



Parkhill Junior School

Year 6 Autumn Revision Pack

Name:

Class:

| Task | Parent Signature |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Reading comprehension | |
| Reasoning | |
| SPaG | |
| Book Review | |
| Fair Trade Fayre | |

Reading Comprehension

This text is about how ladybirds helped farmers in California to get rid of a plague of tiny insects that were killing their orange trees.



California's Unlikely Warriors

Over 100 years ago in America, Californian orchards were almost destroyed by a plague of thousands of tiny creatures called scale insects. These tiny sap-sucking bugs were attacking the orange trees and ruining all the fruit.

Scale insects had never been seen in America before. So where had they come from? Eventually the invasion was traced to some acacia plants that had been shipped in from Australia.

The scale insects spread so quickly that unless something was done to get rid of them, the whole fruit industry in California would be ruined. The situation was so bad that Californian fruit growers were pulling up their fruit trees and burning them to destroy the pests. Soon, the takeover started to spread to other parts of America. Different kinds of pesticides were used to try to kill the insects but none of them worked.

By now thousands of orange trees were dying.

A professor from the Department of Agriculture, Charles V. Riley, suggested that the scale insects might be controlled by introducing other insects to feed on them. But no-one listened to him. No-one had ever heard such a theory before! They thought it was a crazy idea and laughed at his suggestion. This made Mr Riley more determined. He was sure that he was right.

He had heard that in Australia, scale insects were much less of a problem. So, why was this? Why were the Australians not suffering the same damage to their trees and plants?



Mr Riley predicted that the Australian scale insects must have a natural enemy that was reducing their numbers. Eventually he was able to persuade a researcher called Alfred Koebele to go to Australia to try to find out if this was the case.



In Australia, Mr Koebele visited many of the trees that attracted scale insects and made a surprising discovery – a large number of small colourful beetles were living in them. They were ladybirds, and everywhere he found scale insects on the fruit trees of Australia, he found ladybirds feasting on them. Mr Koebele scooped up as many of the little red and black creatures as he could and sent them back to California.

When the unlikely warriors were set free in one of the dying Californian orange groves, they cleared all the scale insects from the trees in just a few days. The original 350 ladybirds sent from Australia multiplied at such a staggering rate that by June that year over 10,000 were available to be distributed to fruit growers across California. The speed at which the pests were wiped out was astonishing. One grower, who had abandoned all hope for his young orange trees, was able to harvest two to three boxes of oranges from each tree by the end of the growing season.

So successful was the experiment that soon the Americans were breeding and distributing more and more ladybirds. Not only that, but before long other countries around the world also decided to import and breed Australian ladybirds.

Because of this remarkable result, we now know a lot more about these ladybirds. We know that scale insects are their favourite food and that some ladybirds can eat large amounts in a day. Ladybirds also like to eat honeydew, nectar and pollen – but they still need insects to help them grow and breed.

Today, scientists are still studying ways of using insects to help control the pests and parasites that regularly destroy our plants and trees. As we learn about some of the damage that chemical pesticides can cause, it seems even more important to take care of small creatures that can help us protect our environment.

There is an old superstition which says that ladybirds bring you luck. They certainly brought good fortune to the fruit growers of California!



1. How long ago did the plague of scale insects attack in America?

1 mark

2. What did the scale insects attack?

1 mark

3. The scale insects sound like an army.

Find and copy two words in the first two paragraphs that support this idea.

1. _____

2. _____

2 marks

4. It was important to find a solution to the plague of insects quickly.

Explain why.

1 mark

5. Before ladybirds were introduced, how did the fruit growers try to solve the problem of scale insects?

1 mark

6. Look at page 1.

1. What did Mr Riley suggest to solve the problem of scale insects?

1 mark

2. How did other people react to Mr Riley's suggestion?

1 mark

7. In the paragraph beginning: *In Australia, Mr Koebele visited...*, the ladybirds are described as *feasting* on the scale insects.

