

TutorMate 11+ English Comprehension Paper

Read the following extract and circle the correct answer to the questions underneath.

Yuki breathed in as she crawled through the tiny hole in the gate. She wiped the dirt from her knees and stood up to gaze ahead. A sea of deep green foliage surrounded her, the sun's rays kept out by the canopy above. A faint mist rolled over the ground, giving the forest a sense of mystery and inviting Yuki's curiosity. She walked forward, running her hands along the bamboo shoots and listening to the chirping of the cicadas. The further she walked, the denser the forest became. Old shrines had been conquered by snaking vines and spears of bamboo poked out of the windows and roof tiles. A light breeze swept around the shrines, causing the hanging ornaments to let out a soothing, melodic chime. Yuki closed her eyes and listened to the sounds while breathing in to smell the fresh and earthy aromas of the forest. It was bliss. The decaying structures had a profound beauty to them, their flaking red paint contrasting the intense greens of the bamboo. Further into the forest, Yuki came to a sign reading 'Murasaki Temple'. The brushstrokes beneath had been worn away but she could make out the character for a compass direction. She flipped open her Father's compass and turned so that the red arrow faced towards the north. Yuki knew she needed to leave soon but the thought of seeing an ancient temple was too irresistible to miss. As the sun began to set, Yuki reached a clearing in the bamboo which opened up to a large hill with water-filled terraces carved into the side. The sky cast a fiery glow of orange over the water, making it seem like pools of warm liquid gold. Insects hopped along the water and the ambient buzz of crickets was a pleasant complement to the calmness of the sunset. Yuki made her way to the top of the terraces, balancing herself on the narrow paths between the pools and watching the hopping insects create ripples on the surface of the water. At the top, the temple stood. It was an enormous wooden structure, its sheer size eclipsing the setting sun. The roof tiles were a tranquil purple, while the walls and supporting beams were a dark chestnut brown. The temple was guarded by statues of mythical foxes, each with nine waving tails and eyes of jade. They were not scary, but rather, they looked noble and strong, protecting people from the dangers of the forest. Between the foxes was an ancient bowl filled with sand and burnt out incense sticks. Yuki was surprised to notice that one of the incense sticks was still burning away, emitting a light smoke that smelt of lavender. She could not have been alone. As she got closer to the entrance, she could smell an aroma of soup that had wafted out of the temple doorway. It smelt delicious. 'Is anybody there?' asked Yuki. There was no answer. However, she could hear the rustling and clanging of pots and pans from within the temple. She knew

her parents would begin to wonder where she was if she did not return home soon but her curiosity got the better of her. Without a second thought, Yuki slowly made her way into the dimly lit temple.

1. Why were Yuki's knees dirty?

- A) She forgot to shower.
- B) She fell over.
- C) She had to crawl.
- D) She was playing football.
- E) She was in a forest.

2. Why was the forest dark?

- A) The sun was blocked out by a big tent.
- B) She was surrounded by water.
- C) It was night time.
- D) The forest was very dense.
- E) The trees were a dark colour.

3. What was Yuki listening to as she ran her hands along the bamboo?

- A) Insects
- B) Birds
- C) Squirrels
- D) The wind
- E) Bells

4. What does 'conquered' mean?

- A) Decorated
- B) Destroyed
- C) Decayed
- D) Supported
- E) Taken over

5. What did the forest smell like?

- A) Rotten
- B) Like lavender
- C) Like fruit
- D) Like soup
- E) Like plants and soil

6. Why were the decaying structures beautiful?

- A) Because they were old
- B) They had ornaments
- C) Their colour stood out against the forest

- D) The paint was flaking
- E) They were big

7. What is meant by the word 'character' in the text?

- A) A person
- B) A colour
- C) A word/letter
- D) A picture
- E) A direction

8. Why did Yuki go north?

- A) She was excited to use a compass
- B) She had never been north before
- C) North was the way home
- D) She wanted to see a temple
- E) She had nothing else to do that day

9. What time of day was it?

- A) Morning
- B) Late afternoon
- C) Midday
- D) Night
- E) Midnight

10. Why did the water look like gold?

- A) Because of the sky colour
- B) The water was dirty
- C) The water was hot
- D) The water had sand underneath
- E) The water was mixed with gold

11. How do you think Yuki felt as she walked along the terraces?

- A) Scared
- B) Nervous
- C) Excited
- D) Relaxed
- E) Melancholy

12. Which word emphasises the size of the temple?

- A) Sheer
- B) Structure
- C) Eclipsing
- D) Enormous
- E) Tranquil

13. What was the temple made out of?

- A) Tiles and beams
- B) Brick and wood
- C) Tiles, wood and chestnuts
- D) Wood and tiles
- E) Tiles and stone

14. What colour are the foxes' eyes?

- A) Green
- B) Blue
- C) Red
- D) Purple
- E) Yellow

15. How do you think the foxes made Yuki feel?

- A) Scared
- B) Worried
- C) Safe
- D) Jubilant
- E) Apprehensive

16. How did Yuki first realise she was not alone?

- A) One of the incense sticks was smoking
- B) She heard pots and pans
- C) The door was open
- D) She could smell lavender
- E) She heard a voice

17. What did the soup smell like?

- A) Like lavender
- B) Fresh and earthy
- C) Strange
- D) Tasty
- E) Ancient

18. What word best describes Yuki?

- A) Worried
- B) Noble
- C) Inquisitive
- D) Hopeful
- E) Imaginative

19. What was the inside of the temple like?

- A) Bright
- B) Modern
- C) Spacious
- D) Pitch black
- E) A little dark

20. What type of story do you think this is?

- A) A detective story
- B) An adventure story
- C) A non-fiction story
- D) A myth
- E) A fable

TutorMate-Copyright