

# Comprehension

## Pupil Book 2



**John Jackman**

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# The Eagle and the Turtle

The Turtle was not satisfied with his life. He wanted to stop being a turtle.

"I'm tired of swimming about in the sea and crawling about on the beach, getting nowhere in particular," he grumbled. "I want to be able to fly in the air like an eagle."

He spoke to the Eagle about it.

"You're not built for flying," the Eagle told the Turtle. "You haven't any wings."

"Don't worry about that," answered the Turtle. "I've watched how the birds do it. I've watched them soar and glide, skim and dive. Even if I haven't got wings, I can make my four flippers act like four stout oars in the air, the way I do in the water. Just get me up there, and you'll see I can fly as well as any of the birds – probably better! Besides if you'll carry me as high as the clouds I'll bring you lots of rare pearls from the sea."

The Eagle was tempted, and carried the Turtle up to a great height.

"Now, then," cried the Eagle, "fly!"

But the moment the Turtle was on his own, he fell from the sky. He fell like a stone, and on a stone he landed. He struck with such force that he smashed into little pieces.



Aesop's Fables

## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences. Fill each gap.

1. The Turtle wanted to be able to fly in the sky.
2. He went to speak to the eagle about it.
3. The Eagle said he couldn't fly because he didn't have wings.
4. The Turtle promised the Eagle rare \_\_\_\_\_ if he helped him.
5. When he tried to fly he fell like a \_\_\_\_\_.

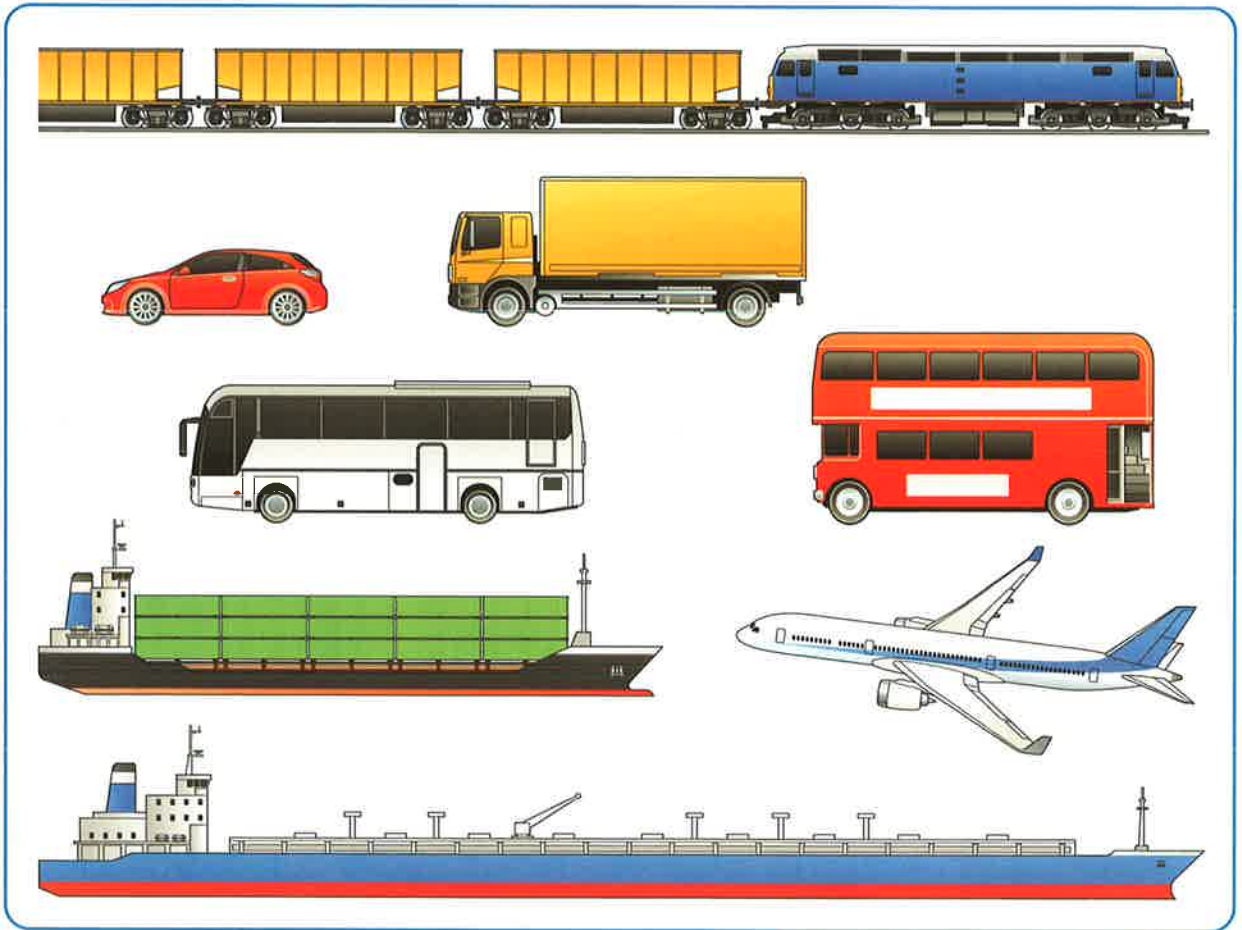
## More to think about

1. Write a sentence to answer each question.
  - a) What words does the Turtle use to describe flying?
  - b) What does he have that he thinks will help him to fly?
  - c) How can we tell that the Eagle doesn't want to carry the Turtle high in the sky?
  - d) How does the Turtle persuade the Eagle to help him?
  - e) How does the writer describe how the Turtle fell?
2. Copy these sentences and finish them in your own words.
  - a) The Turtle was not satisfied with his life because ...
  - b) He thought that if only he could fly he would be able to ...
  - c) The Eagle really didn't want to carry the Turtle into the sky because ...

## Now try these

1. Write the story in your own words, using no more than three sentences.
2.
  - a) Write two good things and two bad things about being a turtle.
  - b) Write two good things and two bad things about being an eagle.
3. There are two 'morals' to this fable:  
**Be satisfied with what you are.**  
**The higher you fly, the harder you may fall.**  
Write in your own words what each means.

There are many different ways to travel and to move goods around. Sometimes people walk and use animals pulling carts to transport heavy items. Aircraft, ships, trains, cars and buses carry people and freight from one place to another. The way people and things are moved depends on how quickly they need to travel, and where they are going.



A container ship can carry much more than an aeroplane, but is much slower.

Trains can carry far more than trucks, but trucks are still needed to collect the goods from the train at the end of its journey.

Buses and coaches carry more people than cars, but don't usually take everyone to their final destinations, so some people prefer to travel by car if they have one.

## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences. Choose the correct word to fill each gap. The explanation and picture will help you.

1. Trains can carry people and \_\_\_\_\_. (freight, buses)
2. Aeroplanes are \_\_\_\_\_ than ships. (slower, faster)
3. Trucks can carry \_\_\_\_\_ than trains (more, less)
4. Buses and coaches carry \_\_\_\_\_. (people, freight)
5. Some people prefer to travel by \_\_\_\_\_. (train, car)

## More to think about

1. List the things in the picture:  
a) that carry freight.      b) that carry people.
2. If aeroplanes are the quickest way to move freight around, why aren't they used for everything all the time?
3. What would be the best way to:  
a) move food from a factory to the shops?  
b) get your class to the local swimming pool?  
c) bring oil from 2000 kilometres away?  
d) get to Spain on holiday?  
e) move large amounts of coal to a power station?

