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11+ Comprehension Test 1 - Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone Extract

It was dark in the corridor. They walked in single file. Harry could hear movements around them, but couldn't see a thing. The coldness was definitely coming from the walls. Harry pressed his freezing fingers against the stone, lighting his wand, he saw that the narrow passageway was leading to a flight of stone steps, which were visible because of the light of his wand. They were narrow and steep, and spiraled down into blackness. They climbed slowly and steadily, listening hard for any sound that might mean someone was approaching. After about twenty minutes, just when Harry was thinking that he'd have been climbing for at least an hour, the steps started to widen, and soon they were walking along a dark tunnel wide enough to fit three people walking abreast. Harry could now make out walls on either side, which were made of the same rough, cold stone as the steps.

They continued to move cautiously, looking around for any signs of movement, and after a while, they came to an arched wooden door with a small barred window at eye level. Snape and Filch were clearly visible through the window, standing at the end of the passage, blocking the way forward. They seemed to be having an argument. Harry couldn't make out what they were saying, but he knew it couldn't be good. Quivering with fear, he pressed his ear against the door, trying to listen in. He could hear bits of the conversation now.

"... don't want to be seen coming out of the trapdoor," Snape was saying, "someone might work out what we're up to - don't forget, that's a Whomping Willow, that tree, it's very valuable -"

QUESTIONS Set 1: Answer these questions about the text you just read.

- 1. What could Harry hear while walking in the dark corridor? (1 mark)
- 2. How did Harry light his way through the narrow passageway? (1 mark)
- 3. How long did it take Harry and his friends to climb the steps? (2 marks)
- 4. What did Harry notice when the steps started to widen? (2 marks)
- 5. How many people could walk abreast in the dark tunnel? (2 marks)
- 6. What did Harry see through the small barred window in the arched wooden door? (2 marks)
- 7. Who was having an argument in front of the door? (2 marks)
- 8. Why did Snape not want to be seen coming out of the trapdoor? (2 marks)
- 9. What kind of tree was the Whomping Willow? (1 mark)
- 10. Why was the tree valuable? (1 mark)

Turn Over

QUESTIONS Set 2: Answer these questions about the text you just read.

1.What is the atmosphere like in the corridor, and how does Harry feel about it? (2 marks)
2. What do the stone steps look like and what do they lead to? (2 marks)
3.How long have they been climbing the steps and what does Harry think about the time? (2 marks)
4.What do they see when the steps start to widen and how does Harry feel about it? (2 marks)
5.Describe Snape and Filch's appearance through the window and where are they standing? (2 marks)
6.What are Snape and Filch arguing about and why is Harry quivering with fear? (2 marks)
7.What is the Whomping Willow and why is it valuable? (2 marks)
8.Predict what Snape and Filch are up to and why do they not want to be seen? (2 marks)
9.Explain the danger that Harry and his friends might face in the future, based on this passage? (2 marks)
10.What is the mood of this passage and how does it contribute to the overall tone of the story. use
evidence? (3 marks)



End Of Test

11+ Comprehension Test 1 - Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone Extract

Set 1 Answers

- 1. One-word answer: movements. (1 mark)
- 2. One-word answer: wand. (1 mark)
- 3. Short answer: About twenty minutes. (2 marks)
- 4. Short answer: The steps started to widen. (2 marks)
- 5. Short answer: Three. (2 marks)
- 6. Short answer: Snape and Filch. (2 marks)
- 7. Short answer: Snape and Filch. (2 marks)
- 8. Short answer: He didn't want someone to work out what they were up to. (2 marks)
- 9. Short answer: Whomping Willow. (1 mark)
- 10. Short answer: It was very valuable. (1 mark)

Set 2 Answers

- 1. The atmosphere is dark and cold in the corridor, and Harry is cold and can't see a thing.
- 2. The steps are narrow, steep, and spiralled down into blackness. They lead to a dark tunnel.
- 3. They've been climbing the steps for about twenty minutes, and Harry thinks that he's been climbing for at least an hour.
- 4. They see a dark tunnel wide enough to fit three people walking abreast when the steps start to widen. Harry is relieved to see walls on either side, which were made of the same rough, cold stone as the steps.
- 5. Snape and Filch are clearly visible through the small barred window, and they are standing at the end of the passage, blocking the way forward.
- 6. Answer: Snape and Filch are arguing about not wanting to be seen coming out of the trapdoor because someone might work out what they're up to, and Harry is quivering with fear because he knows it can't be good.
- 7. The Whomping Willow is a tree, and it's valuable because it guards the entrance to the Shrieking Shack, where Remus Lupin is hiding.
- 8. Snape and Filch are probably up to no good, and they don't want to be seen coming out of the trapdoor because they're doing something they shouldn't be doing, like trying to sneak into Hogwarts.
- 9. The danger that Harry and his friends might face in the future is significant, as evidenced by Snape and Filch's suspicious behaviour.
- 10. The mood of this passage is tense and suspenseful, as Harry and his friends are trying to avoid being caught by Snape and Filch. It contributes to the overall tone of the story by creating a sense of danger and urgency.