“What I Want to Be When I Grow Up”

By Martha Brooks

**Vocabulary and Spelling**

1. Define the following words:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Word (page number) | Definition | Word Used in a Sentence |
| Indigo |  |  |
| Pristine |  |  |
| Chortled |  |  |
| Snidely |  |  |

2. A verb is an action word, such as mashed and swayed. How many verbs can you find in the story? List as many as you can.

Figurative Language

1. A metaphor is a comparison between two unlike things **without** using “like” or “as.” Find the metaphor on page 14 and explain the comparison.

2. A simile is a comparison between two unlike things using “like” or “as.” There are several similes throughout the story, find one. Explain the simile (what is being compared? what does this comparison mean?).

Questions

1. What does the word protagonist mean? Who is the protagonist in this story?

2. Describe the setting of the story.

3. How does riding on a crowded bus make Andrew feel? How would you feel?

4. How does the pork chop man help Andrew? How does this make Andrew feel?

5. The narrator of “What I Want to Be When I Grow Up” is a good observer, and this makes him good at describing people. Take a closer look at how he describes one character in the story. You may choose the pork chop man, Mrs. G. Blahuta, Andrew, Andrew’s mother, or the gorgeous girl on the bus.

State at least two physical characteristics and three personality traits. Be specific! Back up what you say with details in the story. For example, if you choose Earl and you state that he is loud, explain your response by adding, he bellowed and his voice could be heard all over the bus.