

## English Language: Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> June 2020

These tasks will help you to improve your reading skills, which will include making inferences and choosing relevant quotations.

If you need any help, email [office@grangepark.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@grangepark.kent.sch.uk) and then your email will be forwarded on to me and I can help you. Mrs Dixon

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**LO: To be able to make inferences.**

I have no recall of one foot in front of the other, cobblestones under my feet. He drew me like honey draws a wasp. I had no fear. I came before the godly indifference of his face and looked into his clear yellow eyes. His nose was a slope of downy gold, his nostrils pink and moist as a pup's. He raised his thick, white dotted lips and smiled, and his whiskers bloomed.

I became aware of my heart somewhere too high up, beating as if it was a little fist trying to get out.

1. What impression of the tiger does the writer create here?

Underline the answer you most agree with:

- a. The tiger fascinates the boy.
- b. The tiger is interested in the boy.
- c. The tiger is powerful.
- d. The tiger is beautiful.

Now explain your answer, using quotations and terminology to support your ideas.

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**Read the final part of the extract:**

Nothing in the world could have prevented me from lifting my hand and stroking the broad warm nap of his nose. Even now I feel how beautiful that touch was. Nothing had ever been so soft and clean. A ripple ran through his right shoulder as he raised his paw - bigger than my head - and lazily knocked me off my feet. It was like being felled by a cushion. I hit the ground but was not much hurt, only winded, and after that it was a dream. There was, I remember, much screaming and shouting, but from a distance, as if I was sinking underwater. The world turned upside down and went by me in a bright stream, the ground moved under me, my hair hung in my eyes. There was a kind of joy in me, I do know that - and nothing that could go by the name of fear, only a wildness. I was in his jaws. His breath burned the back of my neck. My bare toes trailed, hurting distantly. I could see his feet, tawny orange with white toes, pacing the ground away, gentle as feathers.

**2. Inference is the skill of reading between the lines to work out things which are implied but not said to us directly.**

**You do this all the time in real life. If your friend is crying, you don't need them to tell you they are sad - you can infer it, based on the evidence.**

**Inference is really important in reading comprehension. Practise it now.**

What can you infer from each of these quotations?

a. 'he raised his paw ... and lazily knocked me off my feet.'

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b. 'The world turned upside down and went by me in a bright stream, the ground moved under me'

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c. 'It was like being felled by a cushion.'

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d. 'There was ... much screaming and shouting, but from a distance, as if I was sinking underwater.'

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e. 'I could see his feet ... gentle as feathers.'

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3. Finally, number these events in the order in which they happen in the story. You have been given the first event to get you started. **Extract is on the next page.**

The boy falls to the ground, but isn't injured.	
The tiger carries the boy away.	
The boy thinks the tiger feels really soft.	
The boy hears shouts from people looking on.	
The tiger lifts his paw.	
The boy looks at the tiger's paws as he walks.	
The boy strokes the tiger's nose.	1
The tiger picks the boy up.	
The tiger knocks the boy off his feet.	

## *Jamrach's Menagerie*

Of course, I'd seen a cat before. You couldn't sleep for them in Bermondsey, creeping about over the roofs and wailing like devils. They lived in packs, spiky, wild-eyed, stalking the wooden walkways and bridges, fighting with the rats. But this cat ...

The sun himself came down and walked on earth.

Just as the birds of Bermondsey were small and brown, and those of my new home were large and rainbow-hued, so it seemed the cats of Ratcliffe Highway must be an altogether superior breed to our scrawny south-of-the-river mogs. This cat was the size of a small horse, solid, massively chested, rippling powerfully about the shoulders. He was gold, and the pattern painted so carefully all over him, so utterly perfect, was the blackest black in the world. His paws were the size of footstools, his chest snow white.

I'd seen him somewhere, his picture in a poster in London Street, over the river. He was jumping through a ring of fire and his mouth was open. A mythical beast.

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## Extension Task

Choose one of the options below:

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1. Imagine the boy reacts with terror at being held by the tiger. Rewrite the last paragraph of the extract to show this change in mood.
2. Write down the three main events/actions in the extract. Play around with the order - for example start with the boy in the tiger's mouth. Think about how these changes affect the reader's response.
3. Imagine you were part of the crowd that were 'screaming and shouting' and give a short account for a local newspaper.

