

# UK 11+ Exam Reading Comprehension Anthology Pack A

## Introduction

This anthology contains ten carefully selected passages designed to prepare students for 11+ reading comprehension examinations. The collection includes fiction, non-fiction, and poetry from both classic and contemporary sources.

## Instructions for Students

- Read each passage carefully before attempting the questions
- Answer all questions in the space provided
- For multiple-choice questions, select the best answer
- Use evidence from the text to support your answers
- Check your answers using the answer key at the end

## Passage Contents

**Fiction Passages:** The Secret Garden, The Time Machine, Maya's Discovery, The Storm

**Non-Fiction Passages:** The Wonder of Bees, Captain Scott's Antarctic Journey, Marie Curie: Pioneer of Science, The Digital Revolution

**Poetry Selections:** The Owl and the Pussycat, The Road Not Taken

### Passage 1: The Secret Garden (Fiction - Classic Literature)

*Mary Lennox was a disagreeable child with a sour expression and a stubborn disposition. She had been born in India, where her father worked for the British government, and she had lived there until she was nine years old. Her parents had never wanted her and had left her entirely to the care of her Ayah, who always did exactly what Mary told her to do. Mary had never known that she was different from other children. She had never been told that she was spoilt, selfish, and disagreeable. She thought that was simply how children were supposed to behave. When she was cross, everyone obeyed her, and when she was pleased, everyone tried to please her more. But everything changed when the terrible disease came to the compound where they lived. It happened so quickly that Mary hardly understood what was occurring. One day, she woke up in her nursery and found that her Ayah was not there. She called and called, but no one came. The house was strangely quiet, and Mary began to feel frightened. Hours passed, and still no one came to her. Mary had never been alone before, and she didn't know what to do. She wandered through the empty house, calling for her parents, but*

*received no answer. The silence was overwhelming, and for the first time in her life, Mary felt truly alone and helpless. When the British soldiers finally found her, they told her the devastating news: her parents had died from the disease, along with all the servants. Mary was now an orphan, and she would have to go to England to live with her uncle, whom she had never met. As she sat in the empty house, surrounded by the silence that had once been filled with the sounds of people rushing to serve her, Mary began to understand that her life would never be the same again.*

1. What does the word "disagreeable" mean in the first sentence?
  - a) Friendly and kind
  - b) Unpleasant and difficult
  - c) Shy and quiet
  - d) Intelligent and clever
2. Where was Mary born and raised? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What evidence in the text shows that Mary was spoiled? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How did Mary's life change suddenly?
  - a) Her family moved to a new house
  - b) She started attending a new school
  - c) A disease killed her parents and servants
  - d) She was sent away to boarding school
5. What does the phrase "the silence was overwhelming" suggest about Mary's feelings?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How does the author create sympathy for Mary despite describing her as disagreeable?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What is the main theme of this passage?
  - a) The importance of education
  - b) The effects of sudden loss and change
  - c) The beauty of nature
  - d) The value of friendship
8. Explain how Mary's character might develop throughout the rest of the story.  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Passage 2: The Wonder of Bees (Non-Fiction - Science)**

*Bees are among the most important creatures on Earth, yet many people don't realise just how crucial they are to our survival. These remarkable insects are responsible for pollinating approximately one-third of all the food we eat. Without bees, our dinner plates would look very different indeed. The process of pollination is fascinating. As bees visit flowers to collect*

*nectar, tiny grains of pollen stick to their fuzzy bodies. When they fly to the next flower, some of this pollen brushes off, allowing plants to reproduce. This seemingly simple process is actually incredibly complex and vital for the continuation of plant species. A single bee colony can contain up to 80,000 individual bees during the summer months. Within this colony, there are three types of bees: the queen, the workers, and the drones. The queen is the only bee that lays eggs, producing up to 2,000 eggs per day during peak season. The worker bees, which are all female, perform various tasks including collecting nectar, building honeycombs, and caring for the young. The drones are male bees whose primary purpose is to mate with the queen. What makes bees even more extraordinary is their communication system. When a worker bee discovers a good source of nectar, she returns to the hive and performs a special dance called the "waggle dance." This dance tells the other bees exactly where to find the flowers, including the distance and direction from the hive. The angle of the dance indicates the direction relative to the sun, while the duration of the dance reveals the distance. Unfortunately, bee populations have been declining rapidly in recent years due to habitat loss, pesticide use, and climate change. This decline threatens not only the bees themselves but also our entire food system. Many scientists and conservationists are working hard to protect these vital insects and ensure their survival for future generations.*

