

Snip

“Right, that’s it,” said Mum. “We’re going to get your hair cut.”

“No!” wailed Josh.

“I’m not going to let you have another disaster and that’s final,” she said.

Josh had to admit, she had a point.

At swimming, his hair had come loose from his swimming cap and got in the way. Walking home from

school, he had bumped into a lamppost. Today, as goalkeeper for

his team, he had completely missed the ball and it had trickled past him into the net. His hair was just too long for his own good.



1) How did Josh feel about having his hair cut? Tick one.

upset

excited

relieved

confused

2) What had Josh bumped into?

3) Look at the last paragraph. Find and copy a word that means *totally*.

It wasn't that he really minded having a shorter style. What he hated was sitting in the barber's shop. It was always crowded. It was always too hot. Some of the men he had to squeeze next to smelt funny.

Worst of all, it itched. No matter how big the gown he was covered with or how much paper towel was stuffed down the back of his neck, some snippets always got through. That meant his neck tickled for the rest of the day.

By the time they arrived at the barber's, Josh was in a foul mood. Seeing the packed shop and steamed-up windows only made it worse.

At last, it was his turn to sit in the special chair. Mum took pity on him and just asked the barber to get it out of his eyes and tidy it up a bit.



4) Look at the first paragraph. Find and copy a word that shows there was not much room in the barber's shop.

5) What did the barber use to stop hair going down the back of Josh's neck?

6) ...Josh was in a foul mood.

What does *foul* mean in this sentence? Tick one.

calm

sweet

terrible

strange

Josh wriggled and jiggled. He grumped and he grizzled. The barber sighed and struggled. He was just about to snip a clump of hair when Josh jolted. The scissors missed and a very long lock floated to the floor.

“Oops,” said the barber.

“Oh well,” said Mum. “You’d better take it all off now to even it up,” and she glared at Josh, who looked very sheepish. Soon, there was a big pile of

hair on the floor. Still, Josh had to admit, he did look good.

“Much better,” said his instructor next time he went swimming.

“Great save!” cried his teammates next time he played football.

The lamppost said nothing. We can only guess how it felt.



7) ...a very long lock floated to the floor.

What does *lock* mean in this sentence? Tick one.

type of key

piece of hair

paper towel

feather

8) Who cried, “Great save!”?

9) What do you think the lamppost would have said about Josh having his hair cut?

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squeeze (also accept crowded)

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paper towel

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8) Who cried, “*Great save!*”?

(his/Josh’s) teammates

9) What do you think the lamppost would have said about Josh having his hair cut?

The lamppost would probably be relieved that Josh has had a haircut and hasn’t bumped into it again and so might say, for example:

- Thank goodness he can now see where he’s going.
 - A least it’s out of his eyes now.
 - Phew! He didn’t bump into me.
 - I feel a lot safer now.
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