GRADE 3 · PRACTICE PAPER 2

Reading Magazine

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HOW TO USE THIS MAGAZINE

Use this magazine with the question paper “Reading Grade 3 — Practice Paper 2”. Each part of the question paper tells you which text to read and the page it is on. Read the text first, then answer its questions. You may look back at the magazine as often as you like.

PrepNest

The blue ribbon

Max had never liked the deep end. At swimming lessons he always stayed near the steps, where his feet could touch the bottom.

“The school swimming carnival is in two weeks,” said Mr Tran, the swimming coach. “Everyone in Year 3 can swim one lap.”

Max’s stomach felt as if it were full of fish.

That night he told his big sister, Lena. She did not laugh. “Then we practice,” she said. “Every afternoon.”

So they did. On Monday Max floated on his back. On Wednesday he kicked across the pool holding a board. By Friday he could swim half a lap without stopping.

On the day of the carnival, Max stood on the edge with five other swimmers. The whistle blew. He pushed off and swam, and swam, and swam. His arms ached. He could hear people shouting, but he did not look up.

When his hand touched the wall, the other swimmers were already out of the pool. Max had come last.

Then he saw Lena in the crowd, jumping up and down and waving. Mr Tran walked over and pinned a blue ribbon to his towel. It said Best Effort.

Max had come last, but he had swum the whole lap. He did not stop smiling all day.

PrepNest

Pelican saved at Bellbird Lake

By Sam Okafor, Bellbird News

A pelican that was tangled in fishing line was rescued at Bellbird Lake on Sunday morning.

Nine-year-old Chloe Martin saw the bird while she was walking her dog along the jetty. “One of its wings was stuck to its side,” Chloe said. “It kept trying to fly, but it just flapped in a circle.”

Chloe’s mother called a wildlife rescue group. Two volunteers arrived in a small boat. They gently wrapped the pelican in a towel and cut away the line with special scissors.

“The towel keeps the bird calm,” said volunteer Priya Das. “If it cannot see, it is not so frightened.”

The pelican has been taken to a wildlife hospital. Vets say it should be back on the lake in about two weeks.

How you can help

- Put old fishing line in the bins at the jetty.
- If you see a hurt animal, do not touch it. Tell an adult.
- Ask an adult to call a wildlife rescue group.

Octopuses

Octopuses are sea animals with soft bodies and eight arms. They have no bones at all, so they can squeeze through a gap not much bigger than a coin.

Each arm is covered in suckers. The suckers can grip rocks and hold food. They can even taste whatever they touch.

An octopus can change colour in less than a second. It turns brown, red or white to match the rocks and weed around it. This helps it hide from sharks and seals, and it helps it sneak up on crabs.

If an octopus is in danger, it squirts a cloud of dark ink into the water. While the enemy cannot see, the octopus swims away.

Octopuses are clever. Scientists have watched them open jars, solve puzzles and carry shells to use as shelters.

Octopus facts

- An octopus has three hearts.
- Its blood is blue.
- Most octopuses live for only one or two years.

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