

Student: _____ Date: _____

SET 1

Jack and Ben have set off to go fishing. The sun is shining and	14
the air is warm. They choose a good place beside the brook	26
where the bank is not very steep.	33
This time they are hoping to get a good catch.	43
After a long time they still have no fish, so they begin to chat.	57
‘I think this is the wrong place,’ says Jack. ‘Just down there	70
where that tree trunk sticks out over the water looks much	81
better. That’s the sort of dark place where the fish will breed.’	94
Then he gets up and goes to have a look.	104
‘No thanks,’ says Ben. ‘Remember last time when I tried to	116
stretch out too far and fell in. I got very wet, and my rod was	131
broken. You can stick your neck out and be brave if you want to.	145
But don’t blame me if you fall in. Have a look at those black	159
clouds. There’s a breeze coming up and it will start to rain soon.’	173

Score: - =

Number of words Number of errors Words correct

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SET 2

The streets of the town seemed very still. There were lights here	12
and there but no noise at all. They went right at the next corner,	26
hoping they might see the shop lights on in front of them. The	39
sight of the bright lights shining out at them made them	50
pleased. Now they knew it was fish and chips for supper tonight.	62
They had to wait a long time for the chips. At last they got what	77
they had come for.	81
Out they went again into the black frosty night. It did not seem	94
so bad this time. Somehow they got home in much less time	106
than it had taken before.	111

Score: - =

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SET 3

'You can enjoy yourself with an old bike like this. It's the same	13
as those stock car races where they have cars as old as they can.'	28
'But they smash all the cars up in races like that!'	40
'Yes, I know they do but they smash the cars up because they	53
want to.They mean to do it.'	61
'Well, I'm not setting out to smash my bike up. There's no sense	74
in doing that is there? Anyway you go down the hill, and watch	87
me as I turn into that field at the bottom. I bet I'll be doing	102
about forty as I'm passing you.'	109
'OK Jack, but wait a bit. I'll go and give you a wave from the	124
bottom of the hill, to tell you when to start.'	135
Ben goes down the hill, while Jack waits at the top.	146
'The gate's open, so that's all right. But just a minute,	157
somebody's put a stack of bales of hay just inside the gate. Jack	170
can't miss them if he's going fast. If he hits them at forty he'll	184
finish up with egg-shaped wheels. And he'll take off like a rocket	197
as well!'	200
'Why is Ben just standing at the bottom of the hill? Well,	212
anyway, I'm not waiting any more. He's going to get the biggest	224
shock of his life when I go past him at forty into that empty	238
field.'	240

Score: - =

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SET 4

Robin Hood saw that Friar Tuck was very much awake. He put his	13
sword at the big man's neck. 'Now, Friar, you will take me over	26
the river here.'	30
So Robin got on Friar Tuck's back, and gave him a sharp smack	43
with his sword. They went on into the water.	52
When they were some way across, Friar Tuck gave a jerk. Robin	64
fell into the water. When he got up, he found Friar Tuck had his	78
sword out. 'Now, my cheeky chap,' said the Friar, 'It's your turn	91
to carry me the rest of the way.'	100
So the Friar made Robin take him across the rest of the river on	114
his back. Friar Tuck was a big man, and Robin fell down when he	128
got to the bank. Friar Tuck also fell. Soon they got up and were	142
fighting each other. The swords rang out, clang, bang, smash,	152
clash.	153
All at once they saw other men coming at them with swords.	165
Friar Tuck turned to fight them off, while Robin got out his	177
hunting horn. With that he sent out a call to his men to come	191
and help him. Soon the wood was full of men in green coming to	205
help Robin Hood. The other men ran off as fast as they could go.	219

Score: - =

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SET 5

I like coming to visit Uncle Alan. What I like best is getting away	14
from town, with all its crowds and noise. All those cars, buses and	27
trucks make noise and smells. They'll knock you down as well if	39
you don't get out of the way as quick as you can. But here its	54
nice and quiet, and nothing happens at all.	62
That's good, Uncle Alan's left his ladder out. Now I can get up	75
that tree, like I've been wanting to for ages.	84
Up here I can see everything. I can see right to the main road,	98
and that must be two miles off. What a lovely afternoon it is. I	112
can see people playing cricket over there.	119
Well, I've been up here at least a half of an hour. I'd better go	134
down and see if tea's ready yet. Now, which branch did I lean	147
the ladder on? Where's the ladder gone? Somebody's taken the	157
ladder away! It's a five metre drop down to those roots. If I	170
jump I'll have a broken leg or something! Uncle Alan! Help! Help!	182

