



Reading for Meaning

STUDENT INTRODUCTION

- ▶ The Isle of Wight Steam Railway is a working railway!
- ▶ It shows us what railways were like in the past.
- ▶ What information can you find out about the Steam Railway from the leaflet over the page?
- ▶ Some old rail documents still exist today.

Understanding Railway Texts

READING TASK

- ✓ Your task is to identify and retrieve information from the text.
- ✓ Read the article from 1966 on page 2.
- ✓ Answer the questions below.
- ✓ Your teacher may require you to do this on this resource, or on paper.

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1. What is the important event that the article is discussing? Describe it in your own words.

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2. What time did the last train travel down the pier on the Saturday?

3. How much in £ is it costing Southern Region to electrify the line between Ryde Pierhead and Shanklin?

4. How will the passengers travel up and down the pier whilst it is closed for electrification?

5. What has happened to Smallbrook Junction?



THE ISLE OF WIGHT

LAST STEAM

The last steam train to travel down Ryde Pier left the pierhead at 9.35 p.m. on Saturday; and the first stage of Southern Region's £500,000 scheme to electrify the line between Ryde Pierhead and Shanklin began on Sunday. Engineering work taking place on the pier will prevent trains using it until the end of the year. The service will start and finish at Ryde Esplanade, and passengers between there and the pierhead will travel by tramway. This will mean an alteration in the timings of some of the trains.

Our first picture shows one of the last steam trains to use the pier. The second picture records another historic moment with an even greater degree of finality — the closure of Smallbrook junction. In official language, the junction has been "abolished," and the photograph depicts the signalman at Smallbrook receiving the last token to be surrendered by a driver there. This was taken on Saturday night, and the closure was effected on Sunday morning.



PRESS — SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 24, 1966

TRAIN ON RYDE PIER



The last trains to be drawn by a steam engine on the pier.

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