

Wonder Comprehension Answers

Part A

1. Do you think there are any pictures of August's birth?

Example answer: There are unlikely to be any pictures of August's birth because Dad broke the video camera when August was born. The hospital, though, may have taken pictures for medical records in case August needed medical treatment later or Dad may have had another camera.

2. What does August mean when he says, 'cracking up'?

August means he and Via laugh hysterically when the story is told and they can't stop laughing.

3. What phrase tells you that August and Via have heard the story before?

The phrase is 'when Mom tells this story' or 'when Mom tells it'. It implies that she tells the story a lot and has probably told it throughout their childhoods.

4. What does Mom's expression, 'a walk in the park' mean?

Example answer: A walk in the park means something is easy. Compare walking in the park to walking up a mountain – it's much easier. Via's birth was straightforward compared with August's.

5. Did the video camera break into 'a million pieces'?

Example answer: No, the camera didn't break. It's just an everyday expression (idiom) that it fell to bits. It's an exaggeration, to make the story funnier.

6. August/the author uses the words 'fart' and 'farting' a lot in this anecdote. Why?

Example answer: The word 'fart' is funny anyway because it's a bit rude. If you keep on using the word 'fart' a lot it can be even funnier because you're getting away with writing a rude word like 'fart' down (like I have done here!). August is using it a lot because he's a ten-year-old boy and they tend to find that kind of thing funny, so he's using it as much as he can to make the story funnier. The author is using the word because it shows August's character – his sense of humour. He also knows that the readership is either about that age, slightly older or are the parents of a child that age; they'll appreciate the humour that most ten-year-olds have.

7. List the events that happened in the delivery room immediately after August was born.
1. *The doctor fainted.*
 2. *The 'nice' nurse rushed August out of the room.*
 3. *Dad ran after her.*
 4. *Dad dropped the video camera and it broke.*
 5. *Mom got upset and tried to get out of bed.*
 6. *The 'farting' nurse tried to keep Mom from getting up.*
 7. *Mom was hysterical and the nurse was yelling at her.*
 8. *The 'farting' nurse shouted at the doctor and 'kicked' him.*
 9. *The doctor woke up.*

Not necessarily in this order, but it's likely that the doctor fainted first, as soon as he saw August's face.