

A photograph of a person's lower legs and feet. They are wearing dark pinstriped trousers, bright red socks, and black lace-up shoes. The person is standing on a wooden floor. A red banner is overlaid at the top of the image, and another red banner is overlaid at the bottom.

# A Red Day

**a short story for English  
reading and speaking**

# Table of Contents

Introductory Questions.....	3
A Red Day.....	4
A Red Day — story and reading comprehension questions.....	12
Reading Comprehension Questions.....	27
Essential Vocabulary.....	32
What is the Correct Synonym?.....	35
What is the Correct Antonym?.....	36
Words and Meanings.....	37
Gap Fill Exercise.....	39
Put The Story In Order.....	42
What Happens Next?.....	44
Visualise and Describe.....	47
Describe the Scene.....	49
Create Your Own Magical Object.....	51
Role Play — The Sock Shop (Radio Play).....	53
Speaking Activity — The Magical Sock Shop.....	59
Why teachers like this activity.....	61
Discussion Questions.....	62
Writing Exercise.....	64
Reading Comprehension Questions — Model Answers.....	67
What is the Correct Synonym — Answers.....	78
What is the Correct Antonym — Answers.....	79
Words and Meanings — Answers.....	80
Gap Fill Exercise — Answers.....	81
Credits.....	83

# Introductory Questions

Discuss the questions below in class.

Do you like wearing colourful clothes, or do you prefer simple colours like black or grey? Why?

Do you usually follow the same routine every day? What does your typical morning routine look like?

Have you ever bought something small (like clothes or shoes) that made you feel very happy or confident?

If you could change one colour in the world around you, what colour would you choose? Why?

Imagine you discover a strange shop that sells unusual or magical objects. Would you go inside? Why or why not?

# A Red Day

Colin had always worn the same colour socks for most of his life.

At school, socks were grey. Part of the uniform and no choice in the matter.

So that was what he wore.

He went to university, graduated, got a job, and his taste in socks shifted.

Calf-length and black.

He didn't have to think about what to wear. He got up in the morning, took a shower, got dressed and grabbed a pair of socks from his drawer.

The black socks went with his limited choice of footwear. Either the black office shoes or his brown brogues, the black socks matched with both.

His suits were either dark grey or dark blue.

And again, the black socks went with both colours.

Colin liked his life of regularity. He liked systems and

routines.

So he surprised himself the day he bought some new socks in an assortment of colours.

It seemed to come out of nowhere. One day, he left his office and was on the way to the train station to take the 6:10 back to Langport and home, when he felt suddenly compelled to turn left when he should have turned right.

He found himself on a busy shopping street. The entire area was filled with shoppers, their hands full of bags of clothing and other items.

Colin turned down a side street and that's when he saw the small shop.

Inside was the biggest array of socks he had ever seen in his life. He had never seen such a wide variety of styles and colours.

Colin felt captivated. He could not stop staring at the vast selection of socks and all the vibrant colours.

A woman appeared and asked him if he needed any help, and he suddenly felt the need to buy as many different colours of socks as he could.

‘Um, I would like to buy some socks,’ he said. ‘In as many colours as you have in stock.’

The woman smiled and picked up a few pairs, all in vivid and bright colours.

‘How about these ones? Do you like these?’

She passed them to Colin and he was captivated by the texture. And the colours... they seemed to enter his very subconscious mind and put him in a dreamlike state.

‘Yes, all of these,’ he replied in a whisper. ‘And maybe some more.’

The woman selected some pairs of socks, all in different colours, and then placed them in a bag for Colin.

He paid and rushed out of the shop.

He had never felt such an emotion before. It was like his entire life was about to make some huge change that he had no control over.

He ran to the train station, caught the next train — the 6:52 — and got home.

By the time he had made his usual dinner, eaten it and watched one of his favourite TV shows, it was late and he

went to bed.

During the night, Colin's dreams were filled with psychedelic colours and images of everyday items in bright reds, greens and blues.

Like something from a children's storybook.

Colin awoke the next morning and jumped into the shower. He scrubbed his body, shampooed his hair and brushed his teeth.

Then he went back to his bedroom to select a new shirt — today, a light blue one — and one of his suits.

It was then that he remembered the new socks he had bought the day before.

The bag lay casually thrown on a chair by the window.

Colin opened it and pulled out the socks.

Even in the dim light of his bedroom with the curtains drawn, he could make out the brilliant vivid colours of his brand-new socks.

He chose a red pair.

Colin pulled them on his feet and he had a slight sensation that ran over his feet and legs. Like a cool breeze

sliding gently over his skin.

He chose the black lace-up shoes that went well with his dark pin-striped suit.

Then he checked his appearance in the mirror.

Everything looked great.

And the red socks flashed between the slight gap with his trousers and his shoes.

He felt like he was doing something daring. That he was performing a special kind of stunt that would force people to look at him twice as he walked down the street.

