

Bill's New Frock

Bill's New Frock tells the story of Bill Simpson, a boy who wakes up one morning to find that he has become a girl. Bill is surprised to discover that boys and girls are treated very differently. In this extract, Bill realises that he has turned into a girl, but no one else seems to notice...

When Bill Simpson woke up on Monday morning, he found he was a girl. He was still standing staring at himself in the mirror, quite baffled, when his mother swept in.

'Why don't you wear this pretty pink dress?' she said.

5 'I never wear dresses,' Bill burst out.

'I know,' his mother said. 'It's such a pity.'

And, to his astonishment, before he could even begin to argue, she had dropped the dress over his head and zipped up the back.

10 'I'll leave you to do up the shell buttons,' she said. 'They're a bit fiddly and I'm late for work.'

And she swept out, leaving him staring in dismay at the mirror. In it, a girl with his curly red hair and wearing a pretty pink frock with fiddly shell buttons was staring back at him in equal dismay.

'This can't be true,' Bill Simpson said to himself. 'This cannot be true!'

15 He stepped out of his bedroom just as his father was rushing past. He, too, was late in getting off to work.

Mr Simpson leaned over and planted a kiss on Bill's cheek.

'Bye, Poppet,' he said, ruffling Bill's curls. 'You look very sweet today. It's not often we see you in a frock, is it?'

20 He ran down the stairs and out of the house so quickly he didn't see Bill's scowl, or hear what he muttered savagely under his breath.

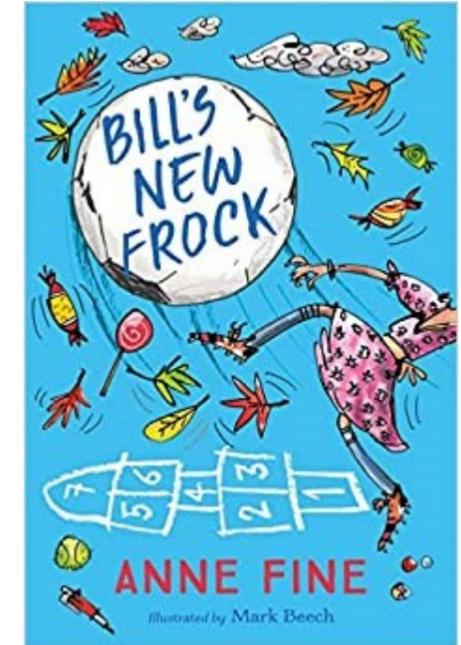
Bella the cat didn't seem to notice any difference. She purred and rubbed her soft furry body around his ankles in exactly the same way as she always did.

25 And Bill found himself spooning up his cornflakes as usual. It was as if he couldn't help it. He left the house at the usual time, too. He didn't seem to have any choice. Things, though odd, were just going on in their own way, as in a dream.

30 Or it could be a nightmare! For hanging about on the corner was the gang of boys from the other school. Bill recognised the one they called Mean Malcolm in his purple studded jacket.

An extract from *Bill's New Frock* by Anne Fine.

Guided Reading



Recommended Read: *Bill's New Frock* by Anne Fine

Guided Reading

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Read through the text and highlight any words you are unsure about. Can you find the definitions in a dictionary?</p>	<p>Day 2: Today we are going to explore the grammar and vocabulary within the text and who its audience is.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In the story, Bill wears a 'pretty pink frock'. Which of these words could replace 'frock' in this sentence? (1 mark) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sweater dress blouse skirt cardigan Find and copy one word meaning a great surprise (1 mark) What does the phrase 'They're a bit fiddly...' mean? (1 mark) What does the word baffled in line 2 mean? Use a dictionary to help you (1 mark) 'staring in <u>dismay</u> at the mirror.' What does this phrase/word tell you about how the character is feeling? (2 marks) 'You look very sweet today.' Explain what this description suggests about Dad's character. (2 marks) What does Bill's mother's comments about wearing dresses tell us about her attitude towards girls? (2 marks) 	<p>Day 3: Today we will be focusing on our retrieval skills. What does retrieval mean?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> According to the text, what day did Bill wake up as a girl? (1 mark) Find and copy one phrase that best describes how Bill was feeling about being a girl. (1 mark) What did Bill see when he looked into the mirror? (1 mark) Who did Bill see hanging about on the corner? (1 mark) Explain why dad didn't see Bill scowl, or hear what he muttered under his breath. (1 mark) Write down three things you are told about Mean Malcolm (2 marks) Explain why this was a nightmare for Bill. (1 mark) 	<p>Day 4: Today we are going to be focusing on our inference and explaining skills.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why was Bill baffled and astonished? (1 mark) Why do you think Bill doesn't argue with his parents when they start treating him like a girl? (2 marks) How is Bella the cat's behaviour towards Bill different to his parents' behaviour? (2 marks) In line 28, explain why Bill says that what he's experiencing could be a nightmare. (2 marks) Why did Bill scowl when dad ran down the stairs and out of the house? (2 marks) Look at the paragraph beginning 'Or it could be a nightmare.' What does this tell you about Bill's character? (3 marks) Explain why Bill 'never wear dresses'. (2 marks) 	<p>Day 5: Today we are going to be focusing on the whole text.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> According to the text, what did the dress look like? (1 mark) How would you feel if you had to wear a pretty pink frock to school? (1 mark) How might the children at Bill's school treat him differently now that he is a girl? (2 marks) Do you think Bill will walk past Mean Malcolm or go a different way to school? Explain why. (2 marks) Summarise what happens in the text. (2 marks) Based on what you have read, what do you think will happen next? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks) How can you tell that Bill was unhappy about wearing a dress? (2 marks)

