

The Zoo Just Outside of Liverpool

Scene 1

The back of a school bus, which is slightly dilapidated and unloved. The seats are adorned with rips and tears and the toilet appears to have been out of service for quite some time. One girl, MARY, is seated and holding something in her coat while the other girl, ANN, is standing in front of her, berating her about something...

ANN: *(Angrily)* Open that coat now!

MARY: No, you'll tell!

ANN: Mary, this isn't even funny! We're going to get in loads of trouble y'know. Everyone saw you run off from that goat pen and Mrs Taylor is coming to look for us.

MARY: No we're not. I haven't even got nothing.

A muffled bleating noise can be heard coming from inside the girl's coat.

ANN: Oh my days! You haven't...

MARY: *(Terrified)* Shush! She's here! *(MARY tightens her grip on her coat and leans over, trying not to be seen).* Ann! Hurry up and hide!

A tall woman with slightly greyed brown hair, wrapped up into a tight bun, enters the coach. She is wearing thick cut glasses and glances around the coach until she spots a glimpse of the two girls on the back seat.

MRS TAYLOR: *(Furiously)* You two! What on earth are you doing on this bus!? *(She begins to march towards the girls.)* Don't you dare run off from members of staff alone, I've got a right mind to...

ANN: Miss! She's really sick. She only ran off because she thinks she's going to chuck up everywhere! *(ANN glances at MARY and stares deeply into her eyes.)* Didn't you Mary?

MARY: *(MARY pauses before realising ANN is lying.)* Urrgghhhh! Ah Miss I'm dead sorry but the goats made me feel so sick. I can't keep it down.

MRS TAYLOR: For goodness sake, get off this coach and get to a bathroom girl!

MARY: Miss I can't walk I need to stay here.

MRS TAYLOR: Absolutely no chance. Stand up and walk right now. Ann, this doesn't concern you, off you go.

ANN turns and looks cautiously at MARY for guidance on what to do, MARY can only stare blankly back.

MRS TAYLOR: Come on, now please.

ANN sheepishly dawdles past MRS TAYLOR and leaves the coach. MRS TAYLOR begins to approach MARY at the back of the coach. MARY is frozen in fear.

MARY: Ahhh miss it hurts, I really can't move. Can't I just stay he-

MRS TAYLOR: Mary, absolutely not! *(The bleating noise from inside MARY'S coat begins interrupting MRS TAYLOR)*

MARY: *(Loudly, trying to cover up the sound coming from within her jacket.)*
Aahhhh!

MRS TAYLOR: If you're this sick we need to get you to a bathroom, immediately! Now up and walk! *(She grabs MARY by the arm and escorts her up the aisle of the bus. MARY is tightly holding the front of her jacket together, which is bulging slightly.)* Come now.

Scene 2

As MARY leaves the coach with MRS TAYLOR holding onto her arm and shuffling her quickly towards the nearby bathroom. She sees ANN gawking at her in terror.

MRS TAYLOR: Right, Mary. You go inside *(she motions towards the girl's bathroom door)* and I'll wait here. Do not leave my sight again young lady.

MARY says nothing, her arms still clutching the bump around her stomach. She proceeds into one of the bathroom stalls and opens her coat to let the contents land gently onto the top of the closed toilet seat. A tiny pygmy goat stands there and looks around, taking in its unfamiliar surroundings. It gives a curious bleat to MARY, as if to say 'what is happening'? MARY looks despondently back at it, unsure of what to do.

MARY: *(Whispering)* I only wanted to show you to my baby sister. It's impossible to take you back unnoticed now. Perhaps I should just turn myself in...

MARY turns to open the door but halts when she hears ANN.

ANN: *(From outside)* Mary!

MARY: Ann?

ANN: You do my head in you. Hurry up and give me whatever you've got before Taylor comes.

MARY: Ann, you are a proper lifesaver.

ANN: Hurry up!

MARY quickly grabs the baby goat and stands upon the toilet seat. Peering out of the window, she sees ANN, standing (arms folded) looking displeased and giving MARY a slight smirk through her frowning. MARY smiles and begins to pass the goat through the small opening. First its head and then its front hooves as it slightly flails around half in and half out of the window.

MARY: Can you reach him?

ANN: Are you messing? How tall do you think I am?

MARY: Come on or someone will see.

ANN: How do you know it's a 'he' anyway?

MARY: He's called Bill, the sign said so.

ANN: *(Sarcastically)* Unbelievable.

MARY: Just grab him! *(ANN can be heard jumping, trying to reach the goat until finally she pulls him through the window.)*

ANN: Got him!

MARY: Yes! Quick, take him back! Don't go around the front or Taylor will see you.

The sound of ANN scarpering can be heard and MARY breathes a large sigh of relief. MARY struts out of the bathroom where MRS TAYLOR is waiting impatiently outside.

Miss I feel a bit better now, thanks.

MRS TAYLOR: Mary, I didn't hear you talking to someone in there did I? It sounded suspiciously like there was a commotion going on inside that bathroom.

MARY: No Miss, I just wasn't well. That's all.

MRS TAYLOR: Hmm. Well, let's get a move on, I hear the baby goats here are adorable.

MARY: *(Pausing)* Okay Miss.

PURPLE & RED GROUPS

1. What type of text is this?
2. What is Mrs Taylor described as looking like?
3. Where were the two girls sat on the bus?
4. Where did Mrs Taylor lead Mary after taking her off of the coach?
5. How did Mary know the name of the goat?

