

Reading Grade 4 — Practice Paper 1 — Answers & Explanations

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

The Night of the Storm Birds

1. C. The storm was unusually strong

The text says hearing the sea from her bedroom "only happened before the worst storms", so it is a sign of how strong this storm was.

2. A. They are confused by the lights of the town

The text says the young birds "became confused by the lights of the town and landed on roads and footpaths".

3. D. They are going outside into the storm

The grandmother arrives with a torch and a blanket and says the birds will come down tonight, so the boots are for going out into the rain to help them.

4. B. She folds its wings gently against its body

The text says she "folded its wings gently against its body the way her grandmother had shown her".

5. B. The wind was blowing very strongly

Rain only falls sideways when it is being driven by strong wind, so the word tells the reader how fierce the storm was without saying so directly.

6. D. Experienced

She knows the birds will come down, knows what to bring, and has already taught Mia how to hold a bird, all of which show she has done this many times before.

7. A. She felt the hard work had been worth it

The sentence places the discomfort and the pride side by side, which shows that the effort was part of why she felt proud rather than a reason to regret it.

8. C. To tell a story about a girl helping wildlife

The text follows one character through one night and focuses on what she does and how she feels, which makes it a narrative rather than an information report.

Why Ants Are Great Builders

9. D. Two metres

The first sentence says a colony "can build a nest that reaches two metres underground".

10. B. No ant is in charge

The text says directly that "no ant is in charge" and that each worker simply follows simple rules.

11. C. They are the spaces left between piles of dropped soil

The text explains that piles of dropped soil become walls, and "the spaces between them become tunnels".

12. A. It keeps the deepest chambers cool

The text says air flows through the widest tunnels, "which keeps the deepest chambers cool even on hot days".

13. A. They carry the rain away from the nursery

The text says rain "runs down the outer tunnels and away from the nursery, where the eggs are kept".

14. C. To show that people have learned from ant nests

The engineers are introduced as an example of humans copying the ants' design, which supports the writer's point that ants are great builders.

15. B. rooms or spaces inside the nest

The text describes the deepest chambers being kept cool, which shows they are spaces inside the nest rather than ants or soil.

16. D. To emphasise how surprising it is that something so small can teach us

By setting the tiny brain against the useful lesson, the writer makes the contrast the reader is meant to notice, which is the point of the whole article.

How to Make a Rain Gauge

17. C. To stop the bottle blowing over

Step 2 says the stones "stop the bottle blowing over in the wind".

18. A. Cutting the top off the bottle

Step 1 says to ask an adult to cut the top third off the bottle, because scissors are being used on hard plastic.

19. D. A funnel

Step 3 says to turn it upside down and push it in "so that it makes a funnel".

20. B. Mark the line and write zero beside it

Step 4 says to pour in water until it just covers the stones, then "Mark this line and write zero beside it".

21. B. So trees and walls do not block the rain

The text gives the instruction but not the reason, so the reader has to work it out: anything overhead or beside the gauge would stop some rain reaching it and give a low reading.

22. D. At the same time each day

The text says to "Check it at the same time each day", which makes each measurement cover the same length of time.

23. A. Empty it

The text says to check it, "write down the measurement, and then empty it", so that the next day's reading starts from zero.

24. C. To explain how to make and use a rain gauge

The text lists materials and then gives numbered steps, which is the structure of a procedure.

Our School Needs a Buddy Bench

25. D. Sitting on it means you would like someone to play with

The text explains that the bench is ordinary apart from one rule: sitting on it is a way of saying you would like someone to play with.

26. B. Fewer students were spending lunchtime alone

The text says teachers noticed "far fewer students were spending lunchtime alone after the bench was put in".

27. C. To support the argument with a real experience

Quoting someone who actually used the bench gives the writer's argument evidence from a real school rather than only the writer's own opinion.

28. A. That students should simply be braver

The writer raises this view with "Some people say", then answers it, which shows it is the opposing argument.

29. A. By saying asking to join a game is hard, especially for new students

The writer accepts that bravery is involved but argues the task is genuinely difficult, particularly for someone new to the school.

30. C. Sitting on the bench lets you ask for company without speaking

The following sentence explains it: the bench "gives you a way to say something without having to find the words".

31. B. To persuade the reader that the school should get a buddy bench

The text states a problem, proposes a solution, answers an objection and ends with a call to act, which is the structure of a persuasive text.

32. D. To contrast a small cost with a much larger problem

The two short sentences use the same word, costs, in two different ways so that the reader weighs the price of a bench against the price of doing nothing.

Short texts

33. B. He was brave despite his fear

Sam went into the dark basement even though he was scared, showing he acted bravely despite his fear.

34. A. The cake may need to be checked or removed early

A burnt smell before the timer ends suggests the cake should be checked, since it may be overcooking.

35. C. She prepares before taking on a challenge

Practicing alone for weeks before joining shows Lily prepares herself before facing a new challenge.

36. A. To have fresh bread ready for customers

The passage states the bakery opens early so bread is ready for customers.

37. A. He was in a good mood

Smiling despite bad weather suggests Leo was in a good mood.

38. A. Bees help plants reproduce through pollination

The main idea focuses on the central purpose of the passage: pollination helping plants grow.

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