## Now try these

1. Write a sentence to answer each question.  
a) Why do some people like to travel by car if they have one?  
b) What problems can there be about travelling by car?  
c) Why is it better if more goods can be sent by train?  
d) Do you think more people should travel by bike? Give your reasons.
2. Write a letter to your Member of Parliament about a new airport being built near to your house. Decide whether you are for or against the new airport and give reasons to support your argument.





There were three girls and they were going for a walk along the beach until they came to a cave.

One of the girls says, "I'm going in." So she goes in.

When she gets in, she sees a pile of gold sitting on the rocks, so she thinks, "Yippee, gold, all for me!" and she steps forward to pick it up and a great big voice booms out, "I'm the ghost of Captain Cox. All the gold stays on the rocks."

So the girl runs out of the cave.

The second girl goes in and she sees the gold and she thinks, "Yippee, gold, all for me!" and she steps forward to pick it up and the great big voice booms out, "I'm the ghost of Captain Cox. All the gold stays on the rocks."

So the girl runs out of the cave.

Then the third girl goes in and she sees the gold and she thinks, "Yippee, gold, all for me!" and she steps forward to pick it up and the great big voice booms out, "I'm the ghost of Captain Cox. All the gold stays on the rocks."

And the girl says, "I don't care.

I'm the ghost of Davy Crocket and all the gold stays in my pocket!" And she runs out of the cave with the gold.

Michael Rosen

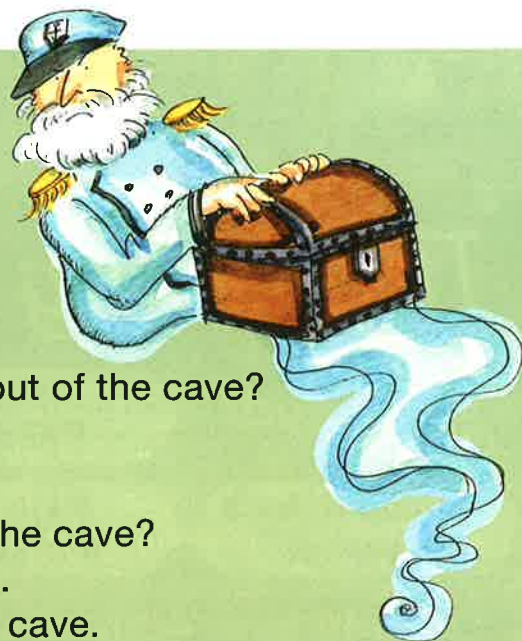


## Do you remember?



Write the correct answer to each question.

1. Are there three girls walking along the beach?
  - a) No, there are four girls walking along the beach.
  - b) Yes, there are three girls walking along the beach.

2. What did the girls come to?
  - a) They came to a cave.
  - b) They came to a lighthouse.
3. What is inside the cave?
  - a) There is a boat in the cave.
  - b) There is gold in the cave.
4. Why do the first and second girls run out of the cave?
  - a) They are frightened by a big animal.
  - b) They are frightened by a ghost.
5. Is the third girl brave enough to enter the cave?
  - a) Yes, the third girl goes into the cave.
  - b) No, the third girl doesn't go into the cave.



## More to think about

1. Write a sentence to answer each question.
  - a) Did the first girl plan to share the gold with her friends?
  - b) Was the ghost successful in protecting the gold?
2. Write what is being said.
  - a) 
  - b) 
3. Find a word in the story to rhyme with:
  - a) Cox
  - b) Crocket.

## Now try these

1. Write the story in your own words, using no more than 40 words.
2. Make a list of all the dangers there could be in a cave.
3. Write how you would have felt if:
  - a) you had been the first girl.
  - b) you had been the third girl.
4. Write an introduction to the story explaining how the gold came to be in the cave and why it belonged to Captain Cox.

## Thrills City Adventure Park

Scariest  
rides ever:

*The Brazen  
Beast*

*Techno Ride*

*Raging River's  
Revenge*

*Mighty  
Meteor*

*Vortex*



Open 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. every day

Close to motorway

Free parking

*An awesome day for all the family*

- Escape on a once-in-a-lifetime adventure
- Unlimited fun all year round
- New this year – embark on an underwater adventure in the new sea life aquarium
- Over the Rainbow Club – fab fun for our younger guests
- Live entertainment and characters
- Surprises at every turn
- Splash yourself silly in the water park!
- Stay overnight at our special 4★ family-friendly hotel
- Relax in our spa and health club

- Find us on Facebook and Twitter for all the latest news, chat and offers
- 2 for 1 tickets before 13th July
- Family Weekend Autumn Saver – save a huge 30%
- Jump the queues and save 5% – print your tickets at home

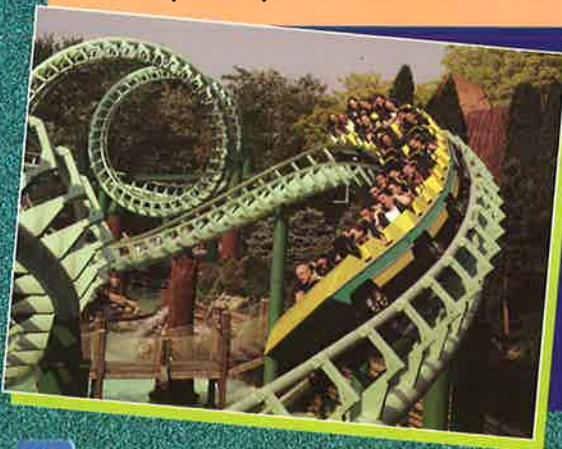
*Sign up now to receive the latest information and offers and become a Select Guest*

Title

Surname

Email

**Sign up**



## Do you remember?

**Copy these sentences. Choose the correct word to fill each gap.**

1. Thrills City opens each day at \_\_\_\_\_. (ten o'clock, six o'clock)
2. Thrills City is close to \_\_\_\_\_. (a station, a motorway)
3. The new aquarium opened \_\_\_\_\_. (this year, last year)
4. There is a special family offer in \_\_\_\_\_. (the spring, the autumn)

## More to think about

**Write a sentence to answer each question.**

1. Why do you think the adventure park was built close to a motorway?
2. What time of year can you visit Thrills City?
3. Why would Thrills City encourage people to print their tickets at home?
4. Where else might you find more information about Thrills City?
5. Why do you think that special offers are available before 13th July and in the autumn, but not in August?
6. Why do you think there is a "family-friendly" hotel at Thrills City?

## Now try these

1. Copy these sentences and finish them in your own words.
  - a) The rides are described as "the scariest ever" because ...
  - b) The management offers special Saver prices in the autumn because ...
  - c) The website promises parents that they will have a good time because ...
2. Make a list of three ways in which the website tries to persuade you to visit Thrills City.
3. Write a report of a day out at Thrills City. In your report persuade a friend to go on two of the rides mentioned on the website.
4. Design a poster to persuade people to visit a new water park that is about to open in your town.

This historical adventure tells the story of a young Tudor boy in the sixteenth century, and his dream to sail with the famous Captain Francis Drake.

How Dickon envied his best friend, Tib, who was aboard the *Pelican*, for the famous Francis Drake was its captain – Francis Drake, England’s greatest sailor and friend of Good Queen Bess. Francis Drake who had come back from the Spanish Main, his ship laden with gold. And now he was setting out on another exciting voyage – with Tib as his cabin boy.

Dickon gritted his teeth to stop the tears. He’d tried to get a job, but the second mate had taken one look at his lame leg and said, “Sorry, lad. We only take the fit and able. You couldn’t climb the mainmast.”

“I could ...” But the second mate hadn’t listened. Instead, he said to Tib, “You’ll do. You look a strong lad.” So Tib would have gold for his mother when the ship returned to Plymouth. Dickon would have nothing, and his poor widowed mother had eight boys to feed.

