

Comprehension  
Basic Skills

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

10/11

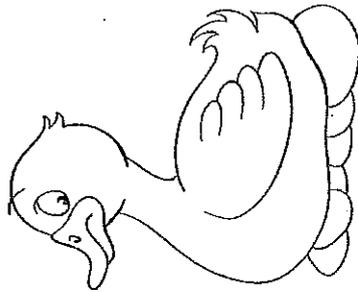
# Day 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

 This story is from *The Ugly Duckling*, retold by Susanna Davidson.

## The Ugly Duckling

"I have six eggs," said Mother Duck.  
 Five eggs were smooth and small and white.  
 But the sixth egg was huge.  
 All spring, the mother duck sat on her eggs,  
 waiting for them to hatch.  
 She waited ...  
 and waited ...  
 and waited ...



1 How many eggs did Mother Duck have?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

AF2  
1 mark

2 What were most of the eggs like? Write **two** things.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

AF2  
1 mark

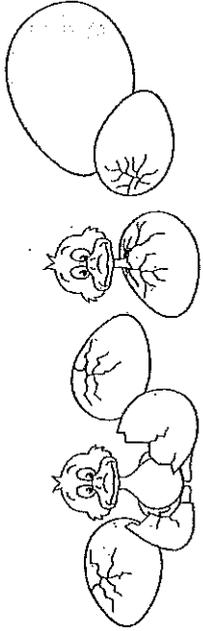
3 How was one of the eggs different?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

AF2  
1 mark

/ 3  
Total for this page

Until at last ... one of the eggs went tap, tap, tap!  
 "Hurry!" Mother Duck called to the other ducks. "Come and see!  
 My eggs are hatching!"

One egg shell after another burst open. "Come out! Come out!"  
 called Mother Duck ... and the ducklings came tumbling out.



4 Mother Duck was excited when her eggs started to hatch.  
 How do you know?  
 \_\_\_\_\_

AF3  
1 mark

5 the ducklings came **tumbling** out

Which of these is another word for tumbling? Tick **one**.

- crawling
- falling
- walking
- running

AF5  
1 mark

/ 2  
Total for this page

# Day 2

They looked all around, at the tall grasses and the green leaves.  
 "Is everyone here?" asked Mother Duck.

But the big egg still hadn't hatched.

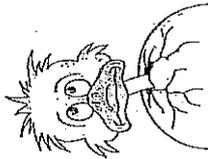
"Looks like a turkey egg to me," said an old duck. "I think you should leave it!"

"I'll just wait a little bit longer," said Mother Duck.

And at last, the great egg burst open. "Cheep! Cheep!" said the duckling, looking out.

Mother Duck gasped. The old duck spluttered. The duckling was very large and very ugly.

"It is a turkey chick," said the old duck. "Take it swimming. Then you'll see."



6 a) Which egg was the last to hatch?

AF2  
1 mark

b) What kind of egg did the old duck think it was?

AF2  
1 mark

7 Why did Mother Duck gasp when the last egg hatched?

Tick one.

- because it had taken so long to hatch
- because it looked just like a turkey egg
- because the duckling was very ugly
- because the old duck spluttered.

AF2  
1 mark

/ 3  
Total for this page

So Mother Duck took her ducklings down to the pond. One by one, they all jumped in. The dark water closed over their heads. The next moment, they all popped up again.

"You can swim! You're not a turkey chick," said Mother Duck. "You're just a very ugly duckling!"

Mother Duck took her ducklings to the farmyard. The geese laughed at the Ugly Duckling and the hens pecked at it. The turkey puffed himself up until he was red in the face. Then he gobbled at it. The farmboy shooed the Ugly Duckling away.

He flew over the fence ... and into a bush.

"Nobody wants me," said the Ugly Duckling. "I'm too ugly."



