

Year 4

Literacy

Pack #2

1. 102

100 133

100 133

2

UNIT 1

The Post

POSTMAN'S KNOCK

RATTAT! RATTAT!

There's the postman at the door,
 He always knocks like that,
 No matter who it's for.
 It may be a letter
 And it might be a box,
 So I'm always very glad
 When the postman knocks.

RATTAT! RATTAT!

Shall I run along to see
 If he is on the mat
 With something meant for me?
 It may be just a postcard,
 But it might be a box,
 So I always run to look
 When the postman knocks.

Rodney Bennett**Questions on the poem**

1

The person in the poem knew the postman had arrived because

- ☐ he was seen coming up the path. ☐ his post van was on the road.
☐ he always knocked the same way. ☐ he was standing on the doormat.

2

The word 'RATTAT' describes the postman

- ☐ ringing the door bell. ☐ knocking on the door.
☐ stamping his feet on the mat. ☐ singing

3

Which word describes how the person felt when the postman called?

4

What question is asked in the second verse?

THE POST

Imagine the postman standing at the door with a letter for you. He says you can't have the letter unless you pay for it.

It wouldn't happen today but once it did. Anyone who received a letter had to pay for its delivery. The further the letter had come the more the person had to pay.

Sometimes people wrote secret marks on the back of the letter. The person who received the letter looked at the mark, knew what the message was and then they refused to accept the letter so they didn't have to pay for it!

A man called Rowland Hill changed everything. He said it would be better if the sender paid for the letter. It would save postmen a lot of time. Letters should all cost the same wherever they were going.

In 1840 Rowland Hill's idea became the Penny Post. It didn't matter where or how far letters were going; they all cost the same. People had to buy a black, penny stamp for each letter. The stamps had Queen Victoria's head on one side. On the other side they were adhesive so that they could be stuck to a letter to show it had been paid for. They were the world's first stamps. Today Penny Blacks are very rare. Every stamp collector, or philatelist, would like to have one!



Questions

1

The first stamps were

☐

Penny Reds.

☐

Penny Blacks.

☐

Penny Farthings.

☐

Penny Yellows.

2

What does the word 'adhesive' mean?

☐

stamp

☐

sticky

☐

post

☐

letter

3

Why do you think it took postmen a long time to deliver a letter?

4

Write one reason why Mr Hill's idea was a good idea?

5

Why would a philatelist want a Penny Black?

Hundreds of years ago letters were delivered by runners or postboys. They delivered their letters on horseback. They were very slow. Sometimes people wrote "Haste, post, haste", on the back of their letter hoping the runner would think the letter was very important and hurry when he saw the message.

Many years later people began to travel by coach. A man called

John Palmer thought it would be quicker and safer to send letters by coach. Soon there were special mail coaches carrying parcels and letters and newspapers all over the country. Still there was the danger of attack from robbers, so each mail coach had a guard sitting by the driver. The guard wore a special uniform and carried a pistol. Along the way the coaches would stop at special 'stages', where fresh horses would be waiting.

Sending a letter got quicker and safer when the railways were invented – especially using Rowland Hill's idea!



Questions

6

The first postmen were called

☐

postmen.

☐

runners.

☐

Penny Blacks.

☐

Rowland Hill.

7

Which of these words means 'quickly'?

☐

post

☐

haste

☐

important

☐

message

8

Who sat next to the mail coach driver?

☐

John Palmer

☐

Rowland Hill

☐

the postman

☐

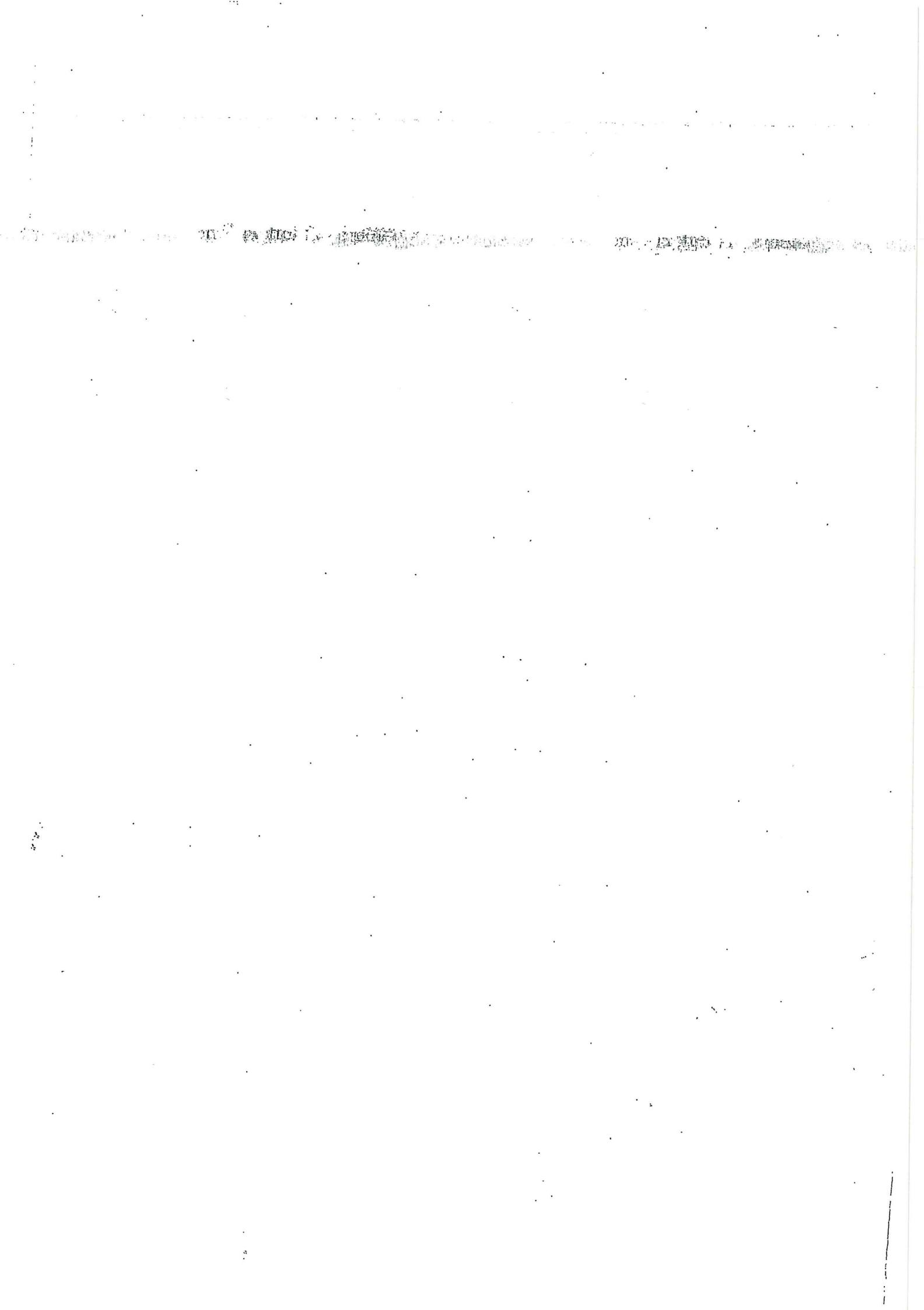
the guard

9

Why did mail coaches need fresh horses?

10

Why do you think it was safer and quicker to send letters by train?