Downstairs in the kitchen, Colin made his usual breakfast — a cup of coffee and a slice of toast made with brown bread. He spread marmalade on the toast and, lost in deep thought, he munched on it and sipped at his hot cup of coffee.

Colin did a little twirl on the floor and looked down to admire the flash of red from his amazing socks.

It was so strange that such a simple item of clothing could give him a new boost in life. He practically felt like a new man.

Very soon the time came for him to leave the house and make his way to the train station.

He had to catch the 7:55 train into town every morning if he wanted to arrive at the office on time.

Clicking his heels together (where did that come from? He had never done that before!) he waltzed down the corridor to the front door, opened it and strode out into the new day.

What greeted him was a bright kaleidoscope of tones in the colour of red.

The sky was a bright indigo red with darker red clouds whisking above the rooftops.

The trees on the street held heavy crowns of deep red leaves.

And the houses on his street... every one a different shade of red.

Colin took it all in and got to the pavement.

Each slab of stone beamed out a bright red light as he stepped on it.

Today was indeed going to be a great day.

A red day.

Colin smiled to himself and began walking towards the station.

But after a few steps he stopped.

Across the road, Mrs Harper was standing by her gate watering the flowers in her garden.

The water from the hose poured out in a bright red stream.

And the flowers she was watering — roses, tulips, daisies — were all the same colour.

Red.

Mrs Harper looked up and waved to him cheerfully.

‘Lovely morning, isn’t it?’

Colin looked around once more at the glowing red street, the red sky and the red houses.

Then he looked down at his socks.

They were still bright red.

‘Yes,’ he said quietly.

‘Perfect.’

As he continued down the street, Colin suddenly

remembered the woman in the shop.

Her quiet smile.

The strange calm in her voice.

And the way she had watched him so carefully as he chose the red socks.

For a brief moment he wondered if she had known something that he did not.

Then he looked around again at the glowing red world and smiled.

Perhaps she had.

# A Red Day — story and reading comprehension questions

This is the full story divided into sections, with reading comprehension questions after each section.

Try to answer the questions based on the story and write your answers in full sentences.

At the end of the lesson, you will find model answers to all of the reading comprehension questions. Your answers may be a little different, and that is perfectly fine.

***You can also check your answers with your teacher.***

## **Section 1**

Colin had always worn the same colour socks for most of his life.

At school, socks were grey. Part of the uniform and no choice in the matter.

So that was what he wore.

He went to university, graduated, got a job, and his taste in socks shifted.

Calf-length and black.

He didn't have to think about what to wear. He got up in the morning, took a shower, got dressed and grabbed a pair of socks from his drawer.

The black socks went with his limited choice of footwear. Either the black office shoes or his brown brogues, the black socks matched with both.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

1. Who is the main character in the story?
2. What item of clothing is mentioned in the introduction?
3. What colour socks did the main character wear at school?
4. What colour and style of socks does he wear now that

he is working?

5. What kind of shoes does he have?

## **Section 2**

His suits were either dark grey or dark blue.

And again, the black socks went with both colours.

Colin liked his life of regularity. He liked systems and routines.

So he surprised himself the day he bought some new socks in an assortment of colours.

It seemed to come out of nowhere. One day, he left his office and was on the way to the train station to take the 6:10 back to Langport and home, when he felt suddenly compelled to turn left when he should have turned right.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

6. What colour suits does Colin wear?

7. What does Colin like?

8. What time is his usual train home?

9. Where does he live?

### **Section 3**

He found himself on a busy shopping street. The entire area was filled with shoppers, their hands full of bags of clothing and other items.

Colin turned down a side street and that's when he saw the small shop.

Inside was the biggest array of socks he had ever seen in his life. He had never seen such a wide variety of styles and colours.

Colin felt captivated. He could not stop staring at the vast selection of socks and all the vibrant colours.

A woman appeared and asked him if he needed any help, and he suddenly felt the need to buy as many different colours of socks as he could.

### **Reading Comprehension Questions**

10. On this particular evening of the story, where does Colin go?

11. What does Colin see on the busy shopping street?
12. What does he see down a side street?
13. What kinds of things are for sale in the shop?
14. Does Colin leave the shop immediately? Why/why not?
15. Who does Colin see in the shop?
16. What does this person ask him?
17. What does Colin want to do?

## **Section 4**

‘Um, I would like to buy some socks,’ he said. ‘In as many colours as you have in stock.’

The woman smiled and picked up a few pairs, all in vivid and bright colours.

‘How about these ones? Do you like these?’

She passed them to Colin and he was captivated by the texture. And the colours... they seemed to enter his very subconscious mind and put him in a dreamlike state.

‘Yes, all of these,’ he replied in a whisper. ‘And maybe some more.’

The woman selected some pairs of socks, all in different

colours, and then placed them in a bag for Colin.

