

DEPARTMENT FOR CURRICULUM,
LIFELONG LEARNING AND EMPLOYABILITY
Educational Assessment Unit

Annual Examinations for Primary Schools 2024

Year 6

ENGLISH

Time: 45 min

Reading Extracts Booklet

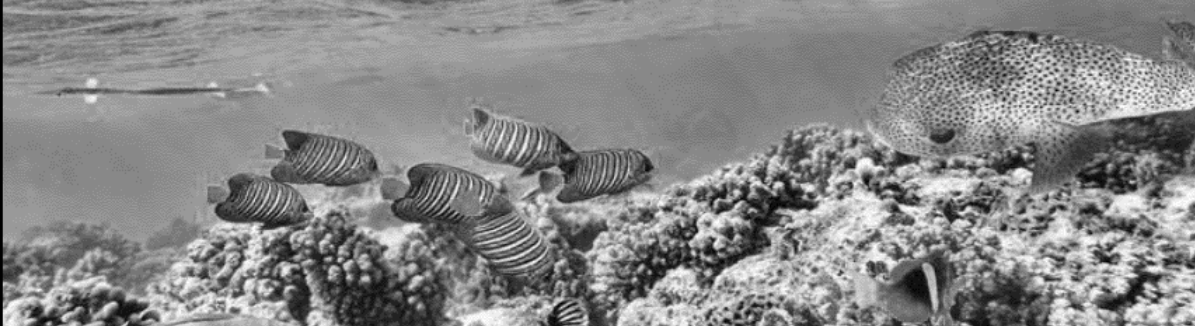
Name: _____

Class: _____

Read the following poster.

GREAT BARRIER REEF

Our world's largest reef system



DID YOU KNOW?

Picture A

The Great Barrier Reef is so big that it can be seen from space – it is bigger than the whole of Italy. It is thought to be over **500,000** years old.

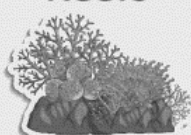
Length

Picture B

2,300 km

The Great Barrier Reef extends along the eastern coastline of Australia.

Reefs



Reefs are living things. They are very slow growing. The Great Barrier Reef is home to about **3,000** individual reefs and **900** islands.

Corals



There are over **1,200** species of hard and soft corals that grow in the Great Barrier Reef. Corals are alive! They have growth rings, just like trees!

Life on the Reef

Picture C

The Great Barrier Reef is home to over **1,500** species – whales, sharks, stingrays, clownfish, eels, seahorses, jellyfish and many more. Turtles come to the reef to breed.

Threats

Picture D

The biggest threats to the Great Barrier Reef are **overfishing, tourism, climate change, and water pollution.**

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OCEANS

Visit www.kids-world-travel-guide.com

Adapted from: <https://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com/ocean-facts-for-kids.html>

Read the following text and answer all the questions in the Answers Booklet.

This is an extract from a story about Christopher, a boy who works for an engineer called Absalom who makes mechanical children. At this point in the story, Absalom is trying to sell a mechanical boy called Jack.

Section 1

Snow was falling from the night sky, and all the world was cold and hushed except for the regular metallic squeaking of Jack's joints. Christopher glanced at Jack, but the mechanical looked straight ahead, oblivious to the sound. Absalom was walking a few feet in front, his thin black coat billowing around him.

Squeak squeak.

Christopher **willed** the sound to stop.

Squeak squeak.

(par. 1)

Absalom **wheeled around**, raising his tall spidery frame up to its full height.

'I thought I told you to oil him before we left the yard,' he snarled, glaring down at Christopher.

'I did, Mr Absalom.'

The truth was, in all the panic of their hurried departure, Christopher had completely forgotten to oil Jack's joints.

(par. 2)

Absalom scowled at him.

'He did. He even checked me for loose rivets,' said Jack.

'Fix your hair,' said Absalom, flapping his hand at Jack, who pulled down the edges of his wig and grinned at Christopher. Christopher smiled weakly in response. Ever since Absalom had informed them that there might be the possibility of an actual sale in Aylesbury, he'd felt an awful, cold sinking sensation in his chest.

(par. 3)

Absalom hadn't made a real sale in quite a long time, except for his scarecrows, which were **frankly embarrassing creations**. The most recent had walked out of its field and was found three months later, ten kilometres away, face down in a river.

(par. 4)

Section 2

But this time, Absalom had told them, **the stars were aligning**. A sale was most definitely on the cards, and after a bit of gleeful capering around his office he told Jack to replace his regular red hair with a brown wig ‘because nobody buys gingers, awful sickly-looking things’. Jack didn’t mind. He was secretly delighted at the possibility of being sold, although Jack being Jack, he was too hard-headed to show it. Even so, Christopher had caught him grinning to himself on the way over in the truck. (par. 5)

Christopher stole another anxious glance at Jack as they walked along the street. He was grinning to himself again, but this time he noticed Christopher watching. Christopher looked away quickly.

‘What’s wrong?’ said Jack.

‘Nothing,’ Christopher replied. (par. 6)

Absalom’s mood was improving. He looked up in amazement at the falling snow. ‘Beautiful. I couldn’t have planned it better if I’d arranged it myself.’ He signalled them to stop halfway along a row of redbrick houses, clasped his hands together and grinned at the two boys. ‘Here we are. Number ten is the abode we require. Remember what we practised, Jack.’

‘Yes, Mr Absalom.’

‘Christopher.’

‘Yes, Mr Absalom?’

‘Stand up straight, look smart. Remember, you’re assistant to the greatest engineer in all of Britain.’

‘Yes, Mr Absalom.’ (par. 7)

The door they faced was dark green with a dull brass knocker. Absalom straightened himself up, took the knocker and gave it three confident raps. There were a few moments of silence broken only by the soft fizz of falling snow, then the sound of a bolt being thrown back. The door opened a crack and a man in his thirties with a curly mop of hair poked his head out.

‘Yes?’ he asked, a puzzled look crossing his face.

Absalom smiled his broadest smile. (par. 8)