Dickon was suddenly jolted out of his misery by a loud voice. “Here, boy, carry this!” A young gentleman in a leather doublet had dropped a bag at Dickon’s feet.

Then a gentleman with dark hair and beard called out from the *Pelican*.

“Cousin John! Not a moment too soon. We sail at five!” Dickon couldn’t believe his eyes. It was Francis Drake! It must be. He wore a gold chain round his neck.

“Cousin Francis!” The young gentleman ran up the gangway. Dickon ran after him, carrying the bag. He *could* run and climb. He could do lots of things.



Julia Jarman

## Do you remember?

Match these questions and answers. One has been done to help you.

Who was Dickon's best friend?

What was Francis Drake's ship called?

Who was chosen as Drake's cabin boy?

Why wasn't Dickon chosen?

Tib was chosen to be Drake's cabin boy.

Drake's ship was the *Pelican*.

Dickon had a lame leg.

Tib was Dickon's best friend.

## More to think about

Read these sentences about the story.

Write 'true', 'false' or 'can't tell' for each one.

1. Francis Drake was a friend of Good Queen Bess.
2. There were eight boys in Tib's family.
3. Francis Drake had a cousin called John.
4. John's bag was too heavy for Dickon to carry.
5. Francis Drake had a ginger beard.
6. Tib and Dickon were seasick.



## Now try these

1. Think about the title of the passage. What do you think Dickon decides to do once he is on board the ship?
2. Write ...
  - a) what Tib might have said when he realised Dickon was on board.
  - b) what Dickon's mother might have said when he didn't arrive home the evening after the ships sailed.
3. Imagine that you are Dickon. Write a letter home explaining what has happened and how you are feeling.



# Oceans Alive

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Written by Angie Belcher  
Photographed by Andy Belcher

 **Collins**

## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences. Fill each gap.

1. The book is in a series called Collins Big \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The title of the book is \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It is written by \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The first chapter is called \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ starts on page 45.

## More to think about

Write a word or a number to answer each question.

1. What is the third chapter about?
2. In which chapter can you read about saving the oceans?
3. How many chapters are there before the glossary?
4. On which page can you begin to read about new discoveries?
5. How many pages are there in 'Living communities'?
6. How many pages are there in the glossary?
7. In which chapter might you find out about tides and waves?
8. In which section might you find the meaning of a word?
9. Write the names of two other chapters that might have been included in the book.
10. What is the name of the publisher of the book?

## Now try these

1. Find in your library two books that interest you. Answer these questions for each one.
  - a) What is the title of the book?
  - b) Who is the author?
  - c) What is the name of the publisher?
  - d) What is the book about?
  - e) How many chapters are in the book?
  - f) How many pages are in the book?
  - g) On which page does the first chapter begin?
  - h) On which page does chapter 3 begin?
  - i) What is the title of the second chapter?
2. Choose one of the books and write a book review giving your opinion about it.



# Tim the Trumpet



To look at, Tim was a perfectly ordinary boy. His hair stood on end and his face was never quite clean. His jeans were definitely dusty and his T-shirt always managed to be back to front.

But all this could happen to anyone. What made Tim quite different from anybody else was his voice.

Tim's voice was truly amazing. It was like a cross between a factory hooter and a foghorn. Or perhaps a roll of thunder and a ship's siren. And there was nothing he could do about it. It was just something he had been born with. His parents, of course, noticed his voice right from the start.

When Tim was a baby he would, like any other baby, let out a cry to tell everyone that he wasn't happy. Only it wasn't so much a cry, it was more like – well – an alarm bell going off. It certainly alarmed the neighbours. They used to gather in the street outside the house, and discuss in worried whispers whether they ought to call the police. They were certain something terrible was happening!



Tim's parents had to explain... "It's his voice you see. Tim has this very, very loud voice..."

Even so, when Tim was christened, the Vicar – who had been warned beforehand – wisely wore ear muffs.

Elisabeth Beresford

## Do you remember?

Copy this paragraph. Fill each gap.

\_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ seemed a very ordinary boy. His face was never quite \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ and he wore his \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ back to front. He had a very loud \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_. He had had it since he was a \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_. It worried the \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_. They thought they should call the \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_. When Tim was christened the \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ wore ear muffs.

## More to think about



Write a sentence to answer each question.

- In the story Tim's voice is described as being like other loud noises.
  - What was it like when he was a baby?
  - What noises was it like when he got older?
- Describe what Tim usually looked like.
- Why did the neighbours think they should call the police?
- Did Tim make loud noises because his parents were unkind to him?
- How did the Vicar know he should wear ear muffs?

## Now try these

- Sometimes we say things are like, or similar to, other things. When we do this we are using **similes**. Similes often begin with 'like' or 'as'. Copy these sentences, and neatly underline the similes. The first one has been done to help you.
  - Tim's voice was like a foghorn.
  - Tim's mother thought her baby was as pretty as a picture.
  - Some people said Tim's voice was like a ship's siren.
  - When Tim was a baby he sounded as loud as an alarm bell.
  - When Tim was older he could call across the playground as easy as pie.
- Which creature do you think would be a good choice to finish each of these similes?
  - as brave as a \_\_\_\_\_
  - as cunning as a \_\_\_\_\_
  - as timid as a \_\_\_\_\_
  - as quiet as a \_\_\_\_\_
  - as fast as a \_\_\_\_\_
  - as happy as a \_\_\_\_\_
  - as slow as a \_\_\_\_\_
  - as obstinate as a \_\_\_\_\_
  - as slippery as an \_\_\_\_\_
  - as wise as an \_\_\_\_\_

The animals in the box might help you, but you can also think of your own similes.

	fox	hare	lark
eel	owl	tortoise	mule
rabbit	mouse	lion	

# The Wind in the Willows

The Mole, who had been busily spring-cleaning his house, had come out for a rest ...

As he sat on the grass and looked across the river, a dark hole in the bank opposite, just above the water's edge, caught his eye. Something bright and small seemed to twinkle down in the heart of it, vanish, then twinkle once more like a tiny star. But it could hardly be a star in such an unlikely situation, and it was too glittering and small for a glow-worm. Then, as he looked, it winked at him, and so declared itself to be an eye, and a small face began gradually to grow up round it, like a frame round a picture.

A brown little face, with whiskers.

A grave round face, with the same twinkle in its eye that had first attracted his notice.

Small neat ears and thick silky hair.

It was the Water Rat!



The Rat said nothing, but stooped and unfastened a rope and hauled on it, then lightly stepped into a little boat which the Mole had not observed. It was painted blue outside and white within, and was just the size for two animals, and the Mole's whole heart went out to it at once, even though he did not yet fully understand its uses.

The Rat sculled smartly across and made fast. Then he held up his fore-paw as the Mole stepped gingerly down. "Lean on that!" he said. "Now then, step lively!" and the Mole to his surprise and rapture found himself actually seated in the stern of a real boat.

"This has been a wonderful day!" said he, as the Rat shoved off and took to the sculls again. "Do you know, I've never been in a boat before in all my life."

**Kenneth Grahame**



## Do you remember?

Write three sentences about the story using words from each column.

### Who?

The Mole

The Rat

The Rat

### Did what?

came

sat

sculled

### Where?

across the river.

out of his hole.

on the grass.

## More to think about

1. Read these sentences about the story.  
Write 'true' or 'not true' for each one.
  - a) The Mole lived by the river.
  - b) He saw a glow-worm.
  - c) He could see the Water Rat on the opposite bank.
  - d) The Rat swam across the river to see him.
  - e) The Rat had a boat.
  - f) The boat was painted blue and white.
2. Write a sentence to answer each question.
  - a) How did the Mole know the twinkle he saw on the opposite bank was not a star?
  - b) Was the Rat's boat large or small?
  - c) What words tell us that the Mole was excited when he first saw the boat?
  - d) Why was the Mole rather unsure about getting into the Rat's boat?