He paid and rushed out of the shop.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

18. What does Colin say to the woman?

19. What does the woman introduce to Colin?

20. What does Colin like about these items?

21. Does he want to buy these things?

22. Does he want to buy more or less of these items?

23. What does the woman do?

## **Section 5**

He had never felt such an emotion before. It was like his entire life was about to make some huge change that he had no control over.

He ran to the train station, caught the next train — the 6:52 — and got home.

By the time he had made his usual dinner, eaten it and watched one of his favourite TV shows, it was late and he went to bed.

During the night, Colin's dreams were filled with psychedelic colours and images of everyday items in bright reds, greens and blues.

Like something from a children's storybook.

### **Reading Comprehension Questions**

24. How does Colin feel after leaving the shop?

25. What time train did he catch home?

26. What did he do when he got home?

27. What did Colin dream about?

### **Section 6**

Colin awoke the next morning and jumped into the shower. He scrubbed his body, shampooed his hair and brushed his teeth.

Then he went back to his bedroom to select a new shirt — today, a light blue one — and one of his suits.

It was then that he remembered the new socks he had bought the day before.

The bag lay casually thrown on a chair by the window.  
Colin opened it and pulled out the socks.

Even in the dim light of his bedroom with the curtains drawn, he could make out the brilliant vivid colours of his brand-new socks.

He chose a red pair.

### **Reading Comprehension Questions**

28. What did Colin do in the morning?

29. What colour shirt does he choose to wear?

30. What does he suddenly remember?

31. Where is the bag?

32. What colour socks does Colin choose?

### **Section 7**

Colin pulled them on his feet and he had a slight sensation that ran over his feet and legs. Like a cool breeze sliding gently over his skin.

He chose the black lace-up shoes that went well with his dark pin-striped suit.

Then he checked his appearance in the mirror.

Everything looked great.

And the red socks flashed between the slight gap with his trousers and his shoes.

He felt like he was doing something daring. That he was performing a special kind of stunt that would force people to look at him twice as he walked down the street.

### **Reading Comprehension Questions**

33. What kind of feeling does Colin have when he puts the socks on?

34. What kind of shoes does Colin choose to wear for the day?

35. What style of suit?

36. How does he check his appearance?

37. Is he happy with how he looks?

38. What colour does Colin see between his trousers and his shoes?

### **Section 8**

Downstairs in the kitchen, Colin made his usual breakfast — a cup of coffee and a slice of toast made with brown bread. He spread marmalade on the toast and, lost in deep thought, he munched on it and sipped at his hot cup of coffee.

Colin did a little twirl on the floor and looked down to admire the flash of red from his amazing socks.

It was so strange that such a simple item of clothing could give him a new boost in life. He practically felt like a new man.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

39. What does Colin have for breakfast?
40. What movement does Colin perform?
41. Why does he do this?
42. How does Colin feel?

## **Section 9**

Very soon the time came for him to leave the house and

make his way to the train station.

He had to catch the 7:55 train into town every morning if he wanted to arrive at the office on time.

Clicking his heels together (Where did that come from? He had never done that before!) he waltzed down the corridor to the front door, opened it and strode out into the new day.

What greeted him was a bright kaleidoscope of tones in the colour of red.

The sky was a bright indigo red with darker red clouds whisking above the rooftops.

### **Reading Comprehension Questions**

43. What time train does Colin have to catch to get to work on time?

44. What movement does Colin make as he is on the corridor?

45. What does he immediately see outside?

46. What colour is the sky and clouds?

## **Section 10**

The trees on the street held heavy crowns of deep red leaves.

And the houses on his street... every one a different shade of red.

Colin took it all in and got to the pavement.

Each slab of stone beamed out a bright red light as he stepped on it.

Today was indeed going to be a great day.

A red day.

Colin smiled to himself and began walking towards the station.

But after a few steps he stopped.

Across the road, Mrs Harper was standing by her gate watering the flowers in her garden.

### **Reading Comprehension Questions**

47. What other things does Colin see outside that are red?

48. Does Colin think today is going to be a good or bad day?

49. Who does Colin see on his street? What is this person doing?

## **Section 11**

The water from the hose poured out in a bright red stream.

And the flowers she was watering — roses, tulips, daisies — were all the same colour.

Red.

Mrs Harper looked up and waved to him cheerfully.

‘Lovely morning, isn’t it?’

Colin looked around once more at the glowing red street, the red sky and the red houses.

Then he looked down at his socks.

They were still bright red.

‘Yes,’ he said quietly.

‘Perfect.’

## Reading Comprehension Questions

50. What colour is the water coming from the hose?
51. What flowers is Mrs Harper watering?
52. What does Mrs Harper say to Colin?
53. What does he look at?
54. And how does he reply?

### Section 12

As he continued down the street, Colin suddenly remembered the woman in the shop.

Her quiet smile.

The strange calm in her voice.

And the way she had watched him so carefully as he chose the red socks.