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SET 6

Tom and Mike reached the camp site quite late. Tom stopped	11
his motor bike about ten metres from the camp fire.	21
‘You’re later than we hoped you would be,’ said Jack.	32
‘My headlight packed in, that’s why,’ said Tom.	41
‘But that’s not all,’ said Mike, grinning. ‘Go on, Tom, tell them	54
what happened.’ Tom didn’t want to, but the others shouted at	66
him so much that he had to tell them.	75
‘Well, you see, we met a cow. There we were, coming slowly	87
down the road at about twenty miles an hour. The bike’s light	99
was a bit weak, and I saw a cow standing in the middle of the	114
road. I thought to myself, “Tom, you must be very tired.	125
Everybody knows there isn’t a cow round here for miles, so you	137
must be seeing things”. Then suddenly we hit the cow – thump!’	150
‘Did you knock it down?’	156
‘No we didn’t. It was the biggest cow I’ve ever seen. The bike	169
went under it, and carried on, leaving me hanging over its back. I	182
saw Mike sail over its rear end into some bushes. Then I fell off	196
backwards and lay in the road looking up at it. It looked round at	210
me sitting there and then walked slowly away into the darkness.’	222

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SET 7

It was autumn and Sally was on a visit to friends in the country.	14
Every year she and her brother Martin had these few days away	26
at the very end of the summer. There were clear skies, but the air	40
was quite cold.	43
Sally and Martin were down by the river. As they walked they	55
were talking about what they could do to pass the time that	67
night.	68
All at once there was a shout from further up the river. ‘What	81
was that?’ asked Martin.	86
‘I don’t know,’ said Sally. ‘Let’s run further up and see if anyone	100
is there.’	103
They soon saw the boy in the water. ‘What a silly thing to do!’	118
yelled Sally. ‘Fancy swimming in a cold river on a day like this!’	132
Luckily she had jeans on and strong boots. Martin held a big	144
branch across the river just downstream. Sally half-jumped and	154
half-swam the few metres to the boy and then tried to get back	168
to Martin with him. She missed the rock she was hoping to grab,	181
but held on to the branch which Martin swung round for them.	193
She gave a pull and a push and got the boy on to the rocks at	209
the river side. He was gasping, panting and shivering, and so was	221
Sally.	222

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SET 8

Ben had given his neighbour a promise. Yes, he would keep an	14
eye on her house while she was away.	26
When he went there that night with Jack it was dark and rather	40
cold, with a nip of frost in the air. Inside the house was cold too,	43
but everything was all right.	55
Suddenly the boys heard a funny noise outside. ‘What’s that?’	67
said Jack.	68
‘I don’t know,’ said Ben, grabbing a stick. ‘But you go out that	81
way – and I’ll go this way.’	86
After waiting a bit, Ben went out into the darkness. He went very	100
slowly and carefully round the end of the house. Then he heard	103
Jack give a quiet laugh and say, ‘Here, Ben, come and have a	118
look at this.’	132
Ben took a few quick steps towards Jack. All at once something	144
bumped into Ben’s leg. There was a shrill cry and Ben could not	154
help stumbling. As he fell forward, he put his arms up. Ben’s	168
hands, and his stick, hit Jack right in the face and they both fell	181
down. They yelled, and got to their feet as quickly as they could	193
to get away from the stinging nettles.	209
‘You idiot!’ shouted Jack. ‘I only wanted to show you where the	221
cat had put her kittens. Now I’ll have a black eye. Ow! These	222
nettle stings hurt!’	

