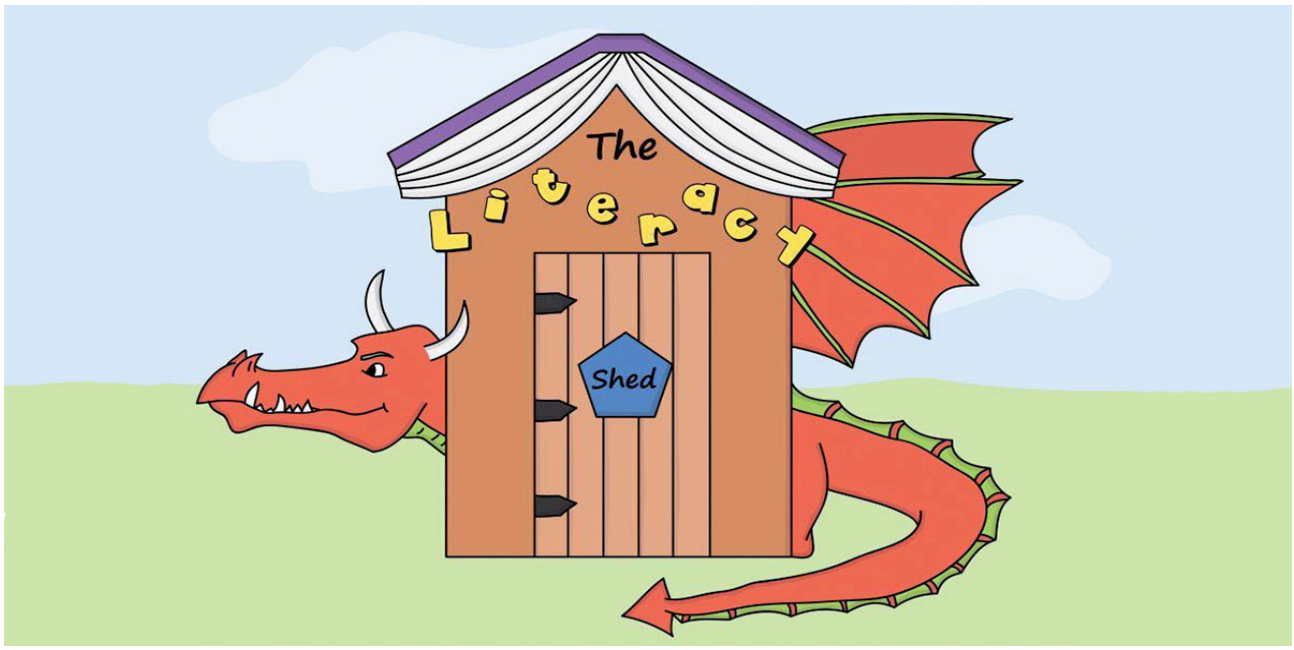
Comprehension Shed



Stage 2
Comprehension pack

Unit focus: Traditional Tales
Text focus: Narrative (570L)

STAGE 2

The Boastful Turtle (Philippines)

There was one a turtle who grew frustrated with having to live in the sea. What Turtle wanted more than anything was to fly. He talked about flying all of the time. He boasted about how he would be the first turtle to leave the oceans and soar in the sky. He talked so much that other turtles couldn't bear to be around him.

Turtle grew so bitter at his situation that he started to be rude and grumpy. Turtle would moan at the fishes for swimming near him. He would grumble at the whales for splashing him n
he would shout at the birds for taunting him from the sky

One day, Turtle saw a goose flying above the waves.

"Goose," Turtle shouted, "won't you help me to fly?"

"I can't. My flock is migrating," said Goose.

"I think it is because you know I would be better at it than

Goose grew angry. He flew away to his flock. A moment l
returned to Turtle.

"Maybe we could carry a stick and Turtle could bite onto t
other geese.

