

Linbury Court Preparatory School

Anthony Buckeridge

- 1 According to the Linbury Court School time-table, the last hour before bedtime each evening should have been spent in recreation – a blissful period of freedom, one might suppose, when everybody could do exactly as they wished.
- 4 But not when Mr Wilkins was on duty! ... For then the evening's activities had to be planned and organised down to the last detail. Nothing roused his wrath more keenly than the sight of small boys wasting their free time in futile and fruitless occupations.
- 8 “Come along, come along, come *along!*” he boomed, striding into the common room one Wednesday evening ... “I want to see everyone settling down to do something sensible. No messing around with conkers; no flipping paper pellets. And none of this aimless mooching about, watching other people and doing nothing yourselves.”
- 13 He glanced around the crowded room, noting with approval that most of the occupants were already engaged in various hobbies, or were playing studious games of chess ... Atkinson and Bromwich major, their fingers sticky with balsa-wood cement, were constructing model aircraft; Binns minor and Blotwell, the youngest boys in the school, were pummelling plasticine into the shape of unlikely looking animals. Thompson was painting; Rumbelow was absorbed in leather-work; Martin-Jones was selecting his World football team to play against Mars at some future date ... The room buzzed with activity.
- 21 Mr Wilkins was satisfied. Everyone was busy: everything was just so.
- 22 He was about to resume his tour of the building when his gaze strayed to the far corner of the room and came to rest upon two boys who appeared to be idling away their precious hour of leisure to no good purpose.
- 25 The taller of the two, an eager friendly looking boy of eleven, was swinging himself gently to and fro in the narrow gangway between two tables which he was using as parallel bars. His companion, who was fair-haired, earnest and bespectacled, was perched on a near-by radiator, tattooing a sea-serpent on the back of his hand with a cross-nibbed fountain pen.
- 30 Mr Wilkins bridled indignantly. “Jennings!” he called.
- 33 The human pendulum ceased his to-ing and fro-ing and made a rapid forced landing on the runway between the tables.



Name:	Class:	Date:
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- 1 Find and copy one phrase from the first paragraph that tells you that the pupils can choose what to do during recreation time.

2a

1 mark

- 2 Who is Mr Wilkins?

2d

1 mark

- 3 Look at the first paragraph. Why does the author use the phrase “one might suppose”?

2g

1 mark

- 4 Look at the second paragraph, beginning “But not when ...”.

The phrase “roused his wrath” is closest in meaning to which of the following? Tick **one**.

woke him up

confused him

gave him pleasure

made him angry

2a

1 mark

- 5 Find and copy one word from the second paragraph that means the same as *pointless*.

2a

1 mark

- 6 Which of these activities does Mr Wilkins approve of? Tick **three**.

constructing model aircraft

playing conkers

flipping paper pellets

selecting a football team

playing chess

swinging on tables

2b

1 mark

- 7 Number the events to show the order in which Mr Wilkins did them.

He felt satisfied that everyone was busy.

He noticed two boys idling away their time.

He bridled indignantly.

He strode into the common room.

2c

1 mark

- 8 Compare Mr Wilkins’ reaction to seeing the boys engaged in their hobbies with his reaction to spotting the two boys in the far corner.

2h

2 marks

- 9 How is this school different from yours?

Give **two** ways, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

2d

3 marks