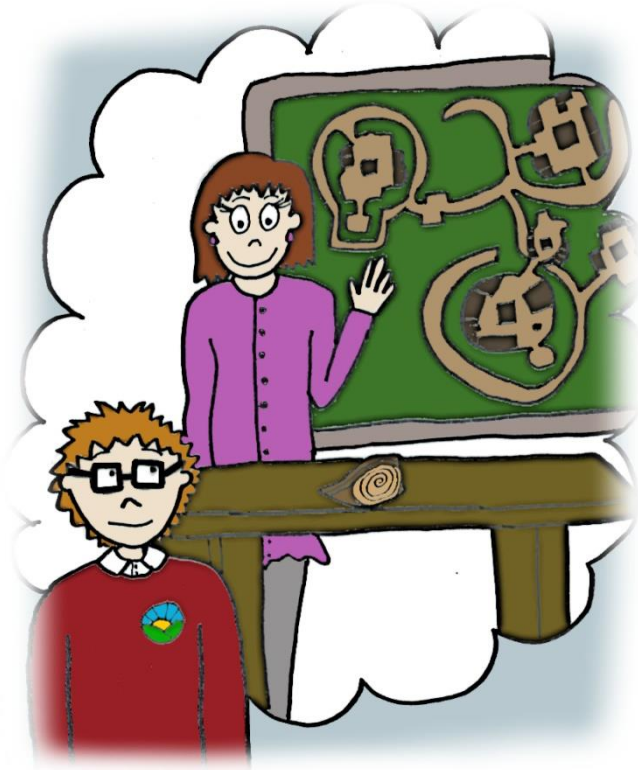


## Nearly Missing Maths!

The bell rang and year three crowded into the cloakroom, play time had finished. Ben pushed his grubby ball back in to his pocket and slowly returned to the classroom. It was fair to say that he hated maths. He didn't like working in different groups, he didn't like boring Mrs Bates and he really didn't like numbers. The numbers were definitely the worst part of maths.



Mrs Bates put the learning objective on the board and Ben's mind wandered back to Miss Cooper's exciting lesson about the **Neolithic** stone age and the village of **Skara Brae**. He wondered what it really would have been like to live four thousand years ago. How could he miss his computer games if computer games hadn't even been **invented**? What did children even do four thousand years ago? Ben's eyes fell upon the small piece of pottery lying on Miss Cooper's desk. He looked around the room at his friends, busying themselves with collecting their whiteboards and maths books. "I hate maths," he said, under his breath.



Instead of going to his table, Ben slowly moved around the edge of the classroom, passing children pushing and shoving to get to their places. He stopped by the teacher's desk and reached out to touch Miss Cooper's **precious** piece of stone age pottery. His fingers curled around the small, cold shard of rough, brown pot. Ben closed his eyes, wishing that Mrs Bates, the maths books and that learning objective would just disappear. Ben suddenly felt very cold. He slowly opened his eyes and gasped when he saw that he was no longer in his year three maths lesson.



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Nearly Missing Maths – 2a – Text



Ben was standing on long grass, an icy wind was blowing. “What just happened?” Ben asked himself. He saw a stone shelter nearby and thought that might be a good place to get out of the wind. As he got near to the shelter, Ben saw that it was part of a small **building** made out of stone slabs. He found himself standing in front of the **entrance** to a tunnel and walked inside, feeling glad to be out of the cold wind. Ben came to a large, dark room. It felt cold and he could hear the wind whistling outside. He blinked, finding it hard to see in the low light. Ben looked around the room, “I’m really in Skara Brae,” he whispered.

Ben could see that the room had **furniture** but it was made out of stone with a pile of thin, rough blankets. Straight ahead there was a dresser made from stone, it was filled with pots of different sizes. Ben’s fingers **squeezed** the piece of pottery in his hand as he saw the same lined pattern on the pots on the dresser. In the middle of the room there was a **rectangular** fire place with stones in a neat line around the edge but no sign of a fire. Ben shivered as he saw a bed on one side, it looked hard and cold. Who would want to sleep on a bed like that?



Ben heard a noise behind him, he turned around to see a woman looking very angry. She stared at Ben and he stared back. The woman looked grubby with long curly hair. She was wearing lots of clothes, but not the sort of clothes Ben was used to seeing. The woman’s clothes were too big for her, the fabric looked rough and itchy and there were no zips or buttons. She made a noise that Ben didn’t understand. She sounded angry and Ben wanted to get away. He turned and ran through another stone tunnel, finding himself in a room that looked just the same as the first. Ben looked around for a way out but instead he saw a man, sitting on the floor. He was sharpening tools and Ben saw the sharp edge of the flint in his hand. Suddenly the man grabbed a pot and threw it at Ben.



