YEAR 7 · PRACTICE PAPER 3

Reading Magazine

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HOW TO USE THIS MAGAZINE

Use this magazine with the question paper “Reading Year 7 — Practice Paper 3”. 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

Tryouts

Ava had been counting down to the under-14 tryouts for a month. Every afternoon she dribbled a ball around the wheelie bins in her driveway until her mum called her in for dinner, and every night she fell asleep thinking about the team list that would be pinned on the clubhouse door.

On Saturday morning, forty girls turned up for eighteen places. Ava recognised some of them from school; others she had only seen on the other side of the pitch, usually running past her.

The coach, a tall woman named Ms Adeyemi with a whistle and a clipboard, ran them through drills: sprints, passing in pairs, shooting at a goal guarded by a keeper who seemed to have arms twice as long as anyone else's. Ava's first shot sailed over the crossbar. Her second hit the post. Her third rolled gently into the keeper's hands.

In the practice match, things were better. Ava was quick, and twice she won the ball back from girls who were taller than her. But when her big chance came — the goal wide open, the ball at her feet — she hesitated, and a defender swept it away.

The list went up on Tuesday. Ava read it three times, starting from the top and then from the bottom, in case her name had somehow slipped between the lines. It wasn't there.

She walked home the long way so that no one would see her face.

That evening there was an email from Ms Adeyemi. Ava almost deleted it without reading it.

"Dear Ava," it said. "I know you will be disappointed. You were very close. Your finishing needs work, but you read the game better than almost anyone I saw on Saturday, and you never stopped chasing. I would like you to train with the squad as a reserve this season. Reserves don't play every week, but they train with the team, and places open up more often than you would think."

Ava read it three times too.

The next afternoon she went back out to the driveway. This time she didn't dribble around the bins. She stood an old bucket against the garage door, stepped back ten paces and started shooting. When she missed, she fetched the ball and tried again.

Her mum called her in for dinner at half past six. Ava called back, "Ten more minutes," and meant twenty.

PrepNest

Why is the sea salty?

If you have ever swallowed a mouthful of sea water, you know it tastes nothing like the water from a tap. Every litre of sea water contains about 35 grams of salt, roughly six teaspoons. Yet rivers and lakes are fresh. So where does all the salt come from?

It starts with rain

As rain falls through the air, it picks up a little carbon dioxide, which makes it very slightly acidic. When this rain lands on rocks, it slowly breaks them down, dissolving tiny amounts of minerals such as sodium and calcium.

Rivers carry it away

Streams and rivers carry these dissolved minerals down to the sea. River water tastes fresh because the amount of salt in it is tiny. But rivers have been pouring into the oceans for millions of years, and the salt has been building up the whole time.

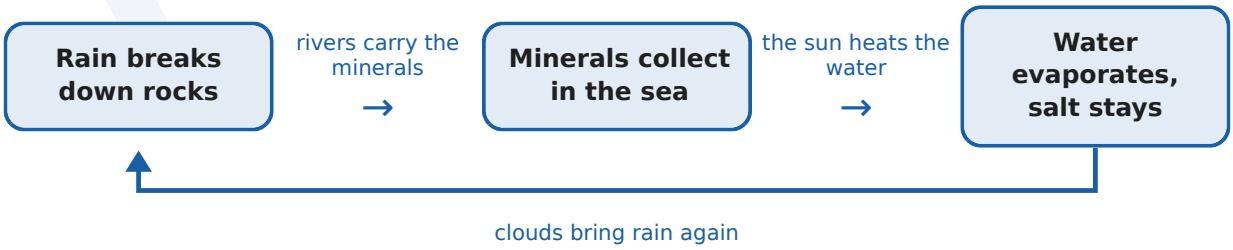
The sun leaves it behind

When the sun heats the ocean, water evaporates into the air, but the salt does not. It stays behind in the sea. The water vapour forms clouds, falls as rain and flows back through the rivers, bringing a little more salt each time.

Salt from below

Some salt comes from the sea floor itself. Hot springs called hydrothermal vents release minerals from deep inside the Earth, and underwater volcanoes add more.

Scientists think the oceans have been about as salty as they are now for a very long time, because salt is also being removed: it settles on the sea floor and slowly becomes part of new rock.



PrepNest

Should zoos exist?

Two students debated this question at the Westbrook College public speaking final.

For: Zoos save species — Oliver

Zoos are not what they were a hundred years ago. The best modern zoos are centres for conservation. They run breeding programs for animals that are close to disappearing in the wild. The Tasmanian devil is a good example: when a deadly face cancer swept through wild devils, zoos across Australia kept healthy populations safe, and some of those devils have since been returned to the wild.

Zoos also teach. Most people will never see a gorilla in a rainforest, but seeing one in person can make a child care about protecting forests for the rest of their life. And the money visitors pay helps fund research and conservation work in the wild.

Closing zoos would not free animals. It would take away one of the few safety nets they have left.

Against: No cage is big enough — Amira

My opponent talks about the best zoos. But not every zoo is the best. Around the world, many animals still live in small, bare enclosures, far from anything like their natural home.

Some animals simply do not cope with captivity. Elephants walk many kilometres a day in the wild; in a zoo they may walk a tiny fraction of that. Animals under stress can develop repetitive behaviours, such as pacing the same path again and again.

If we truly want to protect animals, the answer is to protect their habitats. Money spent on enclosures could be spent on stopping land clearing and poaching. A species that survives only behind glass has not really been saved.

PrepNest

Six a.m.

The suburb is still yawning.
Sprinklers tick across the lawns
like slow clocks,
and a magpie tests its voice
against the silence —
one clear note, then another,
as if tuning up.

Down the street, a garage door
groans open,
headlights blink awake,
and the first bus sighs
at the corner stop,
kneeling for a woman
with a pram.

The sky goes pink, then gold,
then ordinary blue.
Somewhere a kettle whistles.
The day has started
without asking anyone.

PrepNest