

THE STRIVING

MUSLIM ACADEMY

Islamic and Academic Education

STAGE 3 · ENGLISH · READING PACK

Reading and understanding

Three texts to read and talk about, with questions that ask what the words say, what they mean, and what they do not say outright.

WHAT IS INSIDE

- The Boy Who Counted the Bridge
- Why Leaves Change Colour
- The Well
- How each one is worked

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3 texts · 24 questions

Written for a parent teaching at home. No training assumed, and nothing else to buy.

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Why Leaves Change Colour

An information text. Read it twice: once straight through, and once with the questions.



Leaves are green because of a substance called chlorophyll. Chlorophyll lets a plant use sunlight to make its own food from water and air. A tree in leaf is a tree that is feeding itself.

Chlorophyll is not the only colour in a leaf. Yellow and orange colours are there all summer, but there is so much green that nobody can see them.

As the days shorten, there is less light to work with, and a tree that keeps its leaves through a cold winter would lose more water than it could replace. So the tree stops making chlorophyll and begins to seal off each leaf at the stem. The green fades. The yellow and orange that were there all along are left behind, and for a few weeks the tree is the colour it was underneath.

1. What makes leaves green?

The first sentence names it.

2. What does chlorophyll let a plant do?

The second sentence explains its job.

3. When are the yellow and orange colours in the leaf?

They are not new in autumn.

4. Why can nobody see the yellow and orange in summer?

The green does something to the other colours.

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Quick check

One right answer each, and every answer is somewhere in the text it came from. Ring the letter.



1. **The Well What three things does the speaker say they do?**
   (A) Before my father's father's time (B) Turn and pull and wait (C) The rope (D) A finger deep, perhaps a thumb

2. **Why Leaves Change Colour Why can nobody see the yellow and orange in summer?**
   (A) All summer (B) There is so much green (C) Seal off each leaf at the stem (D) Chlorophyll

3. **The Boy Who Counted the Bridge Who did Idris find in the village?**
   (A) Two lengths of timber (B) Forty one (C) The carpenter (D) The ninth from the far end

4. **The Well How deep is the groove?**
   (A) The rope (B) Before my father's father's time (C) A finger deep, perhaps a thumb (D) Turn and pull and wait

5. **Why Leaves Change Colour What does the tree do to each leaf at the stem?**
   (A) All summer (B) There is so much green (C) Seal off each leaf at the stem (D) Chlorophyll

6. **The Boy Who Counted the Bridge How many planks did the bridge usually have?**
   (A) Two lengths of timber (B) The ninth from the far end (C) Forty one (D) The carpenter

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How each one is worked

The answers to the **work it out** questions are model answers. A child who says something different and can show you where in the text it came from has done the work.



THE BOY WHO COUNTED THE BRIDGE

1. How many planks did the bridge usually have?

1. The passage says there were forty one.
2. So the answer is **forty one**.

Answer: **Forty one**

2. Which plank was missing?

1. The passage says the missing plank was the ninth from the far end.
2. So the answer is **the ninth from the far end**.

Answer: **The ninth from the far end**

3. What did Idris do after counting forty the first time?

1. The passage says he went back to the start, and counted again.
2. So the answer is that he counted again from the start.

Answer: **Went back to the start, and counted again**

4. Who did Idris find in the village?

1. The passage says he found the carpenter.
2. So the answer is **the carpenter**.

Answer: **The carpenter**

5. What did the carpenter pick up?

1. The passage says he picked up two lengths of timber.
2. So the answer is **two lengths of timber**.

Answer: **Two lengths of timber**

6. WORK IT OUT Why was the gap more dangerous for a small child than for a grown man?

1. The passage says a grown man would have stepped over it without noticing.
2. It then says a small child running would not.
3. A child running would put a foot straight through the gap.

Answer: **Because a grown man would step over it without noticing, but a small child running would not**

7. WORK IT OUT Why did Idris notice the missing plank when others might not have?

1. The passage says every morning he counted the planks.
2. He knew the number so well that forty was obviously wrong.
3. Somebody who had never counted them would not have known.

Answer: **Because he counted the planks every morning and knew there should be forty one**

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SAMPLE PAGES

You have read a few pages. The pack is longer.

What you are holding is a short sample, taken from different parts of the pack so that you can see how a week is planned and what a child is actually asked to do, before you decide.

The complete pack, and the rest of the academic materials, are on our website: schemes of work for a parent teaching at home, and practice packs for the skills children get stuck on.

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Members of the homeschool community do not buy these. If you have joined the community, the pack for the term you are working on is given to you at no cost.

Our Islamic Education classes are free. These packs are part of what pays the teachers who teach them.