



BRITISH LEARNING CENTRE

YEAR 4

Reading Comprehension

Workbook

Explore stories, myths, poems, plays and fact texts from around Asia
and build the key reading skills for Year 4.

Name:

English | Learn it · Practise · Challenge · Check

How to use this workbook

1

Learn it

Read the explanation, key words and worked example.

2

Practise

Answer the questions on Sheet A.

3

Challenge

Try the harder questions on Sheet B.

4

Check

Check with the answers at the back and tick the tracker.

My progress tracker

#	Unit · I can...	Tried	Nearly	Got it!
1	Features of fiction and non-fiction I can identify the features of fiction and non-fiction texts.			
2	Retrieving information I can retrieve and record key information from fiction and non-fiction.			
3	Exploring vocabulary I can explain the meaning of words in context and find synonyms.			
4	Summarising main ideas I can summarise the main ideas from more than one paragraph.			
5	Inference with evidence I can infer characters' feelings, thoughts and motives and justify them with evidence.			
6	Making predictions I can predict what might happen using details stated and implied.			
7	How texts are organised I can explain how the structure and features of a text help the reader.			
8	Language for effect I can explain how words and phrases create effects and meaning.			
9	Myths and legends I can identify themes and features of myths and legends from different cultures.			
10	Persuasive writing I can identify persuasive techniques and explain how they affect the reader.			
11	Comparing texts I can compare two texts on the same theme, using evidence from both.			
12	Fact and opinion I can tell facts from opinions in biographies and reports.			



CHECK

Start test

Start test

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 15

Read each short text. Then answer the question.

- 1 Read: "Komodo dragons are the largest lizards in the world. They live on a few islands in Indonesia." Is this fiction or non-fiction?
☐ fiction ☐ non-fiction
- 2 Read: "Pandas spend up to 14 hours a day eating bamboo. An adult can eat 12 kilograms in a day." How much bamboo can an adult panda eat in a day?

- 3 Read: "The festival begins at dusk, when the sky turns orange and the first lanterns are lit." What does dusk mean?

- 4 Read: "The explorers were exhausted after climbing all day." Which word is a synonym for exhausted?
☐ excited ☐ very tired ☐ hungry ☐ lost
- 5 Read: "Arun hung his head and stared at his muddy shoes. His football boots were still in his bag, unused." How does Arun feel? Give evidence.

- 6 Read: "'Lovely,' said Aunt May, pushing the plate of spicy noodles to one side and reaching for a glass of water." What does Aunt May really think of the noodles? How do you know?

- 7 Read: "The dark clouds gathered. Meena's kite climbed higher and higher. Then the first raindrop fell onto her nose." Predict what happens next.

- 8 Read: "Rice is grown in flooded fields. Farmers plant young seedlings by hand. After about four months, the rice is ready to harvest." Summarise this in one sentence.

- 9 Read: "The moon was a silver coin in the sky." This is an example of...

☐ a simile ☐ a metaphor ☐ onomatopoeia

- 10 Read: "The old door creaked and groaned as it opened." What is the effect of the words creaked and groaned?

- 11 Where in a newspaper report would you normally find the most important facts?

☐ in the first paragraph ☐ in the last sentence ☐ in the pictures only

- 12 Why are instructions usually written in numbered steps?

- 13 Read: "Our park is the most beautiful place in the city. It has 300 trees." Which sentence is a fact? Which is an opinion?

- 14 Read: "Don't miss the greatest show on Earth! Would you want to be the only one who hasn't seen it?" Name one persuasive technique.

- 15 Read: "Text A says the market is noisy and crowded. Text B says the market is lively and exciting." Compare the two viewpoints.

Features of fiction and non-fiction

I can... identify the features of fiction and non-fiction texts.

Fiction is imagined. It has characters, a setting, a problem and a resolution. Non-fiction informs us about real things.

Non-fiction features include subheadings, facts, technical words, captions and a glossary.

Top tip: Look at the layout before you read. It often tells you what kind of text it is.

Key words

fiction

non-fiction

feature

subheading

caption

glossary

Worked example

Glossary — canopy: *the thick top layer of leaves in a forest.*

Question: Is this from fiction or non-fiction? How do you know?

Answer: Non-fiction, because a glossary explains technical words about real things.

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Lost Temple FICTION

The map was older than anyone in the village could remember. Lina found it rolled up inside a bamboo tube in her great-grandmother's wooden chest. In faded red ink, it showed a winding river, three sharp peaks and, in the middle of the jungle, a small drawing of a temple with a golden roof.

"The Lost Temple of the Hornbill," whispered her friend Kwan. "My grandfather says it's just a story."

"Stories can be true," said Lina. She rolled the map up carefully. "Tomorrow, we find out."

They set off at sunrise with two bottles of water, a torch and a bag of sticky rice. For hours they followed the river upstream, climbing over fallen logs and ducking under hanging vines. The air was thick and steamy, and strange birds called from the treetops. Kwan kept checking behind them. "Are you sure we're not lost?" he asked for the tenth time.

"The three peaks are right there," said Lina, pointing. "We're close."

At noon, the path ended at a wall of green creepers. Lina pulled them aside, and her breath caught in her throat. Stone steps, covered in moss, led up to a crumbling doorway. Above it, carved into the stone, was a great bird with a curved beak.

"A hornbill," said Kwan, his eyes wide.

Inside, it was cool and silent. Shafts of sunlight fell through holes in the roof onto a stone table. On the table sat a small wooden box.

Lina's hands trembled as she lifted the lid. There was no gold inside. Instead, there was a single feather, black and white, and a note written in the same faded red ink as the map.

To whoever is brave enough to find this: the real treasure is the forest. Protect it.

Lina and Kwan looked at each other. Outside, a real hornbill swooped over the trees, its wings beating like a drum.

1 Is this text fiction or non-fiction?

☐ fiction ☐ non-fiction

2 Describe the setting of most of the story.

3 Who are the two main characters?

4 Where did Lina find the map?

5 Find and copy the sentence that shows Kwan was worried about getting lost.

6 Lina and Kwan found gold in the box.

☐ True ☐ False

7 What was the "treasure" in the end? What does the note mean?

8 Give three features that show this is a fiction text.

9 Why do you think the writer ends with a real hornbill flying over the trees?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Layers of the Rainforest NON-FICTION

Tropical rainforests grow in hot, wet places near the equator. They cover only about six per cent of the Earth's land, yet they are home to more than half of all the kinds of plants and animals in the world. Rainforests are found in South America, Africa and South-East Asia, including Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia.

A rainforest can be divided into four layers.

1. The emergent layer

The tallest trees poke out above the rest of the forest. Some are over 60 metres high. Up here, it is sunny and windy. Eagles build their nests in the highest branches.

2. The canopy

Below the emergent layer is the canopy, a thick roof of leaves and branches. Most rainforest animals live here, because there is plenty of fruit, flowers and sunlight. Hornbills, gibbons and flying squirrels move through the canopy without ever touching the ground.

3. The understorey

The understorey is dark and damp. Only a little sunlight reaches it. Young trees, shrubs and plants with very large leaves grow here. Their big leaves help them catch as much light as possible. Leopards, snakes and frogs hide among them.

4. The forest floor

The forest floor is the darkest layer. Only about two per cent of the sunlight reaches it. Fallen leaves rot quickly and become food for new plants. Ants, beetles and fungi help to break them down. Large animals, such as tapirs and Asian elephants, roam here.

Why are rainforests important?

Rainforests produce oxygen and help to control the world's climate. Many medicines come from rainforest plants. Sadly, large areas are cut down every year for farming and wood.

Glossary

equator: an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth

canopy: the thick upper layer of leaves in a forest

fungi: living things such as mushrooms that feed on dead plants

1 Is this text fiction or non-fiction?

☐ fiction ☐ non-fiction

2 Name two features of non-fiction that this text uses.

3 Why do you think the writer numbered the subheadings 1–4?

4 Rainforests cover about _____ per cent of the Earth's land.

5 Why do most rainforest animals live in the canopy?

6 Why do understorey plants have very large leaves?

7 The forest floor is the sunniest layer.

☐ True ☐ False

8 What is a glossary for? Use the word "fungi" in your answer.

9 Give two reasons why rainforests are important.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Retrieving information

I can... retrieve and record key information from fiction and non-fiction.

Skim to get the general idea of a text. Scan to find a key word, name or number. Then read that part closely to find the exact answer.

Top tip: Underline the key word in the question before you search the text.

Worked example

Jupiter is the largest planet. It has a giant storm called the Great Red Spot, which is bigger than the Earth.

Question: What is the name of Jupiter's giant storm?

Answer: The Great Red Spot. (Scan for storm.)

Key words

retrieve

record

scan

skim

key word

evidence

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Night Train FICTION

At exactly half past six, the night train to Chiang Mai gave a long, low whistle and began to move. Hiro pressed his nose to the window and watched Bangkok slide away: the tall towers, the glowing shopping centres, the rows of little houses beside the tracks.

"Thirteen hours," said his mother, checking the tickets. "We'll arrive tomorrow morning."

Their carriage was painted blue and cream. Instead of ordinary seats, there were bunk beds with curtains. During the evening they were folded away, and passengers sat facing each other at small tables.

