



# Unit 1 Reading Worksheet 2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 Read quickly and mark (✓) what the text is about.

1. ☐ music and its importance in the life of a lonely young child
2. ☐ the types of activities for kids on cruise ships
3. ☐ understanding that preconceived ideas are not really important



Tim was not looking forward to his vacation this year. His mother had booked them both on a cruise along the famous Nile River in Egypt. Tim didn't want to go, but he had no choice because his mom was playing in the orchestra there and, unfortunately, there was no one else at home to look after him. So, Tim was **stuck** on what he was certain would be a very boring trip. Luckily, there was another boy of the same age on the cruise. Guillermo was Mexican, but he spoke almost perfect English, so the boys were able to communicate easily. Tim immediately decided to **befriend** him. After all, Guillermo looked as bored as Tim was.

Shortly after meeting, the boys found a **common** bond: they both loved music, singing and performing. They knew then that they would be very

close friends, and they passed almost every spare moment in each other's company.

One night, Tim and Guillermo were on the ship's **deck**, looking at the stars. Suddenly, Tim looked at Guillermo and asked, "How come you're white?"

The only Mexicans Tim had ever seen before were in movies, and they were usually much darker skinned than Guillermo, who had a fair complexion like Tim's. They also usually had thick, dark hair, but Guillermo's hair was blonder than Tim's.

Guillermo looked back at him, a little confused, and answered, "Why wouldn't I be?"

Tim's question to Guillermo had been an innocent one, but he suddenly felt embarrassed. He thought about his friends at school back in the US. One of his classmates had dark skin and tight curls in his hair, although he was born

in the same town as Tim. Another friend had Korean parents, but Tim didn't think she looked particularly different from any of the other girls at school. It was just that Guillermo was the first Mexican boy he'd ever met.

"I'm sorry... I didn't mean anything by it," said Tim, turning a shade of red as he spoke.

Guillermo **shrugged**, but he didn't look upset—just a little surprised by the question. In fact, he just smiled, grabbed Tim by the arm and pulled him running toward the front of the ship.

"Look!" he said excitedly. "The pyramids!"

They soon forgot about Tim's question and they were just two young boys on a cruise ship, looking at the pyramids and the stars above them, and thinking of really important issues, such as music, performances and newfound friendship.

## 2 Read again and circle the correct option.

0. Tim met Guillermo \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. at a concert
  - b. on a cruise**
  - c. at school
1. At the beginning of the trip, Tim thought the cruise was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. fun
  - b. boring
  - c. very important
2. Tim and Guillermo became friends because they \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. liked music
  - b. hated music
  - c. liked stars
3. Tim asked Guillermo a question about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. his favorite color
  - b. the color of his skin
  - c. his mother
4. The question was important because it helped Tim \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. learn something important
  - b. compose a song
  - c. learn about Mexico
5. Guillermo has \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. thick, dark hair
  - b. fair skin and blond hair
  - c. dark skin and fair hair
6. For Tim, learning that preconceived ideas about nationalities can be wrong was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. boring
  - b. magnificent
  - c. important

## Glossary

**stuck:** unable to leave or go anywhere else

**befriend:** to become a friend to (someone)

**common:** the same (interests, etc.)

**deck:** surface that forms the outside floor of a boat or ship

**irrelevant:** insignificant, unimportant

**shrug:** to raise and lower your shoulders



**Stop and Think!** Have you ever made friends during a trip? What have you learned from your friends?