



Cambridge Primary Checkpoint

ENGLISH

0058/02

Paper 2 Fiction

April 2023

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 Good Thieves* by Katherine Rundell.

Vita's grandfather lives in another country. He has a problem, and Vita and her mother have come to help.

Vita set her jaw and nodded at the city in greeting, as a boxer greets an opponent before a fight. She stood alone on the deck of the ship. The sea was wild and stormy, casting salt spray thirty feet into the air, and all the other passengers on the ocean liner, including her mother, had taken sensible refuge in their cabins.

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But it is not always sensible to be sensible.

Vita had slipped away and stood out in the open, gripping the rail with both hands as the boat crested a wave the size of an opera house. So it was that she alone had the first sight of the city.

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'There she is!' called a deck hand*.

New York climbed out of the mist, tall and grey-blue and beautiful; so beautiful that it pulled Vita forwards to the bow of the boat to stare.

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They took a cab from the docks. Vita's mother carefully counted out a handful of coins, and gave the driver the address. 'As close as we can get for that, please,' she said, and he took in her carefully mended hems* and nodded.

When the money ran out, they walked. They went as fast as Vita could go, suitcases in hand.

20

'There!' said Vita's mother. 'That's Grandpa's flat.'

'It all looks very ... smart,' said Vita. 'Are you sure this is the place?'

'I'm sure,' said her mother. 'He's on the top floor, right under the roof. It'll be a squeeze, but it's not for long.' Their return ticket was booked for three weeks' time.

25

'Come on!' Her mother's voice sounded unnaturally bright. 'Let's go and find him.'

The lift was broken, so Vita half ran up the stairs to Grandpa's apartment, jerkily, ignoring the pain in her left foot. She came to rest, breathless, outside the door.

Vita's mother came, panting, up the final flight of stairs. She opened the door, and Vita went tearing down the hall. 30

'Grandpa!'

'Rascal!' He stood and Vita hurled herself into his arms, and he laughed, winded by the impact.

'Julia,' he said, as Vita's mother came in, 'I only got your telegram three days ago, or I would have stopped you—' 35

Vita's mother shook her head. 'Just try to hold us back, Dad.'

'It's good to see you. But there was no need.'

Julia pushed Vita towards the door. 'Go and find your room, darling,' she said.

'It's the one at the end of the corridor,' said Grandpa. 'More of a cupboard than a room, I'm afraid,' he said, 'but the view is very fine.' 40

Vita went slowly down the corridor, her suitcase in hand. She noticed how the floorboards squeaked; how the paint peeled from the wall. She pushed at the door. It stuck; she kicked it with her stronger foot. It flew open scattering thin shards of plaster.

The room was so small she could practically touch all four walls at once, but it had a window looking out over the street. Vita sat on the bed and tried to think. 45

Glossary:

*deck hand: sailor

*hem: the bottom edge of a skirt or dress

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