1. What proportion of our food depends on bee pollination? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Explain the process of pollination in your own words. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What does the word "crucial" mean in the first paragraph?
  - a) Interesting
  - b) Essential
  - c) Difficult
  - d) Unusual
4. How many eggs can a queen bee lay per day? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the "waggle dance" and what information does it provide?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Why are bee populations declining?
  - a) Disease only
  - b) Habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change
  - c) Natural predators
  - d) Overpopulation
7. What is the author's purpose in writing this passage? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How does the author emphasise the importance of bees in the first paragraph?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Passage 3: The Owl and the Pussycat (Poetry - Classic)

*The Owl and the Pussycat went to sea In a beautiful pea-green boat, They took some honey,  
and plenty of money,  
Wrapped up in a five-pound note. The Owl looked up to the stars above, And sang to a small  
guitar, "O lovely  
Pussy! O Pussy, my love, What a beautiful Pussy you are, You are, You are! What a beautiful  
Pussy you are!"  
Pussy said to the Owl, "You elegant fowl! How charmingly sweet you sing! O let us be  
married! Too long we have  
tarried: But what shall we do for a ring?" They sailed away, for a year and a day, To the land  
where the  
Bong-tree grows And there in a wood a Piggy-wig stood With a ring at the end of his nose,  
His nose, His nose,  
With a ring at the end of his nose. "Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling Your  
ring?" Said the  
Piggy, "I will." So they took it away, and were married next day By the Turkey who lives on  
the hill. And hand  
in hand, on the edge of the sand, They danced by the light of the moon, The moon, The moon,  
They danced by the  
light of the moon. - Edward Lear*

1. What colour was the Owl and Pussycat's boat? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does the word "tarried" mean in the third verse?
  - a) Travelled
  - b) Delayed or waited
  - c) Argued
  - d) Celebrated
3. How long did the Owl and Pussycat sail before finding the ring?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What did they use for money to buy the ring?
  - a) Honey
  - b) A guitar
  - c) A shilling
  - d) A five-pound note
5. Who performed their wedding ceremony? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Find two examples of repetition in the poem and explain their effect.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What type of poem is this?

- a) A sonnet
- b) A nonsense poem
- c) A haiku
- d) A ballad

8. How does the poet create a magical, fairy-tale atmosphere?

\_\_\_\_\_

#### Passage 4: Captain Scott's Antarctic Journey (Non-Fiction - History)

*Captain Robert Falcon Scott's expedition to Antarctica in 1910 remains one of the most famous and tragic polar expeditions in history. Scott led a team of British explorers with the ambitious goal of becoming the first to reach the South Pole, but their journey would end in both triumph and tragedy. The expedition began with great optimism. Scott and his team had spent months preparing for the harsh conditions they would face. They brought ponies, motor sledges, and dogs to help transport their supplies across the frozen landscape. However, the Antarctic environment proved more challenging than they had anticipated. As they progressed towards the South Pole, the weather became increasingly severe. The motor sledges broke down in the extreme cold, and the ponies struggled to cope with the icy conditions. The team was forced to rely more heavily on manhauling their sledges, which was exhausting work in the thin air and bitter cold. On 17th January 1912, Scott and four companions finally reached the South Pole, only to discover that the Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen had beaten them by 34 days. A Norwegian flag was already planted at the pole, and Amundsen had left a tent with a letter for Scott. The disappointment was crushing, but Scott maintained his dignity and took photographs of his team at the pole. The return journey proved catastrophic. Edgar Evans died after suffering a head injury, and Lawrence Oates, suffering from severe frostbite, walked out of the tent one morning saying, "I am just going outside and may be some time." He never returned, sacrificing himself to try to save his companions. Scott, Edward Wilson, and Henry Bowers were trapped in their tent by a blizzard just eleven miles from a supply depot. They died of cold and starvation in March 1912. Despite the tragic outcome, Scott's expedition contributed valuable scientific knowledge about Antarctica. The team collected rock samples, studied weather patterns, and made detailed observations of the region. Scott's diary, found with his body, revealed the courage and determination of the explorers and made them heroes in the eyes of the British public.*

