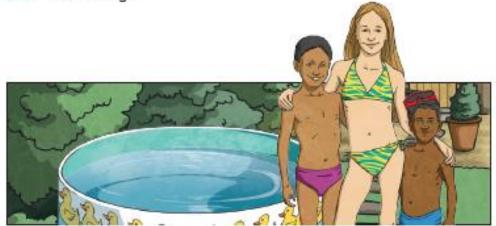
A Very Unusual Winter

- 9 Children across the country splashed and frolicked in the
- 16 paddling pool, wearing their swimming costumes and
- 25 thick streaks of sun cream. Windows were wide open,
- 37 fans were out of stock in most high street shops and the
- 48 ice cream van hadn't made so much money in ages. It
- 59 was the hottest day the United Kingdom had seen in over
- 67 thirty years... yet it was the 21st December.
- 77 For as long as anyone could remember, the 21st of
- 86 December had been an icy, cold day. Commuters walked
- 96 to work, wrapped up tightly in thick coats and scarves,
- 105 past chimneys that plumed with thick, white smoke as
- 113 families gathered around the fireplace to keep warm...
- 123 but not this year. Something very unusual seemed to be
- 131 happening and one man Simon Thomas thought he
- 133 knew why...



Quick Questions



 '...chimneys that plumed with thick, white smoke' In this sentence, what does 'plumed' imply about the amount of smoke?



2. What date was the hottest day the UK had seen in over thirty years?



3. Why were people shocked about the weather?



4. What do you think that Simon Thomas may do next?