

Name _____

Year 6 Reading Test 1: May 2010

Spanish Ministry of Education/ British Council Bilingual Project

You are going to read part of the Chapter: *The Vanishing Glass* from the first book in the Harry Potter series: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by J.K. Rowling.

You can use the glossary to help you with the underlined words in the story.

Glossary

to budge: to move

coil: curl, loop, spiral

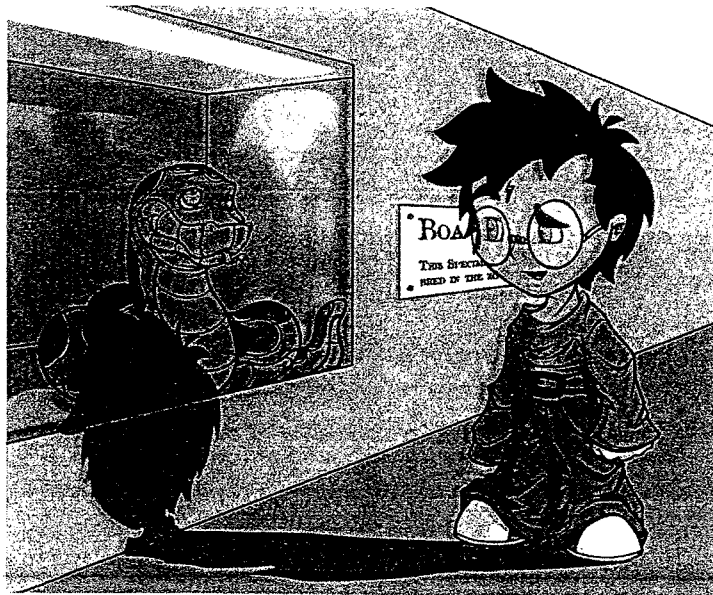
to gibber: to make sounds or to speak words that don't make sense

knickerbocker glory: a dessert with ice-cream, fruit, jelly and cream

to snap: to bite

tantrum: a display of anger when a child screams, cries and kicks

to wink: to close and open one eye quickly to show you are sharing a joke or a secret



Harry Potter lived with his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Dursley and their son, Dudley. This chapter tells us about Dudley's birthday outing. Harry goes to the zoo with the Dursley family and Dudley's friend, Piers. **Turn to the next page to read what happens.**

An extract from *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by J.K. Rowling, Chapter 2:
The Vanishing Glass

5 It was a very sunny Saturday and the zoo was crowded with families. The Dursleys bought Dudley and Piers large chocolate ice-creams at the entrance and then, because the smiling lady in the van had asked Harry what he wanted before they could hurry him away, they bought him a cheap lemon ice lolly. It wasn't bad either, Harry thought, licking it as they watched a gorilla scratching its head and looking remarkably like Dudley, except that it wasn't blond.

10 Harry had the best morning he'd had in a long time. He was careful to walk a little way apart from the Dursleys so that Dudley and Piers, who were starting to get bored with the animals by lunchtime, wouldn't fall back on their favourite hobby of hitting him. They ate in the zoo restaurant and when Dudley had a tantrum because his knickerbocker glory wasn't big enough, Uncle Vernon bought him another one and Harry was allowed to finish the first.

15 Harry felt, afterwards, that he should have known it was all too good to last. After lunch they went to the reptile house. It was cool and dark in here, with lit windows all along the walls. Behind the glass, all sorts of lizards and snakes were crawling and slithering over bits of wood and stone. Dudley and Piers wanted to see huge, poisonous cobras and thick, man-crushing pythons. Dudley quickly found the largest snake in the place. It could

20 have wrapped its body twice around Uncle Vernon's car and crushed it into a dustbin- but at the moment it didn't look in the mood. In fact, it was fast asleep. Dudley stood with his nose pressed against the glass, staring at the glistening brown coils. "Make it move," he whined to his father. Uncle Vernon tapped on the glass, but the snake didn't budge.

25 "Do it again," Dudley ordered. Uncle Vernon rapped the glass smartly with his knuckles, but the snake just snoozed on. "This is boring," Dudley moaned. He shuffled away.