②

UNIT 2 Welcome to BITS**WELCOME TO BITS**

This is our new superstore –
we have everything you could want.
Just follow the map – it's all here!

If you would like to tell us what you think about our
store, write to: BITS Manager,
BITS (Best In Town Stores),
Bits House, Bit Street, Bitingham.

The new BITS supermarket is very big. It is so big
that some people get lost or can't find what they
want. The BITS manager has drawn a map to help
people to find their way around (*see page 4*).

Questions on the map

Some shoppers can't understand the map. They are asking questions.
Can you help them?

1 Do they sell pizzas – and where
are they?

2 Where are the toilets?

3 Where can I buy some fresh carrots?

4 Where are the packets of Crunch
and Crackle Salt 'N' Vinegar Crisps?

5 Where can I find tins of baked beans?

6 What does BITS mean?



Supermarket



I'm
lost
among a
maze of cans
behind a pyramid
of jams, quite near
asparagus and rice,
close to the Oriental spice
and just before sardines.

I hear my mother calling, 'Joe.
Where are you, Joe?
Where did you
Go?' And I reply in a voice concealed
among the candied orange peel,
and packs of Chocolate Dreams.

'I
hear
you, Mother
dear, I'm here –
quite near the ginger ale
and beer, and lost among a
maze
of cans
behind a
pyramid of jams
quite near asparagus and rice,
close to the Oriental spice, and just
before sardines.'

But
still
my mother
calls me, 'Joe!
Where are you, Joe?
Where did you go?'

'Somewhere
around asparagus
that's in a sort of
broken glass, beside a kind of m-
ess-
y jelly
that's near a tower of cans that
f

e
l
l

and squashed the Chocolate Dreams.'



Felice Holman

Questions on the poem

1 Who is lost in the supermarket?

2 What shape did the pile of jam jars make?

3 Joe's mum is

☐

happy

☐

excited

☐

worried

☐

busy

4 What happens to the piles of jars and cans?

5 Which word in the second verse means 'hidden'?

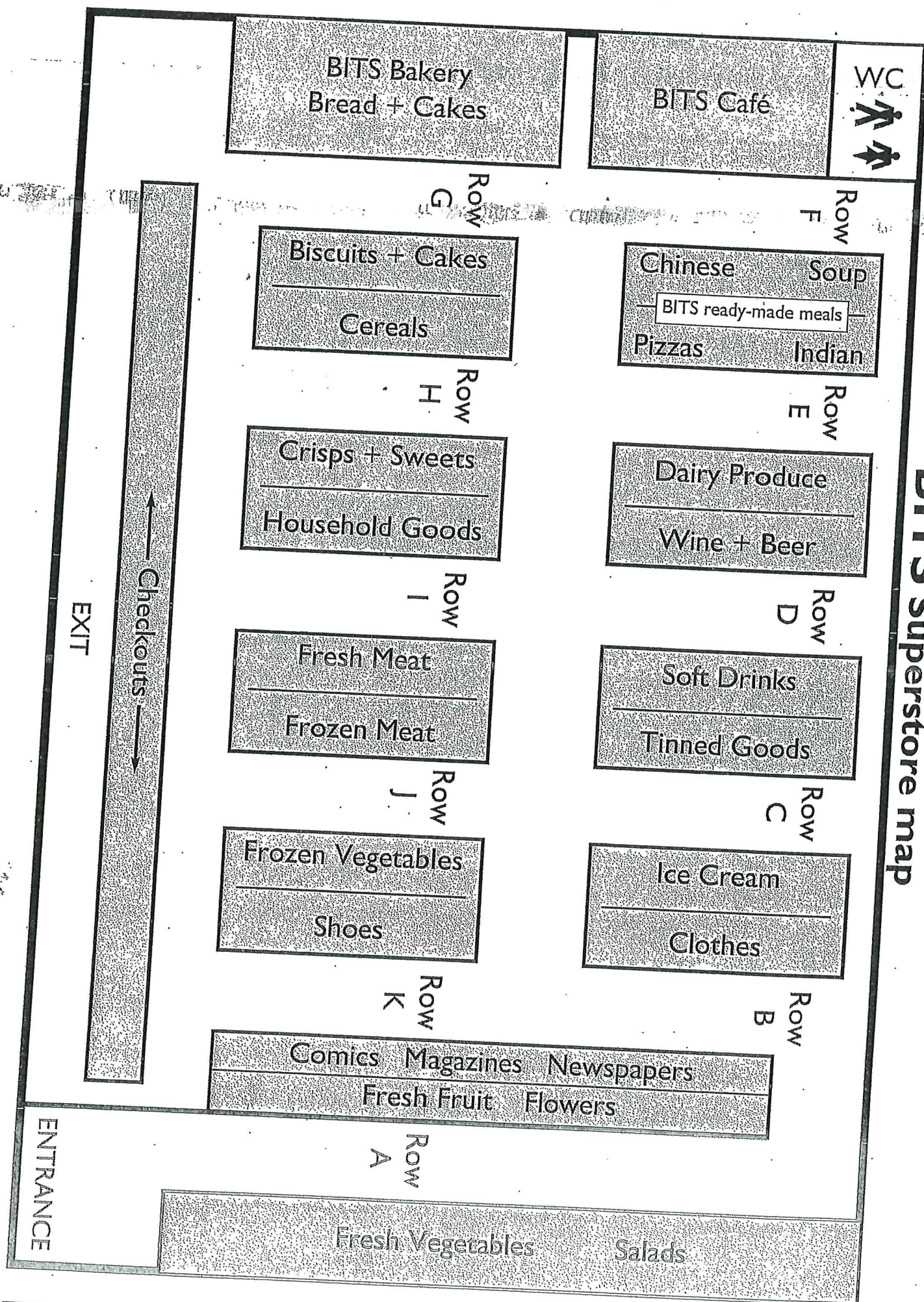
6 Why do you think the asparagus was in broken glass?

7 What squashed the Chocolate Dreams?

8 What shape did the stack of cans make?

9 Why do you think the writer wrote the word *feeling* like this?

BITS Superstore map



Name: _____

Date: _____

②

UNIT 3 Fire Fighting

Firefighters have a very important job. They have to fight fires and go to accidents and disasters. They have to be ready to turn out to an emergency at any time.

To be ready for a real emergency, they must practise putting out fires, climbing ladders and using their hoses. Sometimes smoke canisters are set off when they are practising so that the firefighters can get used to working in thick smoke. They practise using breathing apparatus to rescue imaginary fire victims. These are dummy people – but they still have to be rescued and moved carefully just as if they were real people. All firefighters need to know about first aid. For example, they have to know how to get people to breathe properly again after they have been trapped and overcome by thick smoke.

Often firefighters are called to help in road accidents. To be ready for such an emergency they use old cars and special cutting tools to practise rescuing dummies trapped inside.

In between getting called out they need to do physical training exercises to keep fit. They have to learn to work safely and work together as a team.

1

Which of the following words means 'something very bad that needs to be dealt with straight away'?

☐

disaster

☐

emergency

☐

accident

☐

important

2

Name 2 things that firefighters have to practise.

3

The word 'dummy' means

☐

a person

☐

a firefighter

☐

a fire-engine

☐

a model of a person

4

Why do firefighters wear breathing apparatus?

