

“Yuck,” thought Xavier to himself as Max bounded off across the playground like some sort of **besotted** little puppy. “You wouldn’t catch me going on like that about some girl. He’s lost it. He’d better get over all this soon.”

What was going on with everybody? Xavier was sure all of his friends had been perfectly normal just a few days ago. Now it was ‘Chloe this’ and ‘Valentine’s Day that’ and ‘Do you think Megan fancies me?’. How was Xavier supposed to know whether or not Megan Cheadle liked David Franks? Why did he not just ask her? As a matter of fact, why did David not just forget all about it and play football like he normally did? Playtimes were for games of 20 versus 20 and scoring wonder goals like Sergio Aguero, not for worrying about who was going to get a Valentine’s Day card!

“Nope,” Xavier declared firmly to Max after P.E. later that morning. “All this rubbish about girlfriends is not for me. What’s the point? You won’t catch me going all silly about some girl or other. Nope. Not me. Never.”

Unless...

She came around the corner from the cloakrooms, leading her group of friends as if they were **participating** in some kind of magnificent **procession**. All of them were giggling noisily at something she’d just said, especially Grace Watkins her best friend. Nikita Kari. The most popular girl in Year 6: probably in the whole school.

Xavier felt a little flutter of butterflies in his stomach when he saw her, but he made sure he did not show any sign of it on his face. Nikita and all of her party grew quieter as they swept down the corridor towards the two boys. All of them except Grace Watkins.

“Hey, Xavier!” she called out shrilly as they approached. Xavier, who had been doing quite a good job of studying the patterns on the carpet as he tried to pass the girls without embarrassing himself, was startled. His head snapped up, and for a brief moment he found himself looking into Nikita’s eyes. He quickly switched his gaze to Grace.

“Found any Valentine’s Day cards yet?” she grinned, her eyes searching his for any clues. The butterflies immediately began to flutter more rapidly.

“W-w-what?” Xavier stammered hurriedly, his mind taken by surprise by the sudden **deluge** of questions which were at that moment flooding through his brain.

“Valentine’s Cards. You know? Folded pieces of paper. Hearts and kisses all over them. Have you found any yet? People give them to the person they secretly looooooove!” Grace’s grin was growing broader by the second.

“Grace! Shh!” The sound of Nikita’s voice snapped Xavier back into something **resembling** control. He looked across at her again. This time she was the one who looked away. He could not be sure, but Xavier thought he saw her blushing!

“Y-yeah, I know what they are, obviously!” Xavier **blustered**, trying desperately to regain his **composure**. “And no, I haven’t. Not that it’s any of your business!”

With that, he strode away down the corridor, determined not to look back. But at the sound of an outburst of high-pitched giggling, his resistance crumbled and he risked a peek behind. Every one of the

girls was watching him. Feeling his cheeks instantly begin burning, he **swivelled** his head back around and disappeared gratefully into the cloakroom. The butterflies in his stomach were doing **somersaults**.

At lunchtime Xavier sat as usual with Max. "So what was all that about in the corridor?" his best friend asked through a mouthful of crisps.

"No idea," Xavier answered, trying to play it cool. "And anyway, I told you I'm not interested in any of that Valentine's Day rubbish!"

But as he packed his lunch away, Xavier knew he had actually become *very* interested in Valentine's Day. Not that he would ever admit that to Max! He put his crisp packet and chocolate biscuit wrapper into his lunchbox and slid the whole thing into his backpack. Or, at least, halfway into his backpack. Something had caught his eye. Something pink. And **rectangular**. He slowly moved his lunchbox out of the way to get a better look, at the same time blocking any chance of Max seeing what was hiding in his bag. It was an envelope! It was covered in love hearts and had 'To Xavier' written prettily across the front. **Falteringly** making his excuses to Max, Xavier rushed to the only safe **refuge** he could think of where he could examine his card without risk of its existence ever being discovered. Once safely locked in a toilet **cubicle**, he ripped open the envelope and out slipped the card. It was quite over the top. Bright pink swirls surrounded a fluffy teddy bear, who was holding a gigantic love heart above its head and proudly declaring that 'Love is in the air'. Xavier was not bothered about the design on the front, however. He was just desperate to know what was written inside! Flipping it quickly open, his eyes **flitted** left and right across the page.

