

Mikael Saves the Day

- 1 *The quick thinking of Mikael Greda, aged 11, may have saved the lives of his friends. Faced with a possible life and death situation, Mikael acted instinctively to take control of a coach when the driver collapsed.*
- 4 "It was really scary," said Mikael, a Year 6 pupil, "but I didn't have time to think what I was doing. It all happened too quickly."
- 6 Mr Clive Strong, headteacher of Ipswich Primary School where Mikael is a pupil, explained that the coach had been bringing the class back from a school trip to nearby Stowmarket.
- 9 "I saw the driver suddenly take a deep breath and hold his arm," said Mikael. "Then he sort of fainted. I felt the coach swerving and I just reacted." Mikael is no stranger to driving. He started on a quad bike when he was 7 and now drives a tractor on the family farm.

- 13 The coach was crossing the Orwell Bridge when the accident was averted. Mikael succeeded in steering the bus into the inside lane and bringing it safely to a halt. By the time he had put on the hazard warning lights, Miss Sarah Fox, the teacher in charge, was already trying to help the driver and Mikael's friend Electra Bisset (age 10) had the presence of mind to call the emergency services.
- 18 "Mikael's quick actions undoubtedly saved his classmates from a terrible experience," said Chief Inspector Wiggins, first on the scene. "The situation could have gone in a completely different direction had it not been for Mikael's quick thinking. An accident would have affected other road users and a coach crash could even have damaged the bridge. As it is, no one is hurt and we have a local hero."
- 23 Mrs Olivia Greda, Mikael's mother said, "We're so proud of him. He's always been quick thinking. But driving a tractor in the farmyard is different from stopping a coach on a bridge. When I think what could have happened ...".
- 26 Chief Inspector Wiggins said that the police service would make an award to recognise Mikael's bravery and quick thinking. "I hope he will consider joining the police in a few years' time. We need more young people like him," said the Inspector.
- 30 The driver, who has not been named, is in Ipswich Hospital recovering from a suspected heart attack.

Questioning	Find the meaning of the text and further your understanding.
Visualising	Use your imagination to picture what is happening in a text.
Sequencing	Write the things in time order.
Summarising	Find the key points and explain your understanding.
Predicting	Use clues from what you have read and what you already know to make an educated guess about what might happen next.
Retrieval	Retrieve (fetch) and record information directly from the text.
Deduction	Search for clues in the text to find evidence.
Inference	Use what you have read. Use what you know or have experienced before.
Stamina	Read quickly and with understanding for longer periods of time.
Speed.	Read quickly. Understand the text.

1. Read the passage. Time yourself. How long did it take?
2. Re-read the passage. Time yourself. How long did it take?

Dive Deeper 1

Answer the questions, that are on the next page.

Dive Deeper 2

Mark your answers.

Next to each answer, write the skill/s that you have used.

1. Quote the words from the first paragraph that show what action Mikael took to save his classmates.

2. "Mikael acted instinctively to take control of a coach when the driver collapsed" (paragraph 1).

Which of the following words or phrases is closest in meaning to the underlined word? Tick one.

thoughtfully thoughtlessly without thinking thankfully

3. Which experiences did Mikael have that helped him to know what to do?

4. Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.

	Fact	Opinion
Mikael saved lives.		
Mikael knows how to drive tractors.		
He brought the coach to a halt.		
The driver had a heart attack.		

5. Mikael was the person on the bus who acted first. Why do you think this was?

6. Number these events to show the order in which they happened.

	Order of events
He put on the hazard warning lights to keep other vehicles safe.	
Mikael saw the driver grasp his arm and faint.	
Mikael's friend Electra called the emergency services.	
Mikael steered the bus to the inside lane and brought it to a halt.	

7. The coach was crossing the Orwell Bridge when the accident was "averted" (paragraph 5).

Ring the word that is closest in meaning to the word averted.

avoided happened explained reflected

8. Mikael's mother said "When I think what could have happened ..." Write **three** events from the text that could have happened.

9. Do you think Mikael was a hero? Yes No

Explain your answer using quotations from the text.

ANSWERS

1. "take control of a coach when the driver collapsed" (paragraph 1)

2. Without thinking

3. One of the following:

- He was an experienced driver.
- He drove a tractor.
- He drove a quad bike.

4. Mikael saved the day - opinion

He took control of the coach - fact

The driver had a heart attack - opinion

Mikael knows how to drive tractors - fact

He brought the coach to a halt - fact

A crash would even have damaged the bridge - opinion

5. One of the following or a different (plausible) answer:

- He may have been sitting nearest the driver.
- He saw the driver fainting. Maybe nobody else did.
- Perhaps he was the only one on the bus who could drive.

6. He put on the hazard warning lights to keep other vehicles safe - 3

Mikael saw the driver grasp his arm and faint - 1

Mikael's friend Electra called the emergency services - 4

Mikael steered the bus to the inside lane and brought it to a halt - 2

7. Avoided

8. Three of the following:

- Some of his friends could have been killed.
- His classmates could have had a terrible experience.
- There could have been an accident that would have affected other road users.
- A crash could have damaged the bridge.

9. Either yes or no is correct, but a reason must have been given to explain the answer. For example:

YES

- His "quick actions undoubtedly saved his classmates from a terrible experience" (paragraph 6)
- He was brave. The police will "make an award to recognise Maikael's bravery" (paragraph 8)

NO

- He didn't think, he "just reacted" (paragraph 4). Heroes think about what they're doing.
- He knew he could drive because he is "no stranger to driving" (paragraph 4) and he saved his own life too.