INFERENCE FOCUS

1. Why was Turtle so mean to the other animals?
2. Why did Goose get angry at Turtle?
3. Why do you think Turtle's eyes widened when they flew into the sky?
4. Why do you think Goose agreed to help Turtle fly?
5. Why did Turtle let go of the stick?

Unit focus: Homes
Text focus: Information Text (690L)

STAGE 2

Homes Around The World

Everybody needs somewhere to live. People live in lots of different types of houses all around the world. They have all been designed to keep the owner safe and comfortable in different conditions. Let's take a look at some of them.

Bricks

Lots of houses in Europe and North America are built with bricks. These are very strong and keep the inside of the house nice and warm. These are the houses that we are most used to seeing.

Underground

It gets very hot and uncomfortable in Australia.
in a few small towns have an
They have dug their houses
are much cooler and more

North African countries also need
heat. Some of them have built
in natural caves. Many of these
of years ago and are still being
have even been turned into hotels!

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. Where are houses built from bricks?
2. Where does it get very hot and uncomfortable?
3. Where do some people live in caves?
4. What type of snow is used for igloos?
5. What is in front of a traditional Hanok house?

Unit focus: Fairy Tales
Text focus: Narrative (530L)

STAGE 2

Hansel and Gretel

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Hansel and a girl named Gretel. They were both very naughty. They never did what their parents told them.

One day, their family ran out of food. Their mother took them into the forest to hunt for mushrooms. When they were far away from home, she turned and ran away. She knew that there wasn't enough food for the children at home, but there might be in the forest.

The two children were annoyed by their mother. Hansel thought he knew the way
tried their best but they were soon lost.
ed upon a rather unusual house. The walls were
ets. The roof was made of icing and toffee. They
so they both ran straight to the house. It all tasted
sugar.
h from the doorway. "Two more children for my
"There are even more sweets inside," she said.
an Gretel, and he sped into the house. Gretel
the look of the woman. By the time she was in the
in a cage. He was hanging above a boiling pot of

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. What did the children never do?
2. What did they go looking for in the forest?
3. What were the walls of the house made of?
4. What did the old woman promise them was inside the house?
5. What did Gretel say they had seen in the woods?

Unit focus: Pirates
Text focus: Narrative (620L)

STAGE 2

Captain Blackbeard

Pirates often capture the imagination. None have been as popular as Captain Blackbeard. He was just as famous when he was alive. Many peopled feared him. He has been made even more famous through films and books. But was he as terrifying as we are led to believe?

Blackbeard's real name was Edward Teach. He was born in 1680 and died in 1718. He wasn't a pirate for most of his life. He was probably a privateer for most of his life. A privateer owned their own ship. They would be paid by governments to fight for them in wars. It is most likely he became a pirate once the war was over.

Another feared pirate at the time was Captain Benjamin Hornigold. Blackbeard joined Hornigold's pirate crew in 1716. He was immediately put in charge of his own ship. Hornigold retired from piracy in 1717. It was then that Blackbeard became captain of his own crew.

There are a few descriptions of Blackbeard's appearance from the time. He had a long black beard. He sometimes decorated it with colourful ribbons. He was tall with broad shoulders. People who saw him said that he wore knee-length boots and dark clothing.

Blackbeard definitely knew how to scare people. He would tie candles and fuses from

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. What was Blackbeard's real name?
2. When was Blackbeard put in charge of his first ship?
3. Who did Blackbeard join in 1716?
4. What did Blackbeard's flag look like?
5. Why might we not know how successful Blackbeard was?

Unit focus: Fairy Tales
Text focus: Narrative (600L)

STAGE 2

Little Red Riding Hood

"Your old granny isn't well," Little Red Riding Hood's mother told her. "Take this basket of food and make sure she is feeling better."

Little Red Riding Hood was a good girl who did as she was told. She didn't know that at the same time, a big bad wolf was wandering in the forest. He was very hungry and very grumpy.

