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SUJET JURY

SUJET CANDIDAT N°

CODE SUJET : CLG &

Your main commentary should be focused on HAVE. Other topics may also be addressed.

Aunt Pearl, her expression full of silent suffering, sat on the chair. She gave a little gasp as the Burrowers lifted her shoulder high, before deciding she quite liked the idea of being carried by a horde of willing little men.

'Forward!' she cried dramatically. 'May magic win the day.'

As a small, excited army they entered the railway tunnel, Tommy and Alfie adding fire-crackers to their glow-balls — that was until Aunt Pearl complained that the noise gave her a dreadful headache and stopped them. Yet Kit worried that they still made too much noise.

'Quiet!' he ordered. 'Do you want Sparks and his bullies to hear us coming and be watching for us down the barrels of their rifles?'

They certainly did not. So with much less clamour than before they went on until at the far end of the tunnel they saw lights; and they immediately snuffed out their glow-balls in case they too were spotted.

The distant lights shone even brighter through the darkness. These were the gas lamps of St Paul's Underground station — as well as the red tail lamp of the getaway train pulled up at the platform. 'What do we do now?' asked Henry. Kit shifted uncomfortably. The truth was he had no real idea, just a vague notion of using magic to make Sparks's life as difficult as possible. But Sparks's men had weapons. They would certainly fight back. No matter what, it was going to be dangerous. 'Let's check the lie of the land first, eh?' he said. 'Good idea,' said Henry enthusiastically, much to Kit's surprise.

With barely a murmur they crept the last few hundred feet along the tracks until the tunnel opened out into the station. The train hissed eerily but no one was in sight.

Touching Kit's shoulder. Fin pointed. The gold's been unloaded already,' he whispered. 'See. The gates are down on the wagon. It means they've only gone and got away with it, Kit.'

'That's impossible,' said Henry. 'All the exits are blocked, they must have been blocked again after Kit broke through them the last time. The gang has 30 to be here somewhere.'

'Not necessarily,' said Kit. 'They went to a great deal of trouble to get Aunt Pearl out of the way. If they've taken the secret passageway they'd be up in the cathedral by now.'

'Then we have to go after them,' said Henry.

'No!' Kit stopped him. There's too many of us, we'll only get in each other's way; in any case we must get help and the quicker the better.' He grew thoughtful. 'The train maybe. Yes, if one of the Burrowers can drive it, then all those who don't have magic can head to the next working station and raise the alarm, while those of us who do have magic can set off after Sparks—if nothing else at least we can delay him.'

'Well, don't think you're leaving me behind,' said Henry firmly.

'Me neither,' said May. 'Someone has to keep an eye on Tommy.'

'Aw, May,' wailed Tommy. 'I can look after myself.'

'Tommy's right,' agreed Kit. 'We all can — we have our magic for 45 protection. So if you two are coming along you must promise to stay at the back and shield yourselves behind one of us the moment we meet trouble.'

May and Henry both swore they would.

Then they set about getting everyone else aboard the train. It was a tight squeeze, but finally Fin and Alfie shut and bolted the side gate.

'Be sure to give old Sparks a prickly spell down his trousers from us too,' shouted someone as the train puffed away.

Kit waved them goodbye, watching the red tail light disappear into darkness; and he and the group that remained on the platform moved closer together, suddenly feeling both few in number and that there was much more 55 for them to do.

'Come on,' said Kit turning and striding off. 'I'll show you where the secret passageway begins.'

'Not more gloomy tunnels,' groaned Pixie.

"Fraid so do - here it is."

Yet as he was about to start up it, Kit found himself skilfully elbowed aside by Aunt Pearl.