At eight o'clock, a waiter in a white jacket came down the aisle with a trolley. Hiro ordered fried rice with egg and a glass of cold pineapple juice. Across the table, an elderly lady was knitting a long purple scarf.

"Are you going to see the mountains?" she asked kindly.

"We're visiting my uncle," said Hiro. "He has an elephant sanctuary."

The lady smiled. "Then you must look out for the tunnel," she said. "Just before dawn, the train goes through the Khun Tan Tunnel. It is one of the oldest and longest railway tunnels in Thailand, cut right through a mountain. When you come out, you will see the most beautiful sunrise of your life."

At nine o'clock, the attendant came to make the beds. He pulled down the top bunk, spread crisp white sheets and a green blanket, and closed the curtain. Hiro climbed up the small ladder. The train rocked gently, and the wheels sang *clickety-clack, clickety-clack* until he fell asleep.

When he woke, the carriage was dark and quiet. Then everything went black: they were in the tunnel. Hiro counted slowly. At one hundred and twenty, light burst through the window. Pink and gold clouds floated over misty green hills.

Across the aisle, the elderly lady was already awake. She winked at him.

1 The train left at _____ and the journey took _____ hours.

2 What colours was the carriage painted?

3 What did Hiro order for dinner?

4 What was the elderly lady doing?

5 Why was Hiro going to Chiang Mai?

6 Find and copy the name of the tunnel the lady talks about.

7 List two things the attendant did when he made the bed.

8 Find and copy the words that show the sound of the wheels.

9 What did Hiro see when the train came out of the tunnel?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Our Solar System NON-FICTION

Our solar system is made up of the Sun and everything that travels around it: eight planets, their moons, and millions of rocks called asteroids.

The Sun

The Sun is a star, a giant ball of burning gas. It is so big that more than a million Earths could fit inside it. Its light takes about eight minutes to reach us.

The rocky planets

The four planets closest to the Sun are small and rocky. Mercury is the closest and the smallest. Venus is covered in thick clouds that trap heat, making it the hottest planet, at around 465°C. Earth is the only planet we know of with liquid water on its surface and living things. Mars is called the Red Planet because its dust contains iron, which has turned rusty.

The giant planets

The next four planets are enormous. Jupiter is the largest of all. It has a storm called the Great Red Spot, which is bigger than the Earth and has been raging for hundreds of years. Saturn is famous for its beautiful rings, which are made of ice and rock. Uranus is unusual because it spins on its side. Neptune, the farthest planet from the Sun, is freezing cold and has the fastest winds in the solar system.

Exploring space

No person has ever visited another planet. However, robots called rovers have explored the surface of Mars, and space probes have flown past all of the giant planets. In 2023, India landed a spacecraft near the south pole of the Moon. Perhaps one day, someone reading this book will walk on Mars.

Fact file

Number of planets: 8

Largest planet: Jupiter

Hottest planet: Venus

Planet with the biggest rings: Saturn

- 1 What is the solar system made up of?

2 Light from the Sun takes about _____ minutes to reach the Earth.

3 Why is Venus the hottest planet?

4 Why is Mars called the Red Planet?

5 Which planet spins on its side?

☐ Neptune ☐ Saturn ☐ Uranus ☐ Mercury

6 Find and copy two facts about the Great Red Spot.

7 People have walked on Mars.

☐ True ☐ False

8 Which subheading would you look under to find out about Saturn?

9 How is the fact file different from the rest of the text?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Exploring vocabulary

I can... explain the meaning of words in context and find synonyms.

Use the context (the words around a word) to work out its meaning. Look for a root word you already know inside a longer word.

Check your idea with a dictionary.

Top tip: Swap your meaning into the sentence. If it still makes sense, you are probably right.

Key words

context

synonym

definition

root word

dictionary

Worked example

The water was so murky that we could not see the fish below.

Question: What does murky mean? Give a synonym.

Answer: Dark and dirty, hard to see through.

Synonym: cloudy.

Read the poem. Then answer the questions.

Songkran POEM

*The April sun is blazing,
The pavements shimmer white,
The city holds its breath and waits
For water, cool and bright.*

*Then buckets swing and splash begins,
The water pistols squirt,
The streets become a river
Of laughter, soap and dirt.*

*The grandmothers sit gracefully
In doorways, calm and slow,
While children pour, with gentle hands,
Scented water, soft as snow.*

*The pickup trucks come rumbling by,
With barrels, drums and cheers;
We're drenched from head to sandals
And dripping from our ears!*

*At dusk the streets are glistening,
The noise begins to fade;
The old year has been washed away,
A fresh new one is made.*

- 1 Find and copy a word from verse 1 that means burning very brightly.

- 2 "The pavements shimmer white." What does shimmer mean?

☐ shine with a wavering light ☐ crack ☐ become wet ☐ feel cold

- 3 Find and copy a word from verse 2 that means to shoot out water in a thin stream.

4 What does gracefully tell you about how the grandmothers sit? Give a synonym.

5 Find and copy a word from verse 3 that means having a pleasant smell.

6 "We're drenched from head to sandals." Which word is the best synonym for drenched?

☐ soaked ☐ tired ☐ dry ☐ dirty

7 Find and copy a word from verse 4 that tells you how the trucks sound.

8 What does dusk mean? Which word in the poem gives you a clue?

9 "The old year has been washed away." What do you think this line means?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Invention of Paper NON-FICTION

Look around you. Books, posters, tickets, money and even the page you are reading all have something in common: paper. Yet for most of history, people had to manage without it.

Before paper

In ancient China, people wrote on narrow strips of bamboo, joined together with string. These bamboo books were cumbersome; a single book could be so heavy that it needed a cart to carry it. Wealthy people wrote on silk instead, but silk was very expensive. Clearly, a better material was needed.

A brilliant idea

Around the year 105, an official at the Chinese emperor's court, called Cai Lun, presented a new way of making paper. He mashed together tree bark, old rags, hemp and pieces of fishing net with water. The mixture became a soupy pulp. Next, he spread the pulp thinly on a screen and left it to dry in the sun. When the water had evaporated, a thin, light sheet remained. It was cheap, strong and easy to write on.

Paper travels the world

For hundreds of years, the Chinese kept the method a secret. Gradually, however, the knowledge spread along trade routes to Korea, Japan and the Middle East, and finally to Europe. Cities built paper mills, where water wheels powered huge hammers to beat the pulp.

Why was it so important?

Paper made it far easier to share ideas. Stories, maps, laws and scientific discoveries could be copied and carried to distant places. Later, the invention of printing made books even cheaper, and more people learned to read.

Paper today

Today, most paper is made from wood pulp. Because making it uses a lot of trees and water, recycling paper is vital for protecting our forests.

- 1 Find and copy a word from "Before paper" that means heavy and difficult to carry.

- 2 Which clue in the sentence helped you work out the meaning of that word?

3 "Wealthy people wrote on silk." Which word means the same as wealthy?

☐ rich ☐ clever ☐ busy ☐ old

4 What is pulp? Use the text to explain.

5 "When the water had evaporated..." This means the water had...

☐ frozen ☐ turned into gas and disappeared ☐ become dirty ☐ spilled

6 Find and copy a word from "Paper travels the world" that means slowly, little by little.

7 "Recycling paper is vital." Write a synonym for vital.

8 Paper was invented in _____ around the year _____.

9 The word invention contains the root word "invent". Write two more words that come from the same root.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Summarising main ideas

I can... summarise the main ideas from more than one paragraph.

A summary gives only the main ideas, in your own words, and leaves out small details. Each paragraph usually has one main idea.

Top tip: Try to sum up each paragraph in five words or fewer. Then join your ideas together.

Key words

summarise

main idea

detail

paragraph

key point

Worked example

Durians are large, spiky fruits. They grow on tall trees in South-East Asia. Many people love their creamy taste, but others hate their strong smell.

Question: Summarise this text in one sentence.

Answer: Durians are spiky Asian fruits that people either love or hate because of their taste and smell.

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Mouse Deer and the Tiger FABLE

Deep in the forest lived a mouse deer called Kancil. He was no bigger than a cat, with thin legs and a quick, clever mind. Every animal knew that Kancil could talk his way out of any trouble.

One hot afternoon, Kancil was drinking at a stream when a huge shadow fell across the water. It was Harimau the tiger, and he looked very hungry.

"What luck," purred the tiger, licking his lips. "A snack has come to me."

Kancil's heart pounded, but he did not run. He knew the tiger was far faster. Instead, he sat down beside a large, round wasps' nest hanging from a low branch and put on a serious face.

"I am sorry, Harimau," he said. "I cannot be your lunch today. The King of the Forest has ordered me to guard his royal drum." He pointed to the wasps' nest.

The tiger's ears pricked up. "A royal drum? What does it sound like?"

"The most beautiful sound in the world," said Kancil. "But only the King may play it."

Harimau was proud and greedy. "I am as great as any king," he growled. "Let me play it!"

Kancil pretended to think. "Very well," he sighed. "But give me time to run far away first. I do not want the King to blame me."

The tiger agreed. Kancil scampered off through the bushes. When he was far away, the tiger raised his great paw and struck the nest with all his strength.

Out poured a furious cloud of wasps. They stung the tiger's nose, his ears and his tail.