1. What was the main goal of Scott's expedition? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why did Scott's team have to rely on manhauling their sledges?
  - a) They preferred it to using animals
  - b) The motor sledges broke down and ponies struggled
  - c) They ran out of fuel
  - d) It was faster than other methods

3. By how many days did Amundsen beat Scott to the South Pole?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does the phrase "the disappointment was crushing" tell us about Scott's feelings?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What happened to Lawrence Oates? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. How did Scott's expedition contribute to scientific knowledge?

- a) They discovered new species of animals
- b) They collected samples and studied weather patterns
- c) They found oil deposits
- d) They mapped new territories

7. What is the author's attitude towards Scott and his team? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. Why do you think Scott's expedition is remembered as both a triumph and a tragedy?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Passage 5: Maya's Discovery (Fiction - Contemporary)

*Maya had always been fascinated by the old oak tree in her grandmother's garden. It stood like a gentle giant, its massive trunk scarred by decades of storms and seasons. Today, as she helped her grandmother tend to the vegetable patch, something caught her eye - a small, metallic glint near the base of the tree. "Grandma, look at this!" Maya called out, kneeling down to examine her find. Half-buried in the earth was a small, tarnished silver locket, its chain broken and covered in soil. Her grandmother wiped her hands on her apron and walked over, her eyes widening as she saw the locket. "Oh my goodness," she whispered, her voice trembling with emotion. "I never thought I'd see this again." Maya carefully brushed away the dirt. The locket was heart-shaped and felt surprisingly heavy in her small hands. "Is it yours, Grandma?" "It was my mother's," her grandmother replied, settling down beside Maya on the grass. "She gave it to me when I was about your age. I lost it somewhere in this garden over sixty years ago when I was playing hide-and-seek with my brother." With gentle fingers, Maya managed to open the locket. Inside was a tiny, faded photograph of a young woman with kind eyes and a warm smile. "Is this your mother?" "Yes, that's her," her grandmother said, tears glistening in her eyes. "She died when I was only fifteen. I was heartbroken when I lost this locket because it was all I had left of her." Maya looked at the photograph, then at her grandmother's face. She could see the resemblance - the same gentle eyes, the same warm smile. "The tree must have been keeping it safe for you all these years," she said thoughtfully. Her grandmother laughed through her tears. "You know, I think you're right. Your great-grandmother always said this tree was special. She planted it when she first moved to this house, and it's been watching over our family ever since." As they sat together under the oak tree's protective branches, Maya felt a deep connection to her family's history.*

*The discovery of the locket had brought the past and present together in a way that felt almost magical. She carefully placed the precious locket in her grandmother's wrinkled hands, knowing that this moment would become a treasured memory for both of them.*

1. What was Maya doing when she found the locket? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does the word "tarnished" mean in the second paragraph?
  - a) Shiny and new
  - b) Dulled and discoloured
  - c) Broken and damaged
  - d) Large and heavy
3. How long had the locket been lost? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What was inside the locket?
  - a) A precious stone
  - b) A photograph of Maya's grandmother
  - c) A photograph of Maya's great-grandmother
  - d) A small note
5. Why was the locket so important to Maya's grandmother? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What does Maya mean when she says "The tree must have been keeping it safe"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How does the author create a sense of the magical in this story?
  - a) By describing supernatural events
  - b) By suggesting the tree has protective powers
  - c) By including fantasy creatures
  - d) By using magic spells
8. What is the main theme of this story? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Passage 6: Marie Curie: Pioneer of Science (Non-Fiction - Biography)**

