

The Scroll of Alexandria – a Lottie Lipton adventure by Dan Metcalf

London, 1928

“LOTTIE!”

The cry echoed around the great halls of the British Museum. Lottie turned to look for the source and gulped. She darted into the next hall, past a group of tourists and into the library, where she bumped into her Great Uncle Bert.

“Woah there! Slow down,” he said.

“Sir Trevelyan *may* have found our science experiment,” she blurted out quickly.

“Oh dear,” said Uncle Bert, his moustache drooping in worry. “Quick, hide in here. I’ll see if I can calm him down.”

Lottie quickly hid herself in a nook between some nearby bookcases. The Great Library was one of her favourite places in the British Museum. She had lived in the museum ever since her parents had died in an accident during an archaeological dig in Egypt. Her Great Uncle, Professor Bertram West, had sworn to take care of her and had returned from Egypt to take a job at the British Museum. They lived in a small, untidy flat on the grounds of the museum and Lottie loved it. She didn’t go to school – instead she was taught by her Uncle Bert and could look at any of the books in the library.



“I don’t understand what all these books are doing in a museum,” laughed a loud American man to his wife. “Surely they should be in a big library?”

Lottie poked her head out from her nook and smiled.

“Ahem!” she coughed politely. “I can help there.” Lottie hopped out of her hiding place. “These books are here by Royal Appointment,” she said. “They were left to the museum by King George III after he died. They’ve been here since 1828, exactly one hundred years.”

The couple looked impressed. Other tourists began to gather around.

“Why, aren’t you the little bookworm,” said the man. “What else can you tell us?”

Name:	Class:	Date:
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1 Look at paragraph 2, beginning “*The cry echoed ...*”.

(a) How did Lottie feel when she heard the cry “*Lottie!*”?

(b) Find and copy one word which gives you this information.

2d

2 marks

2b

1 mark

2 Who cried “*Lottie!*”?

3 “*Lottie quickly hid herself in a nook between some nearby bookcases.*”
Which word or phrase is closest in meaning to “*nook*” in this sentence?
Choose one.

bookshelf

cupboard

small space

statue

2a

1 mark

2g

1 mark

4 Why does the author tell us that Uncle Bert’s moustache “*drooped*”?

5 Choose **three** things we know are true about Lottie from this extract.

She was born in Egypt.

She likes living with her great uncle.

She spends all her time in the library.

She lives in the grounds of the museum.

She knows some information about the library.

2b

2 marks

2f

1 mark

6 Why did the author begin the book with the word “*Lottie!*”?
