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Introduction

This pack features a collection of 10 well-known texts and accompanying practice papers, each with three levels of differentiation. Answers are provided for all levels and each paper includes a curriculum content domain coverage page for question set A. Question sets B and C may have fewer questions. For clarity, all answer sheets include each answer's corresponding curriculum cross-reference.

The papers are all fully editable so please do adapt or adjust them to suit your class.

We hope you enjoy using this pack. If you have any questions, please get in touch: email support@teachitprimary.co.uk or call us on 01225 788851. Alternatively, you might like to give some feedback for other Teachit Primary members - you can do this by adding a comment on the [Reading SATs Practice](#) page on Teachit Primary (please log in to access this).

The Explorer: Content domain coverage

	2a	2b	2c	2d	2e	2f	2g	2h
	Give/explain the meaning of words in context.	Retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.	Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.	Make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.	Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.	Identify/explain how information / narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole.	Identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.	Make comparisons within the text
1				2				
2				1				
3				1				
4	1							
5	1							
6				2				
7		1						
8				3				
9					1			

The Explorer

by Katherine Rundell

Like a man-made magic wish, the aeroplane began to rise.

The boy sitting in the cockpit gripped his seat and held his breath as the plane climbed into the arms of the sky. Fred's jaw was set with concentration, and his fingers twitched, following the movements of the pilot beside him: joystick, throttle.

The aeroplane vibrated as it flew faster into the setting sun, following the swerve of the Amazon River below them. Fred could see the reflection of the six-seater plane, a spot of black on the vast sweep of blue, as it sped towards Manaus, the city on the water. He brushed his hair out of his eyes and pressed his forehead against the window.

Behind Fred sat a girl and her little brother. They had the same slanted eyebrows and the same brown skin, the same long eyelashes. The girl had been shy, hugging her parents until the last possible moment at the airfield; now she was staring down at the water, singing under her breath, her brother trying to eat his seatbelt.

In the next row, on her own, sat a pale girl with blonde hair down to her waist. Her blouse had a neck-ruffle that came up to her chin, and she kept tugging it down and grimacing. She was determinedly not looking out of the window.

The airfield they had just left had been dusty and almost deserted, just a strip of tarmac under the ferocious Brazilian sun. Fred's cousin had insisted that he wear his school uniform and cricket jumper, and now, inside the hot, airless cabin, he felt like he was being gently cooked inside his own skin.

The Explorer

by Katherine Rundell

The engine gave a whine, and the pilot frowned and tapped the joystick. He was old and soldierly, with brisk nostril hair and a grey waxed moustache which seemed to reject the usual laws of gravity. He touched the throttle and the plane soared upwards, higher into the clouds.

It was almost dark when Fred began to worry. The pilot began to belch, first quietly, then violently and repeatedly. His hand jerked, and the plane dipped suddenly to the left. Someone screamed behind Fred. The plane lurched away from the river and over the canopy. The pilot grunted, gasped and wound back the throttle, slowing the engine. He gave a cough that sounded like a choke.

Fred stared at the man - he was turning the same shade of grey as his moustache. 'Are you all right, sir?' he asked. 'Is there something I can do?'

Fighting for breath, the pilot shook his head. He reached over to the control panel and cut the engine. The roar ceased. The nose of the plane dipped downwards. The trees rose up.

'What's happening?' asked the blonde girl sharply. 'What's he doing? Make him stop!'

The little boy in the back began to shriek. The pilot grasped Fred's wrist hard for a single moment, then his head slumped against the dashboard. And the sky, which had seconds before seemed so reliable, gave way.



Key stage 4 - English reading practice paper 4

The Explorer

First name		
Middle name		
Last name		
Date of birth	Day	Month	Year
School name		

Instructions

You must answer the questions in the answer booklet.

In this booklet, there are different types of question for you to answer in different ways. The space for your answer shows you what type of answer is needed. Write your answer in the space provided.

Short answers

Some questions are followed by a short line or box. This shows that you need only write a word or a few words in your answer.

Several line answers

Some questions are followed by a few lines. This gives you space to write more words or a sentence or two.

Longer answers

Some questions are followed by more answer lines. This shows that a longer, more detailed answer is needed to explain your opinion. You can write in full sentences if you want to.

Selected answers

For some questions you do not need to write anything at all and you should tick, draw lines to, or circle your answer. Read the instructions carefully so that you know how to answer the question.

