



Royal Flying Doctor Service



# FAST FLIGHT

George Ivanoff

---

## > Comprehension Activities

Royal Flying Doctor Service Tasmania  
Building 90 Launceston Airport  
305 Evandale Road Western Junction TAS 7212  
PO Box 140, Evandale TAS 7212  
P: 03 6391 0512  
E: [Jocelyn.McLean@rfdstas.org.au](mailto:Jocelyn.McLean@rfdstas.org.au)  
W: [www.flyingdoctor4education.org.au](http://www.flyingdoctor4education.org.au)

Prepared by Jocelyn McLean  
RFDS Education Officer

# RFDS

## CONTENTS

### > Activities

- 03 Vocabulary Activities
- 04 Vocabulary Activities Continued
- 05 Higher Order Activities:  
Cause and Effect and Summary
- 06 Comprehension Text
- 07 Comprehension Text Continued
- 08 Comprehension Questions –  
12 types of questioning.
- 09 Character Study
- 10 Higher Order Activities: Sequencing
- 11 Mapping and Measurement
- 12 Higher Order Activities:  
Problem / Solution Grid
- 13 Construction Challenge



# VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES >

## 1. Use a dictionary or google to find the meaning of the following words:

Genetic Disorder \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Rare \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bilirubin \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bilirubinometer \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

By-product \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Match the following words to their meanings:

Emphatic > > not identified by name; of unknown name

Anonymous > > to eat something eagerly and in large amounts so that nothing is left

Antibodies > > danger of loss, harm, or failure

Devour > > expressing something forcibly and clearly

Jeopardy > > a substance produced by the body to fight disease

## 1. Use a thesaurus to find 3 words with the same meaning

Tremendous \_\_\_\_\_

Magestic \_\_\_\_\_

Exhausted \_\_\_\_\_

Magnificent \_\_\_\_\_

Tremulous \_\_\_\_\_

Diminish \_\_\_\_\_

Timid \_\_\_\_\_

Haggard \_\_\_\_\_

4. Use the Phonetic Alphabet to decode or code the words and write their meaning.

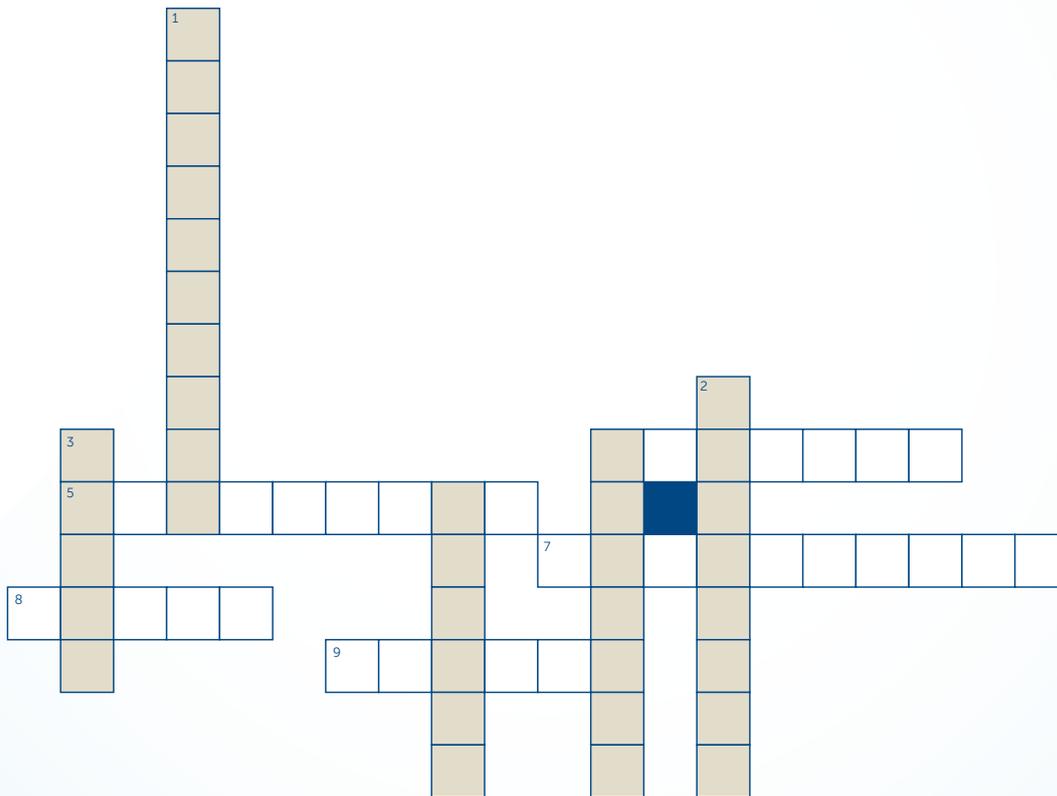
Tango / Oscar / X-Ray / India / Charlie \_\_\_\_\_