*Marie Curie was one of the most remarkable scientists in history, breaking barriers for women in science and making discoveries that changed our understanding of the world. Born Maria Skłodowska in Warsaw, Poland, in 1867, she faced many obstacles on her path to becoming a world-renowned scientist. As a young woman in Poland, Maria was denied access to university education because she was female. Determined to pursue her studies, she made a pact with her sister: she would work to support her sister's medical studies in Paris, and then her sister would support her in return. Maria worked as a governess to earn money, teaching the children of wealthy families while dreaming of her future in science. In 1891, Maria finally travelled to Paris to study at the Sorbonne University. She changed her name to*

*the French version, Marie, and threw herself into her studies with incredible dedication. She lived in a tiny, unheated room and often had very little money for food, but she was determined to excel in her studies of physics and mathematics. Marie's life changed when she met Pierre Curie, a brilliant physicist who shared her passion for science. They married in 1895 and began working together on groundbreaking research into radioactivity. Marie coined the term "radioactivity" and discovered two new elements: polonium (named after her homeland) and radium. The Curies' research was physically demanding and dangerous. They worked with radioactive materials in a converted shed, unaware of the health risks. Marie would often work late into the night, stirring huge vats of pitchblende ore to extract tiny amounts of radium. The work was exhausting, but Marie persevered because she knew the importance of her discoveries. In 1903, Marie became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, sharing the Physics Prize with Pierre and Henri Becquerel for their work on radioactivity. Tragedy struck in 1906 when Pierre was killed in a street accident, but Marie continued their research alone. In 1911, she won a second Nobel Prize, this time in Chemistry, making her the first person to win Nobel Prizes in two different sciences. Marie Curie's legacy extends far beyond her scientific achievements. She opened doors for women in science and showed that determination and hard work could overcome any obstacle. Her discoveries have led to important medical treatments and our modern understanding of atomic structure.*

1. Why couldn't Marie study at university in Poland? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What arrangement did Marie make with her sister?
  - a) They would study together in Paris
  - b) They would take turns supporting each other's education
  - c) They would both work as governesses
  - d) They would share their scientific discoveries
3. What does the word "persevered" mean in the fifth paragraph?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Name the two elements that Marie discovered. \_\_\_\_\_
5. What was dangerous about Marie's research?
  - a) She worked with explosive materials
  - b) She worked with radioactive materials
  - c) She worked in dangerous neighbourhoods
  - d) She worked with poisonous chemicals
6. What made Marie unique among Nobel Prize winners? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How does the author show Marie's determination throughout the passage?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is Marie Curie's lasting legacy beyond her scientific discoveries?  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Passage 7: The Road Not Taken (Poetry - Contemporary Classic)

*Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, And sorry I could not travel both And be one traveler,  
long I stood And  
looked down one as far as I could To where it bent in the undergrowth; Then took the other,  
as just as fair, And  
having perhaps the better claim, Because it was grassy and wanted wear; Though as for that  
the passing there Had  
worn them really about the same, And both that morning equally lay In leaves no step had  
trodden black. Oh, I  
kept the first for another day! Yet knowing how way leads on to way, I doubted if I should  
ever be back. I shall  
be telling this with a sigh Somewhere ages and ages hence: Two roads diverged in a wood,  
and I— I took the one  
less traveled by, And that has made all the difference. - Robert Frost*

1. What season is suggested by the phrase "yellow wood"? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does "diverged" mean in the first line?
  - a) Came together
  - b) Separated or split apart
  - c) Disappeared
  - d) Became straight
3. Why did the speaker choose the second road? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What does the poet mean by "way leads on to way"?
  - a) All roads lead to the same destination
  - b) One choice leads to another, making it hard to go back
  - c) The roads are very long
  - d) The roads are well-marked
5. What mood is created by the word "sigh" in the final stanza?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What do the two roads represent in this poem?
  - a) Two different places to visit
  - b) Two different life choices or decisions
  - c) Two different seasons
  - d) Two different types of transport
7. Find an example of repetition in the poem and explain its effect.  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the main message of this poem? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Passage 8: The Digital Revolution (Non-Fiction - Current Affairs)**