As this is a reading test, you must use the information in the text to answer the questions. When a question includes a page reference, you should refer to the text on that page to help you with your answer.

Marks

The number under each line at the side of the page tells you the maximum number of marks for each question.

Set A - Questions 1-9 *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell

1. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The boy sitting in the cockpit ...’

What suggests that the boy is feeling tense?

Give **two** things.

1.
2.

2 marks

2. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘Behind Fred sat a girl ...’

What sentence below **best** describes the way the girl was feeling at the airfield?

She was excited about boarding the plane.

She was worried about her little brother.

She was sad about leaving her parents.

She was ready for an adventure.

1 mark

3. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The airfield they had just left ...’

Find and copy a group of **two** words which show that there had not been many people at the airfield.

.....

1 mark

4. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The engine gave a whine ...
... which seemed to reject the usual laws of gravity.’

This means that the pilot’s moustache ...

was floating in space.

was trailing on the ground.

made the pilot look very serious.

appeared to be growing upwards rather than downwards.

1 mark

5. The aeroplane followed ‘the swerve of the Amazon River below them’.

Which of the following is closest in meaning to ‘swerve’?

sharp turn

shape

path

glitter

1 mark

6. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘It was almost dark ...’

How can you tell that the pilot has been taken ill?

Give **two** pieces of evidence.

1.

2.

2 marks

7. At the end of the story, how can you tell that the little boy behind Fred is frightened?

Give **one** way.

.....

1 mark

8. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘In the next row ...’

What impressions do you get of the pale girl with blonde hair at this point in the extract?

Give **two** impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Impression	Evidence
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

3 marks

9. Make a prediction for what you think will happen next in the story, and give a reason for your choice.

Prediction:

Reason:

1 mark

13 marks total for this paper

Teachit Sample

Set B - Questions 1-9 *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell

1. Which of the phrases below suggests that Fred is feeling tense?

Tick **one**.

like a man-made magic wish

gripped his seat and held his breath

brushed his hair out of his eyes

pressed his forehead against the window

1 mark

2. Look at the paragraph beginning 'Behind Fred sat a girl ...'

What sentence below **best** describes the way the girl was feeling at the airfield?

She was excited about boarding the plane.

She was worried about her little brother.

She was sad about leaving her parents.

She was ready for an adventure.

1 mark

3. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The airfield they had just left ...’

Find and copy a group of **two** words which show that there had not been many people at the airfield.

.....

1 mark

4. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The engine gave a whine ...

... which seemed to reject the usual laws of gravity.’

This means that the pilot’s moustache ...

was floating in space.

was trailing on the ground.

made the pilot look very serious.

appeared to be growing upwards rather than downwards.

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

1 mark

5. The aeroplane followed ‘the swerve of the Amazon River below them’.

Which of the following is closest in meaning to ‘swerve’?

sharp turn

shape

path

glitter

1 mark

6. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘It was almost dark ...’

How can you tell that the pilot has been taken ill?

Give **two** pieces of evidence.

.....

.....

2 marks

7. At the end of the story, how can you tell that the little boy behind Fred is frightened?

Tick **one**.

He started crying.

He hugged his parents.

He chewed his seatbelt.

He began to shriek.

1 mark

Teachit Sample

8. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘In the next row ...’

What impressions do you get of the pale girl with blonde hair at this point in the extract?

Give two impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Impression	Evidence
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

3 marks

9. Make a prediction for what you think will happen next in the story, and give a reason for your choice.

Prediction:

Reason:

1 mark

12 marks total for this paper

Set C - Questions 1-8 *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell

1. Which of the phrases below suggests that Fred is feeling tense?

Tick **one**.

like a man-made magic wish

gripped his seat and held his breath

brushed his hair out of his eyes

pressed his forehead against the window

1 mark

2. Look at the paragraph beginning 'Behind Fred sat a girl ...'

What sentence below **best** describes the way the girl was feeling at the airfield?

She was excited about boarding the plane.

She was worried about her little brother.

She was sad about leaving her parents.

She was ready for an adventure.

1 mark

3. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The airfield they had just left ...’

What does the phrase ‘almost deserted’ mean?

Tick one.

rather sandy

nearly empty

very hot

not quite pudding

1 mark

4. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The engine gave a whine ...’

... which seemed to reject the usual laws of gravity.’