## Now try these

1. What words does the author use:
  - a) to describe the Rat's face?
  - b) to describe how the Rat brought the boat across the river?
  - c) to describe how the Mole got into the boat?
2. Think back to when you did something for the first time, and describe your feelings. Were you frightened or excited, or a bit of both? What other feelings did you have?

# I Love Our Orange Tent

I love our orange tent.  
We plant it like a flower in the field.  
The grass smells sweet inside it.

And at night  
When we're lying in it,  
I hear the owl crying.

When the wind blows,  
my tent flaps  
like a flying bird.

And the rain  
patters down on it  
with tiny footsteps.

I feel warm and safe  
inside my tent.

But when the sun shines,  
that's when I love it best!

When I wake up  
and the sun is shining,  
it pours in like yellow honey.  
It glows like gold.

I love our orange tent.

**Berlie Doherty**

## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences. Fill each gap.

1. The poem is about an orange \_\_\_\_\_.
2. They put it up in the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. At night they can hear the \_\_\_\_\_ crying.
4. When the wind blows, the tent \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The tent is best when the sun \_\_\_\_\_.

## More to think about

Write a sentence to answer each question.

1. Why does the poet say that they plant the tent like a flower in the field?
2. Does the poet like the smell of the grass in the orange tent?
3. What does the tent sound like when the wind blows?
4. Do you think the fourth verse describes heavy rain or light rain? Give your reasons.
5. Why does the poet like being in the tent most when the sun shines?

## Now try these

Imagine that the orange tent is your tent.

1. What do you think are the best things about going camping? Make a list.
2. Now make a list of all the problems that could happen on a camping trip.
3. Use the details in the poem to write a story about spending a night in the orange tent.



Fitzherbert was aware that he looked different from the other goslings on the farm. One day his goose mother explained why ...

She lowered her voice.

"You," she said softly, "are a swoose."

Fitzherbert coiled his long neck backwards into the shape of an S.

"A what?" he cried.

"Ssssssh!" hissed his mother, and she waddled off to a distant corner of the farmyard, away from all the other geese. Fitzherbert hurried after her.

"What did you say I was?" he asked.

His mother looked around to make

sure they were out of earshot of the rest of the flock, and then she said, "Now listen carefully. What I am about to tell you must be a secret between you and me, always. D'you understand?"

"Yes, Mum," said Fitzherbert.

"You are old enough now to be told," said his mother, "why you are unlike all the other goslings on the farm. They are the children of a number of geese, but they all have the same father."



"The old grey gander, you mean?"

"Yes."

"But isn't he my father too?"

"No."

"Then who is?"

"Your father," said Fitzherbert's mum, and a dreamy look came over her face as she spoke, "is neither old nor grey. Your father is young and strong and as white as the driven snow."



Dick King-Smith

## Do you remember?

Write the correct ending to finish each sentence.

1. Fitzherbert's mother was  
a) a swan.    b) a duck.    c) a goose.
2. Fitzherbert thought he was  
a) a chick.    b) a duckling.    c) a gosling.
3. He had always thought his father was  
a) the old grey gander.    b) a cockerel.    c) a white swan.
4. His mother told him about his father  
a) in a corner of the farmyard.    b) in the barn.    c) behind a shed.
5. His mother told Fitzherbert that his father was  
a) the old grey gander.    b) a cockerel.    c) a white swan.



## More to think about

1. Write a sentence to answer each question.
  - a) What clue does the author give us near the beginning that Fitzherbert might be related to a swan?
  - b) Why did his mother want to tell him away from the other geese?
  - c) What words does the author use to show that Fitzherbert's mother was very fond of his real father?
2. What do the following phrases mean?
  - a) lowered her voice
  - b) out of earshot
  - c) white as the driven snow

## Now try these

1. If a swoose has a swan father and a goose mother, write the name for a creature which is a cross between:
  - a) a shark and a whale.
  - b) a bat and a robin.
  - c) a pig and a cow.Choose one and describe its looks and unusual ways.
2. If you were the swoose, describe how you would feel when your mother gave you the surprising news about your father.
3. This is the beginning of a story. Write a few sentences to tell how, if you were the author, you would finish the story of the swoose.

# The Accident

## Second ice fatality in a week

Tragedy struck again yesterday when an elderly lady fell through the ice. Mrs Wills, 79, of Onslow Gardens had been walking alone with her sister's dog when it chased a duck onto the frozen river. It is the first time in living memory that the River Thames has frozen from bank to bank.

Onlookers struggled desperately to save Mrs Wills when she fell through the ice whilst trying to rescue the black Labrador.

Rescue Services were on the scene within five minutes, but as



Chief Officer Chung said, "There was no way anyone could survive more than a minute or two in water with sub-zero temperatures."

Last week the same rescue crew tried unsuccessfully to rescue an eight-year-old boy who had been playing on the ice.

## Do you remember?

**Read these sentences about the newspaper report.**

**Write 'true', 'false' or 'can't tell' for each one.**

1. Mrs Wills had been walking with her husband.
2. She was wearing a red coat and blue scarf.
3. It was very unusual for the River Thames to freeze right across.
4. There was nobody around to help Mrs Wills.
5. The dog managed to scramble to safety.

## More to think about

- Here are the answers to five questions about the newspaper article. Write the question for each one. The first one has been done to help you.
  - Mrs Wills was 79. **How old was Mrs Wills?**
  - She went onto the ice to rescue the dog.
  - It was a black Labrador dog.
  - The Rescue Services arrived within five minutes.
  - Last week they tried to save an eight-year-old boy.
- Write sentences to show that you know what each of these words means:
  - fatality
  - tragedy
  - elderly
  - desperately.

## Now try these

- The newspaper editor has said the article is too long. Rewrite the article in your own words in no more than 60 words.
- Make two lists, one with the good things about winter and another with the bad things about winter. Try to think of other people and creatures, as well as yourself.
- Imagine that you were walking along the bank of the river just as the dog went onto the ice. You could see the possible danger ahead for the old lady. Write a report about what you did to help, without putting yourself in danger.



# The Dragon's Egg



Once there was a man and a dragon who had made friends, and lived together like brothers, trusting each other in everything. The dragon had gathered together a huge treasure of silver and gold, and the time came when he had to go on a journey, and left the man to guard his treasure.

Now this dragon was a wise creature, and he knew what the desire for gold does even to the best of men. He was not sure whether he could quite trust his friend, so he decided to test him.

He brought out an egg in a gold casket and said to the man, "While I'm away I know that you will guard my treasure faithfully, and so I'm going to tell you a secret. All my treasure is worth nothing compared with this egg. For on this egg depends my very life. If the egg is broken, I shall die immediately. Therefore guard it with your life, if you love me."

"I will indeed die before any harm shall come to you, beloved friend," said the man.

So the dragon shut the casket, put it carefully with the rest of his treasure, and went away into a distant country.

After a while the temptation to possess so much gold and silver grew stronger and stronger, until the man could resist it no more.

"Dragons do not know what to do with treasure," he said to himself. "They just collect it and guard it like misers. Now I would be able to spend it properly... All I have to do is to break the magic egg, the dragon will die immediately – and the treasure will be mine."

So the man broke the egg, and took possession of the treasure.

But in fact the dragon had not gone very far away. Suddenly he returned, found that the man had broken the egg – and realised just how trustworthy his friend really was.