For a brief moment he wondered if she had known something that he did not.

Then he looked around again at the glowing red world and smiled.

Perhaps she had.

## **Reading Comprehension Questions**

55. Who does Colin suddenly remember from before?
56. What three things does Colin recall about her?
57. What colour is everything around him?

# Reading Comprehension Questions

Below is a list of reading comprehension questions based on the story.

Try to answer the questions according to the story and give your answers in full sentences.

At the end of the lesson, you will find model answers to all of the questions. Your answers may be a little different, and that is perfectly fine.

***You can also check your answers with your teacher.***

1. Who is the main character in the story?
2. What item of clothing is mentioned in the introduction?

3. What colour socks did the main character wear at school?
4. What colour and style of socks does he wear now that he is working?
5. What kind of shoes does he have?
6. What colour suits does Colin wear?
7. What does Colin like?
8. What time is his usual train home?
9. Where does he live?
10. On this particular evening of the story, where does Colin go?
11. What does Colin see on the busy shopping street?
12. What does he see down a side street?
13. What kinds of things are for sale in the shop?
14. Does Colin leave the shop immediately? Why or why not?
15. Who does Colin see in the shop?
16. What does this person ask him?
17. What does Colin want to do?
18. What does Colin say to the woman?

19. What does the woman introduce to Colin?
20. What does Colin like about these items?
21. Does he want to buy these things?
22. Does he want to buy more or less of these items?
23. What does the woman do?
24. How does Colin feel after leaving the shop?
25. What time train did he catch home?
26. What did he do when he got home?
27. What did Colin dream about?
28. What did Colin do in the morning?
29. What colour shirt does he choose to wear?
30. What does he suddenly remember?
31. Where is the bag?
32. What colour socks does Colin choose?
33. What kind of feeling does Colin have when he puts the socks on?
34. What kind of shoes does Colin choose to wear for the day?
35. What style of suit does he wear?
36. How does he check his appearance?

37. Is he happy with how he looks?
38. What colour does Colin see between his trousers and his shoes?
39. What does Colin have for breakfast?
40. What movement does Colin perform?
41. Why does he do this?
42. How does Colin feel?
43. What time train does Colin have to catch to get to work on time?
44. What movement does Colin make as he is on the corridor?
45. What does he immediately see outside?
46. What colour are the sky and clouds?
47. What other things does Colin see outside that are red?
48. Does Colin think today is going to be a good or bad day?
49. Who does Colin see on his street? What is this person doing?
50. What colour is the water coming from the hose?

51. What flowers is Mrs Harper watering?
52. What does Mrs Harper say to Colin?
53. What does he look at?
54. How does he reply?
55. Who does Colin suddenly remember from before?
56. What three things does Colin recall about her?
57. What colour is everything around him?

# Essential Vocabulary

routine	uniform	drawer
brogues	footwear	regularity
systems	assortment	compelled
shoppers	selection	variety
captivated	vibrant	subconscious
dreamlike	texture	whisper
emotion	station	psychedelic
everyday	storybook	shower
shampoo	curtains	brilliant
sensation	breeze	lace-up
pin-striped	mirror	daring
stunt	marmalade	twirl
admire	boost	corridor
strode	kaleidoscope	rooftops
crowns	pavement	stream
glowing	shade	cheerful

## Vocabulary Practice Exercise

Follow the steps below to help you learn and remember new words and phrases more effectively:

- Write each new word or phrase in your vocabulary notebook.
- Look up the meaning of each word in your dictionary. Write a clear and simple definition next to the word.
- Create your own sentence using the word or phrase correctly. Try to make the sentence meaningful and connected to your own life or experiences.

### Examples

**Routine** – *a regular way of doing things that is repeated every day or over time.*

**Example sentence:** *I like to start my morning routine with a cup of coffee and a short walk.*

**Uniform** – *a special set of clothes worn by members of the same group, such as students or workers.*

**Example sentence: *All the students at the school must wear the same uniform.***

Why do this?

Doing this regularly will help you improve all areas of your English — reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

By writing definitions and making your own examples, you are actively using the language, which helps it stick in your memory.

# What is the Correct Synonym?

Look at the table below.

Say which word connect with which synonym?

You can find the answers at the end of the lesson plan.

routine	fascinated
captivated	habit
subconscious	shining
vibrant	mixture
dreamlike	bright and lively
assortment	surreal
sensation	part of the mind below awareness
glowing	strong feeling
selection	choice
compelled	forced

# What is the Correct Antonym?

Look at the table below.

Say which word connect with which antonym?

You can find the answers at the end of the lesson plan.

vibrant	dull
vast	tiny
bright	dark
strange	ordinary
cheerful	sad
daring	cautious
sudden	gradual
busy	empty
dreamlike	realistic
captivated	bored

# Words and Meanings

Take a look at the table below.

Match each word with the correct meaning.

You can find the answers at the end of the lesson plan.