Modern fire-engines, called 'pumps', carry hoses, ladders and, of course, lots of water. Other vehicles have very long aerial ladders for rescuing people trapped in high buildings.

Every town has its own fire brigade. They are called out from control centres when someone dials the emergency number 999. In small towns there may be volunteer firefighters. They work at ordinary jobs but have been

trained as firefighters. They are always 'on call'. They wear beepers and can be called out to the local fire station at any time.



5

A fire-engine which carries hoses and water is called a

☐

pump.

☐

hose.

☐

ladder.

☐

water engine.

6

The word 'aerial' means

☐

in the air.

☐

trapped.

☐

rescuing.

☐

ladder.

7

Why do volunteer firefighters have beepers?

8

What do volunteer firefighters do when they are not working for the fire brigade?

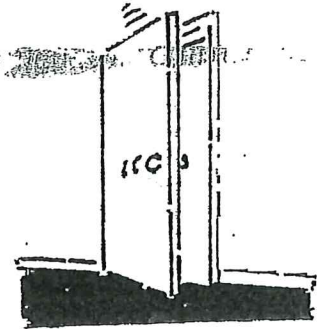
9

How would you call the fire brigade to a fire or an accident?

What to do if there is a fire

Try not to panic, stay calm.

1. If you can, close the door of the room where the fire is.
This will stop the fire from spreading quickly.



2. Get out of the house as quickly as possible.
Do not stop to collect any of your things.



3. Go to the nearest telephone, perhaps at a neighbour's house, and dial 999. Ask for the fire brigade.
Carefully give the address of where the fire is.

4. Wait for the fire brigade to arrive. Do not go back into the house.

5. If you are trapped in a room close the door. Use a rug or sheet or blanket to block up the gaps under the door. This will stop smoke getting into the room.

6. Find the nearest window. If there is smoke in the room, crawl on the floor. It will be easier to breathe down there because smoke always rises.

7. At the window you must wave to let people know where you are.



Questions on the leaflet

10

Why do you think it is important not to panic if there is a fire?

11

Why is it important not to bother collecting your things if the house is on fire?

12

What should you do if you are trapped in a room?

13

Why should you close the door of a room where there is a fire?

14

If there is smoke in a room, what should you do? Why?

2 UNIT 4 Hilda Gets a Lift

Hilda is a hen. She wants to pay a visit to her auntie in the village of Much Wallop. The problem is, how to get there. She had already tried getting a lift in a dust cart...

The sun was shining brightly when Hilda woke up next morning.

"I'm sure I shall find something to take me to Much Wallop," she thought.

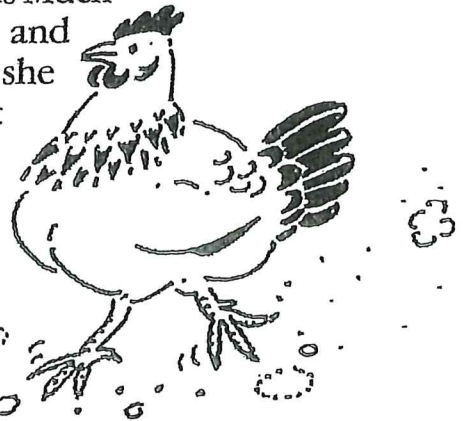
She set out straight after breakfast, looking very important. Anyone could see that she was a hen who was *going* somewhere.

She went down the farm lane and along the main road towards Much Wallop. Right through the village of Little Dollop she went, and past the few cottages on the other side, but she saw nothing she might ride on – except an old doll's pram in somebody's front garden, and that was not much good without somebody to push it.

Then she saw the very thing! It was big and red, shining in the sun – and the driver was just getting into it. There was no time to dither. One thing was certain – it was not a dust cart, and after her terrible experience of the day before, that was all that mattered to Hilda.

She would ride on this.

The extraordinary thing was that a lot of other people seemed to have the same idea! Several men jumped on to it at the same time as Hilda – men with shiny helmets. Hilda had no time to wonder why. She was too busy hanging on. The fire-engine – for that is what it was – had set off at a terrific speed. Hilda was sure she would fall off. She closed her eyes tightly as she was joggled and rattled about and the wind whistled through her feathers. The big silver bell winking in the sun above her head began to clang and clang.



1 What kind of a morning was it?

2 Why was the pram of no use to Hilda?

3 Which two words tell you that Hilda had an uncomfortable ride?

4 The bell began to

☐ ring and swing.

☐ clang and clatter.

☐ rattle and bang.

☐ clang and clang.

It was all very exciting, and Hilda began to enjoy it. She opened her eyes and looked around her. There was a ladder just above her. She could perch more securely on that. She scrambled up to it and hopped right to the top. She had a splendid view from there – she could see for miles.

Everything scattered in their path – carts, dogs and bicycles rushed for the shelter of the hedge when they saw, and heard, the fire-engine approaching.

Hilda was delighted. They would soon be at Much Wallop at this rate.

Then she saw to her horror that they were turning off down a side road. This was no good – she would have to get off.

“Stop!” she squawked. “Stop! I want to get off!” But of course nobody heard her above the noise of the bell.

Then they did stop – suddenly. Hilda was nearly jerked off her perch on the top of the ladder. And the ladder began to move. Before Hilda realized what was happening, she was going up and up into the air. They had reached the fire, and the ladder was being sent up to the top windows of a very tall house so that a fireman could climb up and rescue anybody trapped on the top floor.

Poor Hilda wished she had a parachute. The smoking windows were getting nearer and nearer and she did not want to be a cooked chicken!

5

Why was it better for Hilda at the top of the ladder?

6

How do you think Hilda felt when the fire-engine turned off the road?

☐

happy

☐

uncomfortable

☐

alarmed

☐

delighted

7

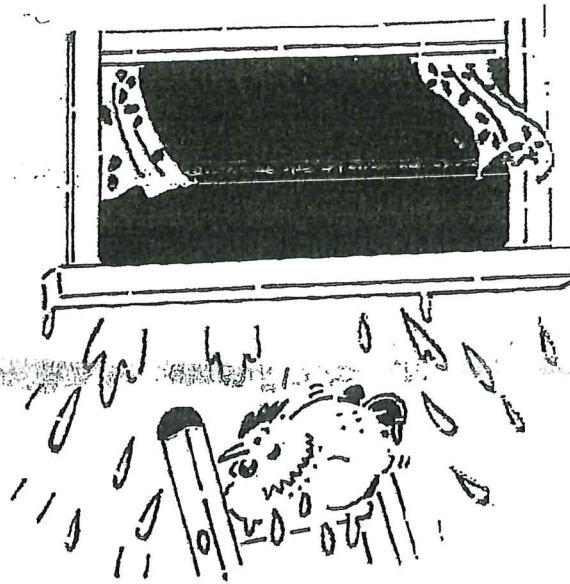
Why didn't anyone hear Hilda shout “Stop”?

8

Why do you think Hilda wanted a parachute?

9

Why was the ladder sent up to the top windows?



Then the ladder came to rest against the side of the house, and Hilda was relieved to find that she was not to be tipped right into the fire. She heard someone coming up the ladder behind her, and was just going to look round when – whoosh! – a column of water hit the wall beside her and she was drenched.

“Oy!” shouted a voice behind. “Watch what you’re doing with the hoses down there! It’s not my bath night!”

