Anil tells her about his brilliant project and wonders what it is.

2m

Award **2 marks** for identifying at least two characteristics without development **or** for one characteristic that is developed with evidence of what Cassandra says or does, eg:

- Cassandra is an intelligent girl, she boasts a lot
- she is easily offended because she reddens when Anil says she won't win the prize
- I think Cassandra is a sensitive character and she wants to win
- I think Cassandra is a clever character because she knows about NASA and she is making a skyscraper with lights and a garden roof.

continued...

II 4

continued from previous page

1m

Award **1 mark** for identifying one characteristic without development, eg:

- Cassandra wants to win the prize
- Cassandra is arrogant.

Please note: relevant synonymous words or phrases can be credited as character traits, eg:

- vain
- boastful.

II 5

2g identify / explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases

1m

Award **1 mark** for reference to either of the following:

- the shed being overgrown with ivy
- the cobwebs inside the shed.

Do not accept:

- the shed was dark.

II 6a

2b retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction

up to 2m

Award **1 mark** for reference to any of the following, up to a maximum of **2 marks**:

- he cracks open the door
- he looks back at the house / at Mum and Priya
- he does not enter the shed immediately / he hesitates
- he tells himself not to be a scaredy-cat
- he swallows.

II 6b

2d make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text

1m

Acceptable points:

- the shed is dark
- he has not been inside the shed for a long time
- he sees / hears something in the shadows.

Award **1 mark** for reference to any of the acceptable points above, eg:

- he's nervous because it's very dark inside the shed
- he thinks maybe something will jump out at him because he sees / hears something scuttling
- he sees / hears something move.