

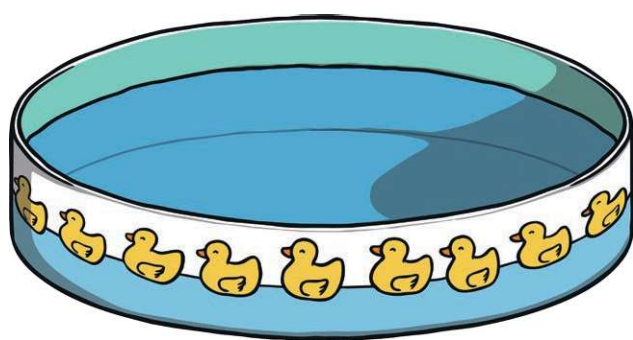
Read the beginning of the story **Aziz's Beach** and answer the following questions.

# Aziz's Beach

It was a boiling hot summer day on the Cherry Tree Estate. Aziz and his friends were feeling grumpy. It was too warm inside. It was too warm outside. "What we need," said Aziz, "is a beach!" His friends all started laughing. Aziz always had a crazy plan. "We live in a block of flats miles away from the beach!" giggled Aziz's friend Leah, trying to hold back tears of laughter. "My dad is at work, and so is your mum. We could never get to the beach in a million years!"



But Aziz was not put off. First, he went to the builders, who were building a wall outside. "Please can I have some of your sand?" asked Aziz. "I'm making a beach," he told them proudly. The builders started chuckling so hard they nearly fell over. "You've made our day with that," sniggered one of the builders, "and just for that son, you can have this bag of sand!"



Next, Aziz went to the shop on the corner. It was a treasure trove that sold everything, from rubber rings to tins of beans. "I don't have any money," sighed Aziz to the shopkeeper, "but I need a paddling pool. It's not for me, it's for a beach." The shopkeeper beamed. "What a cheeky boy you are!" she chortled. "And just for your cheekiness, I will give you an extra large blow-up paddling pool and throw in some buckets and spades for free too. As long as I can visit your beach when it's finished!" she smirked.

Aziz panted home, carrying his heavy load. On the way, he passed by a cheerful, tinkling ice cream van. The man in the van looked tired and bored.

### Aziz's Beach

"It is such a hot day but I haven't sold so much as a lolly!" he complained. Aziz had an idea. "Excuse me," said Aziz, peeking over the counter, "but if I can make a beach outside my flat, you will get a lot more customers." The ice cream man rolled his eyes. "A beach! Around here! Fat chance, lad!"

he shouted, shooing Aziz away. The ice cream man called after him, "The day I see a beach around here is the day I give away all my ice creams for free!" Aziz smiled to himself.

When he got home, Aziz saw his neighbour watering the plants outside her flat. "Please can I borrow your hose?" asked Aziz politely. By now, he knew just what to say... "It's for a beach!" The neighbour was surprised but she did not laugh. "A beach is a serious business," she said, handing over the hose solemnly, "but I don't think you can do it alone."



## Aziz's Beach

1. **Who** does Aziz **not** ask for help with his beach? **Tick one.**

- the builders
- the postman
- the neighbour
- the shopkeeper

2. **Why** were Aziz and his friends grumpy at the beginning of the story?

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3. **Find and copy** all the words in the story that mean '**laughing**' or '**laughed.**'

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4. The story says that by the time Aziz got to his neighbour '**he knew just what to say.**' What did he know to say and why?

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5. **Find and copy a noun phrase** that is used in the story.

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6. In the story, the neighbour handed 'over the hose **solemnly**'. What do you think the word '**solemnly**' means? **Tick one.**

- stupidly
- seriously
- angrily

## Aziz's Beach

7. What do you think will happen **next** in the story? Can you write your own ending for the story?

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