

## Day 1

### How the Sun, Moon and Wind Went Out to Dinner

One day, the Sun, Moon, and Wind went out to dine with their uncle and aunts, Thunder and Lightning. Their mother (one of the most distant stars you see far up in the sky) waited alone for her children's return.

Both Sun and Wind were greedy and selfish. They enjoyed the great feast that had been prepared for them, without a thought of saving any of it to take home to their mother—but the gentle Moon did not forget her. Of every dainty dish that was brought round, she placed a small portion under one of her beautiful, long fingernails so that Star might also have a share in the treat.

On their return, their mother, who had kept watch for them all night long with her little bright eye, said, "Well, children, what have you brought home for me?" Then Sun (who was eldest) said, "I have brought nothing home for you. I went out to enjoy myself with my friends, not to fetch a dinner for my mother!" And Wind said, "I have not brought anything home for you either, mother. You could hardly expect me to bring a collection of good things for you, when I merely went out for my own pleasure." But Moon said, "Mother, fetch a plate and see what I have brought you." Shaking her hands, she showered down an astounding dinner that one like it had never been seen before.

Then Star turned to Sun and said, "Because you went out to amuse yourself with your friends, and feasted and enjoyed yourself, without any thought of your mother at home, you shall be cursed. From now on, your rays shall ever be hot and scorching, and they shall burn all that they touch. Men will hate you, and cover their heads when you appear."

Then she turned to Wind and said, "You also forgot your mother in the midst of your selfish pleasures – hear your doom. You shall always blow in the hot dry weather and shall parch and shrivel all living things. Men shall detest and avoid you from this very time."

But to Moon she said, "Daughter, because you remembered your mother, and kept for her a share in your own enjoyment, from now on you shall be ever cool, calm and bright. No harmful glare shall accompany your pure rays and men shall always call you 'blessed'."

1. Find and copy three adjectives that mother says that the Moon will become.

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2. Which two characters in the story are the most similar? Give a reason.

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3. Why do you think that the Moon did what she did?

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4. Rewrite this story in less than 20 words.

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# ANSWERS

## How the Sun, Moon and Wind Went Out to Dinner

1. Find and copy three adjectives that mother says that the moon will become.

**Accept: cool, calm, bright.**

2. Which two characters in the story are the most similar? Give a reason.

**Accept any reasonable answer comparing two characters, providing that a valid reason is given to accompany, e.g.**

**I think that the Sun and the Wind are the most similar because they are both selfish and did not bring their mother any food.**

3. Why do you think that the Moon did what she did?

**Accept any reasonable answer validating that the Moon brought back food out of love for her mother, e.g.**

- **Because she loves and cares for her.**
- **Because she did not want her to miss out.**
- **Because she is kind and it is a kind thing to do.**
- **Because she was not greedy and selfish unlike her siblings.**
- **Because she cares about her mother and thought she could be hungry.**

4. Rewrite this story in less than 20 words.

**Accept any reasonable re-write of the story which summarises the main points and plot, providing that it is in twenty words or less, e.g.**

**The Sun, Moon and Wind go for food but only the Moon brings their mother anything back. or The Sun and Wind get punished for being selfish and greedy. The Moon does not and brought back food.**

## Queen Summer

When Summer on the earth was queen  
She loved to reign in gardens green  
On the walls hung tapestries of leaves,  
Where threads of gold the sun had weaved.  
With criss-cross patterns on the floor,  
Where velvet grass has been smoothed over.  
Waving palm leaves the soft winds spread  
Each way to cool Queen Summer's head:  
The woodland dove made music soft,  
Whilst bluebirds sang from roofs aloft.



1. In the poem, why does the wind wave the palm leaves?

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2. Write two facts about the tapestries mentioned in the poem.

1. 

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2. 

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3. Which two types of bird are mentioned in the poem?

1. 

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2. 

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4. Do you think Queen Summer's palace was a nice place to be? Why?

