

Reading Grade 3 — Practice Paper 1 — Answers & Explanations

For a parent, tutor, or the student to mark the exam paper against.

The sandwich thief — page 2 of the magazine

- 1. A. on the low wall near the bike racks**

The first sentence says he put it on the low wall near the bike racks every lunchtime.

- 2. B. the half with the cheese**

Ravi tells Amina that it is always the half with the cheese.

- 3. C. had guessed what was taking the lunch**

She looks at the wall, then the tree, then smiles and plans to watch — she has worked out that something in the tree is the thief.

- 4. D. a currawong**

A grey bird with a black head lifts the lid, and Ravi whispers “A currawong!”

- 5. A. Ravi laughed loudly.**

The text says Ravi laughed so loudly that the librarian looked up.

- 6. B. thought the bird had earned it**

The last sentence says the currawong had made him laugh, and that was worth a crust.

Wombats — page 3 of the magazine

- 7. C. its strong front legs and claws**

The text says wombats dig with their strong front legs and flat claws.

- 8. D. so soil does not fill it while she digs**

The text explains that a backwards pouch does not fill with soil while she digs.

- 9. A. longer than a classroom**

The text compares the length of a burrow with a classroom.

- 10. B. at night, when the air is cool**

They feed at night when it is cool and sleep in the burrow during the hot part of the day.

- 11. C. Wombat droppings are shaped like little cubes.**

The other three facts are in the paragraphs. Only the shape of the droppings is in the fact box.

- 12. D. give facts about wombats**

It is an information report: every paragraph gives facts, and it does not tell a story or ask the reader to do anything.

Where does rain come from? — page 4 of the magazine

- 13. A. the sun**

The second paragraph begins by saying the sun warms the sea.

- 14. B. a gas you cannot see**

The text says water turns into a gas called water vapour, and that you cannot see it.

- 15. C. millions of tiny drops**

When vapour cools it turns back into tiny drops, and millions of them together make a cloud.

- 16. D. It becomes too heavy to float.**

Drops join together, and when a drop is too heavy to float it falls.

- 17. A. goes back to the sea**

The arrows go from the sea to the cloud, from the cloud to the rain, and from the rain back to the sea: a cycle.

A garden for our school — page 5 of the magazine

18. B. Mrs Patel

The letter opens “Dear Mrs Patel”.

19. C. weeds and one old bench

Sophie writes that the corner has nothing in it but weeds and one old bench.

20. D. they are learning about living things

She links the garden to what Year 3 is learning about living things, and says watching a plant grow makes it easier to understand.

21. A. her class, at lunchtime

She writes that our class could look after it at lunchtime.

22. B. A garden would make it the nicest part of the school.

“The nicest part of the school” is what Sophie thinks. The others are things that can be checked.

23. C. show Mrs Patel the corner

The last paragraph says she would be happy to show Mrs Patel the corner and where the beds could go.

Tiny visitor — page 6 of the magazine

24. D. on the window glass

The first line says the green tree frog is on the glass.

25. A. spread out and sticky

The comparison is about the shape and the stickiness of the feet, which is how the frog holds onto glass.

26. B. moths

He watches every moth that comes to dance around the lamp, and then catches one with his tongue.

27. C. how fast the tongue moves

It comes just before “that long pink ribbon of a tongue”, so it describes the speed of the tongue.

28. D. five footprints and a smudge

The last two lines say he leaves five footprints and a smudge on the window.

Make a paper boat — page 7 of the magazine

29. A. one sheet of paper

The text says you will need one sheet of paper, and that thin paper folds best.

30. B. fold the paper in half

Step 1 is to fold the paper in half so the short edges meet.

31. C. to help the boat last longer in water

The wax keeps the water out for longer, which is why it is listed under “Before you sail”.

32. D. a square

Step 4 says to push the side points together to make a square.

33. Answer: in a sink or a bucket

The last fact box says to test the boat in a sink or a bucket, never in a creek or a pool on your own.

Junior Fun Run — page 8 of the magazine

34. A. 9:30 am

The table shows the 1 km race, for 8 to 10 year olds, starting at 9:30 am.

35. B. the Dash

The table shows the Dash is for 5 to 7 year olds.

36. C. sports equipment for local primary schools

The first paragraph says the money will buy new sports equipment for local primary schools.

37. D. They can still run, but they are not timed.

The last line says late runners can still run but will not be timed.

38. A. a grown-up with them

The bullet points say every runner needs a grown-up with them at the park.

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