What does the word *feasting* suggest about the ladybirds?

1 mark

8. Look at the paragraph on page 2 beginning:

When the unlikely warriors...

How does the text emphasise the success of the ladybirds?

Explain fully, referring to the text in your answer.

3 marks

9. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement about ladybirds is **true** or **false**.

| | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| They help protect the environment. | | |
| They only eat scale insects. | | |
| They can survive on just nectar and pollen. | | |
| Some people say that they bring you good luck. | | |

1 mark

Grammar and Punctuation

Q1.

Add three **commas** in the correct places in the sentence below.

She wore a dark red skirt a woollen jumper a scarf with matching hat thick socks and black boots.

1 mark

Q2.

Explain how the **comma** changes the meaning of the second sentence.

1. I asked if Jake Thomas and Lily were coming to the barbecue.
2. I asked if Jake, Thomas and Lily were coming to the barbecue.

1 mark

Q3.

Insert one **hyphen** and one **comma** in the correct places in the sentence below.

My grandmother is a ballroom dancing champion poet and singer.

1 mark

Q4.

Tick **two** boxes to show where the missing commas should go.

Cheetahs tigers jaguars and leopards are all known as 'big cats'.

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| ↑ | ↑ | ↑ | ↑ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1 mark

Q5.

Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

Our parents always say "work hard and do your best."

Our parents always say, "work hard and do your best."

Our parents always say, "Work hard and do your best."

Our parents always say "Work hard and do your best."

Tick **one**.

| |
|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |

1 mark

Q6.

Insert a **comma** in the correct place in the sentence below.

Although he was the youngest Tom was one of the tallest.

1 mark

Q7.

Explain how the use of **commas** changes the meaning in the two sentences.

Mangoes, which are grown in hot countries, taste delicious.

Mangoes which are grown in hot countries taste delicious.

1 mark

Q8.

Tick the option that correctly completes the sentence below.

_____ an official Olympic sport at the Winter Olympics in Japan.

In 1998 snowboarding became,

In 1998 snowboarding, became

In, 1998 snowboarding became

In 1998, snowboarding became

Tick **one**.

1 mark

Q9.

Insert one **comma** in the correct place in the sentence below.

Every night Dad and my brother take the dog for a walk.

1 mark

Q10.

Insert **two commas** and a **semi-colon** in the correct places in the passage below.

Last Wednesday we performed a play at school I invited my parents to come and watch. When I first went on stage I was so nervous that I nearly forgot my lines.

1 mark

Q11.

Insert **one** comma in the correct place in the sentence below.

Limping slightly the old man walked to the end of the road.

1 mark

Q12.

Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

Lately, the days have been growing noticeably longer and, warmer.

Lately the days, have been growing noticeably longer and warmer.

Lately the days, have been growing noticeably longer, and warmer.

Lately, the days have been growing noticeably longer and warmer.

Tick **one**.