*The digital revolution has transformed the way we live, work, and communicate in ways that would have seemed impossible just a few decades ago. This transformation began in the 1950s with the development of the first computers, but it has accelerated dramatically in recent years, fundamentally changing every aspect of modern life. One of the most significant changes has been in communication. Before the internet, people communicated through letters, telephone calls, and face-to-face meetings. Today, we can instantly send messages, make video calls, and share information with people anywhere in the world. Social media platforms have connected billions of people, allowing them to share experiences, ideas, and knowledge in real-time. Education has also been revolutionised by digital technology. Students can now access vast amounts of information online, take virtual tours of museums and historical sites, and even attend classes with teachers from other countries. Interactive learning programmes and educational apps make learning more engaging and personalised than ever before. The workplace has undergone equally dramatic changes. Many jobs that once required physical presence can now be done remotely, with employees working from home or anywhere with an internet connection. Artificial intelligence and automation are taking over routine tasks, allowing humans to focus on more creative and complex work. However, the digital revolution has also created new challenges. Cybercrime has become a serious threat, with hackers stealing personal information and money from individuals and businesses. There are concerns about the amount of time people spend looking at screens and the impact this has on their physical and mental health. Additionally, the rapid pace of technological change means that some older workers struggle to keep up with new systems and methods. Despite these challenges, the benefits of the digital revolution are undeniable. Medical technology has improved dramatically, allowing doctors to diagnose diseases earlier and provide more effective treatments. Environmental monitoring systems help us understand and protect our planet. Digital technology has also made it easier for people to start their own businesses and reach customers around the world. As we look to the future, it's clear that the digital revolution will continue to shape our world in ways we can barely imagine. The key is to harness the power of technology while addressing its challenges, ensuring that its benefits are shared by everyone.*

1. When did the digital revolution begin? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How has communication changed due to digital technology?

- a) It has become slower and more expensive
- b) It has become instant and global
- c) It has become more formal
- d) It has become less reliable

3. Give two examples of how education has been transformed by digital technology.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does the word "remote" mean in the context of work?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What are three challenges created by the digital revolution?

- a) Lack of computers, slow internet, expensive technology
- b) Cybercrime, screen time concerns, difficulty keeping up with change
- c) Too many jobs, too much education, too much communication
- d) Environmental damage, noise pollution, traffic congestion

6. How has digital technology benefited healthcare? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the author's overall attitude towards the digital revolution?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What does the author mean by "harness the power of technology"?

\_\_\_\_\_

### Passage 9: The Storm (Fiction - Contemporary)

*The wind howled like a wild animal as it battered against the windows of the old cottage. Inside, ten-year-old Emma pressed her face against the glass, watching the ancient oak trees bend and sway in the fierce storm. Lightning illuminated the sky in brilliant white flashes, followed by thunderclaps that made the entire house shudder. "Come away from the window, sweetheart," her grandfather called from his armchair by the fireplace. "That's quite a storm out there." Emma reluctantly moved away from the window and settled beside her grandfather, who was whittling a piece of wood with his old penknife. The fire crackled warmly, casting dancing shadows on the walls and creating a cosy atmosphere that contrasted sharply with the chaos outside. "Tell me about the worst storm you remember, Grandpa," Emma asked, snuggling closer to him. Her grandfather's weathered hands paused in their work, and his eyes took on a distant look. "Well, that would be the great storm of 1987. I was about your age, living in this very cottage with my grandmother. The wind was so strong that night, it felt like the world was coming to an end." "Were you scared?" Emma whispered. "Terrified," he admitted with a gentle smile. "But my grandmother did exactly what I'm doing now - she sat by the fire and told me stories to keep my mind off the storm. She said that storms were just nature's way of cleaning house, washing away the old to make room for the new." As if summoned by his words, another tremendous crash of thunder shook the cottage. Emma jumped, but her grandfather's steady presence kept her calm. He continued his story, describing how the storm had uprooted a massive tree in their garden, but how the cleared space had allowed them to plant a beautiful flower garden the following spring. "You see, Emma," he said, his voice warm and reassuring, "storms can be frightening, but they often bring unexpected gifts. Sometimes we need the old to be swept*

