

# Reading Comprehension



Name.....

Matthew filled a pot with dirt. “Why not? Broad beans grow. Kidney beans grow. Even green beans grow. Why not jelly beans?” He dug a small hole and dropped in three jelly beans.

Alice leaned closer. She wrinkled her nose. “Jelly beans won’t grow.”

Matthew placed his pot on the window ledge just outside his back door. He watered it every morning. He sprinkled it with sugar every afternoon.



Alice walked past Matthew’s house every day. “Jelly beans won’t grow,” she called from the pavement.

A week passed. Two weeks passed. Matthew watered his jelly beans and sprinkled them with sugar. Nothing happened.

“I told you,” Alice said. “Jelly beans won’t grow.”

It had been two weeks and two days. Matthew stepped outside. The morning sun was warm. He lifted his watering can.

“Hey!” Matthew yelled. He dropped to his knees and stared at his pot. Three tiny green shoots had popped through the dirt.

“Jelly beans will grow.” Matthew whispered.

Alice marched down the street. She glanced up at Matthew. She opened her mouth to call.

“Wait!” Matthew called. “Come and look!”

Alice closed her mouth. She climbed the garden steps and stood beside Matthew. She looked at the tiny green plants. Her mouth dropped open again.

“My jelly beans are growing!” Matthew shouted gleefully.

Twice a day, Matthew watered the shoots.  
He sprinkled sugar on them.



Alice came to watch. “The plants might grow but you’ll never get jelly beans.” she said.

The shoots grew taller and thicker. They twisted around each other and reached for the sky. Leaves covered the stems. The weeks went by. The plants kept growing but there was no sign of jelly beans.

“You’ll never get jelly beans.” Alice said.

Matthew watered his jelly bean tree twice every day. He sprinkled the roots with sugar. He waited. His tree grew. He waited some more. His tree grew bigger.

Alice stopped coming into the garden. “You’ll never get jelly beans!” she called from the pavement.

It had been two months and two weeks and two days. Matthew stepped outside. The morning sun was cool. Matthew lifted his watering can.

“Hey!” He said.

His plant was covered with small colourful flowers. There were hundreds of them.

Alice marched down the street. “You’ll never get jelly beans!” she called.

Matthew smiled. “I think you’re wrong.” he whispered.

Matthew watered his jelly bean plant twice every day. He sprinkled the roots with sugar. The small colourful flowers dropped off and left tiny round beans. They were red, blue, yellow, green and purple. They grew a little bigger each day.

When the beans were exactly the right size, Matthew picked them. He ate a red one. He ate a blue one. He ate a yellow one.

Alice marched down the street. “You’ll never get jelly beans!” she called.

Matthew laughed. “Alice! Come look!”

Alice marched up the garden path. Her eyes grew wide as she stared at the tree.

Matthew grinned. He held out a handful of colour. “Want a jelly bean?”

*The End*

## Reading Answers (section 1)

### Multiple Choice Section

In this section you will be asked to choose the correct answer from a choice of four.

Circle the answer that you think is correct.

**Answer these questions about *A Colour for Katie*.** The first one has been done for you.

1. This story is about a boy called

Peter

Matthew

Navneeth

Marlon

2. Matthew wanted to grow some

broad beans

runner beans

kidney beans

jelly beans

3. Matthew placed his pot on the

window ledge

back door

garden path

garden bench

4. Matthew watered his jelly beans and sprinkled them with

soil

salt

sugar

pepper

5. Alice did not think the jelly beans would

shrink

change

die

grow

## **Written Answers Section**

In this section you will need to write one or more sentences to answer the questions.

6. When did Matthew water his jelly beans?

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7. Why do you think Matthew sprinkled his jelly beans with sugar?

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8. Why do you think Alice stopped coming into the garden?

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9. How many weeks and days had passed when Matthew found three tiny green shoots in his pot?

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10. Why do you think Alice's mouth drop open when she looked at Matthew's tiny green plants?

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11. What had happened to Matthew's plant after two months and two weeks and two days?

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12. What colours were the jelly beans that Matthew ate?

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13. Do you think this story is true? Give reasons for your answer.

