

Year 6 SATs English: Reading and Grammar Mixed Practice

A classic poem with reading questions, plus grammar and punctuation practice.

Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Learning objective: I can answer reading and grammar questions in the style of the KS2 SATs.

✓ I find evidence in the poem ✓ I explain the effect of language ✓ I use grammar terms accurately

From a Railway Carriage

Faster than fairies, faster than witches,
Bridges and houses, hedges and ditches;
And charging along like troops in a battle,
All through the meadows the horses and cattle:
All of the sights of the hill and the plain
Fly as thick as driving rain;
And ever again, in the wink of an eye,
Painted stations whistle by.

Here is a child who clambers and scrambles,
All by himself and gathering brambles;
Here is a tramp who stands and gazes;
And there is the green for stringing the daisies!
Here is a cart run away in the road
Lumping along with man and load;
And here is a mill and there is a river:
Each a glimpse and gone for ever!

Robert Louis Stevenson, from *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885). Public domain.

1 Reading Circle the best answer.

- 1 Where is the speaker of the poem?
(A) on a horse (B) on a train (C) in a cart (D) at a station
- 2 Which phrase tells you the scenes pass very quickly?
(A) "hedges and ditches" (B) "in the wink of an eye" (C) "stands and gazes" (D) "man and load"

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- 3 “Fly as thick as driving rain” – what technique is this, and what does it suggest? [2 marks]

- 4 Find and copy **two** words that rhyme in lines 1–2. [1 mark]

- 5 How does the rhythm of the poem match the subject? [2 marks]

- 6 What does the final line, “Each a glimpse and gone for ever!”, suggest about the journey? [1 mark]

- 7 Choose your favourite image from the second verse. Explain why you chose it. [2 marks]

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3 Grammar and punctuation Circle the correct answer.

- 1 Which word is an adverb? *The train moved swiftly past the mill.*
☐ (A) train ☐ (B) swiftly ☐ (C) past ☐ (D) mill
- 2 Which sentence uses a colon correctly?
☐ (A) I packed: three things a map, a torch and a coat.
☐ (B) I packed three things: a map, a torch and a coat.
☐ (C) I: packed three things, a map, a torch and a coat.
- 3 Which sentence is in the passive voice?
☐ (A) The tramp gazed at the river. ☐ (B) The brambles were gathered by the child.
☐ (C) The child gathered brambles.
- 4 Which word is a subordinating conjunction?
☐ (A) and ☐ (B) but ☐ (C) although ☐ (D) or
- 5 Which sentence uses the subjunctive form?
☐ (A) If I was you, I would go. ☐ (B) If I were you, I would go. ☐ (C) If I am you, I go.

4 Write it

- 6 Add a relative clause to this sentence: *The mill stood by the river.* [1 mark]

- 7 Rewrite with the correct apostrophe: *The childrens coats were wet.* [1 mark]

- 8 Write a sentence that uses a pair of brackets for parenthesis. [1 mark]

- 9 Change this sentence to the past progressive: *The horses run.* [1 mark]

Answer Key

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Question	Answers
1 Reading	1 B (on a train); 2 B ("in the wink of an eye")
2	3. A simile; the sights rush past so fast and so many at once that they blur together like heavy rain. 4. witches and ditches 5. The quick, regular beat sounds like the wheels of a train on the track (galloping rhythm). 6. Everything is seen only for a moment and then lost – the speed means nothing can be looked at for long. 7. Any image from lines 9–16 (e.g. the runaway cart 'lumping along') with a reason linked to the words used.
3 Grammar and punctuation	1 B (swiftly); 2 B (I packed three things: a map, a torch and a coat.); 3 B (The brambles were gathered by the child.); 4 C (although); 5 B (If I were you, I would go.)
4 Write it	6. e.g. The mill, which was old and crumbling, stood by the river. 7. The children's coats were wet. 8. e.g. The train (which was late again) finally arrived. 9. The horses were running.

Teaching note: the poem is out of copyright. Questions are original and in the style of the KS2 reading and grammar, punctuation and spelling tests; they are not taken from past papers. In the grammar section, the sentences with the wrong punctuation, voice or apostrophe are deliberate.