Alpha / Echo / Romeo / Oscar / Mike / Echo / Delta / India / Charlie / Alpha / Lima \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ recipient

India / November / Tango / Romeo / India / Charlie / Alpha / Tango / Echo \_\_\_\_\_

5. Solve the clues to complete the puzzle. > FAST FLIGHT



**Across**

- 4. Sharp bladed instrument used for surgery
- 5. surgery
- 7. totake an organ from one body and put it in another
- 8. a large organ which filters blood
- 9. capable of working successfully

**Down**

- 1. able to exist together without trouble or conflict
- 2. yellowish tinge to the skin and eyes
- 3. a poisonous substance
- 4. a doctor who performs operations
- 6. heart, lungs, liver, brain are all . . .

5. Complete the table below.

### CONSEQUENCE

Dillon felt light headed and unwell and his skin was too yellow. He was dizzy, tired and his legs and arms felt weak. The next day he required an extra hearing check as his hearing would be the first damaged by a build up of the toxins

Happened because:

Cause:

Cause:

Cause:

<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

How could the consequence have been prevented:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### SUMMARY

6. In your words write a paragraph to tell me about Dillon's medical condition and the treatment he received.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## COMPREHENSION TEXT >

"You look like custard," one boy teased. "Custard Face!"

"Or mustard," said the other boy with a snigger.

"Mustard custard!" said the first boy.

The two looked at each other, then shouted in unison, "Mustard custard!" They fell about laughing.

School was over for the day. He shouldn't have to put up with this anymore. Dillon tried to walk away, but they followed, pointing and taunting. He sped up.

Dillon could feel eyes upon him as he raced through the schoolyard. He was often looked upon with ridicule or with pity. Both were equally bad. Some kids made fun of him. Others felt sorry for him. Some didn't care but everyone knew he was different.

Dillon felt the sting of tears in his own eyes. He sprinted out of the grounds and down the street.

He ran and ran. He didn't really think about where he was going. But it wasn't home. He just wanted to escape – to exhaust his frustration and get it out of his system. His feet pounded on the footpath, his breath heaved in and out and his mind whirled with a confusion of emotions.

He had become pretty good at ignoring what people said about him – to him. But it still hurt, even when he didn't show it. It was hard to conceal what he felt; sometimes he couldn't help reacting. Things had been building up for a few weeks, ever since those two new boys had shown up.

And now he let it all out. Dillon shouted as he ran – a loud, mournful wail.

An elderly man, pruning his roses, glared at Dillon. A lady pushing a pram on the other

side of the street stared as he ran past.

Dillon ran off the footpath and across the expanse of green before collapsing under a tree. He leaned against the trunk, gasping for air, and cried.

He wasn't sure how long he was there for, but his eyes were sore and his throat raspy by the time the tears dried up. He pulled a crusty old tissue out of his pocket and wiped his nose.

Finally looking around, Dillon discovered that he was in a park. The leafy green trees and the grass beneath him made him feel calmer.

I wish I was like everyone else, he thought.

Dillon liked stories. He enjoyed books and films with fantastical plots and impossible things. But he was pretty good at keeping grounded. He knew the difference between fantasy and reality. He knew what his situation was and he knew his disorder wouldn't just go away.

But, right now, he closed his eyes and wished anyway. It was a desperate, heartfelt, aching wish, whispered on a breath. I wish to be normal. Of course, it did not come true.

