

The Railway Children Answers

1. What do you think a 'house-agent' is?

A 'house-agent' is a Victorian equivalent of today's estate agent: a person who sells houses.

2. From these introductory paragraphs, what impression do you get of the children's lives?

Give **two** reasons to justify your opinion.

Award a mark (up to a maximum of two) for any reference to the children having fortunate/privileged lives because:

- **they have a comfortable house 'with every modern convenience'.**
- **they have a Mother who obviously loves them very much and spends a lot of time with them.**
- **they celebrate birthdays and other 'great occasions'.**
- **they have pretty clothes, good fires, a lovely nursery with heaps of toys, and a Mother Goose wall-paper.**
- **they have a kind and merry nursemaid (nanny).**
- **they have a dog of their very own.**

3. Write down three things that you are told about the children's home.

Award marks for any three of the following:

- **it was an ordinary red-brick-fronted villa;**
- **it had coloured glass in the front door;**
- **it had a tiled passage that was called a hall;**
- **it had a bath-room with hot and cold water;**
- **it had electric bells;**
- **it had French windows;**
- **it had a good deal of white paint;**
- **it had 'every modern convenience'.**

4. Based on what you have read, what do you think might happen to the children later on in the story?

- **You get the impression that the children are somehow going to become more familiar with railways.**
- **You get the impression that the children's privileged lifestyle is about to change.**