

A Very Unusual Winter

Children across the country splashed and frolicked in the paddling pool, wearing their swimming costumes and thick streaks of sun cream. Windows were wide open, fans were out of stock in most high street shops and the ice cream van hadn't made so much money in ages. It was the hottest day the United Kingdom had seen in over thirty years... yet it was the 21st December.

For as long as anyone could remember, the 21st of December had been an icy, cold day. Commuters walked to work, wrapped up tightly in thick coats and scarves, past chimneys that plumed with thick, white smoke as families gathered around the fireplace to keep warm... but not this year. Something very unusual seemed to be happening and one man – Simon Thomas – thought he knew why...

Reading

1. '*...chimneys that plumed with thick, white smoke...*' In this sentence, what does 'plumed' imply about the amount of smoke? (Vocabulary)

2. What date was the hottest day the UK had seen in over thirty years? (Retrieve)

3. Why were the people shocked about the weather? (Infer)

4. What do you think that Simon Thomas may do next? (Predict)

Grammar

Which is the best conjunction to use for each sentence – but or so?

1. I went to the park _____ it was too wet to go on the slide.
2. The slide was wet _____ I went home again.
3. I was hungry _____ my mum made me a sandwich.
4. I love sandwiches _____ I don't like eating the crusts.