<b>Word</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
brogues	a passage inside a building that connects rooms
corridor	a strong feeling
emotion	the outside surfaces of houses or buildings
footwear	shoes or boots worn on the feet
regularity	the quality of happening in the same way again and again
systems	organised methods for doing things
texture	the way something feels when you touch it
whisper	to speak very quietly

<b>Word</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
rooftops	the top parts of houses or buildings
twirl	to turn or spin around quickly

# Gap Fill Exercise

Look at the table of words below.

Use each word in the gaps in the sentences below the table.

You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.

<b>Word Bank</b>
footwear
brogues
regularity
systems
texture
whisper
emotion
corridor
rooftops
shade

## Sentences

Colin liked the \_\_\_\_\_ of his daily routine.

He preferred to live his life according to clear \_\_\_\_\_ and habits.

His choice of \_\_\_\_\_ was limited to black office shoes or brown brogues.

On some days he wore a smart pair of brown \_\_\_\_\_ to the office.

Colin spoke in a quiet \_\_\_\_\_ when he asked the woman about the socks.

The socks felt soft, and Colin admired their unusual \_\_\_\_\_.

He had never felt such a strong \_\_\_\_\_ before buying the colourful socks.

When he left the house, he walked down the long  
\_\_\_\_\_ to the front door.

The red clouds floated slowly above the \_\_\_\_\_  
of the houses.

Every house on the street was a different \_\_\_\_\_  
of red.

# Put The Story In Order

Below are events from the story A Red Day.

They are not in the correct order.

Read the sentences and number them from 1–8 to show the correct order of events in the story.

***You can find all the correct answers at the end of the lesson plan.***

Event
Colin buys several pairs of colourful socks in a small shop.
Colin dreams about bright colours during the night.
Colin walks outside and sees that everything in the street is red.
Colin chooses a red pair of socks to wear.
Colin suddenly turns down a different street after leaving work.
Colin lives a very regular life and usually wears black socks.

<b>Event</b>
Colin notices Mrs Harper watering her flowers with red water.
Colin remembers the strange woman in the sock shop.

# What Happens Next?

Read the situations below from the story.

Work with a partner and discuss what you think will happen next.

## **Situation 1**

Colin enters a small shop that sells hundreds of colourful socks.

A woman smiles and asks if he needs help.

*What do you think Colin will do next?*

## **Situation 2**

Colin buys many colourful socks and takes them home. That night he dreams about bright colours and strange images.

*What do you think will happen the next morning?*

## **Situation 3**

Colin chooses a red pair of socks and puts them on. He feels a strange cool sensation on his legs.

*What do you think will happen when he leaves the*

house?

### **Situation 4**

Colin opens the front door and steps outside.

*What do you think he will see?*

### **Situation 5**

Colin looks around his street and notices that everything is red.

*Why do you think this happened?*

### **Follow-up Discussion**

1. Discuss these questions with your classmates.
2. Do you think the socks are magical?
3. Did the woman in the shop know what would happen?
4. What might happen if Colin wears the blue socks?
5. Would you like to visit that shop?

### **Optional Writing Task**

Write 3–4 sentences answering this question:

*What do you think will happen if Colin wears another colour of socks?*

Example:

***If Colin wears green socks, the whole world might turn green. The trees, houses and sky could all change colour.***

# Visualise and Describe

In the story, Colin walks outside and sees that everything around him is red.

Imagine you are standing in the same street.  
Answer the questions below.

## Questions

1. What colour is the sky?
2. What colour are the houses?
3. What colour are the trees?
4. What colour is the pavement?
5. How does the street look to you?

## Speaking Activity

Work with a partner.

Describe the street to your partner as if they cannot see it.

Example:

*The sky is dark red and the clouds are deep red.*

*The houses are different shades of red and the trees have red leaves.*

### **Extension**

Now imagine the world changes to another colour.

Choose one colour and describe the scene again.

Examples:

- a blue world
- a green world
- a gold world

Describe:

- the sky
- the houses
- the trees
- the street

# Describe the Scene

Look at the description from the story and answer the questions.

*“The sky was a bright indigo red with darker red clouds whisking above the rooftops.*

*The trees on the street held heavy crowns of deep red leaves.*

*And the houses on his street... every one a different shade of red.”*

## Questions

1. What colour is the sky?
2. What colour are the clouds?
3. What colour are the leaves on the trees?
4. What colour are the houses on the street?
5. What word describes the different types of red on the houses?
6. Why do you think everything is red?
7. How do you think Colin feels when he sees the street?

## **Speaking Extension (optional)**

Ask students to imagine another coloured world.

### **Example questions:**

- What would a blue world look like?
- What would a green world look like?
- What colour world would you like to live in?

### **Students can describe:**

- the sky
- buildings
- trees
- streets

***This works very well as a speaking activity after reading.***

# Create Your Own Magical Object

In the story, Colin buys a pair of red socks that seem to change the world around him.

