

Practice text: The Little White Horse

Cracking the questions

Question	Answer	CD/Mark	Useful strategies
1. "They had come to the edge of a clearing in the wood, a desolate place like a quarry strewn with boulders, with stagnant pools of water between the rocks" (paragraph 1). Underline one word in this sentence that warns the reader that the clearing is an unpleasant place.	"desolate"/"stagnant"	2a 1 mark	<i>Question focus: understand the meaning of words in context.</i> Strategies: - Carefully read the question, marking key words. - Carefully read the sentence, considering the impact of each word.
2. "On three sides the rock rose up sheer like a wall" (paragraph 1). What is the effect of the simile "like a wall" in this sentence?	Accept answers that recognise any key feature of a wall. E.g. - A wall is meant to keep people out. - It is high/unwelcoming. - It is difficult to climb. - It marks the edge of a property.	2g 1 mark	<i>Question focus: identify how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.</i> Strategies: - Carefully read the question, marking key words. - Scan the text for the words in the question and carefully read the surrounding text to establish the context. - Carefully read the sentence looking for language use described.
3. How do you think Maria felt when she looked up at the castle and knew she had to go in?	Accept answers that recognise she was frightened/terrified/nervous.	2d 1 mark	<i>Question focus: make inferences from the text.</i> Strategies: - Carefully read the question, marking key words. - Carefully read paragraph 1 thinking about the questions. - Remember, in questions like this, the answer is not in the text but there are clues and pieces of information in the text that you should use when considering your answer.
4. How does Robin know the way in to the castle?	Wrolf showed it to him on an earlier occasion.	2b 1 mark	<i>Question focus: identify key details from fiction.</i> Strategies: - Carefully read the question, marking key words. - Consider where in the text you are likely to find the answer. - Read that part of the text carefully to find the information you need.
5. (a) Find two different words that the author uses instead of "said" in the text. (b) Explain why the author chose one of those words.	(a) "whispered" (paragraph 2)/"explained" (paragraph 4) (b) "whispered" shows how dangerous it would be if the children were spotted or heard in the clearing. "explained" shows that Robin is telling Maria what has to be done.	2g 2 marks	<i>Question focus: explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words.</i> Strategies: - Carefully read the question, marking key words. - Scan the text, looking for words that are used instead of "said". - Consider the effect of using the different words. Award 1 mark for two verbs. (Do not accept the adverb "airily" which does not replace "said".) Award the second mark for a recognition of the reasons for the choice of one of the words.

Question	Answer	CD/Mark	Useful strategies
6. (a) Tick the best description of the atmosphere in this extract. ☐ hopeful ☐ cheerful ☐ sad ☐ dangerous (b) Give three details from the text to support your answer.	(a) dangerous (b) Accept any detail that supports the atmosphere e.g. desolate place, stagnant pool, terrifying castle, thickets of brambles, frowning walls, great high wall, battlements.	2f 2 marks	Question focus: <i>identify how narrative content contributes to meaning as a whole.</i> Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Skim the text, considering the question. • Scan the text looking for information about the setting which gives you the impression of danger. Award one mark for accurate identification of the atmosphere as 'dangerous'.
7. "Its frowning walls rose sheer up above them" (paragraph 3). What is the meaning and effect of the word "frowning" in this sentence?	• It emphasises how dangerous the castle is. • It suggests that the walls are disapproving/scary/nasty. • It shows that the children will not be welcome inside.	2a 1 mark	Question focus: <i>explain the meaning of words in context.</i> Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Carefully read the sentence. • Consider why the writer chose the word.
8. Do you think Maria and Robin will manage to get into the castle? Explain your answer, thinking about other adventure stories you have read.	Yes – in stories like this, the children always manage to overcome difficulties and to do what adults don't dare.	2e 1 mark	Question focus: <i>predict what might happen from details stated and implied.</i> Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Carefully read the paragraph, considering its context. • Think about what the author is trying to make the reader think. Award 1 mark for a reasonable explanation.
9. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false. • The woods seemed safe. • The castle looked scary. • The path up the cliff to it looked a safe route. • There was no way up at the front. • There was a way up at the back. • Maria thought that it looked easy to do.	• The woods seemed safe. TRUE • The castle looked scary. TRUE • The path up the cliff to it looked a safe route. TRUE • There was no way up at the front. FALSE • There was a way up at the back. FALSE • Maria thought that it looked easy to do. FALSE	2c 2 marks	Question focus: <i>summarise the main ideas from more than one paragraph.</i> Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Work with each of the statements separately. • Scan the text for information about the statement. • Carefully read that part of the text, looking for information to compare with the statement in the question. Award 1 mark for three or four correct answers and 2 marks for six correct.