ON THE MORNING OF ITS FIRST BIRTHDAY, a baby was found floating in a cello case in the middle of the English Channel.

It was the only living thing for miles. Just the baby, and some dining room chairs, and the tip of a ship disappearing into the ocean. There had been music in the dining hall, and it was music so loud and so good that nobody had noticed the water flooding in over the carpet. The violins went on sawing for some time after the screaming had begun. Sometimes the shriek of a passenger would duet with a high C.

The baby was found wrapped for warmth in the musical score of a Beethoven symphony. It had drifted almost a mile from the ship, and was the last to be rescued. The man who lifted it into the rescue boat was a fellow passenger, and a scholar. It is a scholar's job to notice things. He noticed that it was a girl, with hair the colour of lightning, and the smile of a shy person.

Think of nighttime with a speaking voice. Or think how moonlight might talk, or think of ink, if ink had vocal cords. Give those things a narrow aristocratic face with hooked eyebrows, and long arms and legs, and that is what the baby saw as she was lifted out of her cello case and up into safety. His name was Charles Maxim, and he determined, as he held her in his large hands—at arm's length, as he would a leaky flowerpot—that he would keep her.

The baby was almost certainly one year old. They knew this because of the red rosette pinned to her front, which read, 1!

"Or rather," said Charles Maxim, "the child is either one year old or she has come first in a competition. I believe babies are rarely keen participants in competitive sport. Shall we therefore assume it is the former?" The girl held on to his earlobe with a grubby finger and thumb. "Happy birthday, my child," he said.

Charles did not only give the baby a birthday. He also gave her a name. He chose Sophie, on that first day, on the grounds that nobody could possibly object to it. "Your day has been dramatic and extraordinary enough, child," he said. "It might be best to have the most ordinary name available. You can be Mary, or Betty, or Sophie. Or, at a stretch, Mildred. Your choice." Sophie had smiled when he'd said "Sophie," so Sophie it was. Then he fetched his coat, and folded her up in it, and took her home in a carriage. It rained a little, but it did not worry either of them. Charles did not generally notice the weather, and Sophie had already survived a lot of water that day.

Charles had never really known a child before. He told Sophie as much on the way home: "I do, I'm afraid, understand books far more readily than I understand people. Books are so easy to get along with." The carriage ride took four hours; Charles held Sophie on the very edge of his knee and told her about himself, as though she were an acquaintance at a tea party. He was thirty-six years old, and six foot three. He spoke English to people and French to cats, and Latin to the birds. He had once nearly killed himself trying to read and ride a horse at the same time. "But I will be more careful," he said, "now that there is you, little cello child." Charles's home was beautiful, but it was not safe; it was all staircases and slippery floorboards and sharp corners. "I'll buy some smaller chairs," he said. "And we'll have thick red carpets! Although— how does one go about acquiring carpets? I don't suppose you know, Sophie?"

Unsurprisingly, Sophie did not answer. She was too young to talk, and she was asleep.

Extract from Rooftoppers by Katherine Rundell

1. In the first sentence, **find** and **copy** one word that tells you how the child was travelling?

_____

2. *'The violins went on sawing for some time after the screaming had begun.'*
What was the word *sawing* mean in this sentence?

_____
_____
_____

3. Number the following events 1-5 in the order which they happened.
The first one has been done for you.

Charles named the girl Sophie ☐

A baby floated away from a sinking ship 1

Charles took the baby home ☐

A scholar lifted the baby out of the water ☐

The baby fell asleep ☐

4. Do you think Sophie will be safe with the Charles?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Maybe

Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

_____
_____
_____
_____

5. How does this text make you feel? Why does it make you feel this way?

_____
_____
_____
_____

1. Scan the text to highlight the following words.

Narrow	Acquiring	Carriage	Channel	Beethoven
Competitive	Shriek	Earlobe	Weather	Dramatic

2. Match the statement to the quote from the text.

Charles' house was not safe for babies.	*…the red rosette pinned to her front, which read, 1!*
Charles isn't used to holding babies.	*Sometimes the shriek of a passenger would duet with a high C.*
Passengers on the boat were terrified.	*…at arm's length, as he would a leak flowerpot-*
It was Sophie's birthday.	*It was all staircases with slippery floorboards and sharp corners.*

3. Write down 3 things that you are told about Charles.

   1._____

   2._____

   3._____

4. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

Statement	True	False
Sophie is terrified of Charles.		
There were two survivors of the shipwreck.		
Charles speaks many languages.		
The carriage ride took 5 hours.		