And it seems more than likely that the dragon ate the man for his supper that very night.



## Do you remember?

Copy these sentences. Choose a word from the box to fill each gap.

trust   man   gold   dragon   journey   treasure   silver

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ and a \_\_\_\_\_ were friends.
2. The dragon collected \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The dragon had to go away on a long \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The dragon didn't \_\_\_\_\_ the man.
5. The man tried to steal the dragon's \_\_\_\_\_.



## More to think about

1. Read these sentences about the story. Copy them in the right order.

**He ate the man for supper.**

**The dragon had a lot of treasure.**

**The dragon came back and was very upset.**

**He asked the man to look after his gold and silver.**

**The man tried to kill the dragon and keep the treasure.**

2. Write a sentence to answer each question.
  - a) Why did the dragon think he could trust the man at first?
  - b) Why did he change his mind about trusting the man?
  - c) Did the man always intend to steal the treasure?
  - d) Why didn't the dragon die when the man broke the egg?

## Now try these

1. Find words in the passage that mean:
  - a) collected
  - b) very big
  - c) wish or want
  - d) a small box.
2. Write ...
  - a) three things you might do if you had a dragon as a friend.
  - b) three things you might do if you suddenly became very rich.

In this unit we explore two different ways of describing the Sun – using **prose** and **poetry**.

The Sun is a star. It is the nearest star to Earth, which is why it seems much bigger than any other star, but really the Sun is quite a small star. Some stars, that are much further away, are thousands of times bigger than the Sun.

The Sun is a huge ball of fiery gas. It is 150 million kilometres from Earth, and without it there would be no light or warmth on Earth. If the Sun did not give us light and heat there would be no life on Earth, so the Sun is very important to us. We are not its only planet, though; it has eight others.

It takes Earth about 365 days, or one year, to travel once round the Sun.

The sun is an orange dinghy sailing across a calm sea.

It is a gold coin dropped down a drain in heaven.

It is a yellow beach ball kicked high into the summer sky.

It is a red thumb-print on a sheet of pale blue paper.

It is the gold top from a milk bottle floating on a puddle.

Wes Magee



## Do you remember?

**Copy these sentences.**

**Choose the correct ending to finish each sentence.**

1. Most stars are \_\_\_\_\_. (smaller than the Sun, the same size as the Sun, bigger than the Sun)
2. The Sun is made of \_\_\_\_\_. (glowing rocks, red water, fiery gases)

- The distance from Earth to the Sun is \_\_\_\_\_. (15 million kilometres, 150 million kilometres, 1500 million kilometres)
- Once every year \_\_\_\_\_. (the Sun travels around the Earth, the Moon travels around the Earth, the Earth travels around the Sun)

## More to think about

1. Use the grid to answer the questions with grid references. The first one has been done to help you.

	A	B	C
1	150	light	8
2	heat	365	the Sun
3	1	gas	thousands

- How many planets, apart from Earth, does the Sun have? **C1**
  - How many times bigger than the Sun are some other stars?
  - What two important things does the Sun give to Earth?
  - How many days does the Earth take to circle the Sun?
  - How many years does the Earth take to circle the Sun?
  - Which is the nearest star to Earth?
  - What is the Sun made of?
2. The poet compares the Sun with other things.
- What is “the calm sea” in the first verse?
  - Where does the poet think heaven is in the second verse?
  - What is the “sheet of pale blue paper” in the fourth verse?
  - Which verse do you like best? Why?

## Now try these

- Using a dictionary to help you, write a definition of ‘prose’ and a definition of ‘poetry’.
- Which type of writing do you prefer for describing the Sun, or do you find them both helpful? Give your reasons.
- Poets often compare things. Write down three things that remind you of:
  - the sea.
  - a snake.
  - an ants’ nest.



This is the beginning of a play about children living in a country where soldiers are fighting and ordinary people are struggling to survive.

**SCENE 1**

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

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

OMAR: *(into the pram)* You've got to keep quiet, Valentine, we're in the station now.

*(They approach a soldier checking documents at the entrance to the platform.)*

SOLDIER: Papers?

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

SOLDIER: The baby – his pass?

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

SOLDIER: No papers, I can't let you through.

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

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

SOLDIER: *(unmoved)* Papers?  
*(Fran gives him her papers as the children watch.)*

SOLDIER: Go through.

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

SOLDIER: Hey you! Come back!  
*(Sasha and Omar disappear into the crowd.)*

**SCENE 2**

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

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

FRAN: Oh no – impossible, I must have my space.

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

FRAN: I don't like babies.

OMAR: It isn't a baby – it's a dog.  
*(Sasha looks at him furiously.)*

Lin Coghlan



# Do you remember?

Copy these sentences. Fill each gap.

1. The names of the children in the play are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ tries to stop them getting on the platform.
3. He says he wants to see their \_\_\_\_\_.
4. They ask \_\_\_\_\_, the old lady, to help them.
5. They have hidden a \_\_\_\_\_ in the pram.

# More to think about

1. Write a sentence to answer each question.
  - a) Where are the children going?
  - b) What reasons does Fran give for not wanting to travel with the children?
  - c) Why are the children so keen to stay with Fran even though she doesn't want to be with them?
2. Make a list of words to describe each character. Use the stage directions to help.



Fran	Sasha	Omar

3. Which of the children do you think is the oldest? Explain your answer.

# Now try these

1. Why do you think the children are so anxious to get on the train even though they don't have the money for tickets?
2. Describe how you would feel if you had to go on a long journey by yourself.
3. Write Scene 3 of the play using these characters and two others that get on the train. What happens next? Try to give your play an unexpected twist! Remember to include stage directions.

In a small town, there was a small house in which lived a young man, his wife, and the young man's sister. This small house had a small garden at the back in which grew a small mango tree. One day the young man's wife came to him and said,

'Look here, I'm fed up with our situation. Your sister ...'

'Have you come here to complain about my sister again?'

'What can I do? I know it's quite useless. My complaints fall on deaf ears, anyway. I'm just so angry with your sister. I get up early in the morning, draw water from the well, light the fire in the kitchen, cook breakfast, wash and scrub the pots ...'

'Don't go on,' said the brother. 'I've heard it all before.'

'And what does your lazy sister do all day? Nothing ... nothing ... she lolls about in the garden, watering her mango tree, talking to it, clearing away dead leaves, and feeding it manure and mulch.'

'That isn't all she does. She comes in and talks to me. Just an hour ago, she was playing chess with me.'

'Just because she adores you, doesn't mean you should ignore her faults. You must tell her to leave that silly mango tree alone, and come and help me with the housework. I really think we should marry her off. That might teach her to be more responsible.' Since the sister was of marriageable age, the brother could not really object. He knew though, that he would miss her very, very much.

Madhur Jaffrey



## Do you remember?

Read these sentences about the story.

Write 'true' or 'not true' for each one.

1. The young man was married.
2. The young man's wife and sister were close friends.

3. The wife often complained about the sister.
4. Breakfast was usually prepared by the sister.
5. Watering the mango tree was important to the sister.
6. The wife thought the sister should be married.

