
KS2 SATs Reading Practice Paper

Time Allowed: 60 minutes

Total Marks: 30

Read the text below carefully before answering the questions.

The Lighthouse Keeper's Secret

The old lighthouse stood alone on Blackstone Cliff. For over one hundred years, it had watched ships cross the restless sea below.

Every evening, Mr Finch, the lighthouse keeper, climbed the winding staircase to light the great lantern at the top. The villagers rarely spoke to him. Some believed he was lonely. Others thought he preferred it that way.

One stormy autumn night, as rain lashed against the windows, Mr Finch heard an unusual sound. It was not the howl of the wind or the crash of the waves. It was a knock.

Slowly, he opened the heavy wooden door.

Standing outside was a young girl wrapped in a dripping wet cloak.

"Please," she whispered, shivering. "I need your help."

Mr Finch invited her inside and placed a blanket around her shoulders. As she warmed herself by the fire, she explained that she had become separated from her father during the storm. Their fishing boat had been swept towards the rocks.

Without hesitation, Mr Finch grabbed his oilskin coat and lantern.

The sea was fierce. Waves exploded against the cliffs like thunder. Yet he continued searching along the shoreline until, at last, he spotted a stranded boat.

Together with several villagers, he rescued the girl's father and brought him safely to shore.

The next morning, the storm had passed. Sunlight sparkled across the sea, and the villagers gathered outside the lighthouse.

For the first time in many years, they cheered Mr Finch's name.

Although he remained a quiet man, nobody ever again believed that he preferred to face the storms alone.

Questions

Retrieval

1.

Where was the lighthouse located?

_____ (1 mark)

2.

How long had the lighthouse stood on Blackstone Cliff?

_____ (1 mark)

3.

What was the weather like on the night the girl arrived?

_____ (1 mark)

4.

Why did the girl need help?

_____ (2 marks)

Vocabulary

5.

Find one word that shows the sea was rough.

_____ (1 mark)

6.

What does the word "hesitation" tell us about Mr Finch?

_____ (2 marks)

Inference

7.

Why do you think the villagers rarely spoke to Mr Finch?

Use evidence from the text.

_____ (2 marks)

8.

How do we know the girl was frightened?

Give two pieces of evidence.

_____ (2 marks)

9.

What does the phrase

"Waves exploded against the cliffs like thunder"

tell the reader?

_____ (2 marks)

10.

Why did the villagers cheer Mr Finch at the end?

_____ (2 marks)

Author's Choice

11.

Why does the author describe the staircase as "winding"?

_____ (1 mark)

12.

How does the author build suspense before the door is opened?

Give two examples.

_____ (2 marks)

Prediction

13.

Before reading further, what might a reader predict when the girl asks for help?

Explain your answer.

_____ (2 marks)

Summarising

14.

Summarise what Mr Finch did during the storm.

_____ (3 marks)

Challenge Question

15.

Which character do you admire most in the story?

Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

_____ (6 marks)

Answer Scheme

Question Marks

1 1

2 1

3 1

4 2

5 1

6 2

7 2

8 2

9 2

10 2

11 1

12 2

13 2

14 3

15 6

Total 30

This is pitched at the **Year 6 SATs expected standard**, with a mix of retrieval, vocabulary, inference, explanation, prediction and author-choice questions.

KS2 SATs Reading Practice Paper – Answers

The Lighthouse Keeper's Secret

1. Where was the lighthouse located?

Answer: On Blackstone Cliff.

(1 mark)

2. How long had the lighthouse stood on Blackstone Cliff?

Answer: For over one hundred years.

(1 mark)

3. What was the weather like on the night the girl arrived?

Answer: It was stormy, rainy and windy.

(1 mark)

4. Why did the girl need help?

Answer: She had become separated from her father when their fishing boat was swept towards the rocks during the storm.

(2 marks)

5. Find one word that shows the sea was rough.

Answer: "restless" or "fierce"

(1 mark)

6. What does the word "hesitation" tell us about Mr Finch?

Answer: It tells us that Mr Finch acted immediately and did not stop to think about whether he should help. He was brave and willing to help others.

(2 marks)

7. Why do you think the villagers rarely spoke to Mr Finch?

Use evidence from the text.

Answer: The villagers believed he was lonely and preferred to be by himself. The text says, "Some believed he was lonely. Others thought he preferred it that way."
(2 marks)

8. How do we know the girl was frightened?

Give two pieces of evidence.

Answer:

1. She was shivering.
2. She whispered when she spoke.

These suggest she was scared and upset.
(2 marks)

9. What does the phrase

"Waves exploded against the cliffs like thunder"
tell the reader?

Answer: It tells the reader that the sea was extremely rough and the waves were crashing loudly against the cliffs. The comparison to thunder emphasises the power and noise of the storm.
(2 marks)

10. Why did the villagers cheer Mr Finch at the end?

Answer: They cheered him because he helped rescue the girl's father and showed bravery during the storm.
(2 marks)

11. Why does the author describe the staircase as "winding"?

Answer: To help the reader imagine a staircase that twists and turns as it goes up the lighthouse.
(1 mark)

12. How does the author build suspense before the door is opened?

Give two examples.

Answer:

1. The story takes place during a stormy night.
2. Mr Finch hears an unusual knock and slowly opens the door.

These details make the reader wonder who is outside.

(2 marks)

13. Before reading further, what might a reader predict when the girl asks for help?

Explain your answer.

Answer: A reader might predict that someone is in danger and that Mr Finch will need to rescue them because the girl is frightened and has arrived during a severe storm.

(2 marks)

14. Summarise what Mr Finch did during the storm.

Answer: Mr Finch helped a young girl who had lost her father during the storm. He searched the shoreline, found the stranded fishing boat and worked with the villagers to rescue the girl's father safely.

(3 marks)

15. Which character do you admire most in the story?

Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

Model Answer:

I admire Mr Finch the most. He is brave because he goes out into a dangerous storm to help someone he does not know. The text says that the sea was "fierce" and that waves crashed against the cliffs, but he continued searching. He is also kind because he welcomed the girl into the lighthouse and gave her a blanket. Finally, he is selfless because he risked his own safety to rescue the girl's father. These actions show that he is a courageous and caring person.

(6 marks)

Total Marks: 30/30

These answers are written at the **Expected Standard / Greater Depth standard** and show the level of detail a Year 6 pupil should aim for in SATs-style reading comprehension.