Then the fireman saw Hilda – a little huddle of wet feathers hunched at the top of the ladder. “Hello!” he said. “What are you doing up here, young lady? You don’t look much of a fireman to me! I’ll have you down in a jiffy. Just hang on while I have a look round.”

The fireman climbed over her and disappeared over the window-sill into the smoke. He was soon back again, to Hilda’s relief.

“Nobody there, my love. Come on, down we go.”

He took off his helmet and gently lifted Hilda off her perch and placed her in it. She settled down gratefully and had a comfortable ride back to earth again. It was really awfully kind of him, particularly as she was so wet. Hilda said “Thank you” in the only way she knew – she laid a nice brown egg in his helmet!

He felt it there when he put in his hand to lift her out.

10

Which of these words describes Hilda being wet?

☐

whoosh

☐

drenched

☐

column

11

When the fireman saw Hilda he was

☐

angry.

☐

kind.

☐

upset.

12

What was the fireman’s reward?

"Well, I'm blessed!" he said, drawing it out. "Thank you, love. That'll do fine for my tea."

"What have you got there?" asked another fireman, coming over to look. The fire was out, and the firemen were getting back on the engine to go home. "Good heavens! It's Hilda – from Biddick's Farm over Little Dollop way. We'd better take her home."

So Hilda had another ride on the fire-engine – but sedately this time, in the kind fireman's helmet. He dried her as best he could with his hanky, and let the sun do the rest.

All the other firemen were jealous about the egg.

"Come on, Hilda. Lay one for us," they teased her.

But Hilda pretended not to notice.

When they got to Little Dollop, Hilda's fireman set her down at the farm gate. She gently pecked his hand to say goodbye and then squeezed under the gate and strutted into the yard. She had created quite a sensation. It isn't every day that a hen arrives home in

a fire-engine! All her friends goggled.

It was only when she had told them *all* about it that Hilda realized that her adventures were not over. She still had not seen Auntie's new chicks at Much Wallop. She would try again tomorrow.

An extract from *THE HEN WHO WOULDN'T GIVE UP* by Jill Tomlinson

13

Why were the other firemen jealous?

14

Which word tells you that Hilda's return home caused a lot of interest?

☐

sensation

☐

squeezed

☐

strutted

☐

created

15

Why did Hilda want to visit her Auntie?

Name: _____

Date: _____

② UNIT 5 The Magic Finger

*A little girl has a magic finger which she points at people ...
then strange things begin to happen*

But it always happens when I get cross, when
I see red ...

Then I get very, very hot all over ...

Then the tip of the forefinger of my right
hand begins to tingle most terribly ...

And suddenly a sort of flash comes out of
me, a quick flash, like something electric.

It jumps out and touches the person who has
made me cross ...

And after that the Magic Finger is upon him or her, and things
begin to happen ... Well, the Magic Finger was now upon the whole of the Gregg
family, and there was no taking it off again.

I ran home and waited for things to happen.

They happened fast.

I shall now tell you what those things were. I got the whole story
from Philip and William the next morning, after it was all over.



1 The magic starts to happen when the girl is

☐ frightened.

☐ angry.

☐ excited.

☐ unhappy.

2 When the magic starts to work the girl gets

☐ very tired.

☐ very cold.

☐ very hot.

3 How does the magic work?

4 Who told the girl what happened
next to the Gregg family?

In the afternoon of the very same day that I put the Magic Finger on the Gregg family, Mr Gregg and Philip and William went out hunting once again. This time they were going after wild ducks, so they headed towards the lake.

In the first hour they got ten birds.

In the next hour they got another six.

'What a day!' cried Mr Gregg. 'This is the best yet!' He was beside himself with joy.

Just then four more wild ducks flew over their heads. They were flying very low. They were easy to hit.

BANG! BANG! BANG! BANG! went the guns.

The ducks flew on.

'We missed!' said Mr Gregg. 'That's funny.' Then, to everyone's surprise, the four ducks turned around and came flying right back to the guns.

'Hey!' said Mr Gregg, 'What on earth are they doing? They are really asking for it this time!' He shot at them again. So did the boys. And again they all missed!

Mr Gregg got very red in the face. 'It's the light,' he said. 'It's getting too dark to see. Let's go home.'

5 How many birds did the Gregg family shoot?

6 The four ducks should have been easy to hit because they were

☐ flying close together.

☐ flying low.

☐ flying slowly.

7 When he missed the ducks Mr Gregg thought it was

☐ strange.

☐ careless.

☐ comical.

☐ disappointing.

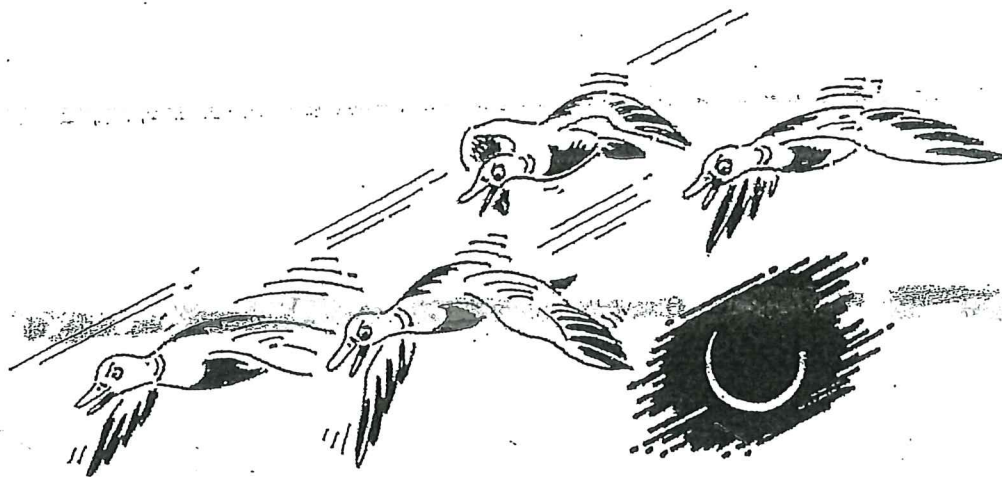
8 When the ducks flew back again the Greggs were

☐ happy.

☐ amazed.

☐ worried.

9 What excuse did Mr Gregg make for missing the ducks?



So they started for home, carrying with them the sixteen birds they had shot before.

But the four ducks would not leave them alone. They now began flying around and around the hunters as they walked away.

Mr Gregg did not like it one bit.

'Be off!' he cried, and he shot at them many more times, but it was no good. He simply could not hit them. All the way home those four ducks flew around in the sky above their heads, and nothing would make them go away.

Late that night, after Philip and William had gone to bed, Mr Gregg went outside to get some wood for the fire.

10

Why was Mr Gregg worried?

11

Mr Gregg tried to make the ducks go away by

☐

shouting at them.

☐

waving his arms.

☐

shooting at them.

12

Mr Gregg went outside that night

☐

to see if the ducks were there.

☐

to go for a walk.

☐

to get some wood.

☐

to see if it was raining.

He was crossing the yard when all at once he heard the call of a wild duck in the sky.

He stopped and looked up. The night was very still. There was a thin yellow moon over the trees on the hill, and the sky was filled with stars. Then Mr Gregg heard the noise of wings flying low over his head, and he saw the four ducks, dark against the night sky, flying very close together. They were going around and around the house.

Mr Gregg forgot about the firewood and hurried back indoors. He was now quite afraid.