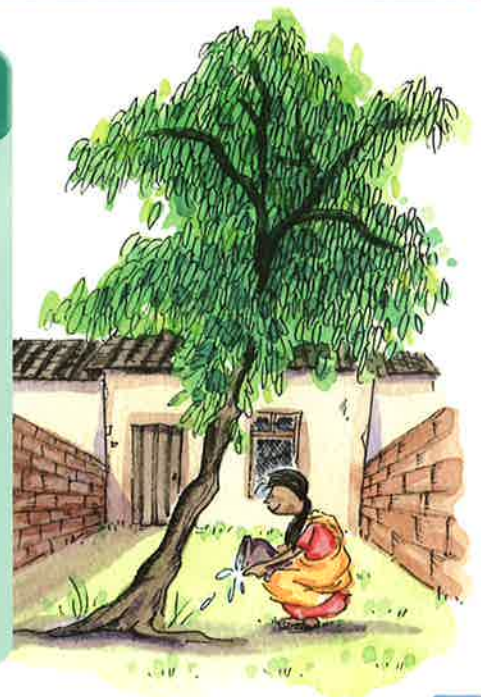
## More to think about

1. Write a sentence to answer each question.
  - a) What does the wife mean when she says, "I'm fed up with our situation"?
  - b) How would you describe the sister's behaviour?
  - c) Do you think the husband was partly responsible for the problem? Explain your answer.
  - d) What do you think of the wife's suggestion for solving the problem?
  - e) How do you think the sister might react?
2. Complete the table by listing the jobs that the wife and the sister do. One has been done to help you.

Wife	Sister
Draws water from the well	

## Now try these

1. Imagine that you are the sister. Write the story from your point of view.
2. Turn this passage from 'The Mango Tree' into a play. Remember you will need to:
  - describe **the setting**.
  - list the people in your play – **the characters**.
  - write what is said – **the dialogue**.
  - describe what the characters do – **stage directions**.



# Feathered Record Breakers

## Biggest alive

The giant of the bird world is the ostrich, from Africa.

It grows up to 2.7 metres and can weigh over 155 kilograms. Its eggs are also the biggest, weighing in at 1.5 kilograms.



## Heaviest extinct bird

The roc, or elephant bird, lived in Madagascar until 300 years ago. It weighed over 420 kilograms, and laid eggs 7 times as big as the ostrich.

## Heaviest flier

The African Kori bustard has been known to weigh 18 kilograms.

## Tallest extinct bird

Some species of the New Zealand moa grew to over 4 metres, but they died out about 700 years ago.

## Fastest flier

Spine-tailed swifts can reach 170 kilometres per hour.

## Fastest runner

Ostriches can run at 65 kph.

## Greatest wingspan

The wandering albatross has a wingspan up to 3 metres.



## Smallest bird

The bee hummingbird measures less than 6 centimetres from beak to tail and weighs 2 grams.

## Deepest divers

Emperor penguins have been known to reach depths of over 250 metres.



## Do you remember?

These questions have already been answered.

Copy the questions and fill each gap.

1. Where are \_\_\_\_\_ found in the wild? **Africa**
2. How fast can the \_\_\_\_\_ fly? **170 kilometres per hour**
3. Which bird has the \_\_\_\_\_? **Wandering albatross**

- How long is a \_\_\_\_\_ from beak to tail? **6 centimetres**
- Which birds have dived to \_\_\_\_\_? **Emperor penguins**

## More to think about

Using the information from the passage, write 'true', 'false' or 'can't tell' for each of these statements.

- Ostriches are the biggest birds ever to have lived.
- Ostriches are bigger than emus.
- Emperor penguins can't live in shallow water.
- Albatrosses can fly faster than buzzards.
- Bee hummingbirds only live in jungles.
- An ostrich's egg is bigger than that of the African Kori bustard.
- The tallest person who ever lived was 2 metres 72 centimetres, more than a metre shorter than the extinct New Zealand moa.
- London Zoo has a breeding pair of elephant birds.

## Now try these

- Imagine that you could be a record breaker. Write some sentences about which records you would like to break, and say why.
- These words all describe size.

large colossal dwarf massive wee  
 little midget bulky miniature great mini  
 minute tiny enormous mighty huge

- Use a dictionary to help you sort them into two lists, like this:

Words meaning big	Words meaning small

- Take a word from each list and write each one in a sentence to add to a reference book.

When the bus is full  
it creeps uphill  
like an old man climbing  
the stairs to bed.

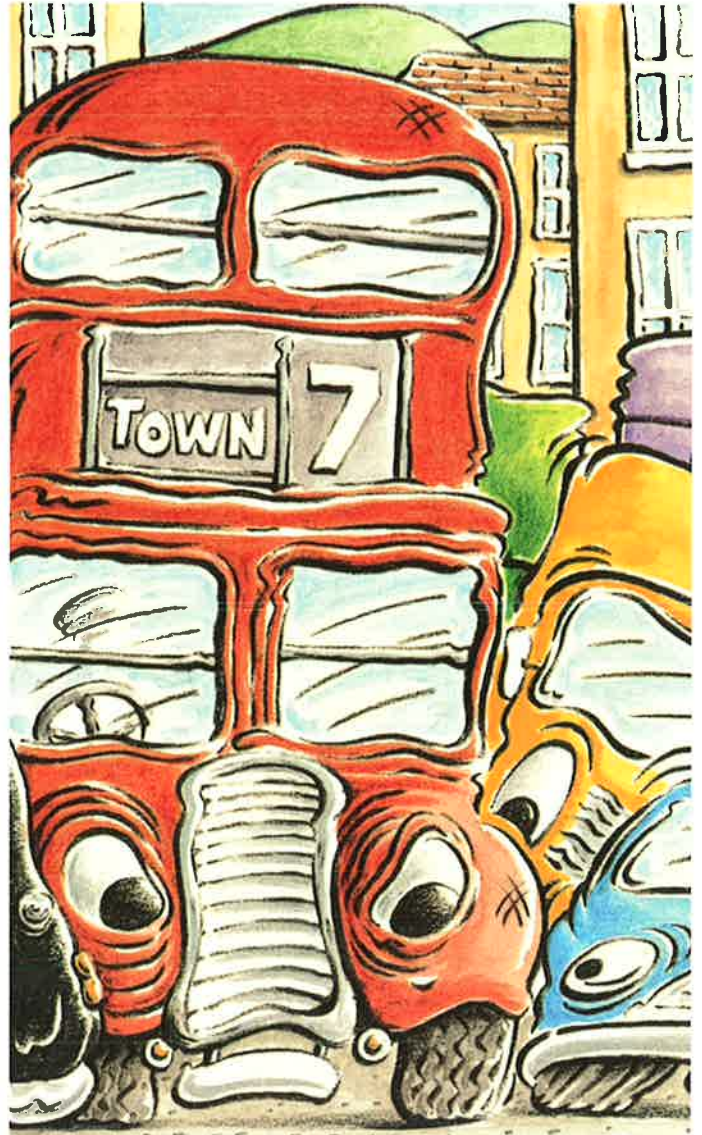
Down the other side  
it rumbles into town  
barging through the traffic,  
an angry bully.

Out in the country  
the bus is empty  
rattling through the quiet lanes  
humming softly.

But it can never stay;  
it has to push and shove,  
bruise and scrape its skin  
in the rough and tumble town.

Surging crowds of people  
swarm and clamber on it,  
fill it to the top  
at the bottom of the hill.

David Harmer



## Do you remember?

**Copy these sentences. Choose the correct word to fill each gap.**

1. The bus starts at the \_\_\_\_\_ of the hill. (top, bottom)
2. First it is going into the \_\_\_\_\_. (town, country)
3. In town the bus has to barge through the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(people, traffic)

4. When it goes into the country, the bus is \_\_\_\_\_. (full, empty)
5. The bus goes into the country to bring more \_\_\_\_\_ into town. (goods, people)

## More to think about

1. Write a sentence to answer each question.
  - a) Does the bus route start in the town or in the country?
  - b) What lies between the country and the town?
  - c) Does the poem suggest whether it is a new or an old bus?  
Explain your answer.
2. How does the poet describe each of these things?  
Write a sentence for each one.
  - a) How the bus, full of passengers, goes up the hill.
  - b) What the bus reminds us of as it forces its way through the traffic.
  - c) How the bus seems happier to be out in the country again.
  - d) What happens to the bus as it squeezes through tight spaces.
  - e) How the passengers get onto the bus.

