



Behind the scenes of the Travelling Circus



Have you ever wondered what it is like to be a child in a travelling circus?

Laci

Hello! My name is Laci and I am 12 years old. I come from Russia but I live on a travelling circus and I go to school in England.



My father is the tent master for The Moscow State Circus.

He is responsible for moving the circus from place to place. We usually move to a new town every week and it takes a lot of work to do this!



Travelling



We normally travel on Sundays. I remember on one Sunday when we had to travel 250 miles. I can't remember what place it was but it was a long journey. We had to pull the tent down quickly so that we could get started. We had to go up the mountains, down the hills and along the motorways. On the way, five lorries broke down and we had to leave one on the motorway. My dad had to spend all night getting it back! He works so hard.



Arriving at a new town

We can arrive on a site in the morning and be ready to put on a show by the evening. No matter what the weather, the tent has to go up. Even if it's pouring with rain! Everyone that works with the circus helps to prepare.

It is really exciting to arrive in a new town as lots of people come to watch our show. We get to meet boys and girls from all over the world.

My Friends

These are my friends, Artur and Andrei. Artur's father is an acrobat and Andrei's father has an act called "The Flying Akhtyamovs".



Even though we travel around, we still do school work. Sometimes we go to school in the town our circus is visiting and sometimes teachers come to visit us. We also have lots of homework to do from our school in Russia. We have to make sure we complete this every evening.

When we grow up, we will work for the circus too.



Questions

1. Where does Laci come from?

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2. What does Laci's father do?

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3. Do you think Laci's father has a tiring job? Why do you think this?

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4. What does Laci think about arriving in new towns? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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5. What does Artur's father do in the circus?

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6. The name of Andrei's father's act is called the 'Flying Akhtyamovs'. What do you think he might do?

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7. Do you think the children do lots of school work? Why do you think this?

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8. How do you think the children might feel when they go to a new school?

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9. Would you like to be in a travelling circus? Why/Why not?

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