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***You have finished section 1. Now move on to section 2.***

## Section 2

### How Jelly Beans are Made

Jelly beans are a popular type of sweet. They're shaped like a bean with a hard outer shell but they are softer on the inside. They come in a rainbow of colours and many different flavours. Their main ingredient is sugar, but there are other ingredients that give them their unique shape and texture.

To make jelly beans, manufacturers heat liquid sugar to a very high temperature. They then mix in starch and glucose. This mixture is then poured into moulds shaped like beans. They let the mixture dry in the moulds for a day to give them their unique chewy texture.

After they're removed from the moulds, the jelly beans are steamed and coated with more liquid sugar and then placed into a spinning machine. Whilst they are being spun, artificial colours and flavours are added which gives them their final colouring and taste.



Towards the end of the process, grains of sugar are added to the spinning machine. It is this granular sugar that gives the jelly beans their hard outer shell. Finally, hot syrup and wax are added to the spinning machine to give the jelly beans their final polished, glossy look.

Once they're finished, the jelly beans are dried and packaged. Sometimes jelly beans are packaged and sold in individual flavours. Much of the time, though, they are sold in packages of mixed flavours to give jelly bean fans a wide variety of flavours.

Some of the most common jelly bean flavours include cherry, orange, lemon, lime, grape, liquorice, lemonade and strawberry. More unusual flavours are also available. Examples of these more unusual flavours include raspberry, coconut and popcorn.



## Reading Answers (section 2)

Answer these questions about *How Jelly Beans are Made*

1. The main ingredient in Jelly Beans is

syrup

starch

sugar

wax

2. Which two ingredients are added to the liquid sugar?

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3. Why is the sugar mixture left in moulds for a day?

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4. What ingredients are added to the spinning machines to give the beans their colour and taste?

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5. The hard outer shell of the Jelly Bean is created using

granular sugar

starch

jelly

wax

6. What ingredients are added to the mixture to give the jelly beans their polished, glossy appearance?

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***You have finished section 2. Now move on to section 3.***

## Section 3

### Things that Grow

Many things grow and change. They grow at different speeds, to different sizes and for different lengths of time. Read on to find out more!

#### Plants

Plants grow at different speeds, most grow very slowly, a tree can take a hundred years to grow 20 metres. But some plants like bamboo can grow at an amazing speed. Bamboo is a type of grass which grows in hot countries all over the world, especially in Asia where it is the staple diet of the giant panda in China. If the weather and the soil conditions are right it can grow up to 2½ metres a day!



#### Hair and Fingernails

As we live we constantly grow, from a tiny, new-born baby through childhood until we stop growing when we become adults. Parts of our body grow at different speeds. Human hair grows at the rate of about 15cm a year, so if you didn't cut your hair for 5 years your hair would be 65 cms long!

Fingernails also grow, that's why we have to cut them. They grow about 3½ cms in a year. So, unless we cut them regularly, they could grow 17½ cms in 5 years! A woman from America called Chris Walton let her fingernails grow and grow and grow and in 2014 they had reached 6 metres in length! How strange is that?

#### Money Grows Too!

It's not just plants and animals that grow, in some ways money can 'grow' too. If you save your money and put it into a bank, it will grow. If you put £10 into a bank, after a year you would have about £10.40, this extra money is called **interest**, the more money you save, the more **interest** you will make.



## Reading Answers (section 3)

Answer these questions about *Things that Grow*

1. Bamboo is a type of

tree

leaf

flower

grass

2. Where does bamboo grow?

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3. Bamboo is the staple diet of the

giant gorilla

giant giraffe

giant snake

giant panda

4. Where do giant pandas live?

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5. If the weather and the soil conditions are right it can grow up to

2 metres a day

2½ metres a  
day

3½ metres a  
day

3 metres a day

6. When do human beings stop growing?

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7. Human hair grows at the rate of about

5cm a year

25cm a year

15cm a year

55cm a year

8. If we didn't cut our finger nails, how long could they be after 1 year?

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9. A woman called Chris Walton let her finger nails grow and grow and grow. When they were measured in 2014 they were

10 metres in  
length

6 metres in  
length

16 metres in  
length

6cm in length

10. The extra money you make when you put it into the bank is called

coins

bank notes

savings

interest

***Well done! You have finished all the sections. Now go back and check your answers.***