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## Queen Summer

1. In the poem, why does the wind wave the palm leaves?

**Accept variations on the following answer: In the poem, the wind waves the palm leaves to cool Queen Summer's head.**

2. Write two facts about the tapestries mentioned in the poem.

**Accept two of the following facts:**

- They were hung on the wall.
- They were made from leaves.
- They had golden threads.
- The sun had weaved the golden threads.

3. Which two types of bird are mentioned in the poem?

**Accept both of the following answers:**

- dove
- bluebird

4. Do you think Queen Summer's palace was a nice place to be? Why?

**Accept either yes or no as an answer, providing that a relevant justification is provided to accompany the answer, e.g.**

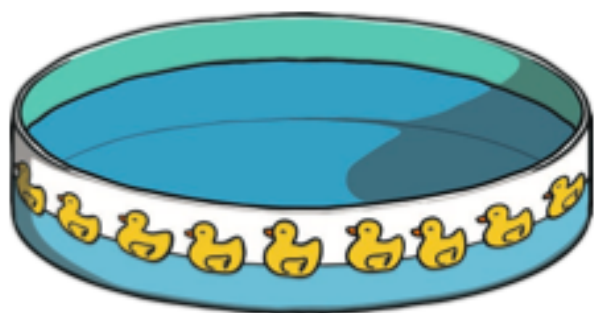
- Yes - because the description makes it sound beautiful.
- Yes - because it is full of nature and sounds serene.
- No - because it sounds noisy with all of the bird song.
- No - because the flowers and plants may attract lots of insects.

## Aziz's Beach

It was a boiling hot summer day on the Cherry Tree Estate. Aziz and his friends were feeling grumpy. It was too warm inside. It was too warm outside. "What we need," said Aziz, "is a beach!" His friends all started laughing. Aziz always had a crazy plan. "We live in a block of flats miles away from the beach!" giggled Aziz's friend Leah, trying to hold back tears of laughter. "My dad is at work, and so is your mum. We could never get to the beach in a million years!"



But Aziz was not put off. First, he went to the builders, who were building a wall outside. "Please can I have some of your sand?" asked Aziz. "I'm making a beach," he told them proudly. The builders started chuckling so hard they nearly fell over. "You've made our day with that," sniggered one of the builders, "and just for that son, you can have this bag of sand!"



Next, Aziz went to the shop on the corner. It was a treasure trove that sold everything, from rubber rings to tins of beans. "I don't have any money," sighed Aziz to the shopkeeper, "but I need a paddling pool. It's not for me, it's for a beach." The shopkeeper beamed. "What a cheeky boy you are!" she chortled. "And just for your cheekiness, I will give you an extra large blow-up paddling pool and throw in some buckets and spades for free too. As long as I can visit your beach when it's finished!" she smirked.

Aziz panted home, carrying his heavy load. On the way, he passed by a cheerful, tinkling ice cream van. The man in the van looked tired and bored.

## Aziz's Beach

"It is such a hot day but I haven't sold so much as a lolly!" he complained. Aziz had an idea. "Excuse me," said Aziz, peeking over the counter, "but if I can make a beach outside my flat, you will get a lot more customers." The ice cream man rolled his eyes. "A beach! Around here! Fat chance, lad!" he shouted, shooing Aziz away. The ice cream man called after him, "The day I see a beach around here is the day I give away all my ice creams for free!" Aziz smiled to himself.



When he got home, Aziz saw his neighbour watering the plants outside her flat. "Please can I borrow your hose?" asked Aziz politely. By now, he knew just what to say... "It's for a beach!" The neighbour was surprised but she did not laugh. "A beach is a serious business," she said, handing over the hose solemnly, "but I don't think you can do it alone."

## Aziz's Beach

1. **Who** does Aziz **not** ask for help with his beach? **Tick one.**

- ☐ the builders
- ☐ the postman
- ☐ the neighbour
- ☐ the shopkeeper

2. **Why** were Aziz and his friends grumpy at the beginning of the story?

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3. **Find and copy** all the words in the story that mean 'laughing' or 'laughed.'

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4. The story says that by the time Aziz got to his neighbour '**he knew just what to say.**' What did he know to say and why?

