THE STRIVING

MUSLIM ACADEMY

Islamic and Academic Education

STAGE 4 · 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 Weight of the Sack
- How a Lock Works
- The Night the River Rose
- How each one is worked

The Striving Muslim Academy

3 texts · 24 questions

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

strivingmuslimacademy.com

How a Lock Works

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



Inside an ordinary door lock there is a cylinder that must turn before the bolt will move. The cylinder is held still by a row of small pins, each cut into two pieces of different lengths. The pins are pushed down by springs so that they sit across the join between the cylinder and the case around it. While a pin crosses that join, nothing can turn.

A key is a row of ridges and valleys, each cut to an exact depth. When the right key is pushed in, every pin is lifted by exactly the amount it needs: no more, no less. The break in each pin comes to rest level with the join. Nothing is crossing it any more, and the cylinder turns freely.

A wrong key lifts the pins too far or not far enough. One pin out of place is enough. This is why a key that is almost right is no better than a key that is completely wrong.

1. What must turn before the bolt will move?

The first sentence names it.

2. What holds the cylinder still?

Something stops it turning.

3. What pushes the pins down?

Look for what acts on the pins.

The Striving Muslim

The Night the River Rose

A recount. Read it twice: once straight through, and once with the questions.



We were woken at about two in the morning, not by the rain, which had been falling for three days, but by the sound of the neighbours moving things upstairs.

My father went out to the step with a lamp. The water was at the bottom of the yard. By the time he came back in to tell us, it was at the door.

There was no panic, which surprised me afterwards. There was a list, and my mother read it out: papers, medicine, the photographs, a change of clothes each. Everything else could be replaced or dried. We carried what we had up the stairs in about fifteen minutes.

The water came up eleven inches into the downstairs rooms and stopped. In the morning it had gone, and what it left behind was not water at all but a fine grey silt over everything, and the smell of the river in the house for a month afterwards.

1. What woke them?

It was not the rain.

2. How long had the rain been falling?

The first paragraph says.

3. What four things were on the list?

The mother reads them out.

The Striving Muslim

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 WEIGHT OF THE SACK

1. Where had Hafsa carried the sack from?

1. The passage says she had carried the sack from the far field.
2. So the answer is **the far field**.

Answer: **The far field**

2. Where did Hafsa set the sack down?

1. The passage says she set it down in the shade.
2. So the answer is **in the shade**.

Answer: **In the shade**

3. How far did the grandmother get with the sack?

1. The grandmother says I got it as far as the tree.
2. So the answer is **as far as the tree**.

Answer: **As far as the tree**

4. How many trips did the grandmother take with the barrow?

1. The passage says she brought it the rest of the way in four trips.
2. So the answer is **four trips**.

Answer: **Four trips**

5. WORK IT OUT Why did the grandmother not ask why the sack was at the gate?

1. She later says she carried the same sack at the same age.
2. She knew without asking that Hafsa could not carry it further.
3. Asking would only have embarrassed her.

Answer: **Because she already understood what had happened, having done the same thing herself**

6. WORK IT OUT Why does the story mention that the tree was nearer the field than the gate?

1. Hafsa reached the gate. The grandmother reached the tree.
2. The tree is further back, so the grandmother carried it a shorter distance.
3. It tells us Hafsa has done better than she thinks.

Answer: **To show the grandmother managed less than Hafsa did**

7. WORK IT OUT What is the grandmother really telling Hafsa?

1. She says nobody ever asked how it arrived.
2. She is saying there is no shame in using the barrow.
3. Hafsa then goes to look for it, so she understood.

Answer: **That it does not matter how a job gets done, only that it gets done**

The Striving Muslim Academy

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.

The Striving Muslim Academy

strivingmuslimacademy.com

Islamic and Academic Education

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.