Fleeing the Fire – Comprehension

These questions are based upon the text Fleeing the Fire on pages 13-14. Read the text and use this to help you answer the questions below.

1. What type of text is this? Circle your answer.

narrative | letter | Information text | poem

2. True or false? He knew that someone else was in the house because he could hear them.

true ☐ false ☐

3. Find and copy the words from the text that have the same meaning as the words below.

1. leftovers – _____
2. gone – _____
3. smell – _____
4. rushing – _____

4. What does the word 'gouged' mean?

- to punch with force ☐
- to move slowly but with force ☐
- make a groove, hole or indentation in something ☐
- to move quickly ☐

5. Which clues that tell us that the main characters are not human?

- soft hands ☐
- razor-sharp teeth ☐
- scratching claws ☐
- long hair ☐
- tail ☐

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6. Which senses does the female character rely on to work out where the heat is coming from?

sight	smell	taste	touch	hearing

7. Fill in the missing word to complete the sentence.

The author has included the word _____ in a one word sentence on page 13 to give it more impact.

8. True or false? The author is writing about the sun when they refer to the bright, flickering enemy.

true ☐ false ☐

9. Complete the sentence below using evidence from the text.

We know he has more important things to think about than fighting because it says in the text that: _____

_____

10. 'As the city shrank...' What do you think the author meant when they wrote this phrase?

_____

_____

_____

11. How are the first and last sentence of this story connected?

_____

_____

_____

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Fleeing the Fire – Comprehension

12. Number the statements below to put them in the order that they happened.

He escapes down the river on a piece of wood.	
He has a fight with a female rat.	
The rats race around the city trying to escape the flames.	
He goes looking for food.	
They smell smoke and leave the house.	
He finds another rat in the house.	

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Guided Reading – Fleeing the Fire

Fleeing the Fire

With his tummy rumbling, he nosed around near the bottom of the chimney. Scraps sometimes fell there. No such luck today. The fireplace was cold and empty after its owners had disappeared from the house in the middle of the night. In fact, people all along the street had left their homes over the last day or so. They had left in a hurry, so they couldn't have taken everything with them. He would just have to look harder.

He scratched behind his ear. A new smell filtered into his nostrils. Someone else was here. Someone else was hungry.

The scent led him out from under the chimney and down along the side wall of the house. He picked his way over splinters and around mucky bits of mud and mortar. His nose led him into a second room, just off the first.

There she was! The someone else he'd smelt across the house! She knew she was caught. Rather than scurrying away, she turned and looked him dead in the eyes. He began to show his teeth; they were sharp and dangerous. He was hungry.

No more hungry than her though. She too had razor-sharp, jagged teeth and bared them. Neither rival was backing down. He darted forward at pace, to see if it would scare her. She didn't flinch. He darted forward again, and she raced out towards him. Flashing teeth and scratching claws met. She gouged his side. He bit her neck. He felt her tail thrash against him and another claw scrape his ear.

They separated in order to catch their breath. Neither of them had won yet. There was more to come.

He was feeling overheated. Why was he so hot? They'd only been fighting for a few seconds. The charred logs in the fireplace were cold, so where was that heat coming from?

She'd noticed the change in temperature too. He could see her eyes searching around the room and her nose twitching. He smelt the air. Something was changing. Something was seeping in through cracks in the walls and threading its way through gaps in the door. Smoke.

He flicked his eyes back to her, but she was already off and running. She scrambled up the wall and out through a window. So that was how she'd got in! He dashed after her. All thoughts of food and fighting were forgotten. The bright, terrible, flickering enemy, that all rats knew to fear, was coming after him!

She was already on the ground by the time he'd reached the window ledge. He dug his claws deep into the wall as he climbed down. Not deeply enough. A section of wall gave way beneath him, and he tumbled to the ground. The falling clump landed by his head, only just missing him. There was no time to worry about the fall now. Quick as a flash, he was back on his feet and tearing off into the main street.

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Guided Reading – Fleeing the Fire (continued)

What he saw was terrifying.

There was an orange glow. Tall flames licked the air. Great showers of bright golden sparks fell to the ground. Above it all, loomed a monstrous cloud of thick black smoke. The whole city was burning.

He had to move, but where could he run? Away from the flames he dashed, but each new twist and turn just brought him back to another wall of fire.

The city was a maze of winding, narrow streets and close wooden houses. It was impossible to see the best way to run without climbing onto a roof, but to go so high might leave him trapped.