As luck would have it, the girl bumped into the wolf halfway along the forest path. "Hello, little girl," he said with a grin. "Where are you heading today?"

"I am off to take this basket of food to my granny. She is feeling a bit under the weather."

"What a good girl you are," the wolf said. Red didn't notice him licking his lips. "Where does your granny live?"

"In the small cottage next to the stream. She's very alone out there," said Little Red Riding Hood.

They said goodbye and were soon on their way. Unfortunately, the wolf knew a shortcut, and he arrived long before the small girl. He slipped into Granny's cottage through an open window. Once inside, he swallowed her up whole, put on her nightdress, and hid in her bed.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Find a word that tells you that the wolf was moving around in the forest.
2. What does Little Red Riding Hood say that tells you that the granny wasn't feeling well?
3. Which word tells you how the wolf moved into the cottage?
4. Which word means that Little Red Riding Hood didn't trust the wolf?
5. What does the word "outrage" mean?

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Stage 2
Comprehension Pack

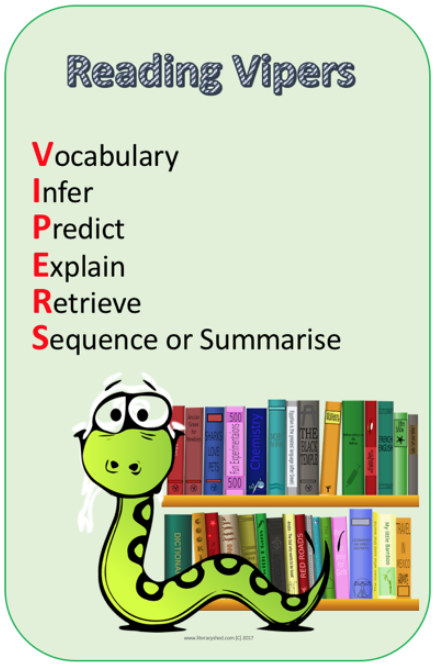
This free pack is aimed at those children working at the expected reading level for a child in Y2 in England. P3 in Scotland and Ireland. (Ages 6-7) The texts have a Lexile level range between 550 - 690

<u>What do the letters mean?</u>

The questions in the comprehensions are not numbered but labelled with a letter from VIPERS. These letters correspond with key reading skills. Many schools use these codes in reading lessons so lots of children will be familiar with them.

If your child is not familiar with the letter codes, then do not worry – it is just highlighting the skill for them.

If you would like to read more about VIPERS then there is an explanation on our blog here: www.literacyshedblog.com/vipers



If you enjoy these comprehensions, then further comprehensions can be found in our membership area on www.literacyshedplus.com

Unit focus: Pirates
Text focus: Narrative (620L)

STAGE 2

Captain Blackbeard

Pirates often capture the imagination. None have been as popular as Captain Blackbeard. He was just as famous when he was alive. Many peopled feared him. He has been made even more famous through films and books. But was he as terrifying as we are led to believe?

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. What was Blackbeard's real name?
2. When was Blackbeard put in charge of his first ship?
3. Who did Blackbeard join in 1716?
4. What did Blackbeard's flag look like?
5. Why might we not know how successful Blackbeard was?

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There are a few descriptions of Blackbeard's appearance from the time. He had a long black beard. He sometimes decorated it with colourful ribbons. He was tall with broad shoulders. People who saw him said that he wore knee-length boots and dark clothing.

Blackbeard definitely knew how to scare people. He would tie candles and fuses from

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canons into his beard and set them on fire. This would create lots of smoke for him to walk through. One person who saw him said that he couldn't imagine anything scarier. None of Blackbeard's ships had a Jolly Roger flag. Blackbeard's flags had a horned skeleton stabbing a heart with a spear. Much scarier!

Blackbeard was definitely a dangerous man. Pirates often used fake names so we may never know just how successful he really was. Aye aye captain! (Pirates never actually said this!)

VIPERS QUESTIONS

I Why do you think Blackbeard tied ribbons in his beard?