'To my dearest Xavey-Wavey,

*Roses are red,
Violets are blue,
You're the best boy ever,
I really love you.*

Love from your biggest fan.'

'Xavey-Wavey'? He'd never been called that before in his life! Who would call him that? He'd not really spoken very much with Nikita before, and after what had happened in the corridor, it might just be possible that she'd made up a nickname for him. Maybe she was trying to hide her identity! Maybe she was his secret 'biggest fan'! The butterflies from earlier in the day came zipping back into his stomach and it felt like they had brought their friends! He felt like he might explode. *Nikita Kari* fancied him! *Nikita Kari* *fancied* him! *Nikita Kari* *fancied* *him*! No matter which way he said it, it sounded amazing!

That afternoon, the lessons flew by in a blur. He was supposed to be learning all about the Water Cycle but the only thing going round and round in his head was Nikita. Should he speak to her? Should he try to stay calm and see what she did next? The only thing he knew for certain was that he *definitely* did not want Grace Watkins involved. He was still wondering what to do as he walked home from school with his mum. He **vaguely** knew she was talking to him and asking questions about his day but he was not really concentrating.

"And did you get any Valentine's Day cards?" Xavier's mum asked, a twinkle of mischief in her eyes.

"Mm? What?" Xavier had not really heard her. He was too **infatuated** with Nikita.

"Did you get any Valentine's Day cards? I'm talking to you, little Xavey-Wavey!"

"Hmm? Oh, yeah. Valentine's Day cards. Um, yeah, I did get one from – Hang on! What did you just say?"

classroomsecrets.com

Secrets and Surprises – Y4m/Y5s/Y6e (Black) – Text

Like this? Find more
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Secrets and Surprises – Follow-Up Work

Put the following events in the order in which they happen in the story:

- A) Xavier fails to concentrate on the Water Cycle.
 - B) Xavier opens the card.
 - C) Xavier wonders what is going on with everybody.
 - D) Xavier talks to his mother.
 - E) Xavier talks to Grace Watkins.
-

Who is the most popular girl in Year 6?

What is Xavier trying to do when he studies the patterns on the carpet?

Grace Watkins explains that people give Valentine's Day cards to people they secretly 'looooooove'.

- What does writing the word like this tell you about how she said it?

- What does this make you think Grace might be like as a person?

What is happening to Xavier when he feels his cheeks 'begin burning'?

Why was Xavier grateful to disappear into the cloakroom?

What is the main sort of writing Xavier finds in the card? Choose an option from the list below and give one reason explaining how you can tell.

- A) play script
- B) report
- C) poem
- D) story

What does the word 'zipping' tell you about how the feeling of butterflies came back to Xavier?

Look again at the moment that the sentence 'Nikita Kari fancied him!' is repeated three times. What is the effect of using italics in these sentences?

'He was supposed to be learning all about the Water Cycle but the only thing going round and round in his head was Nikita.' What is the effect of the pun 'round and round' in this sentence?

How does the author use the idea of butterflies to show how Xavier feelings change throughout the story?

What is the effect of ending the story so suddenly?

Which of the following would be *most* helpful for finding out who had written the card? Give a reason why.

- A play script where Xavier and Max discuss Nikita and Grace.
 - Extracts from Nikita's diary.
 - A newspaper report about how Valentine's Day is celebrated in schools.
 - A poem written by Xavier's mother.
-

Who do you think the card was from? Find two quotations which support your answer.

Secrets and Surprises – Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of these words.

besotted _____

participating _____

procession _____

deluge _____

resembling _____

blustered _____

composure _____

swivelled _____

somersaults _____

rectangular _____

falteringly _____

refuge _____

cubicle _____

flitted _____

vaguely _____

infatuated _____

Secrets and Surprises – Vocab 2

Task A

Draw a line to an antonym (word that means the opposite) and a synonym (word that means the same) for each of the words in the middle column.