Harimau roared and leapt into the stream to escape them.

From the top of a distant hill, Kancil heard the splash and smiled.

Moral: Pride and greed can make even the strongest creature foolish.

- 1 Who are the two main characters? Describe each in two words.

2 What problem does Kancil face at the start?

3 Why didn't Kancil run away?

4 What did Kancil pretend the wasps' nest was?

5 Put these events in order (1–5):

- The tiger hit the nest.
- Kancil said he was guarding a royal drum.
- The tiger found Kancil at the stream.
- The tiger jumped into the stream.
- Kancil ran far away.

6 Which is the best summary of the fable?

- ☐ A tiger goes swimming in a stream.
- ☐ A clever mouse deer tricks a proud, greedy tiger into hitting a wasps' nest.
- ☐ Wasps live in the forest and sting animals. ☐ A mouse deer drinks water on a hot day.

7 Summarise the ending of the story in one sentence.

8 Explain the moral in your own words. How does it match what happens to the tiger?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Mekong Giant Catfish NON-FICTION

The Mekong giant catfish is one of the largest freshwater fish in the world. It can grow up to three metres long, which is longer than a small car, and can weigh as much as 300 kilograms. In 2005, fishermen in northern Thailand caught one that weighed 293 kilograms, about the same as a grizzly bear.

Despite its huge size, this fish is a gentle giant. It has no teeth when it is fully grown. Instead of hunting other fish, adults feed mainly on algae and plants that grow on rocks on the riverbed. Young catfish eat tiny animals called plankton.

Mekong giant catfish live only in the Mekong River and some of the rivers and lakes that join it. They have smooth grey skin without scales and small eyes set low on their heads. They grow very fast: a young fish can reach 100 kilograms in just six years.

Every year, as the rainy season begins, many of these fish swim hundreds of kilometres upstream to lay their eggs. Scientists believe that they need deep pools and clean, fast-flowing water to breed.

Sadly, the Mekong giant catfish is critically endangered, which means it is in great danger of dying out. For many years, too many were caught for food. Today, dams across the river block their journeys upstream, and pollution is damaging the water where they live.

People are now working together to save this amazing fish. In Thailand, fishing for wild giant catfish is banned. Scientists raise young fish and release them into the river. Local fishermen who accidentally catch one are asked to set it free. With help, the gentle giant of the Mekong may survive for many years to come.

- 1 Paragraph 1 is mostly about... (write the main idea in a few words)

- 2 What is the main idea of paragraph 2?

- 3 A fully grown catfish can be up to _____ metres long.

4 Why do the fish swim upstream every year?

5 Find and copy the phrase that explains what "critically endangered" means.

6 Give two reasons why the catfish is in danger today.

7 Summarise the last paragraph in one sentence.

8 Which is the best title for a summary of the whole text?

- ☐ Fishing in Thailand ☐ A gentle giant in danger ☐ How to cook catfish
☐ The rainy season

9 Write a two-sentence summary of the whole text.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Inference with evidence

I **can...** infer characters' feelings, thoughts and motives and justify them with evidence.

Inference means using clues to work out what the writer does not say directly. Think about what characters say, do and think.

Explain your idea, then prove it with a short quotation.

Top tip: Use the pattern: Point (what I think) + Evidence (a quotation) + Explain (how it shows this).

Key words

infer

evidence

motive

justify

quotation

Worked example

Mrs Chen checked the clock again. She tapped her foot and kept looking at the door.

Question: How is Mrs Chen feeling? Explain with evidence.

Answer: She feels impatient or worried. She "checked the clock again" and "tapped her foot", which shows she is waiting for someone who is late.

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Grandad's Boat FICTION

The little wooden boat had not moved from the garden for eleven years. It lay upside down under the mango tree, its blue paint peeling like old skin. Leaves and spiders had made it their home.

"Why doesn't Grandad ever use it?" asked Suda.

Her mother paused, a pile of washing in her arms. "He used to go fishing with Grandma every Sunday," she said quietly. "After she passed away, he never went out on the water again."

That afternoon, Suda found Grandad sitting on the veranda, staring at the boat. His tea had gone cold in its cup.

"Grandad," she said, sitting beside him, "will you teach me to fish?"

For a long moment, he said nothing. His hand moved slowly to the silver ring on his finger and turned it round and round. Suda wondered if she had said the wrong thing.

Then he cleared his throat. "That boat needs a lot of work," he said gruffly.

"I can help," said Suda quickly. "I'm good at painting."

The corners of Grandad's mouth twitched.

For the next three weekends, they worked side by side. They scraped away the old paint, mended a crack with glue and wood, and painted the boat bright yellow, Grandma's favourite colour. Grandad hummed old songs while he worked. Suda had never heard him sing before.

On the fourth Sunday, they carried the boat down to the river. Grandad rowed out slowly, the water lapping against the sides. He showed Suda how to bait the hook and wait patiently.

When Suda caught her first tiny fish, Grandad laughed out loud, a big, surprised laugh. Then he looked up at the sky for a moment.

"She would have loved this," he said softly.

1 How do we know the boat had not been used for a long time? Give two clues.

2 Why did Grandad stop using the boat?

3 "His tea had gone cold in its cup." What does this suggest about Grandad?

4 Why do you think Grandad turned his silver ring round and round?

5 "The corners of Grandad's mouth twitched." What does this show?

6 Why do you think they painted the boat yellow?

7 How has Grandad changed by the end of the story? Use evidence from the start and end.

8 Who is "she" in the last line? What is Grandad feeling?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the play script. Then answer the questions.

The Talent Show PLAY SCRIPT

Backstage at the school talent show. Music and clapping can be heard. RAVI is pacing up and down, holding a violin. MEI LING is tying her dance shoes.

MEI LING: Ravi, you've walked past me twenty times. You'll wear a hole in the floor.

RAVI: *(stopping)* Sorry. I just... how many acts are left before me?

MEI LING: *(checking a list on the wall)* Two. Then me. Then you.

RAVI: *(swallowing hard)* Three. Right. Fine. *(He puts the violin down, then picks it up again.)*

MEI LING: You practised every day for a month. My mum said she could hear you from our flat!

RAVI: That was at home. Not in front of four hundred people. What if I play a wrong note? What if a string snaps?

Enter MR DAVIES, holding a clipboard.

MR DAVIES: Ravi, you look like you've seen a ghost. Are you all right?

RAVI: *(quietly)* Maybe someone else should go instead of me.

MR DAVIES: *(kneeling down)* Can I tell you a secret? At my first concert, I was so nervous I played the whole first song with my music upside down.

MEI LING: *(giggling)* Really?

MR DAVIES: Really. And nobody noticed. The audience wants you to do well, Ravi. Just play for one person. Is your grandmother here tonight?

RAVI: *(nodding)* Front row. She taught me my first tune.

MR DAVIES: Then play it for her.

Loud applause. A voice calls: "Next, Mei Ling!"

MEI LING: *(standing up and squeezing Ravi's arm)* See you out there, superstar.

She runs out. RAVI takes a deep breath, lifts the violin and tunes one string. For the first time, he smiles.

1 Give two actions that show Ravi is nervous at the start.

2 Why does Mei Ling say, "You'll wear a hole in the floor"?

3 Find and copy a question Ravi asks that shows his worries.

4 "You look like you've seen a ghost." What can you infer about how Ravi looks?

5 Why do you think Mr Davies tells Ravi about his first concert?

6 What is Mr Davies's advice? Why is it good advice?

7 What do the stage directions at the very end tell you about Ravi's feelings?

8 Which word best describes Mei Ling?

☐ unkind ☐ supportive ☐ bored ☐ jealous

9 Find and copy one piece of evidence for your answer to question 8.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Making predictions

I can... predict what might happen using details stated and implied.

Good readers predict as they read. They use clues that are stated (written clearly) and implied (hinted at), and they change their predictions as they learn more.

Top tip: Writers often “plant” a clue early on that matters later. Watch out for it!

Worked example

*Before leaving, Pim put her phone on the kitchen table.
At the station, she reached into her bag for her ticket...*

Question: Predict a problem Pim might have.

Answer: Her e-ticket may be on her phone, which she left on the table, so she might not be able to show it.

Key words

predict

detail

implied

clue

evidence

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Vanishing Paintbrush FICTION

The art room at Lotus Hill School was famous for one thing: the golden paintbrush. It had belonged to the school's first art teacher, a well-known painter, and it sat in a glass case by the window. Every year, the pupil who painted the best picture was allowed to hold it for a photograph.

On Monday morning, the case was empty.

"Stolen!" gasped Miss Rana. The whole class crowded round. The lock was not broken. The window was closed. There was only one clue: a small smear of bright green paint on the corner of the case.

Detective work was Farah's favourite hobby. She took out her notebook and began to write.

Who had a key? Miss Rana and Mr Park, the caretaker.

Who used green paint on Friday? Only the Year 4 class, who were painting the rainforest.

Who stayed late on Friday? Toby, who was finishing his parrot picture.

At lunchtime, Farah went to find Mr Park. He was fixing a dripping tap in the corridor. His hands were clean, but his jacket, hanging on a hook, had a green paint mark on the sleeve.

"Mr Park," said Farah carefully, "were you in the art room on Friday?"