30 Harry moved in front of the tank and looked intently at the snake. He wouldn't have been surprised if it had died of boredom itself- no company except stupid people drumming their fingers on the glass trying to disturb it all day long. It was worse than having a cupboard as a bedroom, where the only visitor was Aunt Petunia hammering on the door to wake you up- at least he got to visit the rest of the house.

The snake suddenly opened its beady eyes. Slowly, very slowly, it raised its head until its eyes were on a level with Harry's.

35 It winked.

Harry stared. Then he looked quickly around to see if anyone was watching. They weren't. He looked back at the snake and winked, too.

The snake jerked its head towards Uncle Vernon and Dudley, then raised its eyes to the ceiling. It gave Harry a look that said quite plainly: "I get that all the time."

40 "I know," Harry murmured through the glass, though he wasn't sure the snake could hear him. "It must be really annoying."

The snake nodded vigorously.

"Where do you come from, anyway?" Harry asked.

The snake jabbed its tail at a little sign next to the glass. Harry peered at it.

45 *Boa Constrictor, Brazil.*

"Was it nice there?"

The boa constrictor jabbed its tail at the sign again and Harry read on: *This specimen was bred in the zoo.* "Oh, I see- so you've never been to Brazil?"

As the snake shook its head, a deafening shout behind Harry made both of them jump.

50 "DUDLEY! MR. DURSLEY! COME AND LOOK AT THIS SNAKE! YOU WON'T BELIEVE WHAT IT'S DOING!"

Dudley came waddling towards them as fast as he could.

"Out of the way, you," he said, punching Harry in the ribs. Caught by surprise, Harry fell hard on the concrete floor. What came next happened so fast no one saw how it happened- one
55 second, Piers and Dudley were leaning right up close to the glass, the next, they had leapt back with howls of horror.

Harry sat up and gasped; the glass front of the boa constrictor's tank had vanished. The great snake was uncoiling itself rapidly, slithering out on to the floor- people throughout the reptile house screamed and started running for the exits.

60 As the snake slid swiftly past him, Harry could have sworn a low, hissing voice said, "Brazil, here I come... Thanksss, amigo."

The keeper of the reptile house was in shock.

"But the glass," he kept saying, "where did the glass go?"

The zoo director himself made Aunt Petunia a cup of strong, sweet tea while he apologised
65 over and over again. Piers and Dudley could only gibber. As far as Harry had seen, the snake hadn't done anything except snap playfully at their heels as it passed, but by the time they were all back in Uncle Vernon's car, Dudley was telling them how it had nearly bitten off his leg, while Piers was swearing it had tried to squeeze him to death. But worst of all, for Harry at least, was Piers calming down enough to say,

70 "Harry was talking to it, weren't you, Harry?"

Uncle Vernon waited until Piers was safely out of the house before starting on Harry. He was so angry he could hardly speak. He managed to say, "Go - cupboard - stay - no meals," before he collapsed into a chair and Aunt Petunia had to run and get him a large brandy.

75 Harry lay in his dark cupboard much later, wishing he had a watch. He didn't know what time it was and he couldn't be sure the Dursleys were asleep yet. Until they were, he couldn't risk sneaking to the kitchen for some food.

Read the text again and answer the following questions.

Focussing on the text: Answer the following questions. (2 marks)

1. What kind of text do you think this is? Underline the correct answer.

a report a recipe a story a play a biography

2. Who is the author?

Reading Comprehension: Write numbers in the boxes to sequence the events in the story.

(6 marks)

They ate at the zoo restaurant.

Mr. And Mrs. Dursley, Dudley, Piers and Harry all went to the zoo.

Mr. Dudley was furious. He sent Harry to his cupboard without any food to eat.

A boa constrictor escaped from its tank.

Afterwards they visited the reptile house.

Piers told Dursley that Harry had been talking to the snake.

Turn to the next page.

Reading Comprehension: Multiple Choice.

Choose the correct answer and circle the letter. (5 marks)

1. Piers and Dudley's favourite hobby was to:
 - a. eat chocolate ice-cream.
 - b. hit Harry.
 - c. walk at a distance from Harry.
 - d. visit the zoo.

 2. Mr. Dursley tried to wake up the snake by:
 - a. tapping the glass.
 - b. shouting into the tank.
 - c. hammering at the door of the tank.
 - d. talking to the snake.