8 How did Mother Duck know that the Ugly Duckling was not a turkey chick?

AF2  
1 mark

9 Draw lines to match **Who** with **What they did** to the Ugly Duckling. One has been done for you.

Who	What they did
The geese	pecked at it
The hens	gobbled at it
The turkey	shooed it
The farmboy	laughed at it

AF2  
1 mark

10 What did the Ugly Duckling do at the end of the story?

Tick one.

- jumped into the water
- flew out of the farmyard
- shooed the geese away
- hid behind a fence

AF2  
1 mark

/ 3  
Total for this page

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Class: \_\_\_\_\_

This text is from *Florence Nightingale* by Kay Barnham.

## Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale was born in Britain in 1820. At the time, many people were poor and lived in terrible conditions. Florence was lucky because her family was rich.

Rich women at the time were not expected to work. Instead, they got married, had children and looked after the house. But Florence had a different dream – to be a nurse.

Florence trained to become a nurse and cared for poor and sick people. She loved her work, but wanted to do more.

In 1854, the British Army was fighting a war in another country. The army hospitals there needed nurses like Florence to help.



1 In what way was Florence lucky?

AF2  
1 mark

2 What was life like for lots of people in 1820? Write **one**.

AF2  
1 mark

3 What were rich women expected to do? Write **two** things.

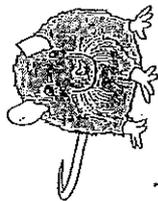
AF2  
2 marks

4 Why did the army hospitals need nurses to help?

AF3  
1 mark

/ 5  
Total for this page

When Florence arrived with 38 other nurses, she was shocked at what she saw. The hospital wards were filthy and full of sick and dying men. Rats, cockroaches and lice spread disease around.



The nurses cared for the patients and cleaned the hospital. But men were still dying. Then they found that the water in the hospital was infected. After it was cleaned, fewer men died.

When Florence came home after the war, she was famous. There were stories about her in the newspapers. Florence was asked to help make army hospitals better. She looked at the number of deaths and blamed dirty conditions, poor food and disease.



5 When Florence arrived with 38 other nurses, she was shocked at what she saw. The hospital wards were filthy and full of sick and dying men.

AF2  
1 mark

Look at this text. **Circle one word** which shows how dirty the hospital wards were.

6 Even though the nurses had cleaned the hospital, men were still dying. Why? Write **one** reason.

AF3  
1 mark

7 What did Florence think caused many deaths in army hospitals? Tick **two** reasons.

- poor food
- rich people
- infected water
- dirty conditions
- poor people

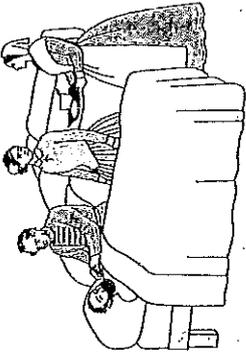
AF2  
1 mark

/ 3  
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# Day 4

In 1860, Florence started a school for nurses. Her students went to lessons and trained on wards too. Florence thought hospitals should be clean and bright and that there should be different wards for patients with deadly diseases.



In 1907, the King gave Florence a special award for her work caring for soldiers. It was the first time the award had been given to a woman. Florence died in 1910. Every year, nurses around the world celebrate International Nurses Day on 12th May. This was Florence's birthday.

8 Why do you think Florence wanted patients with deadly diseases to be on different wards?

AF3  
1 mark

9 The King gave Florence a special award. Why was this award unusual?

AF3  
1 mark

10 Why is 12th May an important day for nurses around the world?

AF3  
1 mark

**These questions are about the whole text.**

11 Number these sentences about Florence in the order in which they happened. The first one has been done for you.

- 1 Florence trained to become a nurse.
- Florence received an award from the King.
- Florence helped in the army hospitals.
- Florence started a school for nurses.

AF4  
1 mark

12 Florence's work was very important. Tick **two** important things that she did.

- She looked after sick people.
- She helped to clean up the streets.
- She helped make army hospitals cleaner.
- She looked after her rich family.
- She helped the army fight.