The caretaker looked surprised. "Yes," he said. "Miss Rana asked me to fix the window latch. It was stiff. I left the window open for a while to let the paint fumes out." He frowned. "Oh dear. I think I forgot to close the case after I dusted it."

Farah's pencil stopped. The window had been open. The case had been unlocked. She walked slowly back to the art room and looked out of the window. On the ledge outside, there were tiny footprints and a few twigs. High in the tamarind tree opposite, something glittered in the sunlight.

Farah began to smile.

1 Why was the golden paintbrush special?

2 What clue was left on the case?

3 Why might Toby seem a suspect at first?

4 How did Mr Park get green paint on his jacket? (Infer from the text.)

5 What two mistakes did Mr Park make?

6 What do the tiny footprints, twigs and glitter in the tree suggest?

7 Predict what Farah will do next. Explain your prediction.

8 Which animal is most likely to have taken the brush?

☐ a crow or magpie ☐ an elephant ☐ a fish ☐ a cow

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Lost in the Mangroves FICTION

The guide had said it clearly: "Stay together, and be back at the jetty by four o'clock. When the tide comes in, the paths disappear."

But Jae-won had seen a crab with one enormous blue claw, and he had followed it. Then he had spotted a mudskipper hopping on its fins, and then a kingfisher, flashing orange and turquoise. By the time he looked up, the rest of the group had gone.

All around him, the mangrove trees stood on their tangled roots like giants on stilts. Every direction looked the same. The only sounds were the clicking of crabs and the distant cry of a bird.

Jae-won checked his watch. Half past three. He tried to stay calm. What had the guide taught them? *The sea is to the west. The jetty is to the east. The sun sets in the west.*

He looked up through the leaves. The afternoon sun was low, sinking on his left. So east must be... He turned round slowly until the sun was behind him.

Then he noticed something else. Around his trainers, the mud was shining. A thin layer of water was creeping across it, filling every footprint. The water was already covering the tops of the smallest roots.

Jae-won started walking, fast. The water rose to his ankles. His shoes squelched and slipped. Twice, he almost fell. Branches scratched his arms.

Suddenly, he heard it: a faint, sharp sound, repeated three times. *Pheep! Pheep! Pheep!*

He remembered the orange whistle hanging round the guide's neck.

Jae-won cupped his hands round his mouth and shouted as loudly as he could. The whistle stopped. For a terrible moment there was silence. Then it came again, louder and closer, from somewhere straight ahead.

- 1 What warning did the guide give at the start?

2 Why did Jae-won get separated from the group?

3 Find and copy a simile that describes the mangrove trees.

4 How did Jae-won work out which way was east?

5 Why is the shining mud an important clue for the reader?

6 Find and copy two details that make this part of the story tense.

7 Whose whistle does Jae-won hear? How do you know?

8 Predict how the story ends. Use at least one clue from the text.

9 What lesson might Jae-won learn?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

How texts are organised

I can... explain how the structure and features of a text help the reader.

The way a text is organised helps the reader. A newspaper report has a headline, an opening that answers the 5 Ws, then more detail, quotations and an ending.

Instructions have a goal, a list of equipment and numbered steps in chronological order.

Top tip: Ask: why is this part here, and why in this order?

Worked example

You will need: a jar, a ruler, tape.

1. Tape the ruler to the jar. 2. Put the jar outside.

Question: Why is the equipment listed first?

Answer: So you can collect everything before you start and do not have to stop halfway.

Key words

structure

headline

introduction

chronological

bullet points

conclusion

Read the newspaper report. Then answer the questions.

Young Swimmer Makes a Splash NEWSPAPER REPORT

YOUNG SWIMMER MAKES A SPLASH

Nine-year-old breaks regional record

By Daniel Ng, Sports Reporter

A nine-year-old girl from Pattaya has broken a regional swimming record at the Eastern Junior Swimming Championships in Rayong.

Nattida "Namwan" Chaiyo swam 50 metres freestyle in 34.2 seconds on Sunday afternoon, beating the old record for her age group by almost a whole second. The previous record had stood for six years.

Namwan, who is in Year 4 at Seaview International School, only started swimming lessons three years ago. She now trains before school five mornings a week, getting up at half past five.

"When I touched the wall and looked at the clock, I couldn't believe it," she said, still wrapped in her towel. "I just wanted to beat my own best time. I didn't know it was a record!"

Her coach, Mr Andrew Mills, said: "Namwan works harder than anyone in the pool. She listens, she never gives up and she always has a smile on her face. This is just the beginning for her."

More than 400 young swimmers from twelve schools took part in the two-day competition. Seaview International School finished second overall, just behind Rayong Swimming Academy.

Namwan's proud parents watched from the stands. "We are so happy for her," said her mother, Mrs Suda Chaiyo. "But the most important thing is that she loves swimming."

Namwan will now be invited to train with the national junior development squad in Bangkok next year. Her next goal? "To swim for Thailand one day," she said with a grin.

- 1 Why do you think the headline uses the phrase "makes a splash"?

2 What is the line under the headline for?

3 The opening paragraph summarises the story. Who? What? Where?

4 Namwan swam 50 metres in _____ seconds.

5 Why does the reporter include quotations from Namwan, her coach and her mother?

6 The report is written in chronological order from her birth.

☐ True ☐ False

7 What does the last paragraph tell the reader about?

8 Find and copy one fact and one opinion from the report.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the instructions. Then answer the questions.

How to Make a Rain Gauge INSTRUCTIONS

A rain gauge measures how much rain falls. In Thailand, the rainy season can bring over 300 millimetres of rain in a single month, so why not measure it yourself?

You will need:

- a clear plastic bottle with straight sides (1 or 2 litres)
- scissors (ask an adult to help)
- a ruler
- strong sticky tape
- a handful of small stones
- a permanent marker
- a notebook

Method

1. Ask an adult to carefully cut the top off the bottle, about a third of the way down.
2. Put the stones in the bottom of the bottle. This will stop it blowing over.
3. Pour in a little water until it just covers the stones. Mark this level with the marker. This is your zero line.
4. Tape the ruler to the outside of the bottle, so that the zero on the ruler lines up with your zero line.
5. Turn the top part upside down and place it in the bottle like a funnel. Tape it in place.
6. Put your rain gauge outside on flat ground, away from trees and roofs.
7. Check it at the same time every day. Write down the date and how many millimetres of water are above the zero line.
8. After each reading, empty the water back down to the zero line.

Top tips

- Do not put the gauge under a tree. Drips from the leaves will give you a wrong reading.
- Try making a bar chart of your results at the end of each week.

Did you know? Weather scientists, called meteorologists, use rain gauges too, although theirs are often electronic.

1 What is the purpose of the first paragraph?

2 Why is the equipment written as bullet points?

3 Why are the steps numbered?

4 Why must you put stones in the bottle?

5 Find and copy two "bossy" (imperative) verbs from the method.

6 What would go wrong if you did step 4 before step 3?

7 Why do you think the writer put some advice in a separate "Top tips" section?

8 Find and copy the technical word for a weather scientist.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Language for effect

I can... explain how words and phrases create effects and meaning.

Writers use figurative language for effect. A metaphor says something **IS** something else. Personification gives objects human actions. Onomatopoeia words sound like their meaning.

Top tip: Say what the technique is, then explain what it makes the reader see, hear or feel.

Worked example

The kite was a bird, dancing on the wind.

Question: What is the effect of this metaphor?

Answer: Saying the kite **was** a bird makes us picture it flying freely and gracefully, as if it were alive.

Key words

effect

simile

metaphor

personification

onomatopoeia

alliteration

Read the poem. Then answer the questions.

The Kite That Got Away POEM

*My kite was a dragon of scarlet and gold,
With a tail that was twelve metres long;
It tugged at the string like a dog on a lead,
And it hummed the wind's wild song.*

*It leapt past the rooftops, it soared past the spires,
It swallowed the clouds whole;
The string in my fingers was burning and taut,
As it sang and it swung and it rolled.*

*Then SNAP! went the string with a crack like a whip,
And my dragon broke free from the ground;
It twirled like a leaf and it looked back once,
Then it flew without making a sound.*

*I watched till the dragon was only a dot,
A spark on the edge of the sky.
I wonder where dragons go when they're free —
And I wish I could follow it. Why?*

*Perhaps it is sleeping on top of a hill,
Or dancing on waves out at sea;
Wherever it wanders, I hope that it's glad
That it didn't belong just to me.*

- 1 "My kite was a dragon." Is this a simile or a metaphor? Explain how you know.

- 2 Find and copy a simile from verse 1. What does it show?

- 3 "It hummed the wind's wild song." Which technique is this?

4 "It swallowed the clouds whole." What does this tell you about the kite?

5 Find and copy an example of onomatopoeia from verse 3.

6 Why do you think SNAP is written in capital letters?

7 "A spark on the edge of the sky." What picture does this create?

8 How does the speaker feel in the last verse? Explain using evidence.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Dawn at the Floating Market FICTION

The canal was still asleep when the first boat slid out of the mist. It was long and narrow, and it sat so low in the water that the ripples lapped at its edges. At the back, an old woman in a wide straw hat paddled without a sound. In front of her, the boat was piled high with a mountain of fruit: rambutans with hairy red skins, glossy purple mangosteens and bunches of tiny golden bananas.