V Which word tells you that people were scared of Blackbeard?

V Find a word that tells you Hornigold gave up being a pirate.

I Why would people have been scared seeing Blackbeard walk through smoke?

S What happened after Hornigold retired?

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Answers:

1. Edward Teach
2. 1716 (Look for confusion with getting his first crew)
3. Captain Benjamin Hornigold
4. A horned skeleton stabbing a heart with a spear
5. Pirates often used fake names

I: To scare his enemies

V: Feared

V: Retired

I: They weren't used to seeing it/it would have been unusual

S: Blackbeard became captain of his own crew

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Unit focus: Traditional Tales
Text focus: Narrative (570L)

STAGE 2

The Boastful Turtle (Philippines)

There was one a turtle who grew frustrated with having to live in the sea. What Turtle wanted more than anything was to fly. He talked about flying all of the time. He boasted about how he would be the first turtle to leave the oceans and soar in the sky. He talked so much that other turtles couldn't bear to be around him.

INFERENCE FOCUS

1. Why was Turtle so mean to the other animals?
2. Why did Goose get angry at Turtle?
3. Why do you think Turtle's eyes widened when they flew into the sky?
4. Why do you think Goose agreed to help Turtle fly?
5. Why did Turtle let go of the stick?

Turtle grew so bitter at his situation that he started to be rude and grumpy. Turtle would moan at the fishes for swimming near him. He would grumble at the whales for splashing him near the surface. Most of all, he would shout at the birds for taunting him from the sky.

One day, Turtle saw a goose flying above the waves.

"Goose," Turtle shouted, "won't you help me to fly?"

"I can't. My flock is migrating," said Goose.

"I think it is because you know I would be better at it than you," Turtle boasted.

Goose grew angry. He flew away to his flock. A moment later, Goose and the flock returned to Turtle.

"Maybe we could carry a stick and Turtle could bite onto the end?" said one of the other geese.

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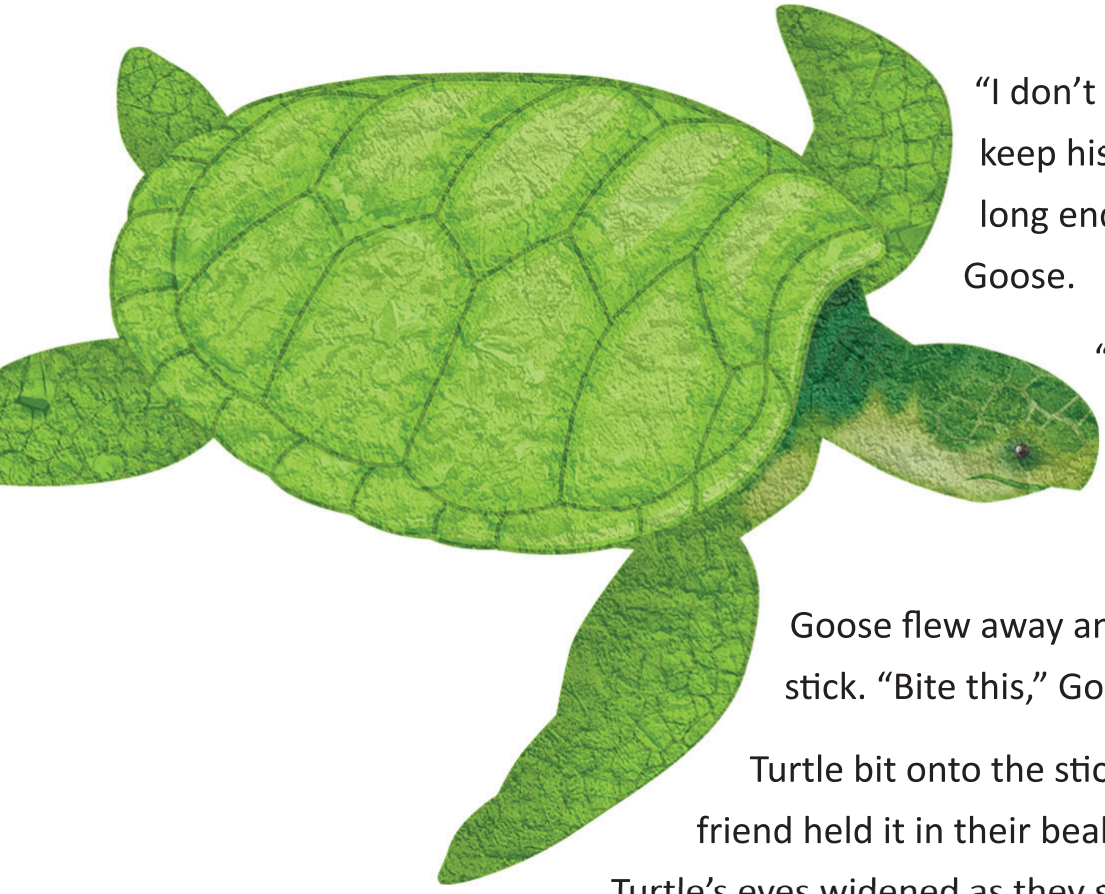

