EXAM PAPER

# Reading Grade 4 — Practice Paper 1

**PREVIEW**
This file has the first 16 of the 38 questions in this paper. The rest is locked: it comes with a PrepNest plan, or with the paper itself for VCE.

Total time: 45 minutes

## SECTIONS IN THIS PAPER

- The Night of the Storm Birds
- Why Ants Are Great Builders
- How to Make a Rain Gauge
- Our School Needs a Buddy Bench
- Short texts

## INSTRUCTIONS

Answer every question you can. Write your working in the space provided for long-answer questions. Marking guidance and full explanations are provided in the separate answer key.

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Read ***The Night of the Storm Birds*** and answer questions 1 to 8.

THE NIGHT OF THE STORM BIRDS

The wind had been building all afternoon, rattling the loose sheet of iron on the shed roof. By dusk, Mia could hear the sea from her bedroom, which only happened before the worst storms.

Her grandmother came in carrying a torch and a folded blanket.

"Get your boots," she said. "The shearwaters will be coming down tonight."

Mia had heard about this but had never seen it. Every spring, thousands of shearwaters returned to the island to nest. On stormy nights the young birds became confused by the lights of the town and landed on roads and footpaths, where they could not take off again.

Outside, the rain came sideways. Mia found the first bird near the bakery, a dark shape flapping against the kerb. She knelt down, folded its wings gently against its body the way her grandmother had shown her, and carried it to the grass above the beach.

By midnight they had carried nineteen birds to safety. Mia's arms ached and her boots were full of water, and she had never felt prouder.

1. Why could Mia hear the sea from her bedroom?

A. The window had been left open

B. Her house was very close to the beach

C. The storm was unusually strong

D. The shed roof had blown away

2. What causes the young shearwaters to land in the town?

A. They are confused by the lights of the town

B. They are blown there by the wind

C. They are looking for food

D. They are too tired to reach the island

3. Why does Mia’s grandmother tell her to get her boots?

A. The floor of the house is wet

B. She wants Mia to go to bed

C. They are walking to the bakery for bread

D. They are going outside into the storm

4. How does Mia carry the bird safely?

A. She wraps it in the blanket

B. She folds its wings gently against its body

C. She puts it inside her coat

D. She carries it in the torch box

5. In the sentence "the rain came sideways", what does the word sideways tell the reader?

A. The rain was falling very lightly

B. The wind was blowing very strongly

C. The rain had almost stopped

D. The rain was warm

6. Which word best describes Mia’s grandmother?

A. Nervous

B. Impatient

C. Forgetful

D. Experienced

7. "Mia’s arms ached and her boots were full of water, and she had never felt prouder." What does this sentence suggest about Mia?

A. She felt the hard work had been worth it

B. She wished she had stayed at home

C. She thought the work had been too hard

D. She was hoping for a reward

8. What is the main purpose of this text?

A. To explain how shearwaters build their nests

B. To warn readers about dangerous storms

C. To tell a story about a girl helping wildlife

D. To describe life on an island

PrepNest

Read ***Why Ants Are Great Builders*** and answer questions 9 to 16.

WHY ANTS ARE GREAT BUILDERS

An ant is smaller than a grain of rice, but a colony of ants can build a nest that reaches two metres underground.

Ants do not follow a plan, and no ant is in charge. Instead, each worker follows simple rules. When an ant digs, it carries the loose soil a short distance and drops it where other ants have already dropped theirs. Over time those small piles become walls, and the spaces between them become tunnels.

The tunnels are not arranged by accident. Air flows through the widest ones, which keeps the deepest chambers cool even on hot days. Rain runs down the outer tunnels and away from the nursery, where the eggs are kept.

Scientists who study ants have copied some of these ideas. Engineers have designed buildings that use tall shafts to move warm air upwards and out, in the same way an ant nest does. A creature with a brain the size of a full stop has taught us something about keeping cool.

9. How deep can an ant nest reach?

A. Two centimetres

B. Twenty metres

C. Half a metre

D. Two metres

10. According to the text, who decides how the nest will be built?

A. The queen ant

B. No ant is in charge

C. The oldest worker

D. The ants vote on a plan

11. How do the tunnels form?

A. Ants dig them out in straight lines

B. Rain washes them out of the ground

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

D. Larger animals make them first

12. Why does air flowing through the widest tunnels matter?

A. It keeps the deepest chambers cool

B. It helps the ants find their way

C. It carries food into the nest

D. It dries out the walls

13. What do the outer tunnels do when it rains?

A. They carry the rain away from the nursery

B. They fill up and are abandoned

C. They collect water for the colony to drink

D. They close over to keep the rain out

14. Why does the writer mention engineers?

A. To explain how buildings are made

B. To suggest that ants are becoming a problem

C. To show that people have learned from ant nests

D. To compare engineers with scientists

15. The word "chambers" in this text means

A. the ants that dig

B. rooms or spaces inside the nest

C. small piles of soil

D. the entrances to the nest

16. Why does the writer end with "A creature with a brain the size of a full stop has taught us something about keeping cool"?

A. To explain how small an ant’s brain is

B. To suggest that ants are cleverer than people

C. To warn the reader not to disturb ant nests

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

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**37.**

**38.**

22 questions locked, up to question 38.

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PREVIEW

# That’s the end of the preview

You’ve seen the first 16 of the 38 questions in Reading Grade 4 — Practice Paper 1. The full paper is worth 38 marks.

| STILL TO COME | QUESTIONS | MARKS |
|---|---|---|
| How to Make a Rain Gauge | 8 | 8 |
| Our School Needs a Buddy Bench | 8 | 8 |
| Short texts | 6 | 6 |

**The full paper comes with**

- Every question, printed exactly like the ones in this preview
- The complete answer key, with the working behind every mark
- A topic report after marking, showing what to practice next

Get the full paper at

**prepnest.com.au/practice/exams/reading-grade_4-1**

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