This means that the pilot’s moustache ...

was floating in space.

was trailing on the ground.

made the pilot look very serious.

appeared to be growing upwards rather than downwards.

1 mark

5. The aeroplane followed ‘the swerve of the Amazon River below them.’

Which of the following is closest in meaning to ‘swerve’?

sharp turn

shape

path

glitter

1 mark

6. Which of the quotes below give evidence that the pilot has been taken ill?

Tick two.

Fred began to worry

he was turning the same shade of grey as his moustache

the roar ceased

fighting for breath

1 mark

7. At the end of the story, how can you tell that the little boy behind Fred is frightened?

Tick one.

He started crying.

He hugged his parents.

He chewed his seatbelt.

He began to shriek.

1 mark

8. Make a prediction for what you think will happen next in the story, and give a reason for your choice.

Prediction:

Reason:

1 mark

8 marks total for this paper

Answers**Set A - Questions 1-9*****The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell**

1. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The boy sitting in the cockpit ...’

What suggests that the boy is feeling tense?

Give **two** things.

Award 1 mark for reference to each of the following, up to a total of **2 marks**:

- **He gripped his seat.**
- **He held his breath.**
- **His jaw was set with concentration.**
- **His fingers twitched.**

2 marks (2d)

2. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘Behind Fred sat a girl ...’

What sentence below **best** describes the way the girl was feeling at the airfield?

She was excited about boarding the plane.

She was worried about her little brother.

She was sad about leaving her parents.

She was ready for an adventure.

1 mark (2d)

3. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The airfield they had just left ...’

Find and copy a group of **two** words which show that there had not been many people at the airfield.

almost deserted

1 mark (2d)

4. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The engine gave a whine ...’

...which seemed to reject the usual laws of gravity.’

This means that the pilot’s moustache ...

was floating in space.

was trailing on the ground.

made the pilot look very serious.

appeared to be growing upwards rather than downwards.

1 mark (2a)

5. The aeroplane followed ‘the swerve of the Amazon River below them.’

Which of the following is closest in meaning to ‘swerve’?

sharp turn

shape

path

glitter

1 mark (2a)

6. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘It was almost dark ...’

How can you tell that the pilot has been taken ill?

Give two pieces of evidence.

Award 1 mark for reference to each of the following, up to a total of 2 marks:

- The pilot began to belch.
- The pilot’s hand jerked.
- The plane dipped suddenly.
- The plane lurched away from the river.
- The pilot grunted/gasped.
- The pilot gave a cough that sounded like a choke.

2 marks (2d)

7. At the end of the story, how can you tell that the little boy behind Fred is frightened?

Give **one** way.

He began to shriek.

1 mark (2b)

8. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘In the next row ...’

What impressions do you get of the pale girl with blonde hair at this point in the extract?

Give **two** impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Impression	Evidence
She was smartly/elaborately dressed.	<i>Her blouse had a neck-ruffle that came up to her chin.</i>
She was uncomfortable.	<i>She kept tugging the neck ruffle down. She kept grimacing.</i>
She is scared of heights/flying.	<i>She was determinedly not looking out of the window.</i>

Award **three** marks for two acceptable points, at least one with evidence.

Award **two** marks for either two acceptable points, or one point with evidence.

Award **one** mark for one acceptable point.

3 marks (2d)

9. Make a prediction for what you think will happen next in the story, and give a reason for your choice.

Award **one mark** for a prediction based on the final events of the story, accompanied by an appropriate reason, e.g.

Prediction: The plane will crash.

Reason: The pilot has collapsed so can no longer fly the plane.

Prediction: Fred will take over flying the plane.

Reason: He was watching the movements of the pilot carefully so he knows what to do.

1 mark (2e)

13 marks total for this paper

Answers

Set B - Questions 1-9

The Explorer by Katherine Rundell

1. Which of the phrases below suggests that Fred is feeling tense?

Tick one.

like a man-made magic wish

gripped his seat and held his breath

brushed his hair out of his eyes

pressed his forehead against the window

1 mark (2d)

2. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘Behind Fred sat a girl ...’

What sentence below **best** describes the way the girl was feeling at the airfield?

She was excited about boarding the plane.

She was worried about her little brother.

She was sad about leaving her parents.

She was ready for an adventure.

1 mark (2d)

3. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The airfield they had just left ...’