## Now try these

1. Write ...
  - a) something the conductor might have said when people were pushing and shoving to get onto the bus.
  - b) something your mum, loaded with shopping, might have said when it started to rain as she was waiting for the bus, which was late.
  - c) something you might have said when, one day, the bus was stuck in a snowdrift as you were on your way to school.
2. Sometimes machines can seem almost as though they are human, like Thomas the Tank Engine.  
Write sentences to answer these questions.
  - a) Do you think the poet thought this bus was like a person? Why?
  - b) Do you have a machine, like a favourite toy or a bike, that seems to you to have a personality? Write about it.

# A Day When Frogs Wear Shoes

Julian, his best friend Gloria and his little brother Huey were sitting on the front steps of their house.

My father has a workshop about a mile from our house, where he fixes cars.

"Huey," I said, "usually, visiting Dad is a good idea. Today, it's a dangerous idea."

"Why?" Gloria said.

"Because we're bored," I said.

"My dad hates it when people are bored. He says the world is so interesting nobody should ever be bored."

"So we'll go to see him," Huey said, "and we won't tell him we're bored. We're bored, but we won't tell him."

"Just you remember that!" I said.

"Oh, I'll remember," Huey said.

Huey was wearing an angel look. When he has that look, you know he'll never remember anything. Huey and I put on sweat bands. Gloria put on dark glasses.

We started out. The sun shone up at us from the pavements.

Even the shadows on the street were hot as blankets.

Huey picked up a stick and scratched it along the pavement.

"Oh, we're bored," he muttered,

"Bored, bored, bored, bored!"

"Huey!" I yelled. I wasn't bored any more. I was nervous.



Text copyright © 1986 Ann Cameron

Finally we reached a sign.

That's my Dad's sign.

My Dad is Ralph.

The car park had three cars in it.

Dad was inside the workshop, lifting the bonnet of another car. He didn't have any customers with him, so we didn't get to shake hands and feel like visiting mayors or VIPs.

"Hi, Dad," I said.

"Hi!" my Dad said.

"We're –"

I didn't trust Huey, I stepped on his foot.

"We're on a hike," I said.

"I'm surprised at you kids picking a hot day like today for a hike," my father answered. "The ground is so hot. On a day like this, frogs wear shoes!"

Ann Cameron

## Do you remember?

Copy this passage. Fill each gap.

Julian's father fixed \_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_. His workshop is about a \_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_ from their house. Julian's little brother is \_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_, and his best friend is \_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_. They had nothing to do and felt \_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ didn't like people saying they were bored. There were \_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ cars in the car park. Dad was lifting the \_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ of a car. The children said they were going for a \_\_\_\_ 9 \_\_\_\_\_.

## More to think about

Write a sentence to answer each question.

1. Why did Julian usually like visiting his father's workshop?
2. How do we know that Julian's father was a positive sort of person?
3. Why was Julian doubtful about going to the workshop on this day?
4. Why did they tell Dad they were off on a hike?
5. How can we tell that the weather was extremely hot?



## Now try these

1. Write some sentences to describe these characters from the story. Think carefully before you start, and use the information in the passage to help you.  
a) Julian    b) Huey    c) Ralph, their dad
2. Write a list of things the children could have done when they were bored.
3. Think back to the hottest day you can remember. Write about where you were, what you were doing and how you felt.

Once upon a time, in a far off land, a strange thing happened, a very strange thing indeed. A snake laid an egg, which is not unusual for a reptile. Then, through the grass came a cockerel. The cockerel sat upon the egg and kept it warm, and sure enough, after a time the shell began to crack. At this the cockerel stalked away through the tall, dark grass.



From the broken shell emerged a strange and scary creature. It had the feet, body, wings and head of a cockerel, but the tail twisted and turned and it had the long, forked, darting tongue of a snake. The eyes were the protruding eyes of a toad.

This was the myth of the basilisk, said to be a very harmful monster. Any plant it touched would dry up and die; any rock it touched would break. Even its breath could kill a person. In fact, just a look from the beast could kill. A man on horseback could stab a basilisk, but then the poison would climb the spear and the man would die, and so would his horse. There was said to be only one way to kill a basilisk – with a mirror. If the basilisk looked in the mirror its own glance would kill it.

People believed in basilisks for hundreds of years. In 1587 in Warsaw, Poland, two small girls were found dead in a cellar. Rumours circulated that a basilisk was to blame. Someone had an idea. There was a criminal about to be put to death for his crimes, so what did it matter if a basilisk killed him?

The criminal put on a leather suit, covered in mirrors, and went down into the cellar. When he emerged he was carrying something. At first it looked like a dead snake, but could it be a dead basilisk? Who knew? Few people had ever seen a real one, and those who had seen one had died. At last the king's doctor was called in. He studied the beast.

“Yes,” he said, “definitely a basilisk.”

## Do you remember?

1. Copy these sentences. Fill each gap.
  - a) A \_\_\_\_\_ laid the egg.
  - b) The egg was kept warm by a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - c) The basilisk's body was like a \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d) The tail and \_\_\_\_\_ of the basilisk were those of a snake.
  - e) The only way to kill a basilisk was with a \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Write a sentence to answer each question.
  - a) Which part of the basilisk was like a toad?
  - b) What happened if the basilisk breathed on you?
  - c) Why couldn't a horseman kill the creature?
  - d) Where were the two girls found dead?
  - e) How was the basilisk eventually killed in the cellar?

## More to think about

1. Find the words or phrases in the passage that describe:
  - a) how the cockerel moved.
  - b) what the grass was like.
  - c) the basilisk's tongue.
  - d) what the creature's eyes were like.
2. What do you think happened when the criminal went into the cellar?



## Now try these

1. Write a few sentences describing the different feelings you would have had if you were the criminal told to kill the basilisk.
2. The myth of the basilisk is just one of hundreds of monster tales. Retell another monster tale that you know, or make one up.
3. Invent two new creatures made up of different animal parts. Write some sentences to describe your creatures.

# The Day the Helicopters Came

This story is about how frightening it was for a child when an army invaded a village during the Vietnam War in the 1960s.

We had a cow for milk, some hens, and a goat. We harvested enough rice and vegetables for our family and the rest my mother sent downriver to market in the city.

Then one day the helicopters came.

We watched them circle, then bump down, one after another in rapid succession, on to our vegetable gardens. The men jumped out and ran, bent double as though themselves afraid of being fired on, over melons, beans, celery, trampling with their boots on whatever produce hadn't already been destroyed by shells.

"We must go in," said my mother, and she hurried us inside.

But my grandmother was in a trance, dazed by three nights in the shelter. My mother sat her down gently on the stool and gave her the baby to hold while she saw to the clearing up.



The room was suddenly darkened by a huge man, higher than the door lintel, blocking out the light. He was so tall that he had to stoop to stand in the doorway, and even then the top of his helmet was lost in the grass-thatch.

"Where's your husband, lady?" he shouted.

My mother snatched the baby back from my grandmother and held it to her tightly. The man instinctively twitched his gun back at her. He was very frightened.

"Your husband! Where is he?"

He didn't see me. I was in the folds of my father's jacket hanging on a peg. But as I flattened myself more against the wall I knocked an earthenware dish down from the shelf. It clattered to the floor.

Rachel Anderson



## Do you remember?

Read these sentences about the story.

Write 'true', 'false' or 'can't tell' for each one.