"I don't think Turtle could keep his mouth closed for long enough to hold on," said Goose.

"I promise I can," said Turtle. "I want to show you how good I am at flying."

Goose flew away and returned with a thick stick. "Bite this," Goose said to Turtle.

Turtle bit onto the stick and Goose and his friend held it in their beaks. The flock took flight. Turtle's eyes widened as they soared higher and higher. He saw the most wondrous things. Trees looked like sticks and rivers snaked across the landscape like silver threads.

"I'm the highest turtle in the world," Turtle thought to himself. "I am better than the fish and the whales and the turtles."

But Turtle couldn't help but be his usual, boastful self. As soon as he opened his mouth to tell the geese how amazing he was, he plummeted back into the ocean.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V What does the word "taunting" mean?

E Draw a picture that shows Turtle flying with the geese.

I What is the moral of this story?

V Which word tells you how Turtle felt towards the other animals?

R Why did Turtle grumble at the whales?

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Answers:

1. He was frustrated that he couldn’t fly
2. Turtle was rude and said that he would be better than Goose at flying.
3. Accept answers about him being scared or surprised
4. Goose was nice/he wanted to show Turtle a lesson.
5. He couldn’t help boasting

V: Making fun of

E: Look for drawings that show understanding of him holding the stick being held by the geese. Do not accept drawings of Turtle flying on his own.

I: Don’t be boastful

V: Bitter

R: Because they splashed him near the surface

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STAGE 2

Hansel and Gretel

Once upon a time, there was a boy named Hansel and a girl named Gretel. They were both very naughty. They never did what their parents told them.

One day, their family ran out of food. Their mother took them into the forest to hunt for mushrooms. When they were far away from home, she turned and ran away. She knew that there wasn't enough food for the children at home, but there might be in the forest.

The two children were annoyed by their mother. Hansel thought he knew the way home, but Gretel wasn't sure. They tried their best but they were soon lost.

Just before the sun set, they stumbled upon a rather unusual house. The walls were made of chocolate and delicious sweets. The roof was made of icing and toffee. They were very hungry by this point and so they both ran straight to the house. It all tasted delicious and soon they were full of sugar.

Suddenly, they heard a cackling laugh from the doorway. "Two more children for my pot!" It was a horrible old woman. "There are even more sweets inside," she said.

Hansel had always been greedier than Gretel, and he sped into the house. Gretel followed him slowly. She didn't like the look of the woman. By the time she was in the cottage, Hansel was already trapped in a cage. He was hanging above a boiling pot of

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. What did the children never do?
2. What did they go looking for in the forest?
3. What were the walls of the house made of?
4. What did the old woman promise them was inside the house?
5. What did Gretel say they had seen in the woods?