Mali sat on the steps of her family's wooden house and watched. The water was a sheet of grey glass. Then, one by one, more boats appeared, and the glass shattered into a thousand silver pieces.

Soon the canal was a busy street of boats. Paddles splashed. Voices called out prices. A man steered a boat that was a floating kitchen; smoke curled from his little charcoal stove, and the smell of grilled pork and sweet coconut drifted across the water like an invitation. *Sizzle, hiss, crackle* went the pan.

The sun peeped over the rooftops, shy at first, then bolder. It painted the canal in shades of orange and pink. The colours of the market burst into life: bright green vegetables, scarlet chillies, heaps of yellow flowers for the temples.

Mali's grandmother came down the steps and waved to the old woman in the straw hat. The boat turned towards them, gliding like a swan.

"The best mangosteens are always the first ones," Grandmother whispered, pressing a coin into Mali's palm.

Mali held up the coin. The old woman smiled a toothless smile, chose the three darkest fruits and dropped them into Mali's hands. They were cool and heavy.

Behind them, the market roared and rattled into its busy day. But for Mali, the best part had already happened, in that quiet grey moment when the first boat came out of the mist.

1 "The canal was still asleep." Which technique is this? What does it suggest?

2 Find and copy a metaphor from paragraph 2 that describes the water.

3 How does the metaphor change when more boats arrive? What does this show?

4 Find and copy three onomatopoeic words from paragraph 3.

5 Why does the writer describe the smell as drifting "like an invitation"?

6 "The sun peeped over the rooftops, shy at first, then bolder." Explain the effect.

7 Find and copy two colour adjectives the writer uses. Why use so many colours?

8 The mood at the start of the text is mostly...

☐ calm and quiet ☐ angry ☐ frightening ☐ noisy

9 How does the mood change during the text?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Myths and legends

I can... identify themes and features of myths and legends from different cultures.

Myths often explain the origin of something in nature. Legends are about heroes and may be based on real people or places. Both are told in many cultures.

Top tip: Look for the theme: the big idea, such as bravery, love, greed or kindness.

Worked example

The god of the sea was so angry that he shook the earth, and the land cracked into a thousand islands.

Question: What might this myth explain?

Answer: How the islands were made – the origin of the islands.

Key words

myth

legend

theme

origin

culture

hero

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

How the Tiger Got Its Stripes MYTH

At the beginning of the world, the tiger was pure gold from nose to tail. He was the proudest animal in the jungle, and he liked everyone to know it.

"Look at me," he would roar, strutting between the trees. "I shine like the sun itself. No creature is as beautiful as I am."

The other animals grew tired of his boasting. But none of them dared to say so, for the tiger's claws were sharp.

Now, in those days, the only fire in the world belonged to the Sky Spirit. It burned in a golden bowl on top of the tallest mountain, and the animals were not allowed to touch it.

One cold season, the tiger decided that he deserved the fire. "A creature as splendid as me should never be cold," he said. That night, he crept up the mountain, took the bowl in his mouth and began to run.

The Sky Spirit woke at once. Thunder rolled across the sky. "Thief!" boomed a voice like a storm. "Bring back my fire!"

The tiger ran faster. He leapt through a thick bamboo forest, and the flames licked at his golden coat. Wherever the bamboo stems pressed against him, the fire burned black lines into his fur. At last he tripped, the bowl fell, and the fire rolled back up the mountain on its own.

The tiger crept down to the river to cool his burning skin. When he looked into the water, he gasped. His golden coat was covered with black stripes.

At first he hid in shame. But slowly he discovered something surprising: in the long grass and the shadowy forest, his stripes made him almost invisible. He had lost his perfect golden coat, but he had become the greatest hunter in the jungle.

And that is why, to this day, the tiger wears the marks of the bamboo, and why he moves so quietly that you never see him coming.

1 What does this myth explain?

- ☐ why tigers eat meat ☐ how the tiger got its stripes ☐ where rivers come from
☐ why bamboo is green

2 Find and copy a simile the tiger uses about himself.

3 Why did the other animals not tell the tiger to stop boasting?

4 Why did the tiger steal the fire? What does this tell you about his character?

5 Find and copy one magical or supernatural event in the myth.

6 Explain how the stripes were made.

7 Why did the tiger hide "in shame"?

8 How did the stripes turn out to be helpful?

9 What is the theme (big idea) of this myth?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Weaver and the Cowherd LEGEND

Long ago, in the palace of the sky, lived the Jade Emperor's youngest granddaughter, Zhinu. She was the finest weaver in all of heaven. Every evening, she wove the clouds into shimmering cloth of pink, gold and purple, and that is how the sunset was made.

But Zhinu was lonely. Day after day, she sat at her loom while her sisters played. One day, she slipped down to Earth on a rainbow to bathe in a clear green river.

There she met Niulang, a young cowherd who lived alone with his old ox. He was poor, but he was gentle and kind, and he made her laugh. Zhinu and Niulang fell in love. They married and lived happily in his little farmhouse with their two children. For the first time in her life, Zhinu was not lonely.

But in heaven, the sky was growing grey. With no one to weave the clouds, there were no more sunsets. When the Queen Mother of the West discovered where Zhinu had gone, she was furious. She sent her soldiers down to Earth, and they carried Zhinu back up to the sky.

Niulang was heartbroken. His old ox spoke to him for the first time. "When I die, wear my skin," it said. "It will carry you to the heavens." Soon after, the ox died. Wrapped in its skin, Niulang put his two children in baskets and flew up into the sky.

He had almost reached Zhinu when the Queen Mother saw him. She pulled out her silver hairpin and drew a line across the sky. At once, a wide, wild river of stars appeared between them. Today we call it the Milky Way.

Yet even the Queen Mother's heart was touched by their tears. So once a year, on the seventh day of the seventh month, all the magpies in the world fly up and make a bridge with their wings. Then, for one night, the weaver and the cowherd can meet again.

People say that if it rains on that night, the raindrops are their tears of joy.

1 This legend comes from China.

☐ True ☐ False

2 How were sunsets made, according to the legend?

3 Why did Zhinu go down to Earth?

4 Find and copy two words that describe Niulang's character.

5 Why was the Queen Mother of the West so angry?

6 Find and copy one magical event from paragraph 5.

7 What does this legend explain? Give two things.

8 What is the main theme of this legend?

9 Compare this legend with "How the Tiger Got Its Stripes". Give one similarity.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Persuasive writing

I can... identify persuasive techniques and explain how they affect the reader.

Persuasive writers use rhetorical questions, emotive language (words that stir feelings), facts and statistics, and a clear call to action.

Top tip: Remember: a fact can be proved; an opinion is what someone thinks.

Worked example

Every day, thousands of helpless turtles swallow plastic. Would you want that on your conscience?

Question: Name two persuasive techniques.

Answer: Emotive language ("helpless turtles") and a rhetorical question ("Would you want that on your conscience?").

Key words

persuade

rhetorical question

emotive language

fact

opinion

statistic

Read the advert. Then answer the questions.

Starlight Science Museum ADVERT

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO TOUCH A STORM, WALK ON THE MOON OR SHRINK TO THE SIZE OF AN ANT?

At **Starlight Science Museum**, you can do all three, and so much more!

Blast off!

Step inside our full-size model of a space station and discover how astronauts eat, sleep and brush their teeth in zero gravity. Then take a seat in our dazzling dome theatre, where 5,000 stars twinkle above your head.

Get hands-on!

Our museum has more than 150 interactive exhibits. Create your own lightning in the Storm Room. Build a bridge strong enough to hold a car. Race a robot, and see if you can win! Then test your reactions against the clock in our Speed Zone.

Think small!

Walk through our giant Ant Tunnel and see the world from an insect's point of view. Everything is fifty times bigger than normal. Watch out for the enormous spider! Can you find the queen ant hiding in her secret chamber?

What visitors say

"My children didn't want to leave. We're coming back next month!" – Mrs Tanaka, Chiang Rai
"The best school trip EVER." – Aroon, age 9

Why wait?

Science isn't just something you read about in books. It's exciting, surprising and all around you. At Starlight, curious minds become the scientists and inventors of tomorrow.

Opening times: Tuesday to Sunday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Tickets: Adults 250 baht, children 150 baht. Under-threes free.

Special offer: Families of four save 20% when they book online.

Don't just learn about science: live it! Book your tickets today.

1 Who is this advert aimed at? How do you know?

2 Why does the advert begin with a question?

3 Find and copy two imperative (bossy) sentences that tell the reader what to do.

4 Find and copy a statistic (number) used to persuade the reader.

5 Tickets cost _____ baht for adults and _____ baht for children.

6 Why does the advert include what visitors say?

7 "The best school trip EVER." Is this a fact or an opinion? Explain.

8 How much would a family of two adults and two children pay if they book online? Show how.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the letter. Then answer the questions.

Say No to Plastic Straws LETTER

Dear Mrs Lim,

My name is Kai and I am in Year 4 at Riverside International School. I am writing to ask you to stop giving out plastic straws at your café, Coconut Corner.

I love your café. My family comes every Saturday, and your mango smoothie is the best in town. However, every time I visit, I see dozens of plastic straws thrown into the bin. Each one is used for only a few minutes, but it can take hundreds of years to break down.

