

The awful birthday present

It had been James's birthday the day before, and Grandpa Briggs had given him a watch. It had a second hand and James was very proud of it.

"If you ask me Grandpa Briggs has more money than sense," said Auntie Lizzie. "There's a parcel for you on the table. I expect you thought I'd forgotten."

James really hoped she *had* forgotten. Last year she had knitted him a pink woolly hat with a red tassel on it. The year before it had been green and pink striped socks. Perhaps she would have used up all the pink wool by now. He hoped so.

The parcel was wrapped in a piece of wallpaper left over from Auntie Lizzie's decorating. It was tied with green string.

James opened the parcel slowly. It was worse than he expected. It was something knitted in green, orange and blue wool. He lifted it and held it up.

It was a jumper with a round neck. At least the neck was supposed to be round but it was all sort of wobbly.

"Try it on, then," said Auntie Lizzie.

James slipped the jumper over his head. The arms were too long and the body was too short. Auntie Lizzie beamed.

"I made a good job of that, I must say," she said. "Don't you look smart?"

James looked at himself in the mirror. He thought he looked awful.



Answer in sentences.

- 1 What had Grandpa Briggs given James for his birthday?
- 2 What did Auntie Lizzie think of the present Grandpa Briggs had given James?
- 3 Why did James hope that Auntie Lizzie had forgotten to give him a present?
- 4 Describe how Auntie Lizzie had wrapped James's present.
- 5 How do you know that James did not look smart in the jumper that Auntie Lizzie had knitted for him?
- 6 Why did Auntie Lizzie beam when she saw James in the jumper?