He opened his amber eyes and stared at his jaundiced skin, contrasted against the dark blue of his school uniform. He was very yellow.

Dillon's heart skipped a beat. He was too yellow.

When he was younger, his parents had used a handheld device called a bilirubinometer to measure the amount of toxin in his system. Based on the readings, they knew



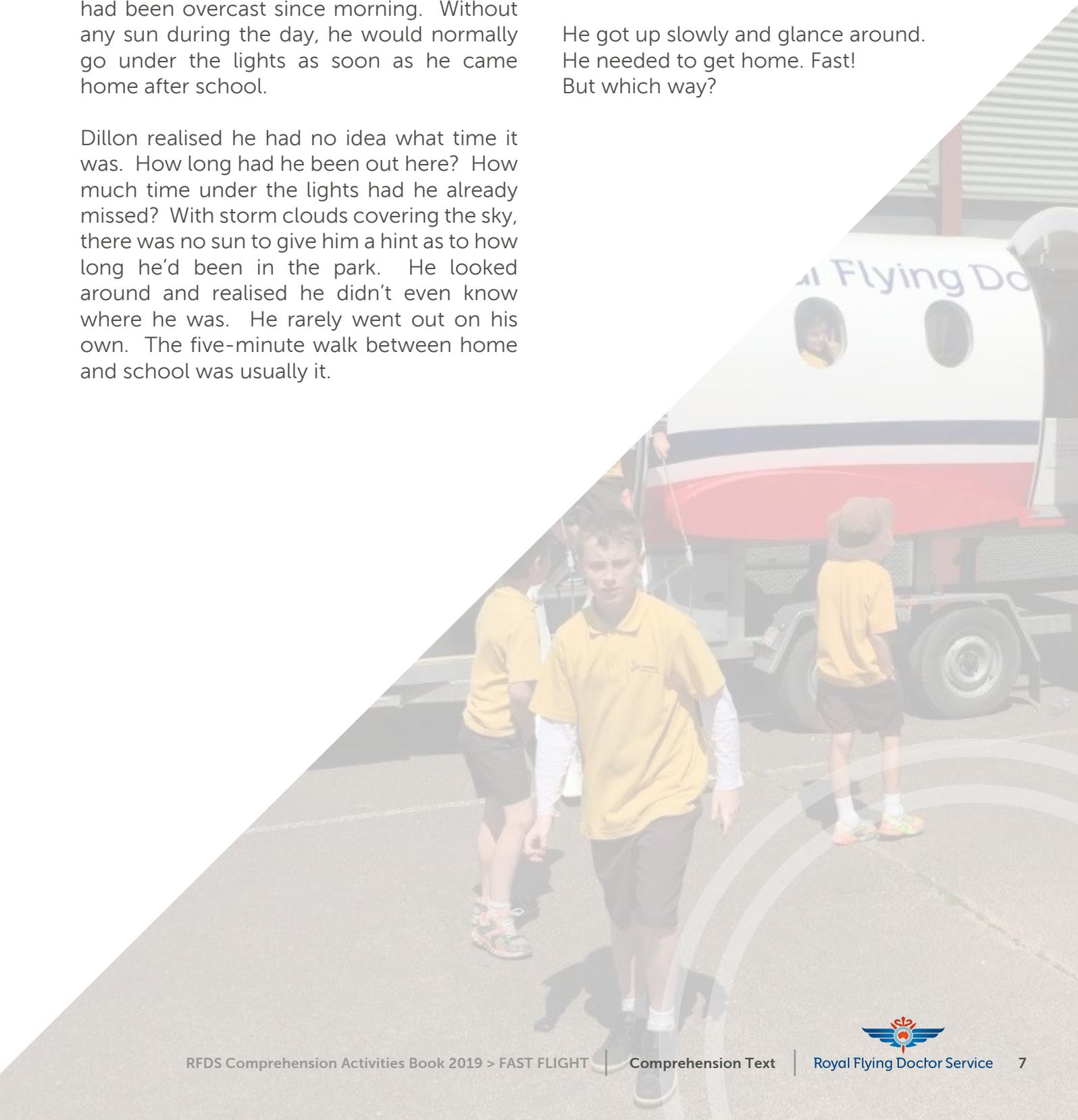
how much time he had to spend under the lights. But, over the years, they had become pretty good at judging things by the colour of his skin. Looking at his skin now, Dillon knew that he needed more light.