Many plastic straws end up in the sea. Our class learned that turtles, birds and fish can mistake plastic for food. Imagine a baby sea turtle, struggling to swim with a straw stuck in its nose. Is a straw really worth that?

There are easy alternatives. In Thailand, people have used bamboo and lemongrass stems as straws for a long time. Paper and metal straws work well too. Several cafés near the beach have already changed, and their customers are happy.

You might worry that other straws will cost more. But customers today care about the environment. I think they would be proud to support a café that protects the ocean. You could even put a sign on the door saying, "Coconut Corner: Straw-Free and Proud!"

My class has made 200 posters about ocean plastic. We would be happy to put some up in your café for free.

Please will you think about my idea? Together, we can keep our beaches beautiful for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

Kai Nakamura

- 1 What does Kai want Mrs Lim to do?

- 2 Why does Kai begin by saying he loves the café?

3 Find and copy an example of emotive language from paragraph 3.

4 Find and copy the rhetorical question in paragraph 3. Why does Kai use it?

5 List two alternatives to plastic straws that Kai suggests.

6 What argument against his idea does Kai expect? How does he answer it?

7 How does Kai offer to help Mrs Lim?

8 Find one fact and one opinion in the letter.

9 Do you think the letter is persuasive? Give two reasons.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Comparing texts

I can... compare two texts on the same theme, using evidence from both.

When comparing texts, look at their purpose, viewpoint, language and structure. Support each point with evidence from both texts.

Top tip: Useful words: *both, similarly, whereas, however, on the other hand.*

Worked example

Text A: "The rain was a gift for the thirsty fields." Text B: "Heavy rain caused flooding in three villages."

Question: Compare how the two texts describe rain.

Answer: **Both** are about rain. Text A shows rain as good ("a gift"), **whereas** Text B shows it as harmful ("flooding").

Key words

compare

contrast

similarity

difference

whereas

viewpoint

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

The Flood: Two Accounts DIARY AND REPORT

Text A: Diary of Ploy, age 9

Thursday 14th October

I will never forget last night. It had rained for three days without stopping, and the river behind our house was growing fatter and browner every hour. At midnight, Dad woke me up. "Quickly," he said. "The water is coming." We carried everything we could upstairs: the rice, the photo albums, my school bag and our cat, Pepper, who yowled the whole time. Mum wrapped my little brother in a blanket and sang to him so he wouldn't cry. From my bedroom window I watched the brown water swallow our garden, then our steps, then the front door. I was so scared my knees were shaking. This morning our kitchen is a lake, but we are safe, and Pepper is asleep on my bed. Mum says houses can be fixed, but people can't be replaced.

Text B: News report

FLOODS HIT RIVERSIDE VILLAGES

More than 200 homes were flooded in three villages near the Pasak River on Wednesday night after three days of heavy rain. Water levels rose by almost two metres in six hours. Local officials say no one was seriously injured. Rescue teams used boats to move 85 people to the village school, which is on higher ground, in the middle of the night. Volunteers are handing out food, water and blankets. Several roads remain closed, and the local market has been shut until further notice. Weather forecasters expect drier weather from Saturday, and the clean-up is expected to take several weeks.

- 1 What is the purpose of each text?

- 2 Which text is written in the first person? Find and copy a word that shows this.

- 3 Give one piece of information that appears in both texts.

4 Find and copy a phrase from Text A that shows Ploy's feelings.

5 Text B uses lots of numbers. Give two examples. Why does it use them?

6 "Watched the brown water swallow our garden." Which technique is this? Why is it used in Text A but not Text B?

7 Which text helps you understand what the flood felt like? Explain.

8 Which text would be more useful for finding out how many people were helped? Explain.

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the poem. Then answer the questions.

Two Sea Poems POEM

Poem A: The Gentle Sea

*The sea is a cat asleep in the sun,
It purrs on the sand when the day's begun,
It licks at my toes with a soft, warm tongue,
And hums the songs that the shells have sung.*

*It stretches out, all silver and blue,
And whispers secrets old and new;
The fishing boats rock on its back like a bed,
And the gulls float lazily overhead.*

Poem B: The Angry Sea

*The sea is a tiger that roars in the night,
It leaps at the rocks with its claws of white,
It snarls at the harbour, it howls at the shore,
It tears at the jetty and hungers for more.*

*It crashes and smashes, all grey and green,
The wildest creature you've ever seen;
The boats hide away till the storm has passed,
And the tiger lies down to sleep at last.*

- 1 Both poems compare the sea to an animal. Which animal is used in each poem?

- 2 Is "The sea is a cat" a simile or a metaphor? Explain.

- 3 Find and copy two verbs from Poem A and two from Poem B that describe what the sea does.

4 How do the verbs in the two poems create a different mood?

5 Compare the colours in the two poems.

6 Find and copy a simile from Poem A.

7 How are the boats different in the two poems?

8 Give one way the poems are similar in structure.

9 How does the last line of Poem B link it to Poem A?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Fact and opinion

I can... tell facts from opinions in biographies and reports.

A fact is true and can be checked, for example a date or a place. An opinion is what someone thinks or feels.

Biographies and reports are mostly facts, but writers sometimes add their own opinions.

Top tip: Opinion clue words: *best, amazing, I think, should, brilliant.*

Key words

fact

opinion

biography

prove

report

Worked example

Mount Everest is 8,849 metres high. It is the most exciting mountain in the world.

Question: Which sentence is a fact and which is an opinion?

Answer: Sentence 1 is a fact (it can be measured). Sentence 2 is an opinion ("most exciting" is what someone thinks).

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Junko Tabei: To the Top of the World BIOGRAPHY

A small girl with a big dream

Junko Tabei was born on 22 September 1939 in Miharu, a small town in Japan. As a child, she was small and often ill, and nobody thought she would become an athlete. But when she was ten years old, her teacher took her class to climb Mount Nasu. At the top, Junko looked out over the mountains and fell in love with climbing.

Breaking the rules

In the 1960s, many people in Japan believed that climbing was only for men. Some men refused to climb with her. Junko did not give up. In 1969, she started a climbing club just for women. She wanted women to plan and lead their own expeditions to the world's great mountains.

Everest

In 1975, Junko led a team of women to Mount Everest, the highest mountain on Earth. It was a dangerous journey. On 4 May, an avalanche crashed onto their camp and buried Junko under the snow. A Sherpa guide dug her out, and she was unconscious for several minutes. Twelve days later, on 16 May 1975, Junko Tabei stood on the summit. She was the first woman ever to climb Everest.

Seven summits

Junko kept climbing. In 1992, she became the first woman to reach the highest mountain on every continent, known as the Seven Summits.

Caring for mountains

Later in life, Junko worked to clean up the rubbish that climbers left behind on mountains. She also took young people from areas hit by a terrible earthquake in Japan to climb Mount Fuji, to give them hope.

Her legacy

Junko Tabei died in 2016. In my opinion, she is one of the bravest people who ever lived. She showed the world that determination matters more than size.

- 1 Is this text a biography or an autobiography? How do you know?

2 Junko was born on _____ in _____, Japan.

3 What happened on the school trip when she was ten?

4 What problem did Junko face in the 1960s? How did she solve it?

5 What happened on 4 May 1975?

6 Which sentence is an opinion?

- ☐ She was born in 1939. ☐ She climbed Everest in 1975.
☐ She is one of the bravest people who ever lived. ☐ She died in 2016.

7 Find and copy another fact from the "Seven summits" section.

8 Why do you think the writer included the story of the avalanche?

9 "Determination matters more than size." How does Junko's life show this?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

Sepak Takraw: The Kicking Volleyball NON-FICTION

Imagine a game of volleyball where you are not allowed to use your hands. Players leap into the air, flip upside down and kick the ball over a high net. That game is sepak takraw, and it is one of the most spectacular sports in the world.

A game with two names

The name comes from two languages. *Sepak* is the Malay word for kick, and *takraw* is the Thai word for a woven ball. People in South-East Asia have played kicking games with woven balls for hundreds of years.

How is it played?

A team is called a regu and has three players on the court. The court is about the same size as a badminton court, and the net is just over one and a half metres high for men. Players may touch the ball with their feet, knees, chest and head, but never with their hands or arms. Each team may touch the ball up to three times before it must go over the net.

The ball

Traditionally, the ball was woven by hand from strips of rattan, a kind of climbing palm. Today, most balls are made from tough plastic, but they still have the same pattern of holes.

Amazing moves

The most exciting move is the "roll spike". The player jumps high, turns over in the air like a gymnast and kicks the ball down over the net. Watching it is breathtaking!

Around the world

Sepak takraw is especially popular in Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and Myanmar. It has been played at the Asian Games since 1990. Thailand's teams have won many gold medals.

Players say it is the best sport for making you strong and flexible. Everybody should try it at least once!

- 1 Where does the name "sepak takraw" come from?

- 2 A sepak takraw team is called a _____ and has _____ players on the court.

3 Which parts of the body can players NOT use?

4 Sepak takraw has been played at the Asian Games since 1990.

☐ True ☐ False

5 What were balls traditionally made from? What are they made from today?

6 Which sentence is a fact?

- ☐ It is one of the most spectacular sports in the world. ☐ Watching it is breathtaking!
- ☐ Each team may touch the ball up to three times.
- ☐ Everybody should try it at least once!