Guided Reading

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>Read through the text and highlight any words you are unsure about. Can you find the definitions in a dictionary?</p> <p>baffled dismay burst pity fiddly leaned ruffling savagely</p>	<p>Day 2: Today we are going to explore the grammar and vocabulary within the text and who its audience is.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> In the story, Bill wears a 'pretty pink frock'. Which of these words could replace 'frock' in this sentence? (1 mark) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sweater dress blouse skirt cardigan Find and copy one word meaning a great surprise (1 mark) astonishment What does the phrase 'They're a bit fiddly...' mean? (1 mark) It means the buttons are a bit complicated or awkward to do up. What does the word baffled in line 2 mean? Use a dictionary to help you (1 mark) confused, surprised, muddled. 'staring in dismay at the mirror.' What does this phrase/word tell you about how the character is feeling? (2 marks) This phrase that Bill is feeling worried, disappointed or unhappy as something unpleasant has happened. He is upset/he doesn't want to wear this dress. 'You look very sweet today.' Explain what this description suggests about Dad's character. (2 marks) He is quite loving towards Bill. He thinks he is being kind to Bill by paying him a compliment and refers to him as poppet. What does Bill's mother's comments about wearing dresses tell us about her attitude towards girls? (2 marks) Bill's mother thinks girls should wear dresses all the time – it's a pity/shame that he never wears dresses. Girls look pretty in dresses. 	<p>Day 3: Today we will be focusing on our retrieval skills. What does retrieval mean?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> According to the text, what day did Bill wake up as a girl? (1 mark) Monday morning Find and copy one phrase that best describes how Bill was feeling about being a girl. (1 mark) 'staring in dismay at the mirror.' What did Bill see when he looked into the mirror? (1 mark) He saw a girl with his curly red hair and wearing a pretty pink frock. Who did Bill see hanging about on the corner? (1 mark) Mean Malcom and the gang of boys from the other school. Explain why dad didn't see Bill scowl, or hear what he muttered under his breath. (1 mark) Dad didn't see or hear Bill's reaction because he ran out of the house so quickly. He was rushing around because he was late for work. Write down three things you are told about Mean Malcolm (2 marks) He wears a purple studded jacket, he was hanging about on the corner and spends time with a gang of boys from the other school. Explain why this was a nightmare for Bill. (1 mark) Because Bill was a girl, he had to wear a pretty pink frock to school, nobody noticed and he had just see a gang of boys and Mean Malcolm waiting at the corner. 	<p>Day 4: Today we are going to be focusing on our inference and explaining skills.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Why was Bill baffled and astonished? (1 mark) Because he found he was a girl and he was made to wear a dress by his mother. It was like he was in a dream. Why do you think Bill doesn't argue with his parents when they start treating him like a girl? (2 marks) Because it is too late – mum and dad are late for work and think nothing of Bill wearing a dress. How is Bella the cat's behaviour towards Bill different to his parents' behaviour? (2 marks) Bella didn't seem to notice any difference like her parents, but she is more affectionate to Bill that his parents by purring and rubbing up against him. In line 28, explain why Bill says that what he's experiencing could be a nightmare. (2 marks) It is a strange situation. A nightmare is a bad dream – something bad is happening to Bill or something bad is going to happen to him. Why did Bill scowl when dad ran down the stairs and out of the house? (2 marks) A scowl is an angry or bad-tempered expression. Bill was disappointed that dad didn't notice any difference and told him he looked nice in a dress, which he did not agree with. Look at the paragraph beginning 'Or it could be a nightmare.' What does this tell you about Bill's character? (3 marks) It tells us that he is afraid of other people seeing him dressed as a girl. What if they notice a difference? He cares about what other people think about what he wears. Explain why Bill 'never wear dresses'. (2 marks) Bill is a boy and boys do not usually wear dresses. This morning he wakes up to find he is a girl and is forced to wear a dress by his mum. He does not want to wear a dress. 	<p>Day 5: Today we are going to be focusing on the whole text.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> According to the text, what did the dress look like? (1 mark) It was a pretty pink dress with fiddly shell buttons. How would you feel if you had to wear a pretty pink frock to school? (1 mark) Any relevant answer – I would feel ... because ... How might the children at Bill's school treat him differently now that he is a girl? (2 marks) Any relevant answer. Do you think Bill will walk past Mean Malcolm or go a different way to school? Explain why. (2 marks) I think Bill will go a different way to school to avoid Malcolm because he is mean and might make fun off Bill in a dress. I think Bill will walk past him because nobody else noticed any difference. Summarise what happens in the text. (2 marks) The text is about a boy called Bill who wakes up one morning to find he is a girl. His mum makes him wear a pretty pink frock. Based on what you have read, what do you think will happen next? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (3 marks) Any relevant answer based on the text. How can you tell that Bill was unhappy about wearing a dress? (2 marks) Because he looked in dismay, he was astonished to find he was a girl, he didn't want to wear a dress, he was annoyed that no one seemed to notice. He tried to argue with his mum but it was too late.

Guided Reading Answers