He stared up at the dark, brooding sky. It had been overcast since morning. Without any sun during the day, he would normally go under the lights as soon as he came home after school.

Dillon realised he had no idea what time it was. How long had he been out here? How much time under the lights had he already missed? With storm clouds covering the sky, there was no sun to give him a hint as to how long he'd been in the park. He looked around and realised he didn't even know where he was. He rarely went out on his own. The five-minute walk between home and school was usually it.

I better find my way home, he thought. He jumped to his feet. His head felt light and he stumbled, sitting down again, hard. He felt tired and a little unwell. He had not had enough UV light today and the excess bilirubin was beginning to have an effect on him.

He got up slowly and glance around. He needed to get home. Fast! But which way?



# COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS >

Reading the Text	Reading Between the Lines	Reading Beyond the Text
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Finding the Main Idea</b></p> <p>1. What is this section of the chapter mainly about?</p> <p>A. The effects of Dillon missing a session under the lights. B. Dillon's condition. C. How the weather affects Dillon. D. How Dillon was feeling.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Comparing and Contrasting</b></p> <p>2. How is Dillon different to his classmates</p> <p>A. Dillon has a serious medical condition. B. Dillon's skin looks yellow. C. Dillon has to spend time in a light box each day. D. All of the above.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Distinguishing Fact from Opinion</b></p> <p>3. Which of the following is an opinion.</p> <p>A. Dillon ran off to escape two boys taunting him. B. Dillon was lost. C. Dillon got wet in the rainstorm. D. Dillon's skin was more yellow than usual</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recalling Facts and Details</b></p> <p>4. Dillon knew he had to get under his lights as quickly as possible because</p> <p>A. It had been an overcast day without much sun. B. His skin was more yellow than usual. C. He was beginning to feel unwell. D. All of the above.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Making Predictions</b></p> <p>5. What might happen if Dillon doesn't get home quickly to get under his lights?</p> <p>A. Dillon's condition will continue to get worse and it might threaten his life. B. He will catch a cold from being out in the rain. C. The sun will eventually filter out all of the toxins making his skin yellow and he will get better. D. The roads may flood due to the rain and he may be trapped away from home.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Identifying Author's Purpose</b></p> <p>6. The Author probably wrote this to:</p> <p>A. Inform us of the dangers of running off and getting lost. B. To help us to understand the many ways Dillon's condition affects him and his life. C. To persuade us to be nicer to others. D. To describe the dangers of Dillon's condition.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Understanding Sequence</b></p> <p>7. Which events led to Dillon's dangerous situation?</p> <p>A. Dillon had been out in the sun and his lights were broken in his box. B. Dillon did lots of exercise, running, and got very wet in the rain. C. The boys taunted Dillon and he ran off and got lost on an overcast day, missing time in his light box. D. The boys taunted Dillon making him upset and causing the toxic levels to build up in his blood quicker than normal.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Finding Word Meaning in Context</b></p> <p>8. In this text the word whirled means:</p> <p>A. Twirling and spinning around. B. Moving rapidly C. Make something move rapidly D. A jumble of thoughts.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Interpreting Figurative Language</b></p> <p>9. The words <i>you look like custard</i> or <i>mustard</i> mean:</p> <p>A. Dillon was a messy eater and had spilt some custard or mustard on his face. B. Dillon's skin looked yellow due to his condition. C. The two boys were not very smart and were trying to insult Dillon with the best they could come up with. D. Dillon was covered in custard and mustard.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Recognising Cause and Effect</b></p> <p>10. Dillon ran off and got lost and dangerously ill because:</p> <p>A. He hadn't had much exercise due to the overcast day and felt like a run. B. He knew he would have to spend hours in his light box due to the lack of sunlight during the day. C. Taunting and teasing became too much and he was very upset. D. He didn't feel like going home.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences</b></p> <p>11. Dillon was very worried when he saw how yellow his skin was because:</p> <p>A. The chemical build up that causes the yellow skin can threaten his life. B. He doesn't like to look different. C. He knew people would tease him if he got too yellow. D. It clashed with the dark blue of his uniform.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Distinguishing Real from Make Believe</b></p> <p>12. Which of these could not really happen:</p> <p>A. He could become very sick and die without his light box. B. His disorder could just go away. C. Less sunlight in the day means he spends more time in his box. D. His skin turns very yellow when the chemical builds up in his body.</p>