AF3  
2 marks

13 Which of the following headings would best fit the information on page 22? Tick **one**.

- Florence's Dream
- Death and Disease
- A School for Nurses
- An Award for Florence

AF4  
1 mark

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

 This poem is by Jillian Harker.

## Water, Water, Everywhere

We wash in it  
And splash in it,  
But that's not all –  
We pour it on our plants and crops  
To make them strong and tall.

We boil it up  
And cool it down,  
To make ourselves a drink,  
But there's much more to water  
Than you would ever think.

Water rushes, runs and trickles  
And it can even freeze.  
It can seep and soak and creep  
To almost anywhere you please.

And without it your poor body  
Would be in an awful mess.  
If there was no such thing as water,  
You would all weigh two thirds less.



1 In the first verse, which of these uses of water does the poet talk about? Tick **two**.

- to sail a boat  to cook with   
to wash in  to put out fires   
to splash in

AF2  
1 mark

2 Look at verse 1.

a) Where do we pour water?

AF2  
1 mark

b) Why?

AF2  
1 mark

3 Look at verse 2. What do we do to water to make a drink?  
Write **two** things.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

AF2  
1 mark

4 What is the pattern of rhyme in verse 2? Tick **one**.

- Lines 2 and 4 rhyme.   
Lines 1 and 2 rhyme.   
Lines 3 and 5 rhyme.   
Lines 4 and 5 rhyme.

AF4  
1 mark

/ 5  
Total for this page

# Day 7

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Only a Show

1 What did Miss Henry want the class to do?

\_\_\_\_\_

AF2  
1 mark

2 Look at the paragraph beginning: *She picked up the chalk...*

Find and copy one word to describe the sound that the chalk made on the blackboard.

\_\_\_\_\_

AF2  
1 mark

3 How did Anna feel when she saw her name on the blackboard? Tick one.

- angry  
 worried  
 excited  
 lucky

AF3  
1 mark

4 *Anna walked home in a daze.*

Why was Anna in a daze? Explain as fully as you can, using the story to help you.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

AF3  
2 marks

5 What did Anna think of her mother's ideas?

\_\_\_\_\_

AF2  
1 mark

/ 6  
Total for this page

# Day 8

Draw lines to match each idea with Anna's excuse.

6

Idea

- sing a song  
 recite a poem  
 tell a joke

Anna's excuse

- she would be scared  
 everyone would laugh at her  
 she can't do it

AF2  
1 mark

7 What did Simon say Anna could do? Tick two.

7

- sing a song  
 tell a joke  
 do a magic show  
 recite a poem  
 do a puppet show

AF2  
1 mark

8 Look at these lines from the story. Circle one word or phrase that shows Anna's brother is enjoying himself.

8

"Good evening!" Simon would chant back enthusiastically.  
 And then, while Simon giggled, Anna would make Scruff sing a little song, or do a magic trick.

AF3  
1 mark

9 In what way does Simon help Anna?

9

\_\_\_\_\_

AF3  
1 mark

/ 10  
Total for this test

 This poem is by Richard Edwards.

# Day 9 and 10

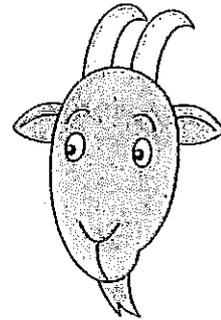
## How?

How did the sun get up in the sky?  
-A billy goat tossed it up too high,  
Said my uncle.

How did the stars get up there too?  
-They're sparks from the thunder-horse's shoe,  
Said my uncle.

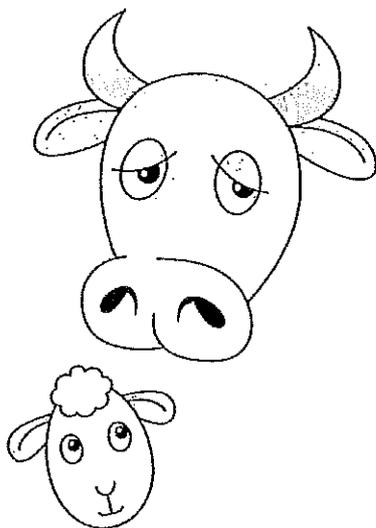
And tell me about the moon as well.  
-The moon jumped out of an oyster shell,  
Said my uncle.

