

In the Rue Bel Tesoro

SCENE 1

(A busy train station crowded with travellers. Sasha and Omar arrive pushing an old-fashioned pram and carrying a bag stuffed with belongings.)

Sasha Don't say anything, Omar, let me do the talking.

Omar *(into the pram)* You've got to keep quiet, Valentine, we're in the station now.
(They approach a soldier checking documents at the entrance to the platform.)

Soldier Papers?

Sasha *(handing over papers)* We're going to meet our mother. She's waiting for us.

Soldier The baby – his pass?

Sasha He's... a new baby, he doesn't have one.

Soldier No papers, I can't let you through.

(Fran arrives with a huge suitcase and pushes in.)

Fran Please – let an old woman by! My bad hip! My feet!

Soldier *(unmoved)* Papers?

(Fran gives him her papers as the children watch.)

Soldier Go through.

(Fran hurries through the barrier. Sasha grabs Omar and drags him after Fran, getting away from the soldier.)

Soldier Hey you! Come back!

(Sasha and Omar disappear into the crowd.)

SCENE 2

(Fran staggers into the train compartment with her bundles.)

Sasha Please, madam, if we could stay with you, we're on our own...

Fran Oh no – impossible, I must have my space.

Sasha The soldiers don't stop old people so much when they have children.

Fran I don't like babies.

Omar It isn't a baby – it's a dog.

(Sasha looks at him furiously.)

Lin Coghlan



Fill the missing gaps.

- 1 Sasha and Omar pushed a _____ into the train station.
- 2 _____ wanted to be the one to talk to the soldier.
- 3 The soldier wanted to look at Sasha and Omar's _____.
- 4 _____ pushes in while Sasha is talking to the soldier.
- 5 Fran doesn't like _____.

Answer each of the questions with a sentence.

- 6 Who are Sasha and Omar going to meet?

- 7 Why does Omar tell Valentine to keep quiet?

- 8 Why does Sasha want to stay with Fran?

- 9 What do you think will happen next to Sasha, Omar and Valentine?

10 Copy a line from the play that illustrates each of these statements.

Fran is elderly. _____

Fran has walking problems. _____

Fran is rather grumpy. _____

Fran likes to be alone. _____

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1 pram 2 Sasha 3 papers 4 Fran 5 babies

6 The children are going to meet their mother.

7 Omar tells Valentine to keep quiet as he doesn't want to let people know there is a dog in the pram, not a baby.

8 Sasha wants to stay with Fran because she thinks they are less likely to be stopped by the soldiers if they are with an old person.

9 Child's own answer, for example, I think they will stay with Fran and escape the soldiers.

10 Fran is elderly. – 'Please – let an old woman by!'

Fran has walking problems. – 'My bad hip! My feet!'

Fran is rather grumpy. – 'I don't like babies.'

Fran likes to be alone. – 'I must have my space.'