Find and **copy** a group of **two** words which show that there had not been many people at the airfield.

almost deserted

1 mark (2d)

4. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The engine gave a whine ...
... which seemed to reject the usual laws of gravity.’

This means that the pilot’s moustache ...

was floating in space.

was trailing on the ground.

made the pilot look very serious.

appeared to be growing upwards rather than downwards.

1 mark (2a)

5. The aeroplane followed ‘the swerve of the Amazon River below them.’

Which of the following is closest in meaning to ‘swerve’?

sharp turn

shape

path

glitter

1 mark (2a)

6. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘It was almost dark ...’

How can you tell that the pilot has been taken ill?

Give two pieces of evidence.

Award 1 mark for reference to each of the following, up to a total of 2 marks:

- The pilot began to belch.
- The pilot’s hand jerked.
- The plane dipped suddenly.
- The plane lurched away from the river.
- The pilot grunted/gasped.
- The pilot gave a cough that sounded like a choke.

2 marks (2d)

7. At the end of the story, how can you tell that the little boy behind Fred is frightened?

Tick **one**.

He started crying.

He hugged his parents.

He chewed his seatbelt.

He began to shriek.

1 mark (2b)

8. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘In the next row ...’

What impressions do you get of the pale girl with blonde hair at this point in the extract?

Give **two** impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Impression	Evidence
She was smartly/elaborately dressed.	<i>Her blouse had a neck-ruffle that came up to her chin.</i>
She was uncomfortable.	<i>She kept tugging the neck ruffle down. She kept grimacing.</i>
She is scared of heights/flying.	<i>She was determinedly not looking out of the window.</i>

Award **three** marks for two acceptable points, at least one with evidence.

Award **two** marks for either two acceptable points, or one point with evidence.

Award **one** mark for one acceptable point.

3 marks (2d)

9. Make a prediction for what you think will happen next in the story, and give a reason for your choice.

Award one mark for a prediction based on the final events of the story, accompanied by an appropriate reason, e.g.

Prediction: The plane will crash.

Reason: The pilot has collapsed so can no longer fly the plane.

Prediction: Fred will take over flying the plane.

Reason: He was watching the movements of the pilot carefully so he knows what to do.

1 mark (2e)

12 marks total for this paper

Answers**Set C - Questions 1-8***The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell

1. Which of the phrases below suggests that Fred is feeling tense?

Tick one.

like a man-made magic wish

gripped his seat and held his breath

brushed his hair out of his eyes

pressed his forehead against the window

1 mark (2d)

2. Look at the paragraph beginning 'Behind Fred sat a girl ...'

What sentence below **best** describes the way the girl was feeling at the airfield?

She was excited about boarding the plane.

She was worried about her little brother.

She was sad about leaving her parents.

She was ready for an adventure.

1 mark (2d)

3. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The airfield they had just left ...’

What does the phrase ‘almost deserted’ mean?

Tick one.

rather sandy

nearly empty

very hot

not quite pudding

1 mark (2d)

4. Look at the paragraph beginning ‘The engine gave a whine ...

...which seemed to reject the usual laws of gravity.’

This means that the pilot’s moustache ...

was floating in space.

was trailing on the ground.

made the pilot look very serious.

appeared to be growing upwards rather than downwards.

1 mark (2a)

5. The aeroplane followed ‘the swerve of the Amazon River below them.’

Which of the following is closest in meaning to ‘swerve?’

sharp turn

shape

path

glitter

1 mark (2a)

6. Which of the quotes below give evidence that the pilot has been taken ill?

Tick **two**.

Award **1 mark** for **both** answers correctly ticked:

- he was turning the same shade of grey as his moustache
- fighting for breath, the pilot shook his head

Fred began to worry

he was turning the same shade of grey as his moustache

the roar ceased

fighting for breath

1 mark (2d)

7. At the end of the story, how can you tell that the little boy behind Fred is frightened?

Tick **one**.

He started crying.

He hugged his parents.

He chewed his seatbelt.

He began to shriek.

1 mark (2b)

8. Make a prediction for what you think will happen next in the story, and give a reason for your choice.

Award 1 mark for a prediction based on the final events of the story, accompanied by an appropriate reason, e.g.

Prediction: The plane will crash.

Reason: The pilot has collapsed so can no longer fly the plane.

Prediction: Fred will take over flying the plane.

Reason: He was watching the movements of the pilot carefully so he knows what to do.

1 mark (2e)

8 marks total for this paper