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water. The old woman was planning to eat him!

Gretel had a plan. She told the old woman that they had seen a dragon in the woods, and he might burn down the cottage. The old woman looked worried and fled outside. Quickly, Gretel reached up and released Hansel from his cage.

There was an oven on the other side of the cottage, facing the door. The oven was very hot and now Hansel had an idea. He opened the oven wide and they both hid behind the cottage door.

A few minutes later, the old lady burst into the cottage. Hansel and Gretel jumped out from behind the door and pushed her into the open oven. They slammed the door shut and quickly fled into the forest.

After a while, they found their way home. They told their mother and father about the gingerbread cottage and they never went hungry again.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

I	Why did Gretel enter the house slowly?
V	Which word tells you that Hansel always wanted more food?
V	Which word tells you that the woman came back into the house quickly?
S	What did Hansel do for the first part of his plan?
P	What do you think the family did so that they never went hungry again?

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Answers:

1. What their parents told them
2. Mushrooms
3. Chocolate and (delicious) sweets
4. More sweets
5. A dragon

I: She was scared of the woman

V: Greedier

V: Burst

S: Opened the oven door

P: Ate the gingerbread cottage

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Unit focus: Homes
Text focus: Information Text (690L)

STAGE 2

Homes Around The World

Everybody needs somewhere to live. People live in lots of different types of houses all around the world. They have all been designed to keep the owner safe and comfortable in different conditions. Let's take a look at some of them.

Bricks

Lots of houses in Europe and North America are built with bricks. These are very strong and keep the inside of the house nice and warm. These are the houses that we are most used to seeing.

Underground

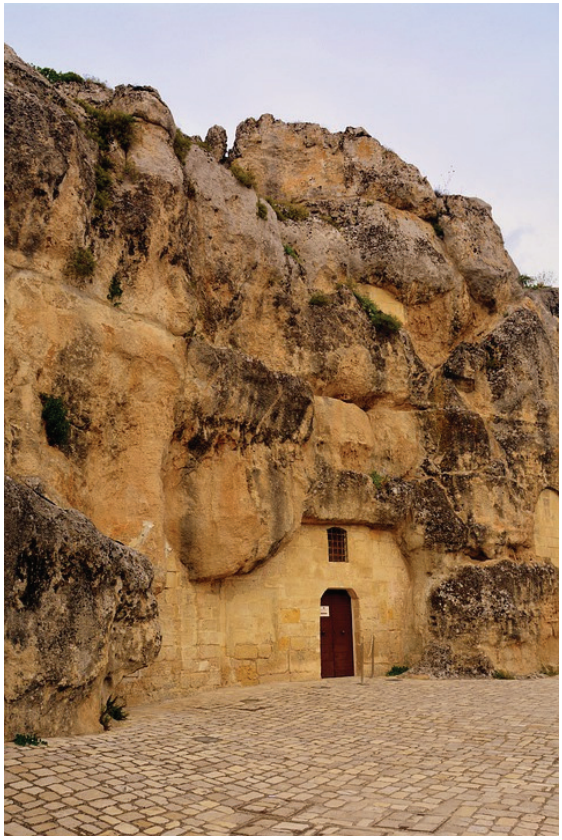
It gets very hot and uncomfortable in Australia. The people who live in a few small towns have an ingenious solution. They have dug their houses underground. These are much cooler and more comfortable.

Caves

The people of some North African countries also need protection from the heat. Some of them have built amazing hideaways in natural caves. Many of these were dug thousands of years ago and are still being used today. Some have even been turned into hotels!

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. Where are houses built from bricks?
2. Where does it get very hot and uncomfortable?
3. Where do some people live in caves?
4. What type of snow is used for igloos?
5. What is in front of a traditional Hanok house?



