THE STRIVING

MUSLIM ACADEMY

Islamic and Academic Education

STAGE 5 · 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 Apprentice and the Blue
- Why Ships Float
- The Ferryman Counts
- 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.

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Why Ships Float

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



It is natural to think that heavy things sink and light things float, but a steel ship weighing fifty thousand tonnes floats while a steel nail does not. Weight alone cannot be the answer.

When an object is put into water it pushes some of that water out of the way. The water pushes back, and the force it pushes back with is equal to the weight of the water that was moved. This upward force is called upthrust. If the upthrust is as great as the weight of the object, the object floats. If it is less, the object sinks.

A nail is small and solid. It moves aside only a nail's worth of water, which weighs far less than the nail, so down it goes. A ship is mostly air. Its hull is shaped to push aside an enormous volume of water long before the ship is submerged, and that volume of water weighs more than the ship does.

This is also why an overloaded boat sits lower and lower until, quite suddenly, it does not sit at all. Every extra tonne must be paid for with more displaced water, and a hull can only be so deep.

1. What is the upward force called?

The second paragraph names it.

2. What is the upthrust equal to?

The force is equal to something.

3. When does an object float?

The passage gives the condition directly.

The Striving Mus

The Ferryman Counts

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



He does not ask you where you go.
He asks you only what you weigh,
and whether what you carry now
is what you carried yesterday.

He knows the river like a page
he has been reading all his life:
the shallow place, the sudden drop,
the month it runs against the wind.

And when the water will not hold,
he does not argue, does not shout.
He ties the rope, he turns the boat,
and tells you plainly: not today.

I have met cleverer men than him.
I have met none I trusted more.
He is the only one I know
who says no often, and means yes.

1. What does the ferryman ask you?

The second line tells you.

2. What does the ferryman compare the river to?

The second part opens with the comparison.

How each one is worked, continued

THE APPRENTICE AND THE BLUE, CONTINUED



8. WORK IT OUT What does the last paragraph say Musa learned?

1. The passage says what stayed with him was not that he had been right.
2. It was the six weeks he spent assuming it was understood.
3. The lesson is to ask rather than to assume.

Answer: **That something everybody lives with is not necessarily something anybody understands**

WHY SHIPS FLOAT

1. What is the upward force called?

1. The passage says this upward force is called upthrust.
2. So the answer is **upthrust**.

Answer: **Upthrust**

2. What is the upthrust equal to?

1. The passage says the force it pushes back with is equal to the weight of the water that was moved.
2. So that is the answer.

Answer: **The weight of the water that was moved**

3. When does an object float?

1. The passage says if the upthrust is as great as the weight of the object, the object floats.
2. So that is the answer.

Answer: **If the upthrust is as great as the weight of the object**

4. What is a ship mostly made up of, according to the passage?

1. The passage says a ship is mostly air.
2. So the answer is **air**.

Answer: **Air**

5. WORK IT OUT Why does a steel nail sink when a steel ship does not?

1. The nail is small and solid, so it displaces very little water.
2. The ship's hull displaces an enormous volume before it is submerged.
3. It is the weight of displaced water, not the material, that decides it.

Answer: **Because the nail moves aside only a little water, which weighs less than the nail, while the ship moves aside far more water than it weighs**

6. WORK IT OUT Why does an overloaded boat sink suddenly rather than gradually?

1. Each extra tonne must be matched by more displaced water.
2. The boat sits lower to displace more.
3. Once the hull is as deep as it goes, the next tonne has nothing to balance it, so it goes down at once.

Answer: **Because once the hull can displace no more water, there is nothing left to hold the extra weight**

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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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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.