*away so that something new and wonderful can grow in its place." Just then, the lights flickered and went out, plunging the cottage into darkness. But the fire continued to burn brightly, and Emma realised that she wasn't afraid anymore. In the glow of the flames, with her grandfather's stories filling the air, the storm outside seemed less threatening and more like an adventure. "Now," her grandfather said, reaching for a book from the side table, "shall we read by firelight until the power comes back on?" Emma nodded eagerly, understanding that this stormy night would become one of her most treasured memories.*

1. What is the setting of this story? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does the simile "howled like a wild animal" tell us about the wind?
  - a) The wind was gentle and quiet
  - b) The wind was fierce and loud
  - c) The wind was musical and pleasant
  - d) The wind was slow and steady
3. What was Emma's grandfather doing when she joined him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How does the author create contrast in the third paragraph?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What happened in the great storm of 1987?
  - a) The cottage was destroyed
  - b) A tree was uprooted in the garden
  - c) The family moved away
  - d) The fire went out
6. What did the grandfather's grandmother mean by "nature's way of cleaning house"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How does Emma's attitude towards the storm change during the story?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the main theme of this story?
  - a) The importance of electricity
  - b) The power of family stories and comfort
  - c) The danger of storms
  - d) The beauty of nature

### **Passage 10: The Time Machine (Fiction - Classic Literature)**

*The Time Traveller had finally returned from his extraordinary journey, and we gathered around him in his study, eager to hear his account of the adventures that had kept him away for what seemed like weeks, though by his reckoning, he had been gone for only a few hours of our time. "You must understand," he began, settling back in his leather armchair, "that*

*travelling through time is not like travelling through space. When you journey to the future, you pass through all the years in between, though you experience them in the space of moments." He reached into his waistcoat pocket and produced a small, withered flower, unlike anything we had ever seen. Its petals were a strange, luminous white, and it seemed to glow with an inner light even in the dim lamplight of the study. "This," he said, holding the flower carefully, "is from the year 802,701. I picked it from a garden in what was once London, though the city I knew has long since crumbled to dust." We leaned forward, fascinated despite our scepticism. The Time Traveller's clothes were torn and dirty, and there were scratches on his hands that testified to some kind of struggle. Whatever had happened to him, it had certainly been real enough. "In that distant future," he continued, "humanity has divided into two species. The Eloi, beautiful and childlike, live above ground in a world of eternal summer. They have no need to work, as all their needs are provided for by mysterious underground machinery. But they have grown weak and helpless, like lovely flowers that wither at the first touch of frost." He paused, his expression growing darker. "Below ground dwell the Morlocks, pale creatures who shun the light. They tend the machines that keep the Eloi in comfort, but they exact a terrible price for their services." The flower began to crumble in his hands, and we watched in amazement as it disintegrated into dust, as if centuries of decay had suddenly caught up with it. The Time Traveller looked at the remains sadly. "I learned that in trying to create a perfect world, humanity had created something far worse than the struggles we know today. The Eloi had gained comfort but lost their strength, their curiosity, and their ability to face danger. The Morlocks had gained power but lost their humanity entirely." He stood up and walked to the window, gazing out at the busy London street below. "Perhaps," he said quietly, "our imperfect world, with all its difficulties and challenges, is preferable to a future where humanity has forgotten how to truly live."*

1. How long had the Time Traveller been away according to his friends?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What year did the Time Traveller visit?

- a) 802,701
- b) 802,711
- c) 812,701
- d) 820,701

3. What evidence suggests the Time Traveller had been in some kind of struggle?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Describe the Eloi in your own words. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What does the simile "like lovely flowers that wither at the first touch of frost" suggest about the Eloi?

- a) They are beautiful and strong
- b) They are delicate and vulnerable

- c) They are colourful and bright
- d) They are useful and practical

6. What is the relationship between the Eloi and the Morlocks?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. What happens to the flower and why is this significant? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the main message of this passage about human progress?