He did not like what was going on. But he said nothing about it to Mrs Gregg. All he said was, 'Come on, let's go to bed. I feel tired.'

So they went to bed and to sleep.

An extract from THE MAGIC FINGER by Roald Dahl

13

Why do you think Mr Gregg was afraid of the ducks that night?

14

What made Mr Gregg look up into the sky?

15

What did Mr Gregg first see when he looked up into the sky?

16

Did Mr Gregg tell Mrs Gregg what had happened?

☐

Yes

☐

No

Why do you think he did this?

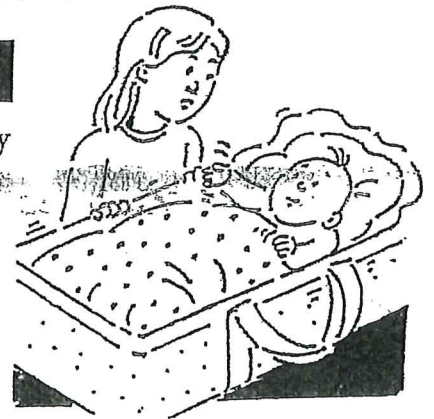
Name: _____

Date: _____

②

UNIT 6**George Speaks**

Imagine looking at your four-week-old baby brother, when he suddenly opens his eyes and calls you a pig! That's what happens to seven-year-old Laura! George seems to know every word in the dictionary, and to be rather a bullying sort of baby. At first he tries to keep quiet, but when he gets fed up with milk (and wet nappies), he and Laura work out a way to get him the sort of treatment he wants, and then, very gradually, they train his mother not to be too surprised. Of course, Laura has a wonderful time, especially when he helps her learn her three-times table, and his first birthday party makes a fine ending to this very funny book. After this, I'm sure you'll never look at a new baby without remembering George, and hoping there's another like him.



Laura's baby brother George was four weeks old when it happened.

Laura, who was seven, had very much wanted a brother or sister for a long time. It would be so nice to have someone to play with, she thought. But when George was born, she wasn't so sure.

Everybody – her mother and father, the grandparents, uncles, aunts, friends – made such a fuss of him. And all of them said how beautiful he was. Laura didn't think he was. How could anyone with a round red face and a squashy nose and little tiny eyes all sunken in fat be called beautiful? She looked at him as he lay asleep in his carry-cot.

'Don't wake George up, will you?' her mother had said. 'I'll be in the kitchen if you want me.'

1

George was☐

6 weeks old.

☐

4 weeks old.

☐

4 years old.

☐

7 weeks old.

2

Why did Laura want a brother or sister?

3

When George was born Laura was☐

unsure.

☐

frightened.

☐

pleased.

☐

certain.

4

Why didn't Laura think George was beautiful?

5

Where was George's mother going to be?

'I won't wake you,' Laura said to the sleeping baby. 'And I don't want to sound rude. But I must tell you something. You look just like a little pig.'

And that was when it happened.

The baby opened his eyes and stared straight at her.

'Pig yourself,' he said.

Laura gasped. A shiver ran up her spine and her toes tingled.

'What did you say?' she whispered.

'I said, "Pig yourself",' said George. 'You're not deaf, are you?'

'No,' said Laura. 'No, it's just that I didn't expect you to say anything.'

'Why not?'

'Well, babies don't say proper words. They only make noises, like Goo-goo or Blur-blur or Wah.'

'Is that a fact?' said the baby.

'Yes,' said Laura. 'It is. However can you talk like that when you're only four weeks old? It's amazing! I must run and tell Mum.'

She turned to dash out of the room.

'Laura!' said the baby sharply.

Laura turned back.

'Yes, George?' she said.

The baby looked at her very severely, his forehead creased into a little frown.

'On no account are you to tell our mother,' he said. 'Or anyone else for that matter. This is a secret between you and me. Do you understand?'

'Yes, George,' said Laura.

6

How did Laura describe George?

7

"What did you say?" she whispered.

Why do you think Laura whispered?

She whispered because she

☐

was angry.

☐

was surprised.

☐

was cold.

☐

didn't want to be heard.

8

What did Laura want to do after George had spoken?

'I've been waiting for some time now,' said George, 'to speak to you on your own. This is the first proper chance I've had, what with feeding and bathing and nappy-changing and people coming to see me all the time. And talk about making noises – that's all some of them do. They bend over me with silly grins on their faces, and then they come out with a load of rubbish. "Who's booful den?"

"Who's a gorgeous Georgeous Porgeous?" Diddums wassums Granny's ickle treasure?" It's an insult to the English language.'

'But George,' said Laura, 'how do you know the English language?'

'Well, I'm English, aren't I?'

'Yes, but how did you learn it?'

'Same way as you, I imagine. Listening to grown-ups talking.

I wasn't born yesterday, you know.'

'But you're only four weeks old,' said Laura. 'How did you learn so quickly?'

'I'm a quick learner,' said George.

He waved his little arms and kicked his pudgy legs in the air.



9

Why did George have to wait to speak to Laura on her own?

10

What did people do that annoyed George?

11

How did George learn the English language?



'Talking's a piece of cake,' he said. 'Trouble is, I haven't learned to control my body very well yet. In fact, I'm afraid we'll have to postpone the rest of this conversation until another time.'

'Why?' asked Laura.

'I'm wet,' said George.

'Oh,' said Laura. 'Shall I go and tell Mummy you need changing?'

'Use your brains Laura,' said George. 'You couldn't have known unless I'd told you, could you? You keep quiet. I'll tell her.'

'But you said it was going to be a secret between the two of us - you being able to talk, I mean.'

'So it is,' said George. 'I'll tell her in the way she expects. I've got her quite well trained,' and he shut his eyes and yelled 'Wah! Wah! Wah!' at the top of his voice.

An extract from GEORGE SPEAKS by Dick King-Smith

12

Which word did George use to tell Laura he would have to stop talking for a while?

☐

afraid

☐

conversation

☐

postpone

☐

another

13

Why did George stop Laura from telling their mother he was wet?

14

How did Laura think George was going to call their mother?

③ UNIT 7 The Spiral Stair

Arabel was on her way to see her Uncle Urk. Mrs Jones chose two very nice and respectable looking men for her daughter to sit with on the train. The two men were talking when Mrs Jones opened the door and asked if they were going to Foxwell.

Luckily at this moment the guard blew a shrill blast on his whistle, for the two men were beginning to look even more impatient, so Mrs Jones hastily bundled Arabel into the railway carriage and dumped her suitcase on the seat beside her.

'Now you'll be ever such a good girl won't you dearie, and Mortimer too if he can, and take care among all those megadilloes and jumbos and do what Aunt Effie says – and we'll be down to fetch you on Friday fortnight –'

Here the guard interrupted Mrs Jones again by slamming the carriage door, so Mrs Jones blew kisses through the window as the train pulled away. One of the bowler-hatted men – the short fat one – got up and put Arabel's case in the rack where she couldn't reach it to get out her picture book. He would have done the same with the canvas bag she was carrying, but she clutched that tightly on her lap, so he sat down again.

The two men then took their hats off, laid them on the seat, settled themselves comfortably, and went on with their conversation, taking no notice whatever of Arabel, who was very small and fair-haired, and who sat very quietly in her corner.

After a minute or two she opened the canvas bag, out of which clambered a very large untidy black bird – almost as big as Arabel herself – who first put himself to rights with his beak, then stood tip-claw on Arabel's lap and stared out of the window at the suburbs of London rushing past.