And how did the oceans get so deep?  
-I'll tell you tomorrow. Now go to sleep,  
Said my uncle.



Part 10

 This poems is by Robert Clairmont.



## The Answers

"When did the world begin and how?"  
I asked a lamb, a goat, a cow:

"What's it all about and why?"  
I asked a hog as he went by:

"Where will the whole thing end, and when?"  
I asked a duck, a goose and a hen:

And I copied all the answers too,  
A quack, a honk, an oink, a moo.

Part 11

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## How?/The Answers

1 Look at the poem 'How?'. Who is answering all the questions?

AFZ  
1 mark

2 Look at the poem 'How?'. What are the questions in this poem mostly about? Tick one.

- where the stars are
- shells in the ocean
- the solar system
- how we live on earth

AFZ  
1 mark

3 Look at the poem 'How?'. Draw lines to match the question in the poem with the answer.

Question about...	Answer
<input type="text" value="the sun"/>	<input type="text" value="came out of a shell"/>
<input type="text" value="the stars"/>	<input type="text" value="came from a horse's shoe"/>
<input type="text" value="the moon"/>	<input type="text" value="thrown by a goat"/>

AFZ  
1 mark

4 Look at the poem 'How?'. The answer to the last question is: 'I'll tell you tomorrow. Now go to sleep.' Why do you think this answer is given?

AB  
1 mark

/ 4  
Total for this page

5 Look at the poem 'The Answers'.  
*A quack, a honk, an oink, a moo.*  
Why were they 'the answers'?

AB  
1 mark

6 Think about the rhyme in 'The Answers'. Which of these is true? Tick one.

- Lines 1 and 3 rhyme.
- Lines 5 and 6 rhyme.
- Lines 4 and 5 rhyme.
- Lines 2 and 6 rhyme.

AB  
1 mark

7 Think about both poems. Tick to show which question appears in which poem. One has been done for you.

	'How?'	'The Answers'
When will the world end?		
How did the stars get in the sky?	✓	
How did the world start?		
Why are the oceans so deep?		

AFZ  
2 marks

8 Think about the two poems. Which did you enjoy more and why? Explain your answer as fully as you can, using the poems to help you.

How?  The Answers

AFZ  
2 marks

/ 10  
Total for this test

# Day 6

5 Look at verse 3. Find and write one word which shows water can move:

a) quickly \_\_\_\_\_

b) slowly \_\_\_\_\_

AF3  
1 mark

AF3  
1 mark

6 What does verse 3 tell you about water? Tick one.

how people use water

how plants need water

what water can do

what water sounds like

AF6  
1 mark

7 Look at verse 4. What does this verse say would happen to your body without water?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
 AF2  
1 mark

8 Look at verses 3 and 4.

a) Write one word from verse 3 that rhymes with freeze.

AF4  
1 mark

b) Write one word from verse 4 that rhymes with less.

AF4  
1 mark

These questions are about the whole poem.

9 Did you enjoy reading the poem?

Yes  No

Why?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
 AF5  
2 marks

10 Tick the sentence that best explains what the poem is about. Tick one.

- Water is important for people but not for plants.
- Water is very important for lots of reasons.
- The main reason we use water is to drink.
- The water we use trickles away and freezes.

AF6  
1 mark

11 Look at the last two lines of the poem. What do they tell you? Tick the best answer.

- Water does not weigh as much as the human body.
- Our bodies do not really need much water.
- People get into a mess when they use water.
- Water makes up a big part of our bodies.

AF3  
1 mark

/ 5  
Total for this page



/ 15  
Total for this test