Imagine you visit the same mysterious shop.

Choose one magical object and describe what happens when someone uses it.

Magical Object	What Happens?
A blue hat	
A green umbrella	
A silver watch	
A yellow scarf	
A pair of purple gloves	

## Instructions

Work with a partner.

1. Choose one object from the table.
2. Imagine the object has a magical effect.

3. Describe what happens when someone uses it.

### **Example**

**Object:** A blue hat

*When someone wears the blue hat, the sky becomes darker and stars appear in the daytime.*

### **Follow-up Discussion**

Discuss these questions with your classmates:

1. Would you like to own a magical object?
2. What colour would you choose?
3. Would the magic be helpful or dangerous?

# Role Play — The Sock Shop (Radio Play)

In the story, Colin visits a small shop that sells many colourful socks.

Work with a partner and perform a short **radio play** based on this scene.

One student will play **Colin**.

One student will play **the woman in the sock shop**.

## Instructions

1. Work with a partner.
2. Decide who will play Colin and who will play the shop assistant.
3. Read the radio play script below.
4. Try to use expression and emotion when speaking.
5. Practise your dialogue once or twice.
6. Perform your radio play for the class.

# **Radio Play Script – The Sock Shop**

## **Narrator**

Colin walks into a small shop filled with colourful socks.

## **Shop Assistant**

Good evening. Can I help you?

## **Colin**

Um... yes. I was just looking. You certainly have a lot of socks.

## **Shop Assistant**

Oh yes. Many colours. Many styles. Perhaps you would like to try something new?

## **Colin**

Well... I usually wear black socks.

## **Shop Assistant**

Black socks can be very... safe. But sometimes it is good to try a different colour.

## **Colin**

I'm not sure. I've always worn black socks.

**Shop Assistant**

Perhaps these red ones? They are very special.

**Colin**

Special? What do you mean?

**Shop Assistant**

Let's just say... they might make your day a little more interesting.

**Colin**

That sounds a little strange.

**Shop Assistant**

Sometimes strange things are the most wonderful.

**Colin**

Well... maybe I could try one pair.

**Shop Assistant**

An excellent choice.

**Narrator**

Colin leaves the shop with a bag full of colourful socks... and no idea what will happen next.

**Optional Extension**

After performing the script, students can create their own short radio play.

They can add:

- a different colour of socks
- a new magical object in the shop
- a different ending

This works well because students practise:

- reading aloud
- intonation
- conversation
- creative thinking

### **Extension Activity – Change the Emotion**

After performing the radio play once, perform it again with a different emotion or style.

Choose one of the options below.

Style	Description
Mysterious	The shop assistant speaks slowly and mysteriously, as if the socks have magical powers.
Suspicious	Colin is unsure and suspicious about the shop and the socks.
Excited	The shop assistant is very excited about the colourful socks.
Funny	Perform the scene in a humorous or exaggerated way.
Serious	The conversation sounds very serious and dramatic.

## **Instructions**

1. Choose one emotion or style from the list.
2. Perform the radio play again using that style.
3. Try to change your voice, tone, and expression.
4. The class can vote for the most interesting or funniest performance.

## **Why this works well**

Students practise:

- intonation
- emotion in speech
- confidence speaking English

***It also makes the activity feel more like acting, which many students enjoy.***

# Speaking Activity — The Magical Sock Shop

Imagine the mysterious sock shop from the story is open today.

Some students will be shop assistants and some will be customers looking for special socks.

## Instructions

1. Divide the class into two groups:

- **Shop Assistants**
- **Customers**

2. Shop assistants work together to invent **three or four magical pairs of socks**.

Sock Colour	Magical Effect
Blue socks	The sky turns blue everywhere you go
Green socks	Plants grow wherever you walk
Yellow socks	Everyone becomes happy

<b>Sock Colour</b>	<b>Magical Effect</b>
Purple socks	Time slows down

3. Customers walk around the classroom and **visit different sock shops.**

4. Shop assistants must **persuade customers to buy their socks.**

5. Customers should ask questions such as:

- What do these socks do?
- Are they dangerous?
- How long does the magic last?
- Are they expensive?

### **Example Conversation**

**Customer:** Hello. What kind of socks do you sell here?

**Shop Assistant:** These red socks are very special.

When you wear them, the world changes colour.

**Customer:** Really? What happens exactly?

**Shop Assistant:** Everything around you becomes red.

**Customer:** That sounds strange... but interesting.

## **Follow-Up Discussion**

After the activity, ask the class:

- Which magical socks were the most interesting?
- Which socks would you buy?
- Which socks might be dangerous?

## **Why teachers like this activity**

It encourages:

- **lots of speaking**
- **creative thinking**
- **question practice**
- **persuasion language**

And because many conversations happen at the same time, students get **much more speaking practice**.

# Discussion Questions

Discuss the questions below with a partner or in small groups.