\_\_\_\_\_

---

## Answer Key

### Passage 1: The Secret Garden

1. b) Unpleasant and difficult
2. India
3. Everyone obeyed her when she was cross / her Ayah did exactly what Mary told her to do
4. c) A disease killed her parents and servants
5. Mary felt frightened and overwhelmed by the quietness/loneliness
6. By showing she was a product of her circumstances and had never been taught how to behave properly
7. b) The effects of sudden loss and change
8. She will likely become less spoilt and more considerate as she faces challenges

### Passage 2: The Wonder of Bees

1. One-third / approximately one-third
2. Bees collect nectar and pollen sticks to their bodies, then transfers to other flowers to help plants reproduce
3. b) Essential
4. Up to 2,000 eggs per day
5. A dance that tells other bees where to find nectar, including distance and direction

6. b) Habitat loss, pesticides, and climate change
7. To inform readers about the importance of bees and threats they face
8. By stating they are "among the most important creatures on Earth" and describing their role in food production

### **Passage 3: The Owl and the Pussycat**

1. Pea-green
2. b) Delayed or waited
3. A year and a day
4. c) A shilling
5. The Turkey
6. "His nose, his nose" and "The moon, the moon" - creates rhythm and emphasis
7. b) A nonsense poem
8. Through unusual characters, fantastical elements, and whimsical language

### **Passage 4: Captain Scott's Antarctic Journey**

1. To become the first to reach the South Pole
2. b) The motor sledges broke down and ponies struggled
3. 34 days
4. Scott was deeply disappointed and devastated by not being first
5. He walked out of the tent with frostbite and never returned, sacrificing himself
6. b) They collected samples and studied weather patterns
7. Respectful and admiring of their courage and determination
8. They reached their goal (triumph) but died trying to return (tragedy)

### **Passage 5: Maya's Discovery**

1. Helping her grandmother tend to the vegetable patch
2. b) Dulled and discoloured
3. Over sixty years
4. c) A photograph of Maya's great-grandmother

5. It was the only thing she had left of her mother who died when she was young
6. She suggests the tree protected the locket like a guardian until it could be returned
7. b) By suggesting the tree has protective powers
8. Family connections and the importance of memories across generations

### **Passage 6: Marie Curie**

1. Because she was female/women weren't allowed
2. b) They would take turns supporting each other's education
3. Continued despite difficulties/kept going
4. Polonium and radium
5. b) She worked with radioactive materials
6. She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the first person to win in two different sciences
7. By describing her sacrifices, hard work, and determination to overcome obstacles
8. She opened doors for women in science and showed that obstacles could be overcome

### **Passage 7: The Road Not Taken**

1. Autumn
2. b) Separated or split apart
3. Because it was grassy and less travelled/wanted wear
4. b) One choice leads to another, making it hard to go back
5. A sense of wistfulness or regret
6. b) Two different life choices or decisions
7. "Two roads diverged" - emphasises the central metaphor of choice
8. The choices we make shape our lives and have lasting consequences

### **Passage 8: The Digital Revolution**

1. The 1950s
2. b) It has become instant and global
3. Access to online information, virtual tours, interactive learning programmes

4. Working from a location away from the office
5. b) Cybercrime, screen time concerns, difficulty keeping up with change
6. Better diagnosis and more effective treatments
7. Cautiously optimistic - acknowledges benefits and challenges
8. Use technology effectively while managing its problems

### **Passage 9: The Storm**

1. An old cottage during a storm
2. b) The wind was fierce and loud
3. Whittling a piece of wood with his penknife
4. The cosy warmth inside contrasts with the chaos outside
5. b) A tree was uprooted in the garden
6. Storms clear away the old to make room for something new
7. From fearful to calm and seeing it as an adventure
8. b) The power of family stories and comfort

### **Passage 10: The Time Machine**

1. Several weeks
2. a) 802,701
3. His clothes were torn and dirty, and he had scratches on his hands
4. Beautiful, childlike people who live above ground but are weak and helpless
5. b) They are delicate and vulnerable
6. The Morlocks provide for the Eloi but exact a terrible price
7. It crumbles to dust, showing how time affects everything
8. That trying to create a perfect world can lead to losing what makes us human