Write the words under the correct headings.

ashamed	terrified	furious

frightened	angry	alarmed	mortified	humiliated	irritated
abashed	scared	livid	infuriated	petrified	humbled

BLUE GROUP

6. Explain what the word 'dilapidated' means.
7. Explain what the word 'berating' means.
8. How did Mrs Taylor know to come looking for the girls?
9. Look again at the opening stage directions. What do you imagine has happened in the previous scene? Why?
10. Why does Mary tell Ann to hide in Scene 1?
11. How did Mary try to cover the noise coming from her jacket in Scene 1?
12. Explain what the phrase 'gawking at her in terror' means.
13. Read the stage directions beginning 'Mary quickly grabs the baby goat'. How do you think Ann is feeling during this scene? Refer to evidence in the text in your answer.
14. Which Phrase from Scene 2 suggests that Ann isn't tall enough to reach the window?

Which character said the following?:

Quote	Mountain
'We're going to get in loads of trouble y'know.'	
'Don't you dare run off from members of staff alone, I've got a right mind to...'	
'Ah Miss I'm dead sorry but the goats made me feel so sick.'	
'Absolutely no chance. Stand up and walk right now.'	
'It's impossible to take you back unnoticed now. Perhaps I should just turn myself in...'	
'You do my head in you. Hurry up and give me whatever you've got before Taylor comes.'	

GREED & YELLOW GROUPS

15. What evidence is there in the text from the first scene to suggest what Mary might have in her coat?

16. Why was Mary trying to stay on the coach during Scene 1?

17. List three examples of language that the author has used to show the girls were fearful of Mrs Taylor during Scene 1.

18. 'I really can't move. Can't I just stay he-' What does the dash and half-word imply in this dialogue?

19. What evidence is given in the text to show that Mary knew how Mrs Taylor would react?

20. Mary refers to Mrs Taylor as 'Taylor'. What does this suggest about how Mary feels about her?

21. What do you expect to happen next? Give a reason for your answer.

22. How do you predict that the scene would have gone if Mrs Taylor had found the goat rather than the girls passing it out of the window?

The following adjectives could be used to describe the personalities of the two girls. Write the meaning of each of these words.

faithful _____

compulsive _____

dependable _____

stubborn _____

quick-thinking _____

reckless _____

hot-headed _____

forgiving _____

remorseful _____

ANSWERS

PURPLE & RED GROUPS

What type of text is this? Play script

What is Mrs Taylor described as looking like? Tall with greyed brown hair and thick glasses.

Where were the two girls sat on the bus? The back of the bus.

Where did Mrs Taylor lead Mary after taking her off of the coach? The bathroom.

How did Mary know the name of the goat? It was on a sign at the goat pen.

Write the words under the correct headings.

ashamed	terrified	furious
abashed	frightened	angry
mortified	alarmed	livid
humiliated	scared	irritated
humbled	petrified	infuriated

frightened	angry	alarmed	mortified	humiliated	irritated
abashed	scared	livid	infuriated	petrified	humbled

BLUE GROUP

Explain what the word 'dilapidated' means. Falling apart.

Explain what the word 'berating' means. Telling someone off.

How did Mrs Taylor know to come looking for the girls? Everyone saw them run off.

D: Look again at the opening stage directions. What do you imagine has happened in the previous scene? Why? Personal response.

Why does Mary tell Ann to hide in Scene 1? So they don't get into trouble with Mrs Taylor.

D: How did Mary try to cover the noise coming from her jacket in Scene 1? By making noises as if she was in pain.

Explain what the phrase 'gawking at her in terror' means. Staring at her with a look of fright.

D: Read the stage directions beginning 'Mary quickly grabs the baby goat'. How do you think Ann is feeling during this scene? Refer to evidence in the text in your answer. She has mixed emotions, folded arms and frowning suggest she is annoyed, smirking suggests she also finds it funny what Mary has done.

D: Which Phrase from Scene 2 suggests that Ann isn't tall enough to reach the window? 'How tall do you think I am?'

Which character said the following?:

Quote	Mountain
'We're going to get in loads of trouble y'know.'	Ann
'Don't you dare run off from members of staff alone, I've got a right mind to...'	Mrs Taylor
'Ah Miss I'm dead sorry but the goats made me feel so sick.'	Mary
'Absolutely no chance. Stand up and walk right now.'	Mrs Taylor
'It's impossible to take you back unnoticed now. Perhaps I should just turn myself in...'	Mary
'You do my head in you. Hurry up and give me whatever you've got before Taylor comes.'	Ann

GREEN & YELLOW GROUPS

S: What evidence is there in the text from the first scene to suggest what Mary might have in her coat? They have just come from the goat pen, goats also make bleating noises.

S: Why was Mary trying to stay on the coach during Scene 1? So that Mrs Taylor didn't see she was hiding something.

S: List three examples of language that the author has used to show the girls were fearful of Mrs Taylor during Scene 1. 'Ann turns and looks cautiously', 'Ann sheepishly dawdles past Mrs Taylor', 'Mary is frozen in fear'.

S: 'I really can't move. Can't I just stay he-' What does the dash and half-word imply in this dialogue? An interruption.

S: What evidence is given in the text to show that Mary knew how Mrs Taylor would react? She hid from her.

S: Mary refers to Mrs Taylor as 'Taylor'. What does this suggest about how Mary feels about her? Mary doesn't like her.

S: How do you predict that the scene would have gone if Mrs Taylor had found the goat rather than the girls passing it out of the window? Personal response.

S: What do you expect to happen next? Give a reason for your answer. Personal response linked to the text.

The following adjectives could be used to describe the personalities of the two girls. Write the meaning of each of these words.

faithful – loyal, constant and steadfast

compulsive – relating to an irresistible urge

dependable – trustworthy and reliable

stubborn – having a dogged determination not to change one's attitude or position

quick-thinking – having or showing an ability to think or react quickly

reckless – acting without thinking or caring about the consequences

hot-headed – having a quick-tempered nature

forgiving – ready and willing to forgive

remorseful – filled with remorse; sorry