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5. Find and copy a noun phrase that is used in the story.

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6. In the story, the neighbour handed 'over the hose **solemnly**'. What do you think the word '**solemnly**' means? **Tick one.**

- ☐ stupidly
- ☐ seriously
- ☐ angrily

7. What do you think will happen **next** in the story? Can you write your own ending for the story?

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(Remember: a noun phrase is **Determiner** – **Adjective** – **Noun** (DAN!))

**The**   **black**   **cat**

# ANSWERS

## Aziz's Beach

1. **Who** does Aziz **not** ask for help with his beach? **Tick one.**

- ☐ the builders  
☒ the postman  
☐ the neighbour  
☐ the shopkeeper

2. **Why** were Aziz and his friends grumpy at the beginning of the story?

**Aziz and his friends were grumpy because they were too warm/too hot.**

3. **Find and copy** all the words in the story that mean 'laughing' or 'laughed.'

**Giggled, chuckling, sniggered, chortled, smirked**

4. The story says that by the time Aziz got to his neighbour '**he knew just what to say.**' What did he know to say and why?

**He knew to say it was for a beach because it had made everyone else laugh and give him things.**

5. **Find and copy a noun phrase** that is used in the story.

**Accept any noun phrase from the story, e.g. 'a boiling hot summer day'; 'an extra large blow-up paddling pool' or 'a cheerfully tinkling ice cream van'.**

6. In the story, the neighbour handed 'over the hose **solemnly**'. What do you think the word '**solemnly**' means? **Tick one.**

- ☐ stupidly  
☒ seriously  
☐ angrily

7. What do you think will happen **next** in the story? Can you write your own ending for the story?

**Child's own response. Probably something about Aziz building a beach outside his flat using the sand, paddling pool and hose, with the help of his neighbour.**

## Day 4

# Victorians at the Seaside

Day trips and holidays by the sea became very popular during the Victorian age. Railways and trains were much more common and people could travel longer distances more easily. Also, in 1871, a law was passed giving people certain days of the year off work. On these days, people who worked in the factories and offices in towns would often take their family to the seaside for the day.



### Why did people go to the seaside?

The towns and cities in the Victorian age were often polluted places. Many people worked in factories. These factories produced lots of smoke from burning coal to make the machinery work. The workers and their families, who lived close by, would breathe in all this smoke and grime, often making them poorly. People believed the air at the seaside was much cleaner and that paddling in the sea was good for their health.

### What did people do at the seaside?

People enjoyed many different activities at the seaside during the Victorian age.

Punch and Judy shows are puppet shows that are performed from a little tent outside on beaches or piers.

They became very popular in the Victorian age when the puppeteers - the person who controls the puppets - began travelling on the trains to the seaside to entertain the working-class families.



## Victorians at the Seaside

1. **When** was the law passed giving people certain days of the year off work?

☐ 1781

☐ 1871

☐ 1917

2. **Why** did daytrips and holidays by the sea become more popular during the Victorian Age?

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3. 'The towns and cities in the Victorian age were often **polluted** places.'  
**What** does the word '**polluted**' mean?

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4. **What** did people do at the seaside that was believed to be good for their health?

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5. **What** does the word '**puppeteer**' mean?

- ☐ the person who makes the puppets
- ☐ the person who watches the puppets
- ☐ the person who controls the puppets
- ☐ the person who pays for the puppets

6. **What** is a Punch and Judy show?

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## Victorians at the Seaside

1. **When** was the law passed giving people certain days of the year off work?

☐ 1781

☒ 1871

☐ 1917

2. **Why** did daytrips and holidays by the sea become more popular during the Victorian Age?

**Railways and trains became much more common because people could travel longer distances more easily. Also, a law was passed giving people certain days of the year off work.**

3. 'The towns and cities in the Victorian age were often **polluted** places.' **What** does the word '**polluted**' mean?

**Child's own response. Something about towns and cities being dirty, smoky, grimy or full of rubbish**

4. **What** did people do at the seaside that was believed to be good for their health?