He had never been in a train before, and was so astonished at what he saw that he exclaimed 'Nevermore!' in a loud, hoarse, rasping voice which had the effect of spinning round the heads of the two men as if they had been jerked by wires. They both stared very hard at Arabel and her pet.

'What kind of bird is that?' asked one of them, the large pale one.

'He's a raven,' said Arabel, 'and his name's Mortimer.'

'Oh!' said the pale man, losing interest. 'Quite a *common* bird.'

'Mortimer's not a bit common,' said Arabel, offended.

'Well, I hope he behaves himself on this train,' said the pale man, and then the two men went back to their conversation.

Mortimer, meanwhile, looked up and saw Arabel's suitcase in the rack above his head. Immediately he saw it he wanted to get up there too. But Arabel could not reach the rack, and Mortimer was not prepared to fly up. He disliked flying, and very rarely did so, if he could find somebody to lift him. He now said 'Kaark,' in a loud, frustrated tone.



'Excuse me,' said Arabel very politely to the two men, 'could you please put my raven up in the rack?' This time, both men looked decidedly irritable at being interrupted.

'Certainly not,' said the large pale one.

'Rack ain't the place for birds,' said the short fat one. 'No knowing what he might not get up to there.'

'By rights he ought to be in the guard's van,' said the first. 'Any more bother from you and we'll call the guard to take him away.'

They both stared hard and angrily at Arabel and Mortimer, and then began talking to one another again.

'We'd better hire a truck in Ditchingham – Fred will be there with the supplies, he can do it – have the truck waiting at Bradpole crossroads – you carry the tranquillisers, I'll have the nets – twenty ampoules ought to be enough, and a hundred yards of netting –'

'Don't forget the foam rubber –'

'Nevermore,' grumbled Mortimer to himself, very annoyed at not getting what he wanted immediately he wanted it.

1 Who interrupted Mrs Jones?

☐

Mortimer

☐

the railway guard

☐

the short fat man

☐

Aunt Effie

2

As the train left the station Mrs Jones

☐

slammed the door.

☐

blew kisses.

☐

waved.

☐

walked away.

3

When the man put Arabel's case on the rack she was

☐

grateful.

☐

annoyed.

☐

surprised.

☐

happy.

4

What does the writer mean by Mortimer putting 'himself to rights' after coming out of the bag?

5

Write 2 of the words used to describe Mortimer's voice.

6

Mortimer

☐

liked flying.

☐

could not fly.

☐

was frightened of flying.

☐

didn't like flying.

'Look at the sheep and the dear little lambs in that field, Mortimer,' said Arabel, for the train had now left London and was running through green country. But Mortimer was not in the least interested in dear little lambs. While Arabel was watching them, he very quietly and neatly hacked one of the men's bowler hats into three pieces with his huge beak, and then swallowed the bits in three gulps. Neither of the men noticed what he had done. They were deep in plans. 'You take care of the ostriches – mind, they kick – and I'll look after the zebras.'

'They kick too.'

'Just have to be nippy with the tranquilliser, that's all.'

Mortimer, coming to the conclusion that nobody was going to help him, hoisted himself up into the rack with one strong shove-off and two flaps. The men were so absorbed in their plans that they did not notice this either.

'Here's a map of the area. – the truck had better park here – by the ostrich enclosure –' Mortimer, up above them, suddenly did his celebrated imitation of the sound of a milk-float rattling along a cobbled street. 'Clinketty-clang, clang, clink, clanketty clank.'

Both men glanced about them in a puzzled manner.

'Funny,' said the short fat man, 'could have sworn I heard a milk cart.'

'Don't be daft,' said the large pale one. 'How could you hear a *milk-cart* in a *train*? Now – we have to think how to get rid of the watchman.'

Mortimer now silently worked his way along the rack until he was over the men's heads. He wanted to have a look at their luggage. From one of the two flat black cases there stuck out a small thread of white down. Mortimer took a quiet pull at this. Out came a straggly piece of ostrich feather. Mortimer studied the bit of plume for a long time, sniffed at it, listened to it, and finally poked it under his wing. Presently, forgetting about it, he hung upside down from the rack, swaying to and fro with the motion of the train, and breathing deeply with pleasure.

'Please take care, Mortimer,' said Arabel softly.

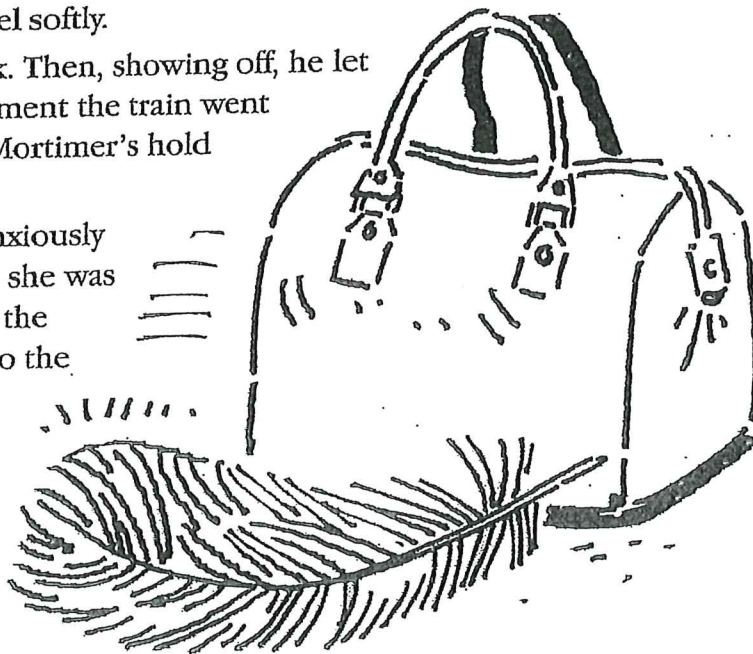
Mortimer gave her a very carefree look. Then, showing off, he let go with one claw. However at that moment the train went over a set of points – kerblunk – and Mortimer's hold became detached. He fell, heavily.

By great good luck Arabel, who was anxiously watching, saw Mortimer let go, and so she was able, holding wide the two handles of the canvas bag, to catch him – he went into the bag head-first.

The ostrich-plume drifted to the floor.

The two men, busy with their plans, noticed nothing of this.

*An extract from THE SPIRAL STAIR
taken from ARABEL AND
MORTIMER by Joan Aiken*



7

Why wasn't Mortimer interested in looking at the lambs with Arabel?

8

Which word describes how Mortimer broke the bowler hat into pieces?

9

Which word means famous?

☐

imitation

☐

celebrated

☐

suddenly

☐

cobbled

10

Explain how Arabel saved Mortimer when he fell off the luggage rack.

11

Do you think the two men were pleased to have Arabel in the carriage with them?