5. There are three metaphors used to describe Charles. Can you match the boxes below?

Ink	Might talk
moonlight	With a speaking voice
Night time	Had vocal cords

1. What impressions do you get of Charles?

Impression	Evidence

2. *'A baby was found floating in a cello case….wrapped for warmth in the musical score of a Beethoven Symphony.'*
   What does this suggest about the person who left Sophie?

_____
_____
_____
_____

3. What evidence is there of Charles being a recluse? Give 2 points

_____
_____
_____
_____

4. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is fact or opinion.

Statement	Fact	Opinion
Charles thinks Sophie is a shy person		
Books are easier to get on with than people		
Sophie is dirty		
Charles' house isn't suitable for children		

5. What evidence is there of Charles being a caring person? Give 2 points.

_____
_____
_____
_____

1. *'Think of <u>nighttime with a speaking voice</u>. Or think how <u>moonlight might talk</u>, or think of ink, if <u>ink had vocal cords</u>.'*
   Why do you think the author chose to use these metaphors to describe Charles?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

2. Read the chapter beginning *'Charles had never really known…'*.
   Can you explain how the author shows that Charles is a clever and eccentric character?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

3. *'Sometimes the shriek of a passenger would duet with a high C.'*

   What does this description suggest about the passengers?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

4. *'Charles held Sophie on the very edge of his knee and told her about himself, as though she were an acquaintance at a tea party'*

   What does this description tell us about Charles?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

5. Can you explain one thing you like about the author's style of writing and one thing you didn't like. Use examples from the text to support your answer.

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

6. In the first sentence, **find** and **copy** one word that tells you how the child was travelling?

floating

7. *'The violins went on sawing for some time after the screaming had begun.'*
   What was the word ***sawing*** mean in this sentence?

Sawing is the motion that a violin player does to play music.

8. Number the following events 1-5 in the order which they happened.
   The first one has been done for you.

Charles named the girl Sophie	*3*
A baby floated away from a sinking ship	1
Charles took the baby home	*4*
A scholar lifted the baby out of the water	*2*
The baby fell asleep	*5*

9. Do you think Sophie will be safe with the Charles?

☐ Yes

☐ No

☐ Maybe

Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

Any answer here is fine as long as you can use examples of the text which support your point. E.g. No – The texts says that Charles has never really known a child before and his house isn't safe for children as it has lots of stairs and sharp corners, so I don't think she will be safe.

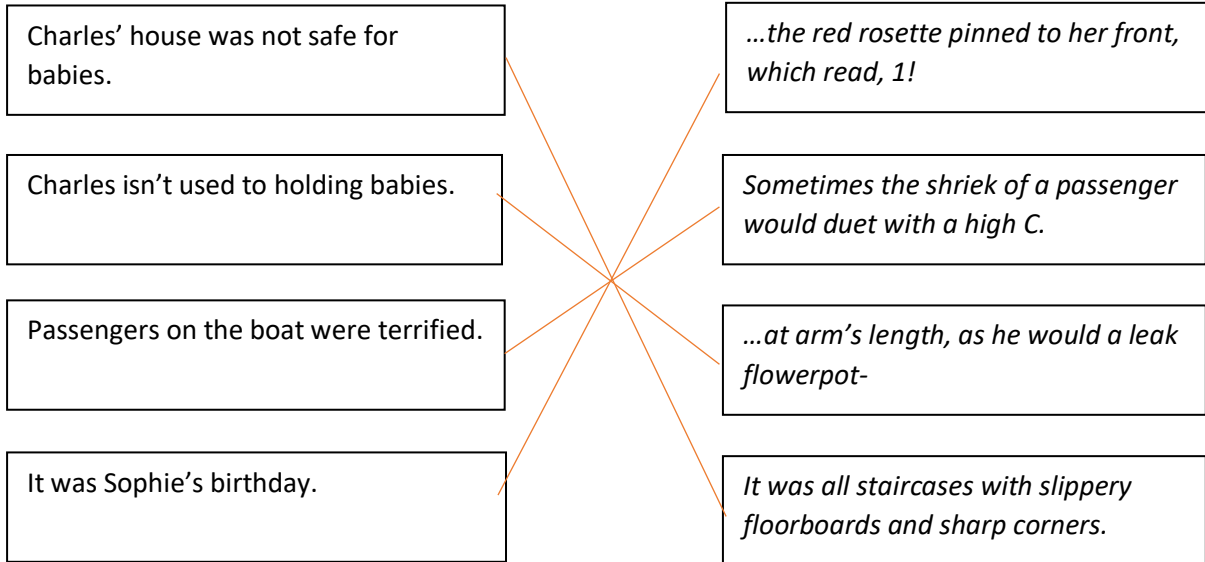10. How does this text make you feel? Why does it make you feel this way?