<u>Antonym</u>	<u>Word</u>	<u>Synonym</u>
downcast	popular	furious
reasonable	indignant	mistaken
obscure	foolish	elated
proud	misguided	irrational
pleased	joyful	well-liked
correct	mortified	humiliated

Task B

Use a synonym for 'said' and add an adverb to the end of each of these sentences to show how Xavier would feel as he said them.

• "I can't believe Nikita gave me that card!" _____ Xavier

_____:

• "I can't believe Mum gave me that card!" _____ Xavier

_____:

• "I can't believe Grace gave me that card!" _____ Xavier

_____:

Task A

Which punctuation mark would be best to show that the sentence below ends with a cliffhanger?

Xavier opened the card and could not believe what was written inside

Circle one.

- ?
- !
- ...
- “

Write next to each punctuation mark what it is called.

Task B

There are three punctuation mistakes in each of the following sentences. Circle each mistake and write underneath what should or should not be there.

- “Mum! did you write me a card!” asked Xavier
-

- Xavier spent the Afternoon, daydreaming about Nikitas card.
-

- nikita had lots of friend’s but Grace was the loudest one?
-

Secrets and Surprises – Oral Teacher Questions

Put the following events in the order in which they happen in the story:

- A) Xavier fails to concentrate on the Water Cycle.
- B) Xavier opens the card.
- C) Xavier wonders what is going on with everybody.
- D) Xavier talks to his mother.
- E) Xavier talks to Grace Watkins.

C, E, B, A, D.

Who is the most popular girl in Year 6? **Nikita Kari.**

What is Xavier trying to do when he studies the patterns on the carpet? **He is trying to walk past the girls without embarrassing himself, so he is looking down and concentrating on something else.**

Grace Watkins explains that people give Valentine's Day cards to people they secretly 'looooooove'.

- What does writing the word like this tell you about how she said it? **She drew the word out and made it last a long time.**
- What does this make you think Grace might be like as a person? **Various answers possible along the line of: annoying; funny; a bully; silly; a performer.**

What is happening to Xavier when he feels his cheeks 'begin burning'? **He is blushing.**

Why was Xavier grateful to disappear into the cloakroom? **He was out of sight of the girls and they would not be able to see him blushing.**

What is the main sort of writing Xavier finds in the card? Choose an option from the list below and give one reason explaining how you can tell.

- A) play script
- B) report
- C) poem**
- D) story

What does the word 'zipping' tell you about how the feeling of butterflies came back to Xavier? **That they came back very quickly and forcefully.**

Look again at the moment that the sentence 'Nikita Kari fancied him!' is repeated three times. What is the effect of using italics in these sentences? **The italics place emphasis on different words in the sentences, and allow a reader to experience Xavier's thought that, 'No matter which way he said it, it sounded amazing!'**

'He was supposed to be learning all about the Water Cycle but the only thing going round and round in his head was Nikita.' What is the effect of the pun 'round and round' in this sentence? **It is funny, and shows how the thoughts he should have been having had been taken over by the thought of Nikita.**

How does the author use the idea of butterflies to show how Xavier feelings change throughout the story? **With each mention, the actions and amounts of the butterflies grow bigger, mimicking Xavier's growing excitement and interest.**

What is the effect of ending the story so suddenly? **It leaves a reader with lots of unanswered questions and causes them to make up their own mind about who wrote the card.**

Which of the following would be *most* helpful for finding out who had written the card? Give a reason why.

- A play script where Xavier and Max discuss Nikita and Grace.
- **Extracts from Nikita's diary.**
- A newspaper report about how Valentine's Day is celebrated in schools.
- A poem written by Xavier's mother.

Nikita is one of the people who is most likely to have written the card, and a diary is often a place where people write down secrets.