7 Find and copy two opinions from the text.

8 Find and copy the simile that describes the roll spike.

9 Why do you think the writer included opinions in a report?

How did I do? ☐ Tried ☐ Nearly ☐ Got it!



CHECK

End test

End test

Name _____ Date _____ Score _____ / 15

Read each short text. Then answer the question.

- 1 Read: "Once upon a time, a clever crow lived in a golden cage in the king's palace." Is this fiction or non-fiction?

☐ fiction ☐ non-fiction

- 2 Read: "The Great Wall of China is more than 20,000 kilometres long. Work began over 2,000 years ago." When did work on the wall begin?

- 3 Read: "The marathon runners were parched, so they grabbed cups of water from the tables." What does parched mean?

- 4 Read: "The cave was enormous, big enough to fit a whole village inside." Which word is a synonym for enormous?

☐ tiny ☐ huge ☐ dark ☐ cold

- 5 Read: "Lin tore open the envelope. She read the letter twice, then screamed and hugged her brother." How does Lin feel? Give evidence.

- 6 Read: "Mr Wong kept glancing at the clock and tapping his pen. The train was already twenty minutes late." What can you infer about Mr Wong?

- 7 Read: "Tom wobbled on his new bike. His dad let go of the seat. Tom looked back and saw his dad far behind him." Predict what happens next.

- 8 Read: "Bees collect nectar from flowers. They carry it back to the hive. There, they turn it into honey." Summarise this in one sentence.

- 9 Read: "The wind howled angrily around the house." This is an example of...

☐ personification ☐ a simile ☐ a fact

- 10 Read: "Her smile was as warm as the sun." Explain what the simile tells you.

- 11 What is the main purpose of a subheading?

☐ to tell you what a section is about ☐ to end the text ☐ to show who is speaking

- 12 Why does a biography often use dates?

- 13 Read: "Durian has a very strong smell. It is the most delicious fruit in the world." Which sentence is a fact? Which is an opinion?

- 14 Read: "Every year, thousands of innocent animals lose their homes. Will you help them today?" Name two persuasive techniques.

- 15 Read: "Poem A describes the city at night as quiet and peaceful. Poem B describes it as busy and bright." Give one similarity and one difference.

**Start test**

1 non-fiction 2 Up to 12 kilograms. 3 The time in the evening when the sun goes down. 4 very tired 5 Sad/disappointed – he hung his head and his boots were unused (he didn't get to play). 6 She doesn't like them / they are too spicy – she pushes the plate away and reaches for water. 7 e.g. It starts to rain heavily, so Meena pulls her kite down and runs inside. 8 Rice is planted by hand in flooded fields and harvested after about four months. 9 a metaphor 10 They are onomatopoeia / personification – they make the door sound old and spooky. 11 in the first paragraph 12 So the reader follows them in the correct order. 13 Fact: It has 300 trees. Opinion: Our park is the most beautiful place in the city. 14 e.g. rhetorical question / exaggeration (superlative "greatest"). 15 Both describe a busy market, but Text A sounds negative, whereas Text B sounds positive.

Unit 1 · Sheet A — Features of fiction and non-fiction

1 fiction 2 A hot, steamy jungle with a river, three peaks and an old temple. 3 Lina and Kwan. 4 Inside a bamboo tube in her great-grandmother's wooden chest. 5 "Are you sure we're not lost?" 6 False 7 A feather and a note; it means the forest itself is precious and should be protected. 8 e.g. characters, a setting, dialogue, a problem/quest and an ending, description of feelings. 9 To link the note to the real forest and show the forest is still alive and worth protecting.

Unit 1 · Sheet B — Features of fiction and non-fiction

1 non-fiction 2 Any two: title, numbered subheadings, facts and numbers, technical words, a glossary. 3 To show the layers in order from top to bottom and make them easy to follow. 4 six (6) 5 There is plenty of fruit, flowers and sunlight. 6 To catch as much light as possible, because little sunlight reaches them. 7 False 8 It explains the meaning of technical words, e.g. fungi are living things like mushrooms that feed on dead plants. 9 They produce oxygen, help control the climate, and many medicines come from their plants (any two).

Unit 2 · Sheet A — Retrieving information

1 half past six; thirteen 2 Blue and cream. 3 Fried rice with egg and a glass of cold pineapple juice. 4 Knitting a long purple scarf. 5 To visit his uncle, who has an elephant sanctuary. 6 Khun Tan Tunnel 7 Any two: pulled down the top bunk, spread white sheets and a green blanket, closed the curtain. 8 "clickety-clack, clickety-clack" 9 A sunrise: pink and gold clouds over misty green hills.

Unit 2 · Sheet B — Retrieving information

1 The Sun, eight planets, their moons and millions of asteroids. 2 eight (8) 3 It is covered in thick clouds that trap heat. 4 Its dust contains iron which has turned rusty (red). 5 Uranus 6 It is bigger than the Earth; it has been raging for hundreds of years. 7 False 8 The giant planets 9 It lists key facts briefly in short lines instead of full paragraphs, so they are quick to find.

Unit 3 · Sheet A — Exploring vocabulary

1 blazing 2 shine with a wavering light 3 squirt 4 They sit calmly and elegantly; synonym: elegantly / politely / beautifully. 5 scented 6 soaked 7 rumbling 8 The time when the sun goes down / evening; clue: "fade" or the day ending. 9 Songkran is Thai New Year; the water is a symbol of washing away the old year and starting fresh.

Unit 3 · Sheet B — Exploring vocabulary

1 cumbersome 2 "so heavy that it needed a cart to carry it" 3 rich 4 A soft, wet, soupy mixture of mashed material (bark, rags etc. with water). 5 turned into gas and disappeared 6 Gradually 7 essential / very important 8 China; 105 9 e.g. inventor, inventive, invented, inventing.

Unit 4 · Sheet A — Summarising main ideas

1 Kancil the mouse deer – small, clever; Harimau the tiger – big, greedy/proud. 2 A hungry tiger wants to eat him. 3 He knew the tiger was much faster than him. 4 The King of the Forest's royal drum. 5 4, 2, 1, 5, 3 6 A clever mouse deer tricks a proud, greedy tiger into hitting a wasps' nest. 7 The wasps stung the tiger, who jumped into the stream, while Kancil escaped safely. 8 Being proud and greedy makes you do silly things – the tiger wanted to be like a king, so he was tricked and stung.

Unit 4 · Sheet B — Summarising main ideas

1 The huge size of the Mekong giant catfish. 2 What the catfish eats / it is a gentle fish that eats plants and algae, not other fish. 3 three (3) 4 To lay their eggs (breed). 5 "in great danger of dying out" 6 Dams block their journeys upstream; pollution damages the water (also, too many were caught in the past). 7 People are protecting the catfish by banning fishing, releasing young fish and asking fishermen to set them free. 8 A gentle giant in danger 9 Answers will vary, e.g. The Mekong giant catfish is a huge, gentle fish that lives only in the Mekong. It is critically endangered, but people are working to protect it.

Unit 5 · Sheet A — Inference with evidence

1 Its paint was peeling; leaves and spiders had made it their home; it lay upside down for eleven years. 2 Because Grandma had died and he used to fish with her; it made him sad. 3 He had been sitting there a long time, lost in thought / sad memories. 4 It was probably his wedding ring; he was thinking about Grandma and feeling emotional. 5 He was starting to smile / feeling happier but trying not to show it. 6 It was Grandma's favourite colour – a way to remember her. 7 At the start he is sad and quiet ("staring at the boat"); by the end he is happier – he hums, sings and "laughed out loud". 8 Grandma; he feels happy but also misses her.

Unit 5 · Sheet B — Inference with evidence

1 He paces up and down; he swallows hard; he puts the violin down and picks it up again. 2 She is joking that he has walked up and down so many times – maybe to calm him down. 3 “What if I play a wrong note?” or “What if a string snaps?” 4 He looks pale and frightened. 5 To show that everyone gets nervous and mistakes don’t matter, so Ravi feels better. 6 Play for one person (his grandmother); it makes the audience feel smaller and less scary. 7 He is calmer and more confident – he takes a deep breath and smiles for the first time. 8 supportive 9 e.g. “squeezing Ravi’s arm” / “See you out there, superstar.”

Unit 6 · Sheet A — Making predictions

1 It belonged to the school’s first art teacher, a famous painter; the best artist each year could hold it. 2 A small smear of bright green paint. 3 He stayed late on Friday and the Year 4 class used green paint. 4 He was in the art room on Friday – he probably brushed against the wet paint while he was there. 5 He left the window open and forgot to close the case after dusting it. 6 A bird (or small animal) came in through the open window, took the shiny brush and carried it to its nest in the tree. 7 e.g. She will tell Miss Rana and ask Mr Park to use a ladder to look in the tree, because she has seen something glitter there. 8 a crow or magpie

Unit 6 · Sheet B — Making predictions

1 Stay together and be back at the jetty by four o’clock, because the paths disappear when the tide comes in. 2 He kept following interesting animals (a crab, a mudskipper, a kingfisher) and did not notice the group leave. 3 “like giants on stilts” 4 The sun sets in the west, so he turned until the sun was behind him and walked away from it. 5 It shows the tide is coming in, so he is in more danger – linking back to the guide’s warning. 6 e.g. “The water rose to his ankles.” / “Twice, he almost fell.” / “For a terrible moment there was silence.” 7 The guide’s – he remembers the orange whistle round the guide’s neck. 8 e.g. He follows the whistle straight ahead and reaches the guide/jetty safely before the tide rises, because the whistle is getting closer. 9 To listen to instructions and stay with the group.