Any answer here is fine as long as you can use examples of the text which support your point. E.g I felt sad and worried for Sophie because she has lost her parents in a shipwreck but I think Charles is sweet and wants to help because he is going to buy new chairs and carpet to make his house safer

Tuesday

4. Scan the text to highlight the following words.

Narrow	Acquiring	Carriage	Channel	Beethoven
Competitive	Shriek	Earlobe	Weather	Dramatic

5. Match the statement to the quote from the text.

Charles' house was not safe for babies.	*…the red rosette pinned to her front, which read, 1!*
Charles isn't used to holding babies.	*Sometimes the shriek of a passenger would duet with a high C.*
Passengers on the boat were terrified.	*…at arm's length, as he would a leak flowerpot-*
It was Sophie's birthday.	*It was all staircases with slippery floorboards and sharp corners.*

6. Write down 3 things that you are told about Charles.
   1. *He can speak lots of different languages*
   2. *He is a scholar*
   3. *Charles likes books more than people*
   Any answer here is fine as long as you can use examples of the text which support your point.

4. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

Statement	True	False
Sophie is terrified of Charles.		*x*
There were two survivors of the shipwreck.	*x*	
Charles speaks many languages.	*x*	
The carriage ride took 5 hours.		*x*

5. There are three metaphors used to describe Charles. Can you match the boxes below?

Ink	Might talk
moonlight	With a speaking voice
Night time	Had vocal cords
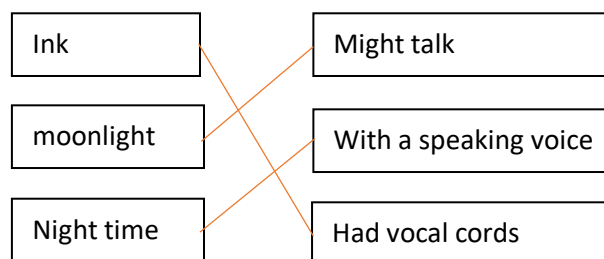
6. What impressions do you get of Charles?

Impression	Evidence
e.g I get the impression Charles is a bit of a loner without any friends or family	*I think this because he finds books easier to understand than people and thinks they are easier to get along with.*

Any answer here is fine as long as you can use examples of the text which support your point.

7. *'A baby was found floating in a cello case….wrapped for warmth in the musical score of a Beethoven Symphony.'*
   What does this suggest about the person who left Sophie?

It suggests that the parent might be a part of the band on the ship that plays the cello

8. What evidence is there of Charles being a recluse? Give 2 points

In the text it says that Charles finds books easier to get along with than people. He talks a lot of birds and cats.

9. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is fact or opinion.

Statement	Fact	Opinion
Charles thinks Sophie is a shy person		*x*
Books are easier to get on with than people		*x*
Sophie is dirty	*x*	
Charles' house isn't suitable for children	*x*	

10. What evidence is there of Charles being a caring person? Give 2 points.

Charles is caring because he wanted to help Sophie and keep her after losing her parents from the shipwreck. He is also caring when he talks about buying smaller chairs and a thick red carpet for Sophie to be safer.

6. *'Think of <u>nighttime with a speaking voice</u>. Or think how <u>moonlight might talk</u>, or think of ink, if <u>ink had vocal cords</u>.'*
   Why do you think the author chose to use these metaphors to describe Charles?

All of the metaphors describe Charles as a mysterious, dark character.

7. Read the chapter beginning *'Charles had never really known…'.*
   Can you explain how the author shows that Charles is a clever and eccentric character?

The author describes him as a scholar. He speaks English to people, French to cats and Latin to birds which shows that he is clever and an eccentric, odd person to speak this way to animals

8. *'Sometimes the shriek of a passenger would duet with a high C.'*

What does this description suggest about the passengers?

The passengers are so terrified that they are screaming in a high pitch that matches the violin.

9. *'Charles held Sophie on the very edge of his knee and told her about himself, as though she were an acquaintance at a tea party'*

What does this description tell us about Charles?

This tells me that Charles isn't used to talking to babies because she is on the edge of his knee and talking to her like an adult rather than a child.

10. Can you explain one thing you like about the author's style of writing and one thing you didn't like. Use examples from the text to support your answer.

Any answer here is fine as long as you can use examples of the text which support your point.

e.g. I really like the way Katherine Rundell describes characters using metaphors. She said that Charles is like a nighttime with a speaking voice which makes me feel like Charles is an interesting character that is potentially misunderstood. The thing I don't like is the use of some words like 'aristocratic' that I don't understand; I had to get a dictionary to work them out.