



Cambridge Primary Checkpoint

ENGLISH

0844/02

Paper 2 Fiction

October 2022

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 Secret Lake' by Karen Inglis

Tom and his sister Stella are in a community garden near their home. Harry is a neighbour's dog who keeps running off into the bushes.

The garden was filled with clusters of bushes and sprawling oak trees. Tom and Stella were sitting on their favourite mound* of grass in the centre of the garden.

'I wonder where Harry goes,' Tom said with a frown as he picked at the mound of grass.

'HEY! What's this?' Tom's eyes locked open as he sat staring at the ground. 5

'What's what?' Stella leaned forward as Tom continued scraping grass off the top of the mound beneath him.

'I think it's treasure!' he shrieked. Sure enough, as Tom carried on digging, underneath they could see what looked like a treasure chest.

'It's a box,' he gasped. The rounded lid of the treasure chest seemed to go on forever as the patch Tom dug grew wider. 10

And then Stella's pale blue eyes widened.

'Tom!' she whispered in disbelief. 'It's not a box! It's a boat!'

'A boat!' said Tom. 'It can't be a boat, stupid, there's no water around here!'

At that moment the bush opposite trembled violently and out into the clearing appeared... Harry. 15

'Harry!' they cried.

'He's soaking!' exclaimed Stella.

Harry turned towards home and fled.

'Wait, Harry!' Tom began. But it was too late. Their mother's voice echoed across the garden. 20

'Tom, Stella! Come on! We're leaving!'

'Help me with this.' Stella was dragging a log* across the lawn towards the mound.

‘But I want to get the boat out!’ he protested.

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‘We haven’t got time! We’re going to grandma’s!’ said Stella breathlessly. ‘Quick, take that end.’

They lowered the log down on top of the mound.

Tom kicked the log in frustration. ‘Look,’ said Stella firmly, ‘it’s no use making a fuss now. We’ll come back tomorrow and see if we can find out where Harry came from.’

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‘What do you mean?’

‘Well,’ said Stella, ‘where there’s a boat there must be water. I think Harry knows where that water is – and it’s somewhere around here!’

The next day...

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By 10 o’clock Tom and Stella were back at the mound.

‘Right, we’re going to have a good look inside this bush,’ said Stella. She crawled on all fours into the bush that Harry had appeared from.

Tom quickly scrambled in after his sister.

As they crawled deeper inside the thicket Stella switched on her torch which shone a narrow beam of light ahead through the dark. Nothing. Only twigs, more twigs, green leaves, dead leaves, rotten flower heads and – ugh! – creepy crawlies scuttling back and forth across the undergrowth. ‘There’s nothing here, Tom,’ she said, dusting imaginary beetles from the top of her head. ‘Let’s go back.’

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Tom had just begun to manoeuvre himself round, when his right arm slipped down a hole so deep that on one side he was suddenly up to his shoulder in undergrowth.

‘Hey!’ he bellowed, ‘I’ve found a hole!’

Stella quickly crawled over and pulled him up, then pointed her torch to investigate. The hole was far wider than either of them could believe.

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‘Yikes, Tom, lucky you didn’t fall right in!’ she whispered. Stella shone the torch down into the darkness. To her astonishment, she could clearly see a rusty metal ladder fixed against the earthen wall and leading down into the hole.

Glossary

*mound: small hill

*a log: a large lump of wood

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