

It was Autumn. The procession on the river was headed by a washing-tub drawn by six geese. Men swam behind it. All the barges and lighters were decorated with flags and flowers and white rags that fluttered like the feathers of swans. Some of the men were being rolled down the river in barrels, to hoots of laughter. The banks were lined with watchers all dressed in bright rags and shiny coats, playing bugles and beating drums. A family of beggars was singing hymns, and the tiny voices of the children piped like birds. It was the miners' pageant, and the Lily drifted along in the procession, freed from work for the day. Nick and his fellows shouted to each other and sang.

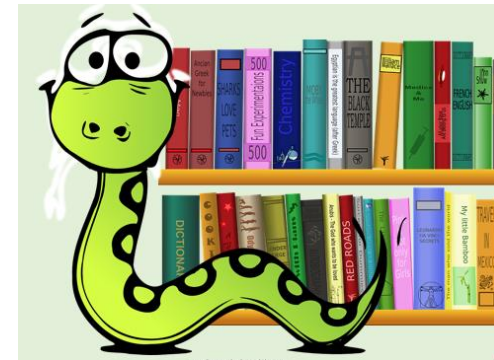
Drawn up among the watching people were some painted wagons. Two clowns stood with mournful faces, holding up a green and crimson banner. "Juglini's Champion Circus," Nick read out.

"What's a circus?" Jim wanted to ask, but wouldn't. The showman's family came out of their wagon to watch. The man and the woman each carried a child and older children danced round them. A boy of Jim's age did a handstand and waggled his feet at the barges. Jim waved to him and the boy dropped down, waved and swung up again.



*Discuss these questions/statements with your partner before we discuss them as a class.*

1. What were the barges decorated with?
2. What were the banks lined with?
3. Who was singing hymns?
4. How do you think Jim felt? Why?



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## Shades of Meaning!

Order the words in order of which word you think is more powerful to the word that you think is less powerful. Why do you think this?

Fluttered, waved, flapped, quivered, beat

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What does the phrase 'procession' mean? **(vocabulary)**

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Where did the Showman's family come from to watch?  
**(retrieval)**

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Jim asked what a circus was?

**TRUE / FALSE**

It was set in either September, October or November

**FACT/ OPINION**

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Find another word that has the same meaning as 'sad'? **(retrieval)**

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How do you think Jim felt? Use evidence from the text to support your answer. **(inference)**

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# Guided Reading



One thing I noticed is...

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Which means...

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Think, pair share...

Find **3** key points in the text that help you understand what it is about.



Think, pair share...

Find **2** key words (vocabulary) that help you understand what it is about.



Think, pair share...

Find **1** big idea from the text.