☐

Yes

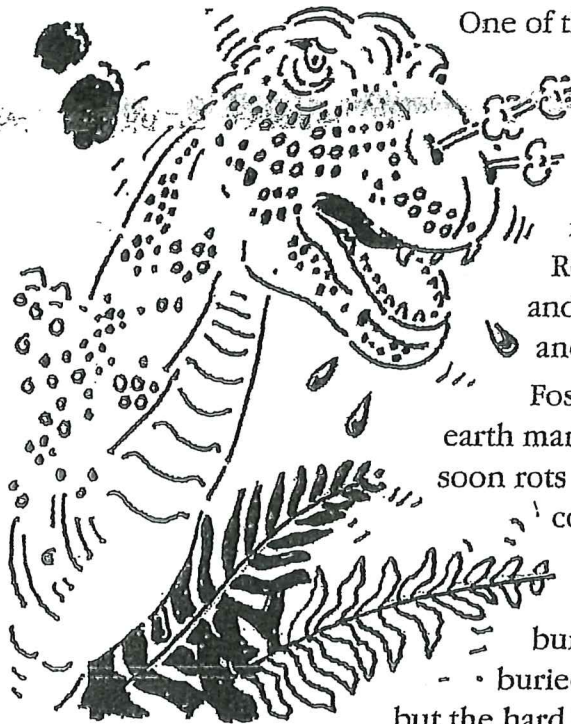
☐

No

Explain your answer.

12

The two men were 'busy with their plans'.
What do you think their plans were?

**UNIT 8****Dinosaurs**

One of the most terrible monsters which has ever lived was a dinosaur we call Tyrannosaurus Rex which means tyrant lizard king. It was as tall as a house and about sixteen metres long! One of the biggest dinosaurs was Diplodocus which could grow to be twenty seven metres long! The difference was that Tyrannosaurus Rex ate other dinosaurs. It had huge teeth to bite, kill and tear its victims, but the Diplodocus had small teeth and ate only plants.

Fossils tell us a lot about the dinosaurs which lived on earth many millions of years ago. When an animal dies, its flesh soon rots away. Sometimes when a dinosaur died its body was covered in water, mud and sand. This generally happened if the animal died near or in a river or lake. Sometimes dinosaurs died in sandstorms or were buried under the lava of an erupting volcano. Once buried, the soft parts of the dinosaurs' bodies rotted away, but the hard bits (like bones) were saved. Over a very long period of time the bones were slowly turned into rock or fossils, which have the same shape as the bones of the dead dinosaur.

Fossil hunters look for fossils all over the world. One of the best places was in certain parts of the United States of America. In the state of Wyoming about 150 years ago there were so many dinosaur bones sticking out of the ground that the fossil hunters even built a cabin with them. They called it 'Bone Cabin' and it became their headquarters during the 'dig.'

1 Tyrannosaurus Rex
☐ had the longest tail.

☐ was the longest dinosaur.

☐ had very big teeth.

☐ ate plants.
2 Where was one of the best places for fossil hunters to look?

3 Fossil hunters call the place they find fossils
☐ a hole.

☐ a dig.

☐ a dug.

☐ a find.
4 Why was Bone Cabin built of bones?

Mary Anning

Mary Anning and her brother, Joseph, liked to go with their father to the beach in Dorset. They collected rocks and small fossils. Mary's father showed her how to use a hammer and chisel to chip them carefully from the rocks without breaking them. Mary polished her fossils and put them on a table outside her home where she sold them to holidaymakers as souvenirs.

Then, one terrible day, Mary, Joseph and their father were trapped by the sea. To escape being drowned they had to climb a steep cliff face. After the long climb to safety Mr Anning fell to the ground very ill. Although he managed to get home he died soon afterwards. After that the money Mary made from selling her fossils had to be used to buy food for her family.



Mary had a very special visitor – a man from the British Museum in London had come to look at her fossils. He was so excited by Mary's collection that he bought them all!

Mary needed more fossils, but when she went down to the beach she found part of the cliff had fallen into the sea. As she began to explore the rocks, she suddenly saw what looked like a crocodile's tail sticking from the cliff. The tail was over three metres long. Mary had to get some men to help her chip it free. They carried the tail and the rest of the fossil skeleton back to the village. Mary had no idea what she had found. To her it was just a monster!

Mary wrote to her friend at the British Museum. He read her letter and came to see her immediately. He looked at the strange stone skeleton and told Mary she had found a new dinosaur. They gave it the special name of 'Ichthyosaurus' which means fish-like reptile.

Mary sold her fossil to the museum for £23, which was a lot of money a hundred and fifty years ago. Mary had no training in looking for fossils but she still became famous for it when she was only twelve years old. Later she made other very important discoveries. She discovered the first complete fossils in Britain of the pterodactyl (a flying reptile) and a plesiosaur.

5

Mary polished her fossils and stones

- ☐ because they were dirty.
- ☐ because she liked them.
- ☐ to make them look attractive.

6

Why did people buy Mary's fossils and stones?

7

Mary and her father climbed the steep cliff because

- ☐ they liked climbing. ☐ they were in danger.
- ☐ they wanted to take a short cut. ☐ they were late.

8

Why was Mary's hobby of fossil collecting so important after Mr Anning died?

9

Mary's visitor was special because he

- ☐ was a tourist. ☐ wanted souvenirs. ☐ was from a museum.

10

Why do you think Mary's friend went to see her immediately after reading the letter?

11

Why do you think Mary became famous?


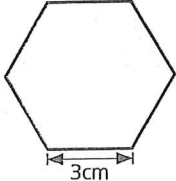
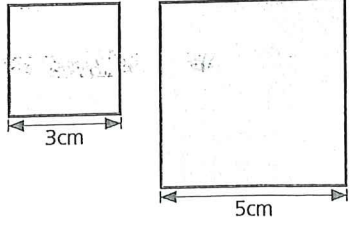
THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY ASTOR LENOX TILDEN FOUNDATION 125 WEST 4TH STREET NEW YORK 10014

SECTION 1 | Test 1

Schofield & Sims

- | A | Answer |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 1 $5p + 5p + 5p + 5p =$ | _____ p |
| 2 $3 \times 10 =$ | _____ |
| 3 Double 7 is | _____ |
| 4 $3 + 3 + 3 + 3 + 3 =$ | _____ |
| 5 $2 \times 9\text{kg}$ | _____ kg |
| 6 $50 \div 5 =$ | _____ |
| 7 Half of 16cm is | _____ cm |
| 8 $4 \times \quad = 12$ | _____ |
| 9 $120 \div 10 =$ | _____ |
| 10 5 twos = _____ fives | _____ |

- | B | Answer |
|--|----------|
| 1 Multiply 5 by 5. | _____ |
| 2 How many 10p coins are worth 90p? | _____ |
| 3 Seven times the value of a coin is 35p. What is the value of the coin? | _____ p |
| 4 How many millimetres are there in 4cm? | _____ mm |
| 5 Divide 12 by 2. | _____ |
| 6 What are nine groups of 4? | _____ |
| 7 There are twenty-four quarters. How many whole ones is that? | _____ |
| 8 How many threes are there in twenty-one? | _____ |
| 9 Which number, other than 1, 2, 8 and 16, divides exactly into 16? | _____ |
| 10 How much greater is (5×6) than (4×7) ? | _____ |

- | C | Answer |
|---|----------|
| 1 Lucy bought these books.
How much did they cost? | £ _____ |
|  | |
| 2 Find the difference between $\frac{1}{5}$ of 10 and 5 times 10. | _____ |
| 3 One-fifth of a number is 8.
What is the number? | _____ |
| 4 Five biscuits cost 45p.
How much do three of the biscuits cost? | _____ p |
| 5 Three sweets have a mass of 9g. How many sweets have a mass of 24g? | _____ |
| 6  What is the perimeter of this regular hexagon? | _____ cm |
| 7 Six oranges are cut into quarters.
How many children can each have three of the pieces? | _____ |
| 8 A jogger ran 3km every day for 7 days. How many kilometres is this in total? | _____ km |
| 9 Find the difference between the perimeter of a square with sides of 3cm and the perimeter of a square with sides of 5cm. | _____ cm |
|  | |
| 10 A car uses a litre of petrol to travel 4km. How many litres will it use to travel 32km? | _____ l |