 3. The boa constrictor
 - a. was from Brazil and had lived there.
 - b. was from Kenya but had never lived there.
 - c. was from Brazil but had never lived there.
 - d. was from Kenya and had lived there.

 4. The boa constrictor
 - a. bit off Dudley's leg.
 - b. slithered out of the tank.
 - c. went to Brazil.
 - d. squeezed Piers to death.

 5. When they arrived home, Uncle Vernon was angry because
 - a. the snake had bitten off Dudley's leg.
 - b. Aunt Petunia was crying.
 - c. Harry went to his cupboard.
 - d. ~~Harry had been talking to the snake.~~
-

Turn to the next page.

Focussing on the Language

Adjectives are words that describe a place, a person, an animal or an object. Here is an example. The adjective is underlined.

The snake suddenly opened its beady eyes.

Read these sentences and underline the adjectives. Some sentences have more than 1 adjective. (2 marks)

1. After lunch they went to the reptile house. It was cool and dark in there.
2. The zoo director himself made Aunt Petunia a cup of strong, sweet tea while he apologised over and over again.

Write the two adjective used to describe cobras in the text. (2 mark)

Verbs tell us what someone or something is doing. Here is an example. The verb is underlined.

The snake suddenly opened its beady eyes.

Read these sentences about Harry and underline the verbs. (2 marks)

1. Harry moved in front of the tank and looked intently at the snake.
2. Harry lay in his cupboard much later, wishing he had a watch.

The author makes the text interesting by using lots of different verbs.

Read lines 22 to 27. Instead of using "said" when Dudley speaks the author uses three different verbs. Write 2 of the verbs below. (2 marks)

Turn to the next page.

Focussing on the Writer's Craft

Lines 47-49 reads:

As the snake shook its head, a deafening shout behind Harry made both of them jump.
"DUDLEY! MR. DURSLEY! COME AND LOOK AT THIS SNAKE! YOU WON'T *BELIEVE*
WHAT IT'S DOING!"

Answer the questions below. (3 marks)

1. What adjective does the author use to tell us that this is a very loud shout?

2. The author uses other things to show us that the person is shouting very loudly.
Write 1 of them below.

3. Why do you think the author writes *BELIEVE* in *italics*? Circle a or b.
 - a. To read it more quietly than the other words
 - b. To put emphasis on this word when you read

Reading Comprehension

Write down who or what the **boxed** words refer to. You can find them in the **boxes in the text**. (4 marks)

Example: ... Uncle Vernon bought **him** another one... (line 14) him= Dudley.

1. ... He wouldn't have been surprised if **it** had died of boredom... (line 29)

2. ... at least **he** got to visit the rest of the house. (line 32)

3. ...the next, **they** had leapt back with howls of horror. (line 55)

4. ...while **he** apologised over and over again. (line 64)

Turn to the next page.

Reading Comprehension

Answer the questions below.

1. On what day of the week did Mr. and Mrs. Dudley take the boys to the zoo?

(1 mark)

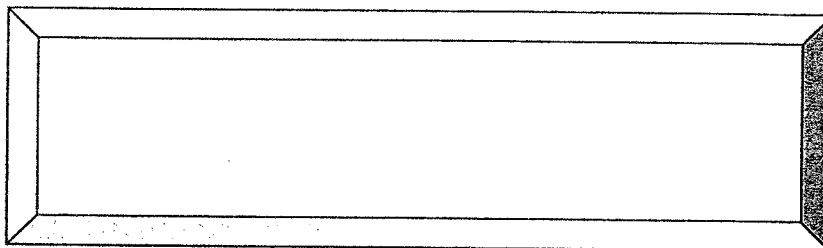
2. They saw snakes. What other animal did they see in the reptile house?

(1 mark)

3. Harry thought Dudley was similar to an animal at the zoo. Which animal was it?

(1 mark)

4. Read lines 43 to 49. Write the sign for the snake tank. (2 marks)



5. Read lines 54 to 59.

Why did Harry and Piers jump back from the snake tank? (1 mark)

6. Who saw Harry talking to the snake? (1 mark)

Write the sentence that tells you this. (1 mark)

The test is finished. Check that you have answered all the questions.