# CHARACTER STUDY > DILLION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Background Information:

Description including interests:



Qualities / Characteristics:

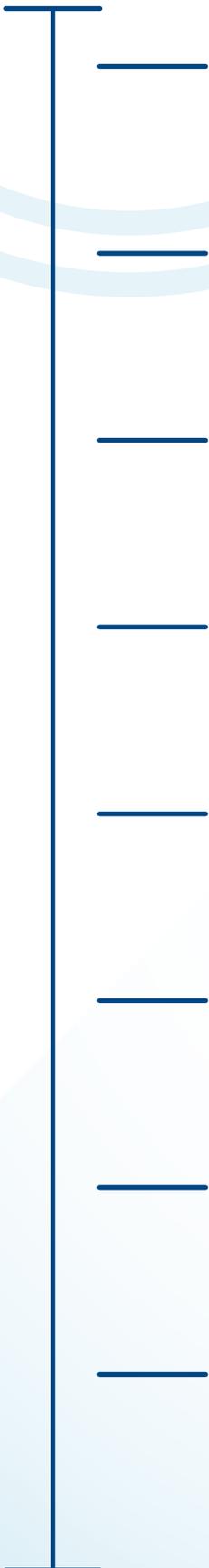
Challenges faced:

Responses to challenge: What did the character say, think or do?

Changes: How did the character change over time?

## SEQUENCE >

Cut out the the main events and glue them in the correct order on the timeline.



### Main Events

The best day ever. Dillon had a great game of cricket where he scored 21 runs to help his team win, he had a milkshake and his favourite diner and then he got a call that there was a liver for him.

At the hospital Dillon had tests to ensure he was compatible with the liver. Then he had the operation that would change his life.

Dillon was born with a genetic disorder. His liver doesn't filter toxins so he spends hours every day in a light box to help his body get rid of them.

Dillon healed well as was being discharged from hospital when he was approached by a lady he didn't know. He realised she must be the donor's relative and thanked her.

The RFDS were taking Dillon to Melbourne as he needed to get there quickly. On the way to catch the plane they got a flat tyre and then the plane was delayed on landing.

Dillon often got teased for being different. One day it got too much and he ran off from school. It almost ended in disaster.

The morning after the operation Dillon was feeling and looking much better. The transplant was a success.

16 years passed. A young girl was being flown by the RFDS to Melbourne for a transplant. The pilot came to reassure her and introduced himself as Dillon.



## MAPPING AND MEASUREMENT ACTIVITY >

- > Open Google Maps and locate Hope Valley, Adelaide and Melbourne.
- > Use the map to help you answer the following Questions. (If you right click there is a measuring distance tool that may help you answer the questions.)

1. To get Dillon to hospital in Melbourne, he and his parents drove from their home in Hope Valley to the Adelaide Airport, they then flew from Adelaide Airport to Essendon Airport in Melbourne and travelled to the Royal Children's Hospital. How far did they travel and how long did it take for the total trip?



Hope Valley to Adelaide Airport

\_\_\_\_\_km \_\_\_\_\_

Adelaide Airport to Essendon Airport

\_\_\_\_\_km \_\_\_\_\_

Essendon Airport to Hospital

\_\_\_\_\_km \_\_\_\_\_

2. How long would the entire trip have taken without the Royal Flying Doctor Service?
3. The RFDS helps 800 people a day throughout Australia. How many people do they help in a year?

