



Cambridge Primary Checkpoint

ENGLISH

0844/02

Paper 2 Fiction

October 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 'Moon Bear' by Gill Lewis

On cool winter evenings when the rain would funnel up from the valleys and spit and fizzle in the fire, I'd pull a blanket around me and sit close to Grandfather.

'Tell me the story of Naam-peng,' I'd say.

Grandfather would smile. 'Naam-peng? Who's he?'

'Naam-peng, the bravest bee.'

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'Pah!' Grandfather would say. 'He was only a small bee. Hardly worth a mention.'

'Please tell me,' I'd beg.

'Long, long ago,' Grandfather would begin, 'when the world was bright and new, a Great River came flowing down from the White Mountains. The river brought forests filled with tigers and elephants, moon bears and sun bears, clouded leopards and marbled cats, mousedeer and macaques and weaverbirds and ... so many animals!

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'These forests reached up to the sky and caught the rain clouds in their branches, and soon there were many rivers flowing into the Great River, all of them teeming with fish.'

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'But a monster came, didn't it?' I'd say. I loved this part.

Grandfather frowned and nodded. 'But one day a monster came. Tam-laaï came in the dark before the dawn, striding through forests, eating the animals and trees, then spitting out bones and pith onto the ground. He devoured anything and everything in his path. The animals ran and flew and swam for cover deeper into the forests, but still the monster came, tearing up the ground and drinking up the Great River so it became no more than a trickle, and the fish were left flapping and dying in the mud. By the end of the day, there was only a straggle of trees clinging to one small mountain.

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"Please leave us this forest," the animals squawked, and hooted and barked and squeaked. "It is all we have left." But still, the monster was hungry. He pulled himself up to his full height ...'

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When Grandfather got to this part, I would stand up and flap my blankets, throwing giant shadows out behind me. I'd take a deep breath and roar, 'I am Tam-laaï and I dare anyone to stop me.'

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Grandfather would pretend to cower. 'All the animals hid. Not even the tiger or the bear were a match for this monster. But just then a small bee flew out from the forest and buzzed in front of Tam-laaï's face.

"I am Naam-peng," said the bee, "and I will stop you."

'The monster caught Naam-peng in his paw and threw back his head and laughed. "You?" he cried. "You are so small. Your sting would be no more than a pimple on me. You are nothing, little bee, nothing. It was not your bravery that brought you here but your stupidity. Is there anything you wish to say before I crush you with my paw?"

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'Naam-peng quivered in fright but he looked the monster in the eye.

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"Tam-laai ..." he said.

"Speak up," roared the monster. "I can hardly hear you."

"Turn around," said Naam-peng.

"Turn round? Me?" snorted Tam-laai.

'The monster turned.

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'Before him swirled a huge black cloud. A storm of angry bees filled the whole sky, from end to end, blotting out the sun.

'Tam-laai crumpled to his knees.

"I may be small," said Naam-peng, "but I am not alone. Did you not hear the bees?"

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Glossary

to cower: to move away in fear

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