A

Answer

- 1 $\times 4 = 24$ _____
- 2 $7 + 7 + 7 =$ _____
- 3 $4 \times 5 =$ _____
- 4 Half of 14km is _____ km
- 5 $40\text{cm} \div 5 =$ _____ cm
- 6 $\frac{1}{3}$ of 24kg is _____ kg
- 7 Double 9 is _____
- 8 $2p + 2p + 2p + 2p + 2p + 2p =$ _____ p
- 9 $36 \div 4 =$ _____
- 10 10 twos = _____ fives

B

Answer

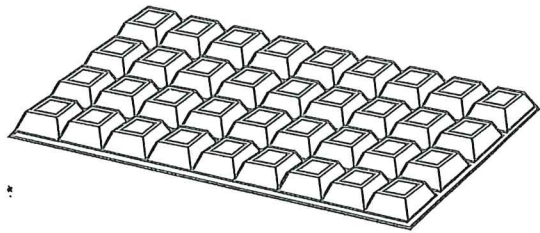
- 1 How many 5p coins are equal in value to 45p? _____
- 2 What is one-fifth of 30? _____
- 3 8 plus 8 plus 8 plus 8 is _____
- 4 How much greater is (2×10) than (3×4) ? _____
- 5 What is the product of 5 and 8? _____
- 6 Multiply (3×3) by 3. _____
- 7 How many fives are there in twenty-five? _____
- 8 3 times _____ = 18
- 9 Share £28 equally between 4 boys. How much each? _____ £
- 10 How many times smaller is 4 than 40? _____

C

Answer

- 1  Four cards cost £12. How much will 5 cards cost? £ _____

- 2 Write the missing number.
 $4 \times \quad = 2 \times 8$ _____
- 3 What is zero multiplied by 7? _____
- 4 A bar of chocolate has 36 chunks. Saba eats $\frac{1}{4}$ of the bar. How many chunks does she eat? _____



- 5 Jack saves £10 a week. How long will it take him to save £90? _____ weeks
- 6 A square has sides of 10cm. What is its perimeter? _____ cm
- 7 Divide 72 by 8 and add 1. _____
- 8 Ron gave 3 friends 9 sweets each and he had 5 sweets left. How many did he have to start with? _____
- 9 A phone-call costs 5p per minute. How many minutes is a call costing 40p? _____ min
- 10 How many pizzas can be bought for £45 if a box of 4 pizzas costs £5? _____

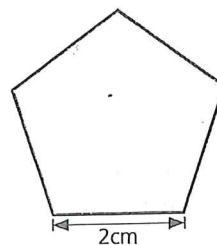
SECTION 1 | Test 3

Schofield & Sims

A	Answer
1 $10p + 10p + 10p + 10p =$	_____ p
2 $7 \times 0 =$	_____
3 $3 \times 9 = 9 + 9 +$	_____
4 $4 + 4 + 4 + 4 + 4 =$	_____
5 $6m \times 2 = 4m + 4m +$	_____ m
6 $21 \div 3 =$	_____
7 Half of 18cm is	_____ cm
8 $4 \times$ _____ $= 28$	_____
9 $-5 - 5 - 5 = 0$	_____
10 $\frac{1}{5}$ of 30kg is	_____ kg

B	Answer
1 How many millimetres are there in 9cm?	_____ mm
2 Divide 18 by 3.	_____
3 What are eight groups of 4?	_____
4 9kg plus 9kg plus 9kg is	_____ kg
5 How much greater is (5×5) than (1×10) ?	_____
6 What is the product of 6 and 4?	_____
7 Multiply (2×4) by 3.	_____
8 3 times 3 times 3 is	_____
9 Find the difference between $\frac{1}{4}$ of 16 and $\frac{1}{2}$ of 20.	_____
10 How many times larger is 45km than 5km?	_____

C	Answer
1 Jim has a five-pound note. Pete has twice as much. Find the total of their money.	£ _____
2 ● stands for a missing sign, +, -, \times or \div . $8 \times 0 = 4 \bullet 4$ What is the correct sign?	_____
3 How many 5-litre cans can be filled from 40 litres of oil?	_____
4 Divide the total of 29 and 6 by 5.	_____
5 Find one-quarter of the product of 8 and 3.	_____
6 What is the perimeter of this regular pentagon?	_____ cm



7 Megan has £8, Lauren has £7, Dan has £9 and Alice £12. If all their money is shared equally, how much will they each have?	£ _____
8 A hat costs £4. How much change from £30 would you get if you bought 7 hats?	£ _____
9 Find the difference between $\frac{1}{3}$ of 18 and 3 times 6.	_____
10 What is zero divided by 3?	_____

A Answer

- 1 $6 \times 10 =$ _____
- 2 Double 9 is _____
- 3 $5 \times$ _____ = 25
- 4 $2p + 2p + 2p + 2p + 2p =$ _____ p
- 5 $3 \overline{) 24}$ _____
- 6 $4 \times 7 \times 0 =$ _____
- 7 $20\text{kg} \div 5 =$ _____ kg
- 8 One-quarter of 16cm is _____ cm
- 9 10 twos = _____ tens
- 10 $14 \div 2 =$ _____

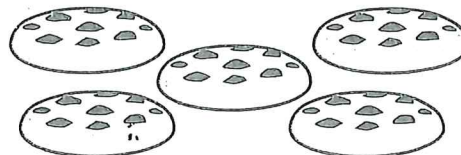
B Answer

- 1 What is one-third of 21m? _____ m
- 2 Share £25 between 5 people. _____ £
- 3 How many threes are there in fifteen? _____
- 4 4 times _____ = 32
- 5 How many 5p coins are worth 30p? _____
- 6 7 plus 7 plus 7 plus 7 plus 7 is _____
- 7 What is the product of 3 and 6? _____
- 8 How many times smaller is 4 than 32? _____
- 9 How much greater is (3×10) than (6×4) ? _____
- 10 Multiply (3×3) by 5. _____

C Answer

- 1 Three consecutive numbers, when multiplied together, give 60. What are the numbers? _____

- 2 Five biscuits cost 40p. How much for 2 biscuits? _____ p



- 3 Find the difference between $\frac{1}{4}$ of 20 and 4 times 20. _____
- 4 One-fifth of a number is 10. What is the number? _____
- 5 Four sweets have a mass of 12g. How many sweets have a mass of 27g? _____
- 6 Lee has nine 5p coins. Sam has one 50p coin. How much more has Sam than Lee? _____ p
- 7 A truck uses a litre of petrol to travel 3km. How many litres will it use to travel 21 kilometres? _____ l
- 8 Jo buys 4 kilograms of potatoes at £2 per kilogram. How much change from £10 does she get? _____ £
- 9 The mass of a parcel is 8kg. How many times heavier is this parcel than a package weighing $\frac{1}{4}$ kg? _____
- 10 Three oranges are cut into quarters. How many children can each have two of the pieces? _____