**They breathed the clean air and paddled in the sea.**

5. **What** does the word '**puppeteer**' mean?

☐ the person who makes the puppets

☐ the person who watches the puppets

☒ the person who controls the puppets

☐ the person who pays for the puppets

6. **What** is a Punch and Judy show?

**A punch and Judy show is a puppet show that is performed in a little tent outside beaches and piers.**

### The Little Mermaid – extract abridged by Gabbie Chant



Far, far away from here, there once was an ocean that was deeper than man can measure. Above the surface, the water looked as dark as ink and as cold as glass, and it seemed a lonely and dangerous place. But deep beneath the waves – ah, that was a different story. Right down in the depths of the water, a thousand times deeper than any living human had ever dived, there lay a castle.

The castle was hidden behind forests of tangled seaweed, and guarded by fish of such curious and startling colours that you and I would gasp to see them. Its walls and turrets were fashioned from shells and crab claws and coral, and within its halls there stood a throne carved from an enormous pearl – and on that throne there sat a sea-king. He was a good and wise ruler, but a great sadness lay heavy on his heart: his queen had died, many years before. All that he had left to remember her was their six lovely daughters – six sea-princesses, who, just like their father, had no legs. Each of their bodies ended in a fish's tail.

Now, it was a custom of the kingdom that when each of the sea-princesses had their fifteenth birthday, they were permitted to swim to the surface of the ocean, to look upon the world above the water for a single day. The five eldest sea-princesses had each already had this privilege. They had returned to the castle with stories of feathered fish that swam through the air, and of strange wooden whales that floated on the surface of the water, and of a huge round shell that burned in the sky as brightly as lava that bursts from underwater volcanoes.

The littlest sea-princess listened to her elder sisters' stories, and she longed for the day that she too would turn fifteen and be able to rise to the ocean's surface. She spent her days using stones and seaweed to make pictures on the seabed of all her sisters had told her, and at night she dreamed of feeling the warmth of that bright round shell on her skin.

At long last, the little mermaid's fifteenth birthday arrived. Up, up she swam through the water, as light as a bubble. The higher she rose, the brighter the blue of the ocean became, and the water grew less and less cold – until at last, the tips of her fingers broke the surface of the water and she emerged, glittering with salt water, into the mild sea air.

And – oh! – what was this gigantic dark shape before her? A huge floating creature made of wood, just as her sisters had described, with vast white fins! And what a great noise it was making! The creak of its bones as it moved towards her! And its voice – like a hundred different voices, all shouting at once!

Would it eat her?



The little sea-princess shrank back into the sea until just her eyes and the top of her head peeped out above the surface of the water. She looked as sleek as a seal, bobbing there in the waves, with her hair wet against her skull. She held her breath and watched with a fast-beating heart as the creature drew ever closer.

## Day 6

1. Name **two** of the items the sea-king's castle was made from.

1. ....

2. ....

2. Why was the sea-king sad?

.....  
.....

3. Look at the paragraph which begins: *'Now, it was a custom in the kingdom ...'*  
Find and copy a word that means **allowed**.

.....

4. *Now, it was a custom in the kingdom ...*  
Circle the word closest in meaning to **custom**.

tradition

punishment

shopper

curse

5. *'They had returned to the castle with stories of feathered fish that swam through the air ...'*  
What were the 'feathered fish' that the sea-princesses saw?

.....

6. Look at the paragraph which begins: *'The littlest sea-princess listened ...'*  
Find and copy the word that tells you she wanted something very much.

.....

7. *'A huge floating creature made of wood, just as her sisters had described, with vast white fins!'*  
What is the 'creature' that the little mermaid is afraid of?

.....

8. Put the following events in order. The first one has been done for you:

	The little mermaid turns fifteen.
1	The sea-queen dies.
	A strange creature frightens the youngest sea-princess.
	The five older sea-princesses tell stories about the world above the surface.
	The youngest sea-princess swims to the surface.