Other rats, some alone and some in larger groups, flashed past him. As the city shrank, more and more of his kind were forced together. The fire was like a great hand that scooped them up and threatened to close around them. Terrified squeals filled his ears as they pushed, bit, scratched and clawed to be the furthest from the fire.

Then, something changed. The group came to a halt. It happened so suddenly that the rats piled into one another as they failed to stop in time. Something had blocked their path.

The river. It was slow-flowing but wide. Too wide for a fire to cross.

Those rats at the front had already been pushed into the water by the force of the pileup behind them. Others tried to turn left or right and follow the bank to safety.

Instinct told him that the river was his best chance of escape. He spotted a large piece of wood floating along the edge of the riverbank. It was now or never. He leapt across the water and landed safely on the makeshift raft. He was just in time too, as the river swirled and pulled him and his raft away from the edge. Now in the middle of the river, the current carried him downstream and away from the burning terror behind him.

Relieved to be safe, his stomach reminded him of a problem he had yet to solve – he was still hungry!

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Monday – Using Conjunctions to Express Time, Place and Cause

1. Match the sentences below to the type of conjunction used.

A. After I have finished my homework, I am going to play out in the garden with my friends.	
B. I ran to the busy playground where my friend was waiting patiently for me.	
C. Although it was raining heavily, we still played out on the muddy field.	

time | cause | place

2. Complete the following sentences using one of the conjunctions below. Each conjunction can only be used once.

wherever | when | due to

A. _____ I arrived at my old school, _____.

B. _____ our teacher not being well, _____.

C. _____ the muddy dog went, _____.

3. Is Joshua correct? Explain your answer.



The conjunction that has been used in this sentence is a place conjunction.

Until it was too dark to see their teammates, the footballers played on the muddy field.

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Tuesday – Expanding Sentences using Conjunctions

1. Circle the sentence that contains a conjunction.

The young boy found himself feeling really upset.

Tom would put on his red coat whenever he was cold.

Harry had just enough money to buy a large loaf of bread.

2. For each sentence, put an 'X' to show if the conjunction indicates time, place or cause.

Sentence	Time	Place	Cause
The old man walked to the shop after visiting his friend.			
She would carry on unless she was told to stop.			
I put the toy where my brother could see it.			

3. Using the clauses and conjunctions below, create four sentences which make sense.

Mrs Higgins walked to the park	after	she found her favourite jacket.
Sophie skipped to school	when	eating a delicious breakfast.
Jane was really happy	because	it was a sunny day.

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Wednesday – Expanding Sentences Using Adverbs

1. Circle the adverb in the sentences below.

A. Immediately, he called for an ambulance to help the injured man.

B. The neighbours became angry when my noisy dogs began to bark outside.

C. Shut the window, otherwise it will get cold and damp.

2. Put an 'X' in the correct columns to show whether the underlined word is an adverb of time, place or cause.

Sentence	Time	Place	Cause
A. As soon as the weather improved, many large flies appeared ***everywhere***.			
B. We shall, ***therefore***, rearrange another time to discuss these important issues and find a solution.			
C. Delilah ***usually*** attends an evening class on Mondays, but it was cancelled this week.			

3. Freya and Ron are discussing the sentence below.

The ferry service runs occasionally on a weekend, so you need to plan your journey.



Freya

The adverb in this sentence is an adverb of *place* because it tells you *where* the ferry service runs.

The adverb in this sentence is an adverb of *time* because it tells you *how often* the ferry service runs.



Ron

Who is correct? Explain your answer.

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Thursday – Present Perfect or Simple Past

1. Complete the table.

Simple present	Present perfect	Simple past
waste	has/have wasted	
take		took
clean		
know		
fill		

2. Fill in the gaps to transform each sentence from present perfect to simple past.

Jacob and Dan have thrown the rubbish away.	Jacob and Dan _____ the rubbish away.
Year 4 have shown the school their class project in assembly.	Year 4 _____ the school their class project in assembly.

Fill in the gaps to transform each sentence from simple past to present perfect .

Olivia _____ _____ her friend Freya at the ice rink.	Olivia saw her friend Freya at the ice rink.
The pirate _____ _____ the treasure chest on the island.	The pirate found the treasure chest on the island.

3. Isaac has written the sentence below:

I lighted a candle at the church altar.



Is Isaac correct? Explain your answer.

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