Why do you think Colin liked wearing the same black socks every day?

Why do you think he suddenly decided to enter the sock shop?

How do you think Colin felt when he saw the colourful socks in the shop?

Why do you think Colin chose the red socks instead of another colour?

When Colin walks outside and sees that everything is red, how do you think he feels?

Do you think the socks are magical? Why or why not?

Why do you think the woman in the shop watched Colin carefully?

If you saw a shop that sold mysterious objects like this, would you go inside? Why?

What would you do if you bought something from the shop and strange things started happening?

If you could choose a magical colour that changed the world around you, what colour would you choose? Why?

What do you think would happen if Colin wore the blue socks?

Would you like to live in a world where everything was the same colour? Why or why not?

Do you think routines make life better or more boring? Why?

Have you ever bought something small that made you feel very happy? What was it?

If you visited the sock shop, what colour socks would you choose? What might happen next?

# Writing Exercise

In the story *A Red Day*, Colin buys a pair of socks that seem to change the world around him.

Now it's your turn to create a short story.

Choose one of the ideas below and write your own magical story.

## Story Ideas

1. You find a shop that sells magical hats. When you wear one, something strange happens.
2. You buy a pair of shoes that change the weather around you.
3. You find a watch that makes time move faster or slower.
4. You buy a pair of glasses that allow you to see something unusual.
5. You discover a door that leads to a street where everything is one colour.

## **Instructions**

1. Choose one story idea from the list.
2. Write a short story of 100–150 words.
3. Your story should include:
  - a character
  - a magical or unusual object
  - something unexpected that happens
4. When you finish writing, check your grammar and spelling.
5. Be prepared to read your story out loud to the class.
6. After reading your story, give your written story to the teacher for review.

## **Helpful Tips**

Try to answer these questions in your story:

1. Who is the main character?
2. Where does the story happen?
3. What magical object does the character find?

4. What strange or surprising thing happens?
5. How does the character react?

### **Optional Challenge**

Try to include at least three words from the vocabulary list in your story.

# Reading Comprehension Questions — Model Answers

Below are the model answers for the reading comprehension questions.

*Your questions may be a little different.*

## **Section 1**

**Who is the main character in the story?**

*The main character in the story is a man called Colin.*

**What item of clothing is mentioned in the introduction?**

*The item of clothing mentioned in the introduction is a pair of socks.*

**What colour socks did the main character wear at school?**

*At school, the main character wore grey socks.*

**What colour and style of socks does he wear now that he is working?**

*Now that he is working, he wears calf-length black socks.*

**What kind of shoes does he have?**

*He has black office shoes and brown brogues.*

## **Section 2**

**What colour suits does Colin wear?**

*Colin wears suits that are either dark grey or dark blue.*

**What does Colin like?**

*Colin likes regularity, systems, and routines.*

**What time is his usual train home?**

*His usual train home is the 6:10 train.*

**Where does he live?**

*He lives in a place called Langport.*

## **Section 3**

**On this particular evening of the story, where does Colin go?**

*On this evening, Colin walks down a busy shopping street.*

**What does Colin see on the busy shopping street?**

*He sees many shoppers carrying bags of clothing and other items.*

**What does he see down a side street?**

*Down a side street, he sees a small shop.*

**What kinds of things are for sale in the shop?**

*The shop sells many different kinds of socks.*

**Does Colin leave the shop immediately? Why or why not?**

*No, Colin does not leave the shop immediately because he is fascinated by the colourful socks.*

**Who does Colin see in the shop?**

*He sees a woman working in the shop.*

**What does this person ask him?**

*She asks him if he needs any help.*

**What does Colin want to do?**

*Colin wants to buy many different colours of socks.*

## **Section 4**

**What does Colin say to the woman?**

*Colin tells the woman that he would like to buy socks in as many colours as she has in stock.*

**What does the woman introduce to Colin?**

*The woman introduces several pairs of bright and colourful socks to Colin.*

**What does Colin like about these items?**

*Colin likes the texture of the socks and their vivid colours.*

**Does he want to buy these things?**

*Yes, he wants to buy the colourful socks.*

**Does he want to buy more or less of these items?**

*He wants to buy more of these colourful socks.*

**What does the woman do?**

*The woman selects several pairs of socks and puts them in a bag for Colin.*

## **Section 5**

**How does Colin feel after leaving the shop?**

*Colin feels a very strong emotion and thinks that his life might change in a big way.*

**What time train did he catch home?**

*He catches the 6:52 train home.*

**What did he do when he got home?**

*When he got home, he made dinner, ate his food, watched television, and then went to bed.*

**What did Colin dream about?**

*Colin dreamed about psychedelic colours and everyday objects in bright reds, greens, and blues.*

**Section 6**

**What did Colin do in the morning?**

*In the morning, Colin woke up, took a shower, shampooed his hair, and brushed his teeth.*