# Answers

1. Name **two** of the items the sea-king's castle was made from.

Any two of:

a. shells

b. crab claws

c. coral.

2. Why was the sea-king sad?

Because his wife, the queen, had died many years before.

3. Look at the paragraph which begins: *'Now, it was a custom in the kingdom ...'*

Find and copy a word that means **allowed**.

Permitted.

4. *'Now, it was a custom in the kingdom ...'*

Circle the word closest in meaning to **custom**.

tradition

punishment

shopper

curse

5. *'They had returned to the castle with stories of feathered fish that swam through the air ...'*

What were the 'feathered fish' that the sea-princesses saw?

Birds.

6. Look at the paragraph which begins: *'The littlest sea-princess listened ...'*

Find and copy the word that tells you she wanted something very much.

Longed.

7. *'A huge floating creature made of wood, just as her sisters had described, with vast white fins!'*

What is the 'creature' that the little mermaid is afraid of?

A ship.

8. Put the following events in order. The first one has been done for you:

3

The little mermaid turns fifteen.

1

The sea-queen dies.

5

A strange creature frightens the youngest sea-princess.

2

The five older sea-princesses tell stories about the world above the surface.

4

The youngest sea-princess swims to the surface.

Remember – a simile is a device that writers use to describe things. A simile compares a thing to something else to help the reader picture and imagine the *thing* fully. E.g. her **hair** was **as golden as the sun**; the **bag** was **as light as a feather**.

Look through *The Little Mermaid* **extract** for similes, and write each simile you find in the first column. Now write what the simile is describing in the second column.

Simile	What the simile is describing
e.g. As light as a feather	A bag

## ANSWERS

Simile	What the simile is describing
as dark as ink	the look of the water from above
as cold as glass	the look of the water from above
as brightly as lava	the way the huge, round shell burned in the sky
as light as a bubble	the little mermaid
like a hundred different voices	the sound of the huge, floating wooden creature
as sleek as a seal	the way the little mermaid looked

**Robin Hood – extract**

It happened on a bright sunshiny day in early spring. All through the winter Robin and his men had had a very dull time. Nearly all their fun and adventures happened with people travelling through the forest. As there were no trains, people had to travel on horseback. In winter the roads were bad, and the weather so cold and wet, that most people stayed at home. So it was rather a quiet time for Robin and his men. They lived in great caves during the winter, and spent their time making stores of bows and arrows, and mending their boots and clothes.

This bright sunshiny morning Robin felt dull and restless, so he took his bow and arrows, and started off through the forest in search of adventure.

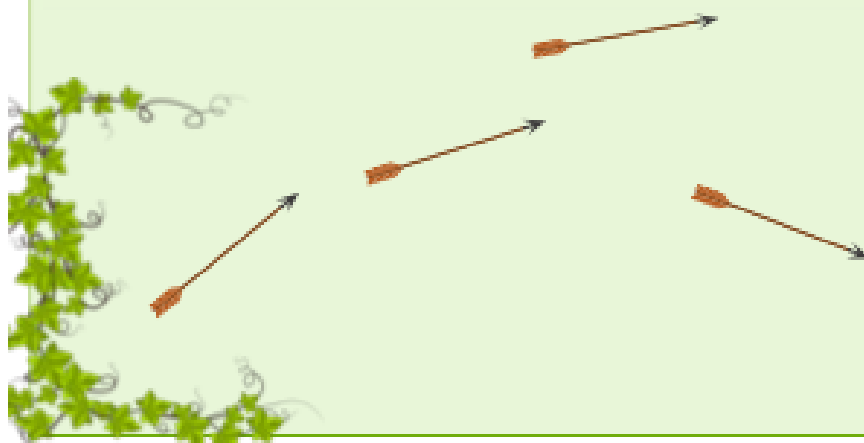
He wandered on for some time without meeting any one. Presently he came to a river. It was wide and deep, swollen by the winter rains. It was crossed by a very slender, shaky bridge, so narrow, that if two people tried to pass each other on it, one would certainly fall into the water.

