

Text A: Suspicious Behaviour

Mark had followed the old lady around the superstore for around ten minutes. She just looked shifty. After all, it was his job as a store detective to keep an eye out for odd behaviour. And the warning he'd received from the store manager just that week; there had been an increase in small robberies in store for about a month and Mark had been told very clearly that he needed to improve his performance or else he was out of a job. Now, this old woman looked a perfect suspect.

The old woman had spotted Mark watching her almost immediately. She had not been particularly careful in her behaviour, hanging around shelves, picking up items, expressing interest in the labels before replacing them. Her basket remained empty. He had pretended to be looking elsewhere but was not too good at hiding his obvious interest in her. She smiled to herself. Soon she would make her move and pocket something. Now, what would it be? She moved towards the tinned soups.

Mark saw her switch direction suddenly. He had thought she was going to steal the bag of sweets that she had held in her hand for a long while, suspiciously looking around before replacing them. She had not spotted that he was watching her. Like a wolf about to pounce on its unsuspecting prey, he followed her and waited just around the corner of the soup section where he could see her while he stayed hidden.

Text A: Questions

1 Where does this part of the story take place?

2 Who are the main characters in the story?

3 What happens in this part of the story?

4 Why does this happen?

5 Give TWO reasons why Mark is anxious at the start of this story.

6 Which phrase in the second paragraph is used to mean 'steal an item'?

7 What makes Mark suspicious of the old lady? Give TWO reasons.

8 Based on what you have read in this text, why might the old lady smile to herself?

9 Look at the third paragraph. How does Mark feel about catching the suspected shoplifter?

Feeling (in your own words)	Evidence (quotation from the text)

10 'Like a wolf about to pounce ...'
What does this suggest about Mark's behaviour?
