

## KS2 SATs Reading Practice Test

### Fiction Text

**Time Allowed:** 60 minutes

**Total Marks:** 35

Read the text carefully and answer all the questions.

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### The Map in the Library

The old library sat at the edge of the town. Most people hurried past it without a second glance, but twelve-year-old Sam loved spending time among its dusty shelves.

One rainy Saturday afternoon, while searching for a book about explorers, Sam noticed something unusual. A corner of yellowed paper was sticking out from behind a row of thick encyclopedias.

Carefully, he pulled it free.

It was a map.

The paper felt fragile beneath his fingers. Strange symbols covered the edges, and a red X had been marked near a place called Raven's Hill.

On the back of the map, someone had written a message:

*"The treasure is hidden where the shadows meet."*

Sam's heart raced.

The next morning, he packed a torch, a notebook and a bottle of water before setting off towards Raven's Hill.

The climb was steep and muddy. Dark clouds drifted overhead, and the wind whistled through the trees.

After several hours, Sam reached the top.

At first, he found nothing.

Then he noticed two tall rocks standing side by side. Their shadows stretched across the ground and met at a single point.

Remembering the message, Sam began to dig.

Within minutes, his spade struck something hard.

It was not a chest filled with gold.

Instead, he uncovered a small metal box.

Inside was a collection of letters, photographs and diaries belonging to an explorer who had disappeared many years earlier.

Although Sam had not found treasure in the way he expected, he realised he had discovered something even more valuable: a forgotten piece of history.

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## Questions

### Retrieval

#### 1. Where was the library located?

(1 mark)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 2. What was Sam looking for when he found the map?

(1 mark)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 3. What was marked on the map?

(1 mark)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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#### 4. What three items did Sam pack before leaving?

(3 marks)

Answer:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
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## Vocabulary

**5. What does the word "fragile" mean?**

(1 mark)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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**6. Find a word that shows Sam was excited.**

(1 mark)

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Inference

**7. Why do you think Sam loved spending time in the library?**

Use evidence from the text.

(2 marks)

Answer:

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**8. How do we know Sam was determined?**

Give two pieces of evidence.

(2 marks)

Answer:

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**9. Why might the author have included the bad weather?**

(2 marks)

Answer:

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**Author's Choice**

**10. Why does the author use the short sentence:**

*"It was a map."*

(2 marks)

Answer:

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**11. What effect does the message**

*"The treasure is hidden where the shadows meet"*

have on the reader?

(2 marks)

Answer:

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**Prediction**

**12. What might a reader predict when Sam begins digging?**

Explain your answer.

(2 marks)

Answer:

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**Summarising**

**13. Summarise Sam's adventure.**

(3 marks)

Answer:

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**Explanation**

**14. Why was the discovery important even though Sam did not find gold?**

(3 marks)

Answer:

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**Extended Response**

**15. Do you think Sam was disappointed or pleased with his discovery?**

Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

(6 marks)

Answer:

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**16. What is the main message of the story?**

(5 marks)

Answer:

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**Mark Scheme Summary**

**Question Marks**

1-3	3
4	3
5-6	2
7-9	6

## Question Marks

10–12 6

13 3

14 3

15 6

16 5

**Total 35 Marks**

This paper follows the style of a real KS2 SATs Reading paper, testing:

- Retrieval
- Vocabulary
- Inference
- Prediction
- Authorial choice
- Summarising
- Extended explanation skills.

## KS2 SATs Reading Practice Test – Answers

### The Map in the Library

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#### 1. Where was the library located?

**Answer:** At the edge of the town.

(1 mark)

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#### 2. What was Sam looking for when he found the map?

**Answer:** A book about explorers.

(1 mark)

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**3. What was marked on the map?**

**Answer:** A red X near a place called Raven's Hill.

(1 mark)

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**4. What three items did Sam pack before leaving?**

**Answer:**

1. A torch
2. A notebook
3. A bottle of water

(3 marks)

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**Vocabulary**

**5. What does the word "fragile" mean?**

**Answer:** Easily damaged or likely to break.

(1 mark)

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**6. Find a word that shows Sam was excited.**

**Answer:** "Raced" (from "Sam's heart raced.")

(1 mark)

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**Inference**

**7. Why do you think Sam loved spending time in the library?**

Use evidence from the text.

**Answer:** Sam was interested in books and learning new things. The text says he loved spending time among the dusty shelves and was looking for a book about explorers, showing he enjoyed reading and discovering information.

(2 marks)

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**8. How do we know Sam was determined?**

Give two pieces of evidence.

**Answer:**

1. He packed supplies and set off early the next morning.
2. He climbed Raven's Hill despite the steep, muddy conditions and continued searching even when he found nothing at first.

(2 marks)

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**9. Why might the author have included the bad weather?**

**Answer:** The bad weather creates tension and makes the adventure seem more challenging. It helps build suspense and shows that Sam had to work hard to reach his destination.

(2 marks)

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**Author's Choice**

**10. Why does the author use the short sentence:**

*"It was a map."*

**Answer:** The short sentence creates impact and excitement. It draws attention to the discovery and makes the reader curious about what the map might lead to.

(2 marks)

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**11. What effect does the message**

*"The treasure is hidden where the shadows meet"*

have on the reader?

**Answer:** It creates mystery and suspense because the reader wants to know what the message means and whether Sam will be able to solve the clue.

(2 marks)

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## Prediction

### 12. What might a reader predict when Sam begins digging?

Explain your answer.

**Answer:** A reader might predict that Sam will find treasure because he has followed the map and clue to the exact location marked by the shadows meeting.

(2 marks)

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## Summarising

### 13. Summarise Sam's adventure.

**Answer:** Sam discovered a hidden map in the library and followed it to Raven's Hill. After solving the clue about the shadows, he dug in the correct place and found a metal box. Inside were historical items belonging to a missing explorer.

(3 marks)

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## Explanation

### 14. Why was the discovery important even though Sam did not find gold?

**Answer:** The discovery was important because the letters, photographs and diaries revealed information about a missing explorer. Sam uncovered a valuable piece of history rather than money or jewels.

(3 marks)

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## Extended Response

### 15. Do you think Sam was disappointed or pleased with his discovery?

Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.

#### Model Answer:

I think Sam was pleased with his discovery. Although he expected to find treasure, the text says he realised he had discovered "something even more valuable." This suggests that he appreciated the historical importance of the letters, photographs and diaries. Sam was interested in explorers from the beginning of the story, so finding information about a missing explorer would have been exciting for him. Therefore, I believe he felt satisfied rather than disappointed.

(6 marks)

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**16. What is the main message of the story?**

**Model Answer:**

The main message of the story is that treasure is not always gold or money. Sometimes knowledge, history and discoveries can be even more valuable. Sam expected to find riches, but instead he found information about a missing explorer. The story teaches readers to value learning and discovery, as these can be just as rewarding as material wealth.

(5 marks)

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**Total Marks: 35/35**

**Greater Depth Features Demonstrated**

- ✓ Uses evidence from the text
- ✓ Explains ideas clearly
- ✓ Makes inferences
- ✓ Uses precise vocabulary
- ✓ Answers in full sentences
- ✓ Gives detailed explanations for higher-mark questions

These answers are written at **Expected Standard / Greater Depth level**, showing the detail and reasoning Year 6 pupils should aim for in a SATs-style reading test.