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SET 9

In 1933 two airmen flew over the top of Mount Everest. They	12
were the first men to see the top of the mountain.	32
Mount Everest is nearly 9,000 metres high. It was finally climbed	35
for the first time in 1953. Before that there had been seven	47
groups of climbers who had tried to climb it.	56
The 1953 party set up eight camps in all, each of them nearer to	70
the peak of Everest. Camp 8 was the last one before the big	83
effort to reach the top. Two climbers set off from this last camp	96
on 28 May 1953 to try to climb the last 1,000 metres to the top.	112
They had to carry a big load of climbing kit and they wore masks	126
to help them breathe and to keep them alive.	135
At about 8,000 metres they found a flat place. There they set up	149
their tent for the night. Someone once made the remark that	160
this tent was 'the highest house in the world'.	169
They started climbing at 6 o'clock next morning. By 9 o'clock	180
they were in sight of the summit. They had to cut steps along	193
the edge of a narrow ridge. But at last they struggled to the top,	207
which was a sharp, pointed spike of frozen snow. It was half-past	220
eleven in the morning.	224
To mark the 50 years since 1953, 50 groups set off to climb	237
Everest in 2003.	240

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SET 10

I was just a boy when the great Spanish Armada came. I helped	13
with the guns on our ship, bringing powder when fighting	23
started. I've seen a lot of fighting since then but I remember	35
that first day best.	39
The great tall ships of the Spanish lay there ahead of us. They	52
were watching a few English ships sailing beyond them, so they	63
didn't see us at first.	68
When we got closer they suddenly saw us. Their ships were full of	81
soldiers in suits of armour, with helmets and great long pikes.	92
They looked a grand sight, and they frightened me, I must	103
admit. Then, as we went past them, they started to shoot. Our	115
gunners cheered, because the enemy shots just splashed into the	125
sea. Their guns were too small and weak to hit us hard.	137
We carried on across the Spanish rear to reach their left wing.	149
The ships here were stuck out on their own. The wind was	161
against any others who might have wanted to help them.	171
Then we ran out our heavy guns. We cheered Queen Elizabeth as	183
we opened fire, but we gave blessings to old King Harry. He was	196
the man who had ordered these ships to be made. Our guns	208
roared out together and taught the Spanish what real guns	218
were. They couldn't touch us, but by heaven they were brave.	229
I've never seen braver men.	234

Score: - =

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SET 11

China has far more people than any other country. She claims,	11
with good cause, to have the longest history in the world.	22
In the England of King Alfred, men could write and copy books.	34
They did this by hand with pen and with paint brush. In China, at	48
the same time, they could print books by using wood-cut blocks.	60
Long before the birth of Christ the Chinese had trade-routes to	72
Tibet and India.	75
Then for hundreds of years China and her rulers had little	86
contact with the rest of the world. Right across the north of their	99
land they still had the Great Wall of China. This had been built	112
almost two thousand years ago. It is roughly 10 metres high,	123
and 5 metres wide at the top. It crosses hills, valleys, rivers, rocks	136
and sand. Its total length is about one thousand five hundred	147
miles.	148
However, things have now changed. China has become a world	158
power. She has many new factories, roads, bridges and dams.	168
More and more tourists are visiting China and learning about the	179
history of the Chinese people.	184

Score: - =

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SET 12

Mike and Tom were resting on the hillside on their way home from	13
fishing.	14
Tom suddenly pointed down the valley. ‘Look at that idiot with that	26
bus. Fancy bringing a coach that size down a country road. There’s	38
no room for it. What if something comes the other way?’	50
Just then they saw a car coming in the other direction. The coach	63
and the car went to meet each other without either driver knowing it.	76
The high walls and the trees blocked off their view. The coach and	89
the car almost hit each other at a sharp bend. The car turned right,	103
and smashed partly through a gate and partly through the wall.	114
Mike tried to phone for help, but there was no signal for his mobile	128
phone in such a remote area.	134
Mike and Tom ran faster than they had ever run before. Tom	146
remained by the crash, while Mike sprinted down to the village. In	158
the telephone box he rang 999.	164
‘There’s been an accident about a mile out on the moor road. A	177
coach and a car are both off the road and some people are hurt.’	192
The voice on the phone said, ‘Can you tell me where the crash	205
happened?’ Mike told him and the emergency operator said, ‘Help	216
will reach you shortly’.	220
‘I’ll go back straight away then,’ replied Mike and he was off like a	235
shot, back up the road.	240

Score: - =

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