

EJERCICIO 3

Mrs Bixby and the Colonel's coat

Once a month she would get on a train and travel to Baltimore to visit her old Aunt Maude. At least that was what she told her husband. What she really did was see a gentleman known as the Colonel and spend all her time in Baltimore in his company.

The Colonel was wealthy and lived in a charming house just outside of town. He had no wife and no family, only a few loyal servants, and in Mrs. Bixby's absence he amused himself by riding horses and hunting. Year after year the pleasant friendship between Mrs. Bixby and the Colonel continued without a problem, and never once did Mrs. Bixby's dentist husband suspect the truth.

Then, after one visit just before Christmas, Mrs. Bixby was standing at the station in Baltimore, waiting for the train to take her back to New York. It had been a thoroughly enjoyable visit and Mrs. Bixby was thinking how different it all was from her dull husband at home, when suddenly one of the Colonel's servants appeared through the crowd and presented her with a large cardboard box.

Mrs. Bixby: "Good heavens! What's he brought? What a big box! Was there a message?"

There had been no message, and as soon as she was on the train, Mrs. Bixby found a place where she could open the box in private.

Mrs. Bixby: "How exciting! A Christmas present from the Colonel... I think it's a dress. It might even be two dresses. Or it might be a lot of beautiful underclothes. I won't look. I'll just feel around and try to guess what it is. I'll try to guess the colour as well, and exactly what it looks like. Also how much it cost... Good heavens! It can't be true."

What the Colonel had given her was the most magnificent mink coat she had ever seen. The fur was almost pure black, with a touch of blue in it, as well, as deep rich blue. But what had it cost? She hardly dared to think. Then she saw there was a letter in the box, as well... a farewell note from the Colonel! He had heard her say once how fond she was of mink and asked her to accept it as a farewell gift. For his own personal reasons he would not be able to see her anymore.

Mrs. Bixby thought to herself: "I think he's done this on purpose just to annoy me. He knew perfectly well I wouldn't be able to keep it. But I must have this coat! I must! Very well, my dear. You shall have the coat, my dear. But don't be afraid, sit still and keep calm and start thinking. You have fooled him before. The man has never been able to understand very much apart from his business. So sit absolutely still and think."

(Extract from Mrs Bixby and the Colonel's coat by Roal Dahl)

21. What did Mrs Bixby use to do once a month?

- A. Visit her aunt
- B. Take a train
- C. Visit a Colonel
- D. Travel with her husband

22. **The Colonel...**
- A. was a lonely man
 - B. lived alone
 - C. was a bachelor
 - D. was dull
23. **The Colonel and Mrs Bixby...**
- A. were good friends
 - B. went riding and hunting together
 - C. amused each other
 - D. always met out of town
24. **Mrs Bixby's husband...**
- A. was suspicious of them
 - B. was a wealthy man
 - C. was a dentist
 - D. was aware of the truth
25. **She was given a cardboard box as a present...**
- A. on Christmas Eve
 - B. at the New York train station
 - C. from the Colonel
 - D. from a servant
26. **How did she feel when she got the present?**
- A. Grateful
 - B. Distressed
 - C. Amused
 - D. Amazed

27. Why did he give her a present?

- A. He wanted to say goodbye
- B. He knew she liked mink
- C. For his own personal reasons
- D. He wanted to annoy her

28. Why can't she keep the coat?

- A. Because it's too magnificent
- B. Because it's too expensive
- C. Because she can't explain its origin
- D. Because she is afraid of it

29. Who does she refer to when she says: 'I've fooled him before'?



30. What opinion does Mrs Bixby have of her husband?

- A. He is boring and stupid
- B. He is quite indifferent to her
- C. He is cold and ill-tempered
- D. He is a good businessman

READMIT KEY
26-B
22-C
23-A
24-C
25-C
27-A
28-C
29-121
30-B
Mrs Bixby