

The Subway

Story By: Andrew Frinkle

Janet went down the long set of stairs, surrounded by people. She held onto the rail as she went. It made her anxious to go so deep underground, but everyone seemed to think it was normal. Not for Janet; this was her first time going on the subway.

Next she had to go down a hall to buy a ticket. She found her destination on the map, and then went to pay at the booth. It was \$1.60. That was cheap. With so many people riding, it didn't have to be expensive.

With her ticket in hand, she followed the lines of people through the turnstiles. The machine took her ticket and she pushed through the turnstile with her hip. It clanked loudly as it admitted her into the subway halls. The noises made her nervous.

Now she had to follow the colored lines painted on the wall. She needed the orange line. There were purple, blue, green, and red lines on the walls, too, but she ignored them. She followed the orange line down an escalator, and then another set of stairs onto a platform.

There were many benches where people waited for their subway train. Other people were buying beverages and snacks from vending machines. A newsstand was selling magazines and newspapers. She didn't have money to waste, so she stood there and read the advertisement posters while she waited.

A bell rang a couple minutes later, and a voice came over the loudspeaker, explaining that a train was coming in, saying that they should step back and wait for its approach. She watched for the lights of the approaching train. The lights rapidly grew closer, and then the train burst out the end of the tunnel. Things were definitely getting interesting.

Wind pushed ahead of the train as it rushed past them, slowing to a stop at the end of the platform. The doors slid open, and a crowd of people exited. With those people cleared out, the new passengers filed onto the train. Janet went with them.

The doors slid shut moments later, and the friendly voice came over the loudspeaker inside the train this time, warning them to stand back from doors and to prepare for departure. Janet grabbed on to the nearest pole, since there were no seats for her.

She looked around the crowded train and braced herself as the train began to move along. After a few minutes, she smiled, enjoying the ride. It was actually pretty fun after all!



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Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Janet going to ride?
 - A. a subway train
 - B. a bus
 - C. an airplane
 - D. a trolley

2. How does Janet feel about riding the subway train at first?
 - A. curious
 - B. happy
 - C. amused
 - D. nervous

3. How does she know which platform to use?
 - A. She follows the purple line.
 - B. She follows the green line.
 - C. She follows the orange line.
 - D. She follows the red line.

4. How does she seem to feel about the train at the platform?
 - A. curious
 - B. happy
 - C. amused
 - D. nervous

5. How does Janet feel at the end, when she's actually riding the train?
 - A. curious
 - B. happy
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