The Princess and the Pea – by Lauren Child

One day when the prince was old enough, his parents decided that it was time for him to be married. You know what parents are like and a prince's parents are no different.

The prince didn't object to the idea but he did make one condition – he wanted to marry for love.

He was just that kind of romantic boy.

He told his father and his mother, "I would gladly marry tomorrow but, whoever she is she must be more mesmerising than the moon and I must find her more fascinating than all the stars in the sky. And there must be a certain... something about her."

"What something?" asked the queen.
"Just... something," replied the prince.
"Yes, yes," agreed the king, "That's all very lovely but our condition is that she must be a princess of blue blood and equal in royalness to you."
The prince wasn't all that interested in these details but knew he wouldn't get any peace until he agreed. So he did.

Now you may think finding yourself a suitable princess would be easy to do if you are a handsome prince but you would be wrong – just how many mesmerising and fascinating princesses do you imagine there are out there?
Well, the king and queen did all the traditional fairy-tale things in order that their son might be bowled over by the right girl.

Lauren Child

Questions

Skill: Inference

1. *The prince didn't object to the idea but he did make one condition…*
   What is meant by the word "object" in this sentence? (1 mark)

2. Retrieve evidence that shows the prince wants his future wife to be beautiful. (1 mark)

3. What does the King mean when he says "*she must be a princess of blue blood*"? (1 mark)

4. *Well, the king and queen did all the traditional fairy-tale things in order that their son might be bowled over by the right girl.*
   What does "bowled" mean? (1 mark)

5. Predict what you think is going to happen next. Remember to support your answer. (2 marks)

Finished? Have a go at these fun activities:

- Make a comic-strip version of The Princess and the Pea.
- Act the story out with toys. You could maybe ask an adult to film it for you. Be sure to send it to Zoë!