Unit 7 · Sheet A — How texts are organised

1 It is a play on words: it means she did something exciting that got attention, and it links to swimming/water. 2 It is a subheading that gives more detail about the story (she broke a record). 3 Who: a nine-year-old girl from Pattaya. What: broke a regional swimming record. Where: Eastern Junior Swimming Championships in Rayong. 4 34.2 5 To give different people’s views and feelings, make the report more real and interesting, and support the facts. 6 False 7 What will happen next – her future training and her goal to swim for Thailand. 8 Fact: e.g. “More than 400 young swimmers... took part”. Opinion: e.g. “Namwan works harder than anyone in the pool.”

Unit 7 · Sheet B — How texts are organised

1 To explain what a rain gauge is and to interest the reader in making one. 2 To make a clear, quick list that is easy to check. 3 To show the order (chronological) you must follow. 4 To stop it blowing over. 5 Any two, e.g. Ask, Put, Pour, Mark, Tape, Turn, Check, Write. 6 You wouldn’t know where the zero line is, so the ruler would not line up and readings would be wrong. 7 It is extra helpful advice, not a step; separating it keeps the method clear. 8 meteorologists

Unit 8 · Sheet A — Language for effect

1 A metaphor – it says the kite *was* a dragon, not *like* a dragon. 2 “like a dog on a lead” – the kite pulled hard and wanted to get away. 3 Personification (the kite hums; the wind sings) – also alliteration (wind’s wild). 4 It flew so high it went into the clouds and disappeared, as if it were a hungry creature. 5 SNAP (or crack) 6 To show a sudden, loud sound and make the moment dramatic. 7 The kite is so far away it is a tiny bright point of colour. 8 Sad to lose it, but also happy for the kite – “I hope that it’s glad / That it didn’t belong just to me.”

Unit 8 · Sheet B — Language for effect

1 Personification – it suggests the canal was quiet, calm and nobody was around yet. 2 “The water was a sheet of grey glass.” 3 The glass “shattered into a thousand silver pieces” – the calm water is broken up by ripples as the market becomes busy. 4 Sizzle, hiss, crackle 5 The smell is so delicious it seems to call people over to come and eat. 6 Personification – the sun is like a shy person; it shows the sun rising slowly, then shining more brightly. 7 e.g. scarlet, golden, glossy purple, orange, pink; to help the reader picture the bright, lively market. 8 calm and quiet 9 It starts calm and quiet, becomes busy, noisy and colourful, then ends with Mali remembering the quiet moment.

Unit 9 · Sheet A — Myths and legends

1 how the tiger got its stripes 2 “I shine like the sun itself.” 3 They were afraid of his sharp claws. 4 He thought someone as splendid as him deserved it and should never be cold – he was proud, selfish and greedy. 5 e.g. The Sky Spirit’s voice booms like a storm / the fire rolled back up the mountain on its own. 6 The bamboo stems pressed against him while the fire burned, leaving black lines on his fur. 7 He had lost his beautiful golden coat that he was so proud of. 8 They camouflaged him in the long grass and forest, so he became a great hunter. 9 e.g. Pride and greed are punished / something bad can turn into something good.

Unit 9 · Sheet B — Myths and legends

1 True 2 Zhinu wove the clouds into shimmering pink, gold and purple cloth. 3 She was lonely and wanted to bathe in a river (and have fun like her sisters). 4 gentle, kind 5 Zhinu had left heaven, so there was no one to weave the clouds and there were no sunsets. 6 e.g. The ox spoke / Niulang flew up into the sky in the ox’s skin. 7 The origin of the Milky Way; why magpies fly away on the seventh day of the seventh month / why it may rain that night (sunsets too). 8 Love – true love lasts even when people are kept apart. 9 e.g. Both explain something in nature; both have a powerful sky figure who is angry; both have magic.

Unit 10 · Sheet A — Persuasive writing

1 Families and children – e.g. child ticket prices, family offer, activities for children, a quote from a 9-year-old. **2** To grab the reader's attention and make them imagine doing the exciting activities. **3** e.g. "Create your own lightning in the Storm Room." / "Book your tickets today." **4** e.g. "more than 150 interactive exhibits" / "5,000 stars" / "fifty times bigger". **5** 250; 150 **6** Real people's opinions make the museum sound trustworthy and popular. **7** An opinion – it is what Aroon thinks and cannot be proved. **8** $2 \times 250 + 2 \times 150 = 800$ baht; 20% off = $800 - 160 = 640$ baht.

Unit 10 · Sheet B — Persuasive writing

1 Stop giving out plastic straws at her café. **2** To be polite and friendly so Mrs Lim is more likely to listen and agree. **3** "a baby sea turtle, struggling to swim with a straw stuck in its nose" **4** "Is a straw really worth that?" – to make the reader think and agree that it is not. **5** Any two: bamboo, lemongrass stems, paper, metal. **6** That other straws cost more; he says customers care about the environment and would be proud to support the café. **7** His class will put up posters about ocean plastic in the café for free. **8** Fact: e.g. plastic can take hundreds of years to break down. Opinion: e.g. "your mango smoothie is the best in town." **9** Answers will vary, e.g. Yes – it is polite, uses emotive language, gives alternatives and answers the cost worry.

Unit 11 · Sheet A — Comparing texts

1 Text A: to record Ploy's personal experience and feelings. Text B: to inform readers about the facts of the flood. **2** Text A – e.g. "I", "me", "we", "our". **3** e.g. It rained for three days / the flood happened on Wednesday night / people were safe. **4** "I was so scared my knees were shaking." **5** e.g. 200 homes, two metres, 85 people; to give exact facts and show how serious the flood was. **6** Personification; the diary describes feelings and pictures, whereas a news report uses factual language. **7** Text A, because it describes one family's experience and fears in detail. **8** Text B, because it gives facts and numbers (85 people moved to the school).

Unit 11 · Sheet B — Comparing texts

1 Poem A: a cat. Poem B: a tiger. **2** A metaphor – it says the sea *is* a cat, not *like* a cat. **3** A: e.g. purrs, licks, hums, stretches, whispers. B: e.g. roars, leaps, snarls, howls, tears, crashes, smashes. **4** Poem A's verbs are soft and gentle, making it calm and peaceful, whereas Poem B's are loud and violent, making it frightening. **5** Poem A uses silver and blue (calm, bright); Poem B uses white, grey and green (stormy, cold). **6** "The fishing boats rock on its back like a bed" **7** In Poem A they rock gently on the sea; in Poem B they hide away from the storm. **8** e.g. Both have two verses of four lines; both rhyme in pairs (couplets); both start with "The sea is a...". **9** The tiger lies down to sleep, so the angry sea becomes calm, like the sleeping cat in Poem A.

Unit 12 · Sheet A — Fact and opinion

1 A biography – it is about Junko Tabei's life, written by someone else ("she", not "I"). **2** 22 September 1939; Miharu **3** She climbed Mount Nasu and fell in love with climbing. **4** Many people thought climbing was only for men and some refused to climb with her; she started a women's climbing club. **5** An avalanche buried her under the snow; a Sherpa guide dug her out. **6** She is one of the bravest people who ever lived. **7** "In 1992, she became the first woman to reach the highest mountain on every continent." **8** To show how dangerous the climb was and how brave and determined she was. **9** She was small and often ill as a child, but she worked hard and never gave up, and became the first woman to climb Everest.

Unit 12 · Sheet B — Fact and opinion

1 Sepak is Malay for kick; takraw is Thai for a woven ball. **2** regu; three (3) **3** Their hands and arms. **4** True **5** Rattan (strips of a climbing palm); today, tough plastic. **6** Each team may touch the ball up to three times. **7** e.g. "one of the most spectacular sports in the world" / "Watching it is breathtaking!" / "the best sport for making you strong" / "Everybody should try it". **8** "like a gymnast" **9** To make the sport sound exciting and persuade readers to try it.

End test

1 fiction **2** Over 2,000 years ago. **3** Very thirsty. **4** huge **5** Excited/delighted – she screamed and hugged her brother (the letter had good news). **6** He is impatient or worried about being late. **7** e.g. Tom realises he is riding on his own – he might wobble and fall, or keep going and cheer. **8** Bees collect nectar from flowers and turn it into honey in the hive. **9** personification **10** Her smile was friendly and made people feel happy and comfortable. **11** to tell you what a section is about **12** To show when events happened and tell the person's life in time order. **13** Fact: Durian has a very strong smell. Opinion: It is the most delicious fruit in the world. **14** Emotive language ("innocent animals") and a rhetorical question / call to action. **15** Both describe the city at night; Poem A is quiet and peaceful, whereas Poem B is busy and bright.