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Stilt Houses

It rains a lot in Southeast Asia. It rains so much that some communities build their houses on wooden stilts. This keeps them dry when the land floods. How clever is that? They also have steeply sloped roofs to allow the rainwater to wash away easily. What do you think would happen if they had flat roofs?

Igloos

Lots of people think that Inuit people live in Igloos. In fact, they mostly live in regular houses. They do use igloos when they go on hunting trips though. These are made of compacted snow and ice which help to make them very snug places even when it is freezing cold outside.

Hanok

Hanok houses are traditional Korean houses built out of wood. They are colourfully decorated. Traditionally, they were built with a mountain behind them and a stream at the front. They are easily identified by their curved roofs. The wooden floors are sometimes heated in the winter with smoke from a fire.

This is just a small selection of the different types of houses around the world. Can you think of any more?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

I Why does building a home underground help to keep it cool?

V In the Hanok section, which word means that the houses are painted?

V In the Igloos section, what does the word “snug” tell you about them?

S Why do different houses have different designs?

P Why do you think Inuit people don’t live in igloos all of the time?

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Answers:

1. Europe and North America
2. Australia
3. North Africa
4. Compacted
5. A stream

I: It stops the sun from heating it up

V: Decorated

V: They are warm and cosy

S: They have been designed for different conditions

P: Any explanation about them being small. Do not accept answers about them being cold.

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Unit focus: Fairy Tales
Text focus: Narrative (600L)

STAGE 2

Little Red Riding Hood

"Your old granny isn't well," Little Red Riding Hood's mother told her. "Take this basket of food and make sure she is feeling better."

Little Red Riding Hood was a good girl who did as she was told. She didn't know that at the same time, a big bad wolf was wandering in the forest. He was very hungry and very grumpy.

As luck would have it, the girl bumped into the wolf halfway along the forest path. "Hello, little girl," he said with a grin. "Where are you heading today?"

"I am off to take this basket of food to my granny. She is feeling a bit under the weather."

"What a good girl you are," the wolf said. Red didn't notice him licking his lips. "Where does your granny live?"

"In the small cottage next to the stream. She's very alone out there," said Little Red Riding Hood.

They said goodbye and were soon on their way. Unfortunately, the wolf knew a shortcut, and he arrived long before the small girl. He slipped into Granny's cottage through an open window. Once inside, he swallowed her up whole, put on her nightdress, and hid in her bed.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Find a word that tells you that the wolf was moving around in the forest.
2. What does Little Red Riding Hood say that tells you that the granny wasn't feeling well?
3. Which word tells you how the wolf moved into the cottage?
4. Which word means that Little Red Riding Hood didn't trust the wolf?
5. What does the word "outrage" mean?

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When Little Red Riding hood knocked on the door a while later, the wolf told her to come in.

“Why granny, what big eyes you have today,” she said curiously.

“All the better for seeing you with,” replied the wolf.

“And what a furry chin,” Little Red Riding Hood was suspicious.

“Erm… that’s part of my illness,” the wolf replied quickly.

“And I’m sure your teeth aren’t usually that sharp! You’re that horrible wolf from the forest!” She ran from the cottage. Not far away was a woodcutter who heard her cries for help. He sprinted over to the cottage and she explained what had happened.

“That’s an outrage!” he cried and burst into the cottage with his axe. Five minutes later he emerged again with Little Red Riding Hood’s granny behind him. Considering she’d just been eaten, she seemed a lot better than before. Although it was a long time before she slept with the window open again.

VIPERS QUESTIONS

R Where did Little Red Riding Hood bump into the wolf?

R What was next to the cottage?

I Why was it unfortunate that the wolf knew a shortcut?

I Why did Little Red Riding Hood speak curiously to the wolf?

S What happened when the woodcutter went into the cottage?

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Answers:

1. Wandering
2. Under the weather
3. Slipped
4. Suspicious
5. Something is unacceptable or not right

R: Halfway along the forest path

R: A stream

I: It meant that he got there first

I: Something seemed different

S: He killed the wolf and set the granny free

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