



Cambridge Primary Checkpoint

ENGLISH

0844/02

Paper 2 Fiction

April 2022

INSERT

1 hour

INFORMATION

- This insert contains the reading passages.
- 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 'Cowboy showdown' by Chris Blake

At the museum where his dad works, Tom is helping to set up an exhibition about the Aztecs. The Aztecs were an ancient people who lived in Central America during the 14th and 15th centuries. Tom and his dad are just arriving in the Aztec room.

Tom gasped. He felt as though he had just stepped back in time to Ancient Mexico. There were still several unpacked crates and boxes, but the things that had been unloaded were amazing.

He pointed to a model of a twin pyramid with a squared-off top. 'What's this?' Before Dad could reply, a woman appeared in the doorway. 'Dr Sullivan, there's a call for you,' she said.

5

'I'll be right back,' said Dad, heading to the office. 'Take a look round, but be careful and don't touch anything.'

Tom studied the displays. He saw clay statues with wide mouths and big ears, sword-like weapons and documents written in a strange language. There was even a carved wooden box that looked like a treasure chest.

10

In a corner, he found a wooden cylinder carved with strange symbols. The label explained it was a drum that belonged to the rain god, Tlaloc, who would bang it to create thunder! Beside it lay two mallets*.

'*This I've got to hear!*' thought Tom. He reached for one of the mallets, then quickly drew back his hand. Tom knew the rules but his fingers were itching. It was as if the drum were begging him to play it. He knew he shouldn't but he was just too curious.

15

Tom glanced around the room to be sure there was nobody else in the room. Then he picked up a mallet and gently swung it down.

20

To his shock, an enormous roll of thunder exploded from the drum. Suddenly, Tom wasn't alone any more.

Standing in front of him was a blue girl wearing a feathered headdress.

'You freed me from that drum!' the girl exclaimed, throwing her arms around Tom. 'Thank you!'

25

Tom stepped back.

'I didn't *mean* to do anything,' said Tom.

Once again, the museum was rocked by an ear-splitting thunderclap. Heavy rain began to fall...*inside* the museum!

Another rumble of thunder shook the room. A second stranger appeared. This one had blue skin and fancy feathers. Only *he* was enormous!

30

Zuma looked nervous. Tom could only stare.

'He's Tlaloc, the rain god,' she whispered.

Tlaloc picked up the wooden drum and the rain stopped.

'Zuma! You have escaped your prison after five hundred years!' Tlaloc roared. 'But you are not free yet!'

35

The rain god pointed one huge finger at the treasure chest. The lid lifted with a loud creak, and six shiny coins rose out of the chest and sailed across the room. They landed with a jangle in his palm.

'You must find these six coins in order to win your freedom,' Tlaloc announced. He waved his hand and a powerful wind gusted through the room, bringing with it a thick white mist. Tlaloc tossed the coins into the mist. For a moment, they spun, shining in the air. Then the wind howled again and they vanished.

40

'What's happening?' Zuma cried, her feathered headdress flapping wildly.

Tom was pretty sure he knew what was coming next. 'Grab my hand,' he shouted, 'and hold on tight!'

45

'I'm not sure where... or when... we'll land,' Tom shouted above the howl of the cyclone*. 'But – it's going to be an adventure!'

Glossary

*mallets – wooden hammers

*cyclone – windstorm

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (UCLES) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in the Cambridge Assessment International Education Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge Assessment International Education is part of Cambridge Assessment. Cambridge Assessment is the brand name of the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate (UCLES), which is a department of the University of Cambridge.