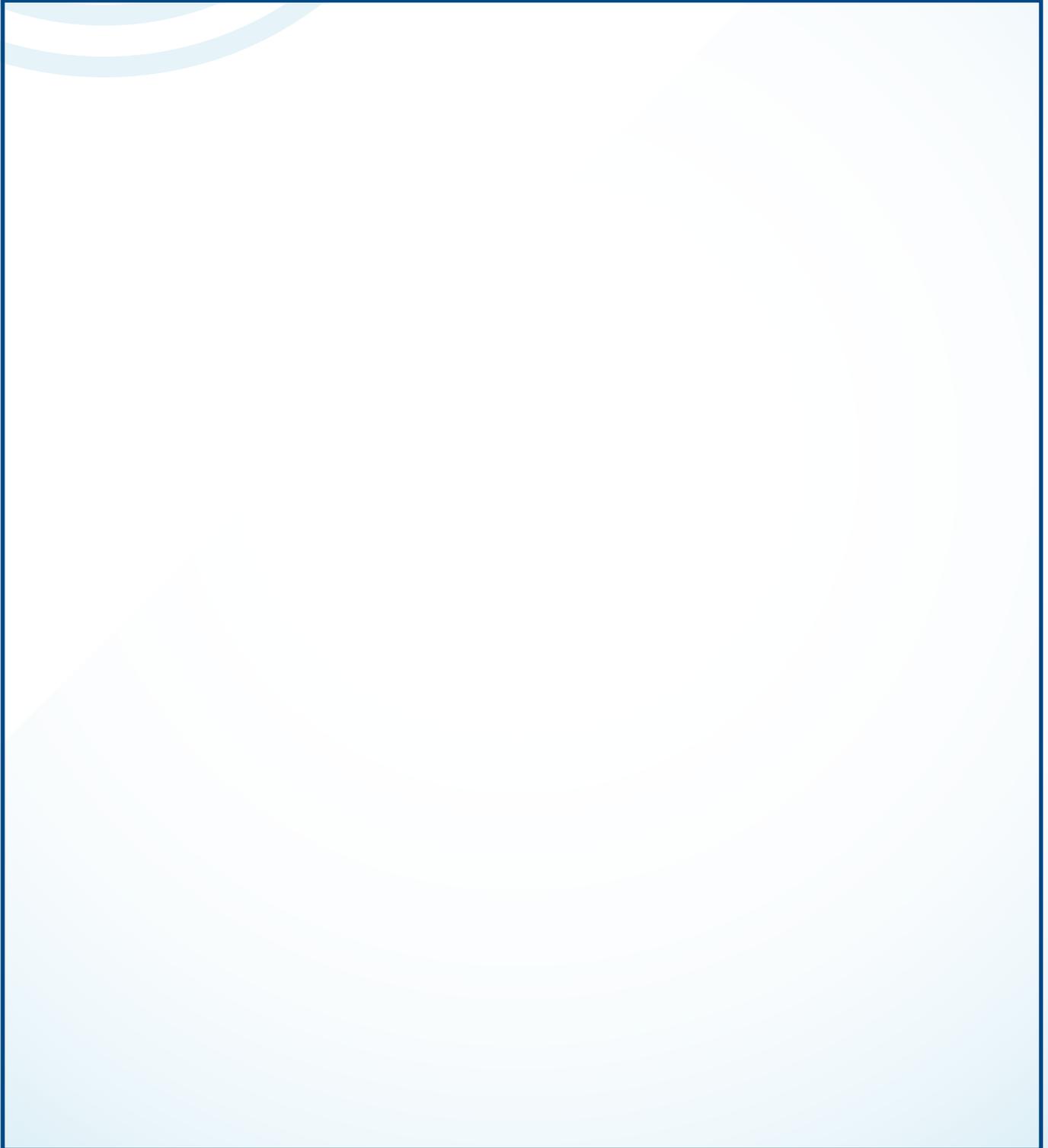


## Construction Challenge >

Dillon spent hours every day sitting in his light box to remove the toxins from his system. Construct the space Dillon sat in for his treatment prior to the transplant.

'1 metre square space was enclosed by four walls reaching a height of 1 and a quarter metres.'  
(page 6)

Draw your plan below.



# RFDS



> Emergency Echo

> Fast Flight

> Medical Mission

> Remote Rescue

> Look into the sky Yr 2 Unit Plan

> Look into the sky Yr 3 Unit Plan

> Look into the sky Yr 6 Unit Plan



Royal Flying Doctor Service