

# Reading

## Unit 3 - Monday

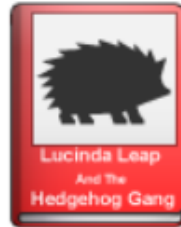
Please login to Purple Mash...



2Dos

Click on

click on



Chapter 1

and read Chapter 1



2Dos

Click on

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Chapter 1: Online  
Multiple Choice

and answer the

questions about the text. If you follow these instructions you will be able to submit the work to us because you have done it on the 2Do app.

**Extra Challenge. Try one of these...**



2Dos



Click on 2Dos click on

Or you can read it on the next few pages.

# Lucinda Leap and the hedgehog gang



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Art by Zarina Liew

# Lucinda Leap      chapter and the hedgehog gang      1

The park was pretty boring that Sunday afternoon. At least, Lucinda thought so. Her mum and dad were busy with Elise, her baby sister, who was playing on the swings and slide. Lucinda would have liked to join in, but was feeling a bit silly today.

This was because a group of girls from her new class were also in the park, hanging about on the covered benches whilst trying to look effortlessly cool. Lucinda noticed how they would shriek with laughter at their own jokes, always looking around to make sure everyone else had noticed them.



Lucinda and her family had only recently moved to town and she had started her new school just over a week ago. It was the beginning of term and she had not made any friends yet. Lucinda wished she knew how to strike up a conversation. In school, she had managed to say hello to a few people who seemed friendly enough, but she never knew exactly what to say next. She had even tried sitting with a couple of the same girls who were currently in the park at lunch on her first day. They hadn't even spoken to her.



Lucinda had put her name down for Gardening Club in the hope she might meet some nice new friends. She didn't really know anything about gardening, but all the other clubs had already been filled.

She hovered awkwardly near the hedge, trying to blend in. It was a fairly cold September day, and Mum had insisted she wore her thick coat and scarf. She felt dorky in comparison with the girls, who wore T-shirts with bands on that Lucinda had never even heard of. Well, she *assumed* they were bands. She couldn't even be sure of that, she thought glumly.

"Sweetheart, come and push Elise!" her dad shouted, waving her over enthusiastically. His voice was so loud, surely everyone in the entire town could hear him when he spoke! Elise, safely swaddled in hundreds of layers in the baby swings, clapped excitedly before joining in with her dad's waves.



The girls from St. Basil's School looked over and giggled. One of them rolled her eyes dramatically.

Lucinda felt her cheeks reddening.

"Or go on the big swing, my love!" yelled her mum, pointing unnecessarily at the swings.

"The big swing!" one of the girls said in a silly high voice. The others laughed.

Lucinda blushed from the ends of her toes to the tips of her hair – or at least it felt like she did. She leaned further back into the bush, wishing for it to swallow her and her massive coat up in one clean gulp. She could live inside the hedge, she thought. How bad could it be? She could probably eat the leaves and collect rainwater in her hood. Surely it would be better than moving to a new town, away from her lovely, kind and funny friends to this stupid place with no-one she knew and no-one normal to talk to.

"Lucinda Leap, The Big Hedge, The Park, Stupid Town, England," she whispered to herself, sighing at her new made-up address. "Sounds just great." She scuffed her foot at a pile of fallen leaves. "Home sweet home," she muttered flatly.

"This hedge is not so hot," said a voice.

Lucinda whirled around, looking for whoever had spoken. There wasn't anyone nearby; just her family in the play park, the girls lounging against the shelter and a couple of dog walkers miles away.

Despite her alarm, Lucinda was nothing if not polite. "Pardon?" she said quietly.

"I said, 'This hedge is not so hot.' It's great for us, of course, but for a human, a house will nearly always work out better." There was a miniature chuckle. "I bet you've got a really nice warm house, for you and your family, right? It can't be that bad. Not worth relocating."

Lucinda bit her lip and peered into the hedge. Though it was autumn, there were still lots of browning leaves on the branches, covering whatever was hidden within. She thought she saw a flash of movement and the hedge shook a little. Lucinda took a step backwards. "Well, it is a nice house, but I preferred the old one," she said, before shaking her head. "But what concerns me most now is that I'm talking to a hedge!"

The voice came again, quiet, but full of confidence. "Not to the hedge!" That chuckle again. "Look! Down here! See me now?" There was a rustling sound near Lucinda's ankles.

Lucinda crouched down and peered into the gloom and, suddenly, there he was!



## Comprehension Questions

1. Why didn't Lucinda want to play with her baby sister at the park?
  - a she didn't like her sister
  - b she was feeling self-conscious
  - c she didn't like swings and slides
  - d she was in pain
  - e she was trying to look effortlessly cool
  
2. Why did Lucinda join Gardening Club?
  - a because she didn't know anything about gardening
  - b because she loved planting seeds
  - c to make some new friends
  - d because she knew lots about gardening
  - e so that she could spend time outside
  
3. What was the name of Lucinda's school?
  - a St. Basil's
  - b Elise
  - c Big Hedge
  - d St. Bart's
  - e The Park
  
4. *Lucinda bit her lip and peered into the hedge.*  
Which of the following words could be used in place of 'peered'?
  - a stared
  - b climbed
  - c dribbled
  - d fell
  - e stumbled



5. Although Lucinda was alarmed by the voice, she replied because...
- a she was a curious girl.
  - b she was scared.
  - c she was at the park.
  - d she didn't have anyone else to talk to.
  - e she was a polite girl.