



Cambridge Primary Checkpoint

ENGLISH

0844/02

Paper 2 Fiction

April 2021

INSERT

1 hour

INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading passage.
- You may annotate this insert and use the blank spaces for planning. **Do not write your answers** on the insert.



This document has **4** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Text for Section A, an extract from 'The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day' by Christopher Edge

Maisie Day is a girl who has just woken up at home on her tenth birthday.

It's my birthday.

Jumping down from my bed, I pull open the curtains and sunlight floods into my room. Through the window I can see the gazebo* that Mum and Dad have bought for my birthday party laid out across the lawn* beneath protective plastic sheets, just waiting now for Dad to put it up.

5

I can't stop myself from grinning. Today is going to be the best day ever. I'm ten years old.

Maybe now that I'm ten, Mum and Dad will let me go to the shops on my own or even stay up late, just like Lily. Lily's my older sister. She's fifteen years old.

Pulling on my dressing gown over my pyjamas, I head down the stairs. The house is so quiet. Usually Dad's already in the kitchen by now, noisily cooking up one of his Saturday-morning fry-ups, while Mum sits at the kitchen table reading the newspaper.

10

I turn right at the bottom of the stairs, heading down the hallway and into the kitchen. Beneath my bare feet, the black-and-white tiles covering the floor feel freezing cold. I shiver. The kitchen table is deserted, the cooker standing silent as the empty work surfaces gleam. There's nobody here.

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I peer through the patio doors* that lead out into the back garden, wondering for a second if Mum and Dad have sneaked out there to make a start on putting up the gazebo for my party later today, but there's nobody there either.

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The living room is just as empty as the kitchen, the TV switched off and not a cushion out of place on the sofa. I'm not surprised that Lily's not up yet, as she doesn't usually surface until after ten at the weekend. It's all to do with the fact she's a teenager and the hormones in her brain that make her sleep late. Maybe that will start happening to me now that I'm ten. Now that I'm ten, everything might change.

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I've done a circuit of the downstairs now: hall, kitchen, living room and back to the hall. If Mum and Dad really are hiding somewhere ready to give me a birthday surprise, then they're running out of rooms. Our house really isn't that big.

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Standing at the bottom of the stairs, I call out again.

'Mum! Dad! This isn't funny. Where are you?'

The excitement I felt when I sprang out of bed has now turned into a nagging sense of worry. I race up the stairs, two steps at a time, wanting this stupid game of hide and seek to be over already.

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Back on the landing, I glance towards the second flight of stairs that lead up to Lily's room in the attic. A NO ENTRY sign is stuck to the wall at the bottom of the stairs and beneath this Lily has written 'NO SISTERS ALLOWED'.

She means me.

I wouldn't normally dare to go anywhere near Lily's room on a Saturday morning. Her rage can be positively volcanic if her weekend lie-in is disturbed. But this isn't a normal Saturday. It's my birthday and I want to know where everyone is.

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Glossary

gazebo: a small tent-like building in a garden

lawn: area of grass in a garden

patio doors: large, glass doors

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