

Oral Teacher Questions – History of the Circus

What is a circus? (AF2) **A circus is a show or performance which can have clowns, a ring master, trained animals, jugglers and acrobats in it.**

What time in the day did Philip Astley perform his horse tricks? (AF2) **Philip Astley performed them in the afternoon.**

What was Philip Astley doing in the morning? (AF2) **Philip Astley was teaching in his riding school.**

Did people like Philip Astley's show? What word makes you think that? (AF3/AF5) **People did like Philip Astley's show. Popular means lots of people liked it. He had an audience of people watching it.**

How do you think Philip Astley felt when he did his riding tricks? (AF3/AF7) **Any acceptable response, for example proud or excited.**

Why do you think the writer said that circus trains were like a travelling town? (AF5) **They were moving lots of people and animals around.**

Why do you think they used a canvas tent for the circus? (AF3) **So it could be moved to different places easily. So that they could transform fields into magical places.**

Do you think Russian circus performers were good? Why? (AF2/AF3) **They were probably good because they had learnt circus skills at university.**

Is this information text fiction or non-fiction? Why? (AF5) **The text is non-fiction because it is an information text with facts. It is not a made up story.**

What is the writer trying to teach you about? (AF6) **The writer is trying to teach the reader about the history of the circus.**