**What colour shirt does he choose to wear?**

*He chooses to wear a light blue shirt.*

**What does he suddenly remember?**

*He suddenly remembers the colourful socks that he bought the day before.*

**Where is the bag?**

*The bag is lying on a chair by the window.*

**What colour socks does Colin choose?**

*Colin chooses a red pair of socks.*

## **Section 7**

**What kind of feeling does Colin have when he puts the socks on?**

*When he puts the socks on, he feels a cool sensation on his feet and legs.*

**What kind of shoes does Colin choose to wear for the day?**

*He chooses to wear black lace-up shoes.*

**What style of suit?**

*He wears a dark pin-striped suit.*

**How does he check his appearance?**

*He checks his appearance by looking in the mirror.*

**Is he happy with how he looks?**

*Yes, he is very happy with how he looks.*

**What colour does Colin see between his trousers and his shoes?**

*He sees the colour red between his trousers and his shoes.*

## **Section 8**

**What does Colin have for breakfast?**

*Colin has a cup of coffee and a slice of toast with marmalade for breakfast.*

**What movement does Colin perform?**

*Colin does a little twirl on the floor.*

**Why does he do this?**

*He does this to admire the red colour of his new socks.*

**How does Colin feel?**

*Colin feels happy and confident, almost like a new man.*

## **Section 9**

**What time train does Colin have to catch to get to work on time?**

*Colin has to catch the 7:55 train to get to work on time.*

**What movement does Colin make as he is on the corridor?**

*He clicks his heels together and waltzes down the corridor.*

**What does he immediately see outside?**

*He immediately sees that everything outside is coloured red.*

**What colour are the sky and clouds?**

*The sky and clouds are different shades of red.*

## **Section 10**

**What other things does Colin see outside that are red?**

*Colin sees red trees, red houses, and red pavement outside.*

**Does Colin think today is going to be a good or bad day?**

*Colin thinks that today is going to be a great day.*

**Who does Colin see on his street? What is this person doing?**

*Colin sees Mrs Harper on his street, and she is watering the flowers in her garden.*

## **Section 11**

**What colour is the water coming from the hose?**

*The water coming from the hose is bright red.*

**What flowers is Mrs Harper watering?**

*Mrs Harper is watering roses, tulips, and daisies.*

**What does Mrs Harper say to Colin?**

*Mrs Harper says, "Lovely morning, isn't it?"*

**What does he look at?**

*He looks at the red street, the red sky, the red houses, and his red socks.*

**And how does he reply?**

*He replies quietly by saying, "Perfect."*

## **Section 12**

**Who does Colin suddenly remember from before?**

*Colin suddenly remembers the woman from the sock shop.*

**What three things does Colin recall about her?**

*He recalls her quiet smile, the calm sound of her voice, and the way she watched him carefully.*

**What colour is everything around him?**

*Everything around him is red.*

# What is the Correct Synonym — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

routine	habit
captivated	fascinated
subconscious	part of the mind below awareness
vibrant	bright and lively
dreamlike	surreal
assortment	mixture
sensation	strong feeling
glowing	shining
selection	choice
compelled	forced

# What is the Correct Antonym — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

vibrant	dull
vast	tiny
bright	dark
strange	ordinary
cheerful	sad
daring	cautious
sudden	gradual
busy	empty
dreamlike	realistic
captivated	bored

# Words and Meanings — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

<b>Word</b>	<b>Correct Meaning</b>
brogues	a type of strong leather shoe
corridor	a passage inside a building that connects rooms
emotion	a strong feeling
footwear	shoes or boots worn on the feet
regularity	the quality of happening in the same way again and again
systems	organised methods for doing things
texture	the way something feels when you touch it
whisper	to speak very quietly
rooftops	the top parts of houses or buildings
twirl	to turn or spin around quickly

# Gap Fill Exercise — Answers

These are the correct answers below.

Sentence	Answer
1	regularity
2	systems
3	footwear
4	brogues
5	whisper
6	texture
7	emotion
8	corridor
9	rooftops
10	shade

# Put The Story In Order – Answers

These are the correct answers below.

Correct Order	Event
1	Colin lives a very regular life and usually wears black socks.
2	Colin suddenly turns down a different street after leaving work.
3	Colin buys several pairs of colourful socks in a small shop.
4	Colin dreams about bright colours during the night.
5	Colin chooses a red pair of socks to wear.
6	Colin walks outside and sees that everything in the street is red.
7	Colin notices Mrs Harper watering her flowers with red water.
8	Colin remembers the strange woman in the sock shop.

## Credits

This lesson plan is courtesy of **ManWrites**.

This content is copyright © 2025 **ManWrites** —  
*ManWrites@2025*

For more information, visit:

[www.manwrites.com](http://www.manwrites.com)

Or join my mailing list below — I'll send you  
more ESL teaching ideas straight to your inbox.

[\*\*ManWrites Mailing List\*\*](#)