1. The child telling the story is a girl.
2. The family lived in the city.
3. They used water buffalo to cultivate their fields.
4. They were frightened by the helicopters and soldiers.
5. Fortunately the soldiers were careful not to damage the vegetables.

## More to think about

Write a sentence to answer each question.

1. Was this the first day they had been aware of the fighting?
2. How did the soldiers arrive in the village?
3. How did the family earn its living?
4. Why do you think the soldier was so anxious to find the father?
5. Where do you think the father might have been?

## Now try these

1. Make a list of all the things you would want to take with you into an air-raid shelter for the night.
2. Imagine you were the child in the story. Why did you hide in your father's coat? Describe how you felt.
3. Imagine you are a reporter for the local newspaper. Write a report of the events in the story.



# Humans – Friends or Foes?

Look carefully at this Ragamala painting from medieval India, and read this poem by an unknown Nigerian poet. Both are about the relationship between people and animals.



'Todi Ragini'  
A Ragamala painting

## Kob Antelope

A creature to pet and  
spoil like a child.  
Smooth-skinned  
stepping cautiously  
in the lemon grass ...  
The eyes  
like a bird's.  
The head  
beautiful liked carved wood ...  
Your neck seems long,  
so very long  
to the greedy hunter.

Anon (Yoroba)  
Unknown Nigerian poet

## Do you remember?

Write the correct answer to each question.

1. What is the painting called?  
a) The painting is called 'Todi Ragini'.  
b) The painting is called 'Kob Antelope'.
2. Who wrote the poem?  
a) The poem was written by an Indian poet.  
b) The poem was written by an unknown poet from Nigeria.

3. Is the woman in the picture a friend or an enemy of the creatures?
  - a) The woman is a friend of the creatures.
  - b) The woman is an enemy of the creatures.
4. Are the people in the poem kind to the animals?
  - a) No, the poem is about people who want to hunt the animals.
  - b) Yes, the poem is about people who want to help the animals.

## More to think about

**Write a sentence to answer each question.**

1. Do you think the woman in the picture is poor or wealthy? How can you tell?
2. Why are the deer following her?
3. What is it about the animals that show they think they can trust the woman?
4. What words does the poet use to suggest that antelopes are shy creatures?
5. The poet compares the antelope's eyes to those of birds. What does he compare the antelope's head to? Why does he use this comparison?

## Now try these

1. Look at the picture again. Write a story about the woman and the deer using the picture as a starting point.
2. Deer hunting has been banned in some countries. Do you think deer hunting should be banned, or should people be allowed to hunt deer for food? Write a letter to your local council explaining your point of view.



# Being Angry

Here are two pieces of writing about being angry; one is **prose** and one is **poetry**. In *Angry Arthur*, not being allowed to watch his favourite TV programme makes Arthur very, very angry. Bertie Thomson won a prize for his poem about anger when he was nine years old.

“No,” said his mother, “it’s too late. Go to bed.”

“I’ll get angry,” said Arthur.

“Get angry,” said his mother.

So he did. Very, very angry.

He got so angry that his anger became a stormcloud exploding thunder and lightning and hailstones.

“That’s enough,” said his mother.

But it wasn’t.

Arthur’s anger became a hurricane hurling rooftops and chimneys and church spires.

“That’s enough,” said his father.

But it wasn’t.

Arthur’s anger became a typhoon tipping whole towns into the sea.

“That’s enough,” said his grandfather. But it wasn’t.

Arthur’s anger became a universquake and the earth and the moon and the stars and the planets, Arthur’s country and Arthur’s town, his street, his house, his garden and his bedroom were nothing more than bits in space.



Arthur sat on a bit of Mars and thought. He thought and thought. “Why was I so angry?” he thought. He never did remember. Can you?



From *Angry Arthur*  
Hiawyn Oram

# My Hair Black as Dirty Coal

My hair black as dirty coal,  
My eyes sizzle like fried eggs in a pan,  
My nose breathes heavily like a charging wild bull.  
Because:

*(My brother...)*

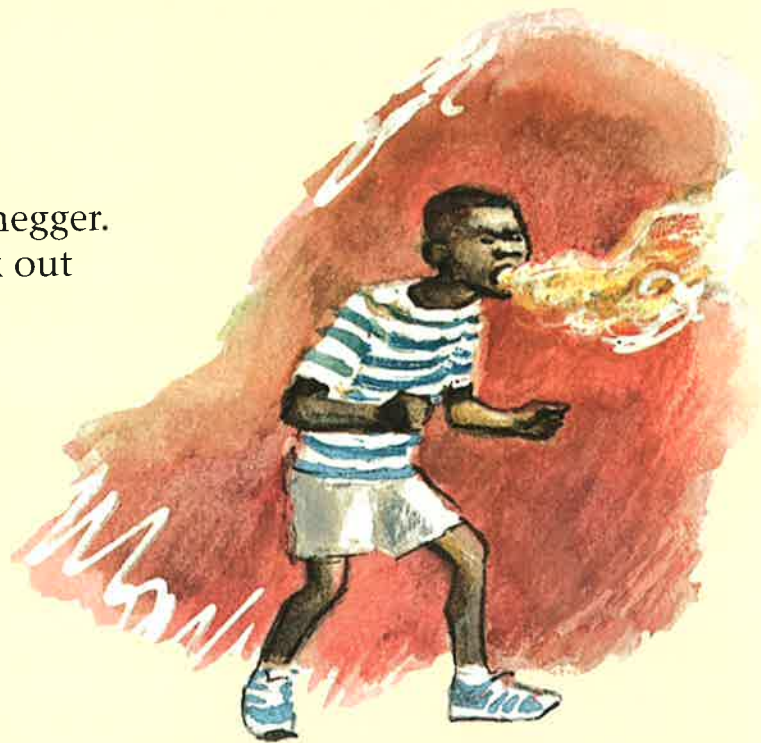
My mouth breathing fire like a dragon.  
My stomach going in and out,  
I clench my fists hard like compressing a lemon  
Until all the juice comes out.

*(kicked my...)*

My anger bubbling inside,  
Ready to fire out of my head.  
I think I'm Arnold Schwarzenegger.  
My feet heat up ready to kick out  
And then I burst out.

*(ball over the fence!!)*

**Bertie Thomson**



## Do you remember?

1. Copy these sentences about Arthur and finish them in your own words.
  - a) Not being allowed to watch TV makes Arthur ...
  - b) His mother said ...
  - c) His anger was at first like ...
  - d) Then it became like a hurricane hurling ...
  - e) In the end he couldn't remember why ...

2. Write a sentence to answer each question about Bertie.
  - a) Who was he angry with?
  - b) Why was he so cross?
  - c) Which parts of his body did his anger affect?
  - d) Who does Bertie feel like?

## More to think about

1. Hiawyn Oram, the author of *Angry Arthur*, compares Arthur's anger to other things. How can we tell that he is getting angrier and angrier as the story goes on?
2. Write the similes Bertie uses to describe:
  - a) how his eyes feel.
  - b) how his breathing is affected.
  - c) how he is holding his hands.
3. Which phrase tells us that in the end Bertie actually lost his temper?

## Now try these

**Write some sentences to answer these questions.**

1. Do you think either Arthur or Bertie were right to feel so angry? Why?
2. Do you feel sorry for Arthur or Bertie or both of them? Why?
3. Which of the two pieces of writing is the better description of someone getting really angry? Give reasons for your answer.
4. Should we always try to control our anger, or should we sometimes allow ourselves to show our anger? Give reasons for your answer, and give some examples when it is probably better to control our feelings of anger.
5. Think of an occasion when you felt really angry. Why were you so cross? How did it make you feel? What happened in the end?