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Nearly Missing Maths – 2a – Text



Ben leaped out of the way as the pot crashed against the wall, smashing into dozens of pieces. The man made a low, grunting sound as he slowly stood up. Ben was frozen to the spot. He knew he needed to run, to get out of the way but his legs wouldn't move. He stood, panting, he could hear his own heartbeat **pounding** in his ears. The man began to move closer, he looked both angry and scared at the same time. Ben realised that his school uniform, his short hair and his glasses probably made him look very odd to the man. He turned to run but tripped over his own feet as he turned and fell **heavily** to the floor, his hand still holding the cold piece of pottery. Ben put his arms over his head to shield himself, sure that the man would hit him. No blow came and Ben slowly raised his head, opening his eyes.



“Benjamin Johnson, get up off of the floor and stop messing around!” Mrs Bates shouted. To his surprise, Ben saw that he was back in the classroom. He stood up, feeling happy to be safe.

“Are you ready to begin this maths lesson?” Ben looked around to see Mrs Bates and all of the children staring at him.

“Yes, Mrs Bates,” Ben said. He looked down at the piece of pot in his hand, he quickly put it back on Miss Cooper’s desk and went back to his place. “I’m ready for maths.”

By Louise Horsfall

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Nearly Missing Maths – 2a – Text

## Nearly Missing Maths – Oral Teacher Questions

How do we know that Ben doesn't like maths? (AF2) **He doesn't like working with Mrs Bates or working in his maths group, he also says he hates maths. He is touching the things on his teachers desk instead of being ready to start the lesson.**

What do we know about Mrs Bates? How do we know this? (AF2) **Ben doesn't like her, she shouts at Ben and Ben thinks she's boring.**

How does the writer show us that Ben liked learning about the stone age? (AF5) **He says that he doesn't like maths, he wants to look at the piece of pottery again, the story says he was remembering the lesson, he imagines that he is in Skara Brae.**

Can you find three adjectives that are used to describe the houses in the village of Skara Brae? (AF5) **Various answers**

"Ben could hear his own heartbeat, pounding in his ears." What does this mean? (AF5) **Ben was panicking and scared and his heart was beating so hard that he thought he could hear it.**

Which words and phrases help the reader to imagine Skara Brae? (AF5) **Various answers**

What did the stone age woman look like? (AF2) **Her clothes were too big, she was a bit dirty and her hair was long and curly.**

What might the stone age woman be thinking when she sees Ben? (AF3) **He looked different. She might have been scared that he might hurt her or wonder what he wanted.**

What do you think Ben's maths lesson was like? (AF3) **He might have found it difficult to concentrate. He might have been in trouble for talking because he was trying to tell his friends about what happened.**

Does this story remind you of any others? What is similar and different? (AF4) **Other stories with dreams, flashbacks or jumps between settings.**

How do we know that Ben doesn't like maths? (AF2)

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What do we know about Mrs Bates? How do we know this? (AF2)

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How does the writer show us that Ben liked learning about the stone age? (AF5)

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Can you find three adjectives that are used to describe the houses in the village of Skara Brae? (AF5)

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“Ben could hear his own heartbeat, pounding in his ears.” What does this mean? (AF5)

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Which words and phrases help the reader to imagine Skara Brae? (AF5)

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What did the stone age woman look like? (AF2)

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What was might the stone age woman be thinking when she sees Ben? (AF3)

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What do you think Ben's maths lesson was like? (AF3)

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Does this story remind you of any others? What is similar and different? (AF4)

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Write the meaning of these words. (AF2)

Neolithic \_\_\_\_\_

Skara Brae \_\_\_\_\_

invented \_\_\_\_\_

precious \_\_\_\_\_

building \_\_\_\_\_

entrance \_\_\_\_\_

furniture \_\_\_\_\_

squeezed \_\_\_\_\_

rectangular \_\_\_\_\_

pounding \_\_\_\_\_

heavily \_\_\_\_\_

Choose five of these words and put each word in a new sentence.

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What does wander mean?

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What does wonder mean?

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Ben was scared of the stone age people in Skara Brae. How many words can you think of that mean the same as scared?

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Write the meaning of these words. (AF2)

Neolithic – **stone age period**

Skara Brae – **prehistoric village**

invented – **create or design something that did not exist before**

precious – **of great value**

building – **a structure, like a house**

entrance – **an opening (door or passage)**

furniture – **items used for living and working, e.g. chair**

squeezed – **manage to get through a narrow space**

rectangular – **in the shape of a rectangle**

pounding – **beating in a rhythm**

heavily – **with force**

Choose five of these words and put each word in a new sentence.

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What does wander mean?

To walk in a leisurely way.

What does wonder mean?

To think about something.

Ben was scared of the stone age people in Skara Brae. How many words can you think of that mean the same as scared?

afraid

frightened

terrified

alarmed

panicked

anxious

fearful

panicky

startled

petrified

Circle the right spelling in each sentence.

Ben heard a noise niose noize behind him.

The numbers were definitely definitely definitely the worst part of maths.

Ben lept leaped leaped out of the way.

Find four adjectives from the story. Can you think of alternative adjectives that mean the same thing?

<u>Adjective</u>	<u>Alternative Adjective</u>
hard	solid

ben shivered as he saw the bed on one side it looked hard and cold who would want to sleep on a bed like that

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benjamin johnson get up off of the floor and stop messing around mrs bates shouted

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