Who do you think the card was from? Find two quotations which support your answer. **Various answers; must be justified by two relevant quotations.**

Secrets and Surprises – Vocab 1

Write the meaning of each of these words.

besotted – **unreasonably obsessed or in love**

participating – **taking part in something**

procession – **an orderly march as a group**

deluge – **a huge flood or downfall of water**

resembling – **similar to**

blustered – **talked in such a way as to sound impressive and hide faults**

composure – **calmness or stable mindedness**

swivelled – **turned/rotated**

somersaults – **front or back flips**

rectangular – **in the shape of a rectangle**

falteringly – **hesitantly or brokenly**

refuge – **a safe place**

cubicle – **a small, partitioned space**

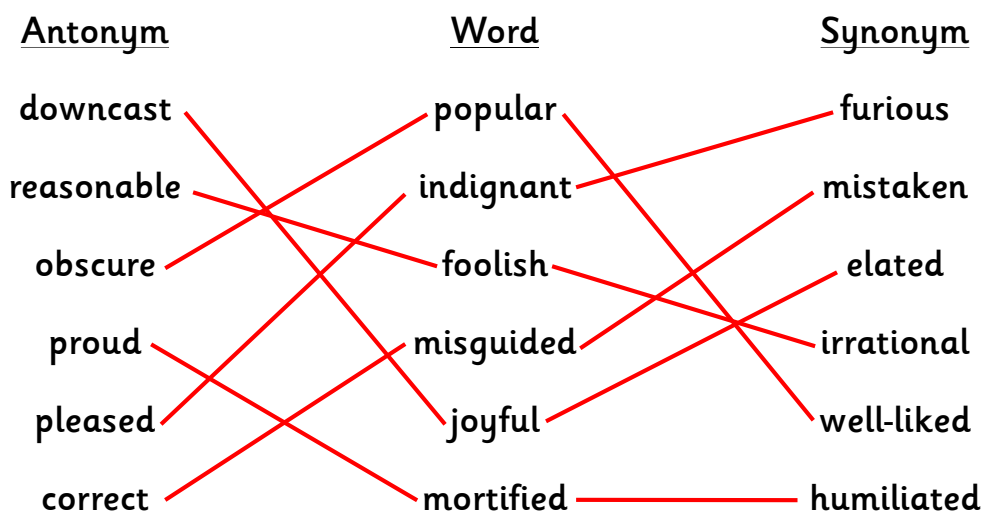
flitted – **moved lightly and swiftly**

vaguely – **unclearly or incompletely**

infatuated – **foolishly obsessed or in love**

Task A

Draw a line to an antonym (word that means the opposite) and a synonym (word that means the same) for each of the words in the middle column.



Task B

Use a synonym for 'said' and add an adverb to the end of each of these sentences to show how Xavier would feel as he said them.

- "I can't believe Nikita gave me that card!" [happy/excited synonym] Xavier [happy/excited adverb].
- "I can't believe Mum gave me that card!" [annoyed/shocked/embarrassed/sad synonym] Xavier [annoyed/shocked/embarrassed/sad adverb].
- "I can't believe Grace gave me that card!" [annoyed/shocked/embarrassed/sad synonym] Xavier [annoyed/shocked/embarrassed/sad adverb] .

Task A

Which punctuation mark would be best to show that the sentence below ends with a cliffhanger?

Xavier opened the card and could not believe what was written inside

Circle one.

- ? question mark
- ! exclamation mark
- ... ellipsis
- “ speech mark

Write next to each punctuation mark what it is called.

Task B

There are three punctuation mistakes in each of the following sentences. Circle each mistake and write underneath what should or should not be there.

- “Mum! did you write me a card!” asked Xavier

No capital letter; exclamation mark instead of question mark; no full stop.

- Xavier spent the Afternoon, daydreaming about Nikita's card.

Incorrect use of capital letter; incorrect use of comma; no apostrophe.

- nikita had lots of friend's but Grace was the loudest one?

No capital letter; incorrect use of apostrophe; incorrect use of question mark.