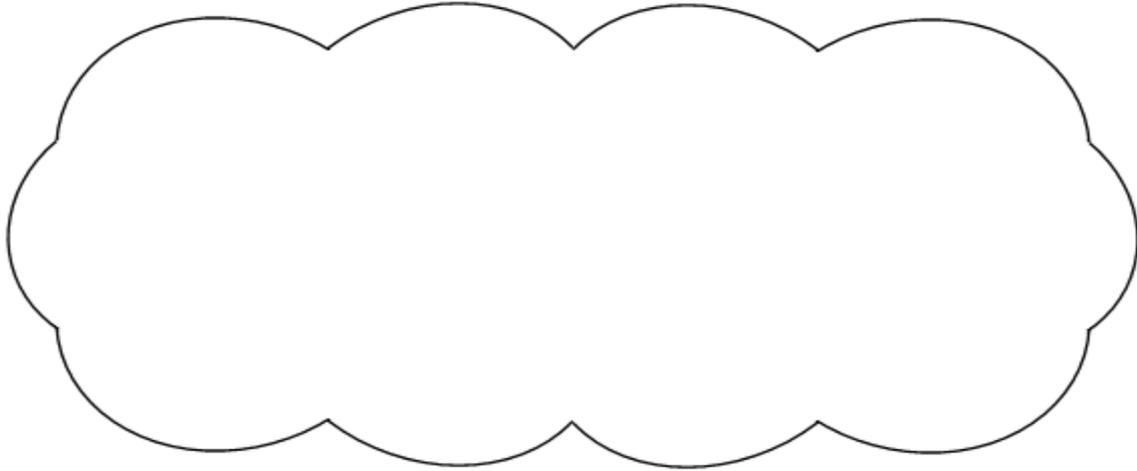
1 mark

Maths Reasoning

Q1.

$$5,542 \div 17 = 326$$

Explain how you can use this fact to find the answer to 18×326



1 mark

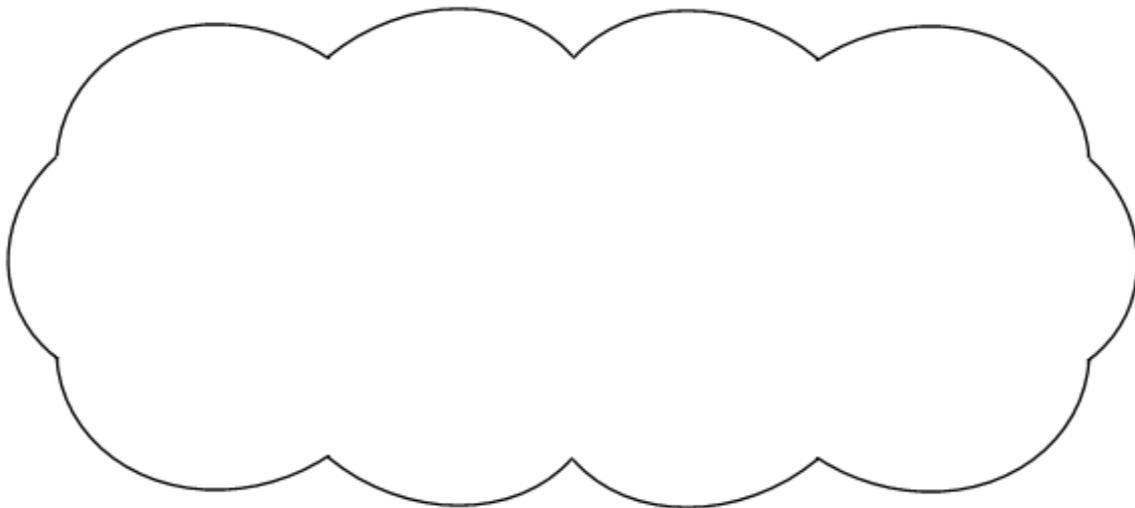
Q2.

Liam did a survey of 55 people to see how many were left-handed.

Liam says,

'The results show that exactly 10% of the people in the survey are left-handed.'

Explain why Liam cannot be correct.



1 mark

Q3.

