GRADE 5 · PRACTICE PAPER 2

Reading Magazine

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HOW TO USE THIS MAGAZINE

Use this magazine with the question paper “Reading Grade 5 — 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.

The map behind the wallpaper

Grandma’s house was ninety years old, and Mum said it was falling apart. So in the summer holidays, the whole family came to help fix it up.

Rosa and her cousin Sam were given the worst job: scraping the old wallpaper off the walls of the back bedroom. It was covered in faded pink roses, and it came off in tiny, stubborn strips.

“This is taking forever,” Sam groaned, flicking a curl of paper off his scraper.

Rosa didn’t answer. Behind the roses, something was drawn on the plaster in pencil. She scraped more carefully, and slowly a picture appeared: a wobbly outline of the backyard, the big lemon tree, the shed — and a small, dark X beside the back fence.

Underneath, in round, careful letters, someone had written: M.B. aged 10. Do not dig until 2025.

“M.B.,” whispered Sam. “Margaret Bell. That’s Grandma!”

They ran to find her. Grandma was on the veranda with a cup of tea. When they told her about the map, she put the cup down so quickly that it rattled.

“I had forgotten all about that,” she said slowly. “I buried a tin the summer I turned ten. I wanted to see what the future would be like when I opened it.”

It took an hour of digging beside the fence before Sam’s spade hit metal. Inside the rusty tin were six glass marbles, a black-and-white photo of a girl on a bicycle and a letter folded very small.

Grandma unfolded the letter and read it aloud. “Dear future me, do people still ride bikes? Do you still like lemons? I hope you have had lots of adventures.”

Grandma laughed until her eyes were wet. Then she picked a lemon from the tree and took a big bite.

PrepNest

How does a submarine dive?

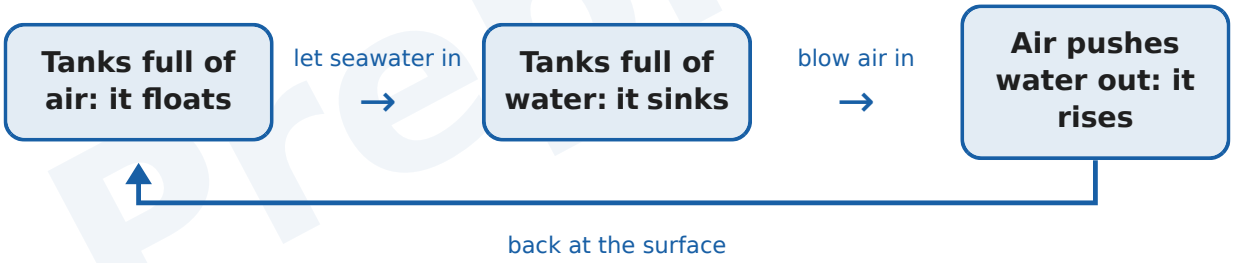
A submarine is a ship that can travel under the water as well as on top of it. To dive and to rise again, it changes how heavy it is.

A submarine has large spaces called ballast tanks between its inner and outer walls. When the submarine is floating on the surface, these tanks are full of air. Air is much lighter than water, so the submarine floats, just as a plastic bottle full of air bobs on the surface of a bath.

To dive, the crew open valves that let seawater rush into the tanks. The water pushes the air out. Now the submarine is heavier, and it begins to sink.

To rise again, the crew blow air from high-pressure tanks into the ballast tanks. The air pushes the water out through the bottom. The submarine becomes lighter and floats back up to the surface.

By letting in just the right amount of water, the crew can make the submarine hover at any depth, neither rising nor sinking. Small fins called hydroplanes help steer it up or down as it moves forward.



How a submarine dives and rises

PrepNest

Students clear 212 kilograms of rubbish from creek

Bayside Herald

More than sixty students from Bayside Primary School spent Saturday morning pulling rubbish out of Mangrove Creek, and what they found shocked them.

In just three hours, the students and their families collected 212 kilograms of rubbish from the banks and shallow water of the creek. They found a shopping trolley, two car tyres and a garden chair, but most of what they picked up was much smaller.

“We thought we would find big things,” said Year 5 student Jarrah Collins, who organised the event with his class. “But the worst part was the thousands of tiny pieces of plastic. Birds and fish think they are food.”

Council officer Deb Nguyen said the clean-up had made a real difference. “Rubbish from the streets washes down the drains and into the creek every time it rains,” she said. “This creek flows into the bay, so what these students did will help the whole bay.”

The students plan to hold another clean-up in autumn. They are also asking shops near the creek to stop giving out plastic straws.

What the students collected

Type of rubbish	Number of pieces
Plastic bottles	430
Food wrappers	615
Plastic straws	288
Cans	174
Large items	6

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