Robin began to cross the bridge, before he noticed that a great, tall man, the very tallest man he had ever seen, was crossing too from the other side.

"Go back and wait until I have come over," he called out as soon as he noticed the stranger. The stranger laughed, and called out in reply, "I have as good a right to the bridge as you. You can go back till I get across."

This made Robin very angry. He was so accustomed to being obeyed that he was very much astonished too. Between anger and astonishment he hardly knew what he did.

He drew an arrow from his quiver, and fitting it to his bow, called out again, "If you don't go back I'll shoot."



**Continued on next page!**

"If you do, I'll beat you till you are black and blue," replied the stranger.

"You talk like an ass," said Robin Hood.

"If I talk like an ass you talk like a coward," replied the stranger. "Do you call it fair to stand with your bow and arrow ready to shoot at me when I have only a stick to defend myself with? I tell you, you are a coward. You are afraid of the beating I would give you."

Robin was not a coward, and he was not afraid. So he threw his bow and arrows on the bank behind him.

"You are a big, boastful bully," he said. "Just wait there until I get a stick. I hope I may give you as good a beating as you deserve."

The stranger laughed. "I won't run away; don't be afraid," he said.

Robin Hood stepped to a thicket of trees and cut himself a good, thick oak stick. While he was doing this, he looked at the stranger, and saw that he was not only taller but much stronger than himself.

However, that did not frighten Robin in the least. He was rather glad of it indeed. The stranger had said he was a coward. He meant to prove to him that he was not.



Back he came with a fine big stick in his hand and a smile on his face. The idea of a real good fight had made his bad temper fly away, for, like King Richard, Robin Hood was rather fond of a fight.

"We will fight on the bridge," said he, "and whoever first falls into the river has lost the battle."

"All right," said the stranger. "Whatever you like. I'm not afraid."



## DAY 9

1. Name **two** reasons why people did not travel through the forest in winter.

1. ....

2. ....

2. How did Robin and his men spend their time in winter? Name **one** activity.

.....

3. Look at the paragraph which begins: *'He wandered on ...'*

Find and copy a word which means **unsteady**.

.....

4. Why was Robin astonished when the stranger told him to go back?

.....

5. *'You are a big, boastful bully ...'*

Circle the word closest in meaning to **boastful**.

unkind

ugly

bragging

frightening

6. Why does the stranger think that Robin is being unfair?

.....

7. *'Robin Hood was rather fond of a fight.'*

Explain in your own words what this means.

.....

.....

8. Put the following events in order. The first one has been done for you:

Robin went off through the forest in search of adventure.

The stranger agrees to fight on the bridge.

Robin threatens to shoot the stranger with his bow and arrow.

1

Robin and his men lived in caves during the winter.

A tall man begins to cross the bridge.

## ANSWERS

1. Name **two** reasons why people did not travel through the forest in winter.

The roads were bad and the weather was cold and wet.

2. How did Robin and his men spend their time in winter? Name **one** activity.

a. making stores of bows and arrows

b. mending their boots and clothes.

3. Look at the paragraph which begins: *'He wandered on ...'*

Find and copy a word which means **unsteady**.

Shaky

4. Why was Robin astonished when the stranger told him to go back?

Because he was accustomed to being obeyed.

5. *'You are a big, boastful bully ...'*

Circle the word closest in meaning to **boastful**.

unkind      ugly      **bragging**      frightening

6. Why does the stranger think that Robin is being unfair?

Because Robin is armed with a bow and arrow, while the stranger only has a stick.

7. *'Robin Hood was rather fond of a fight.'*

Explain in your own words what this means.

That Robin enjoys fighting.

DAY 10

Read through the extract to find words or phrases that describe how Robin Hood **feels** or **behaves**.  
Write them onto the dotted lines of the arrow shafts below.

How many arrows can you complete?

1.  - - - - - 

2.  - - - - - 

3.  - - - - - 

4.  - - - - - 

5.  - - - - - 

6.  - - - - - 

7.  - - - - - 

8.  - - - - - 

9.  - - - - - 

10.  - - - - - 