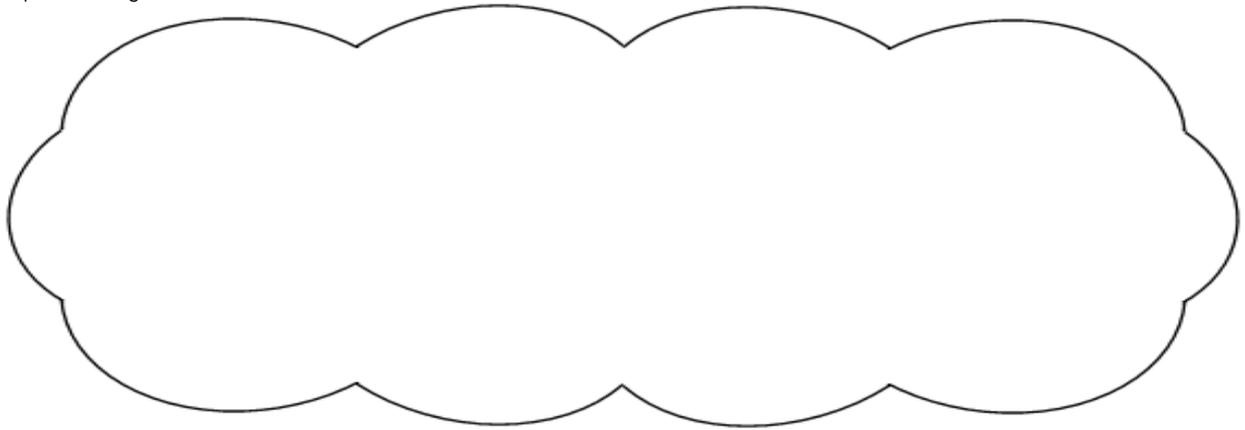
Alfie says,

'When you multiply two numbers together, the answer is always greater than either of the numbers you started with.'

Is Alfie correct?

Circle **Yes** or **No**. Yes / No

Explain how you know.



1 mark

Q4.

The numbers in this sequence increase by 10 each time.

3 13 23 ...

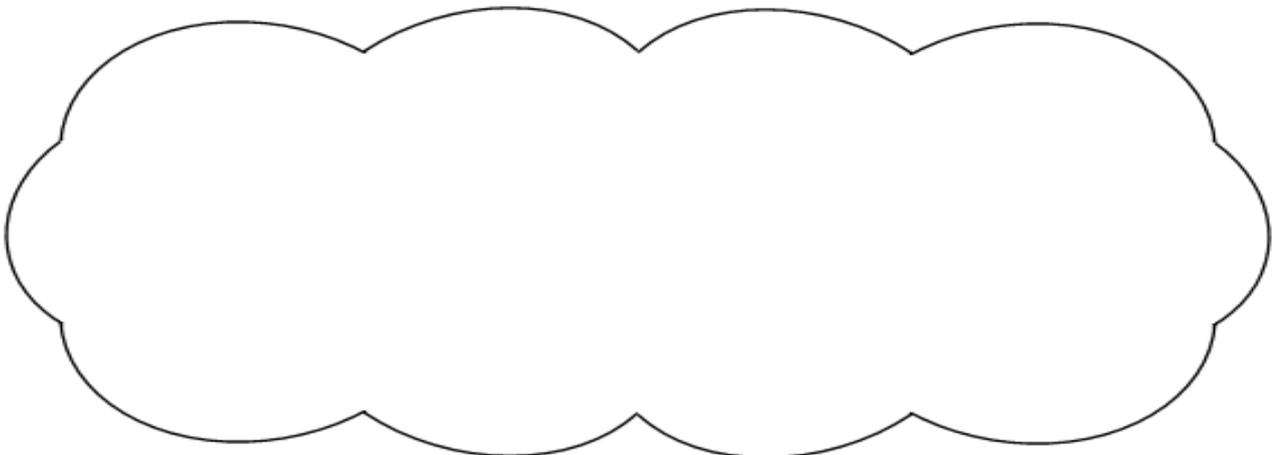
The sequence continues in the same way.

Write **two** numbers from the sequence that add to make a total of **96**

and

1 mark

Explain why it is **not** possible to find **three** numbers from the sequence that add to make a total of **96**



Book Review

Remember to do lots of reading and write a review for every book you complete. Please complete these in your homework book.

- What is it about?
- Where is your book set?
- Who are the main characters? What are they like?
- Can you write a short summary? What are the main events?
- Think of 2 questions you would like to ask the author about this book/characters:
- Did you like the book? Why?
- What would have made the book better?
- Would you recommend it to a friend?

PE

| PE Homework | Parent signature |
|---|------------------|
| Follow a 'Just Dance' video on Youtube or create your own dance routine | |