

TEXT 1 — STORY

Questions 1–5

Low Tide

Kupu Māori: e hoa = friend (a way of speaking to someone); whānau = family; kaitiakitanga = looking after the land and sea for the future. A pipi is a small shellfish.

The tide had slipped so far out that the harbour looked like a huge silver plate. Hana followed her nana across the mudflat, her gumboots squelching with every step. A cold southerly nipped at her ears, but Nana did not seem to notice. She walked the way she always walked on the sand: slowly, eyes down, as though she were reading a book written on the ground.

“Here,” said Nana at last, tapping the sand with her toe. Hana knelt and dug. Her fingers closed around something smooth and hard: a pipi, no bigger than a fifty-cent piece. She held it up proudly. Nana shook her head. “Too small. Put it back, e hoa, and cover it over. That one has not finished growing.”

Hana sighed. The bucket was nearly empty, and her stomach was growling. All around them, other families were filling buckets and sacks. A man in a red jacket hurried past with a bulging bag in each hand. “Why do we only take the big ones?” she grumbled. “Everyone else is taking everything.”

Nana straightened her back slowly. “Because this bed fed my nana, and her nana before her,” she said. “If we take the little ones today, there will be no big ones when you are my age. We take what the whānau needs and no more. That is how you look after a place, Hana. That is kaitiakitanga.”

Hana looked at the pipi in her hand and then pressed it gently back into the sand, smoothing the hole over with her palm. When she looked up, the man in the red jacket had stopped a few metres away. He was watching her. Slowly, he tipped half of his bag back onto the mudflat.

By the time the tide began to creep back in, their bucket held just enough for dinner. Hana carried it home proudly. It was lighter than the man’s bags, she thought, but somehow it felt much heavier.

1. What did Hana find when she first dug in the sand?

- A a large shell as big as her hand
- B an empty crab shell on the mud
- C a pipi about the size of a coin
- D a handful of smooth grey pebbles

2. In the first paragraph, the word “squelching” describes the sound of

- A gumboots sinking into wet mud
- B waves crashing against the shore
- C a bucket being filled with water
- D the wind whistling past her ears

3. Why did Nana tell Hana to put the first pipi back?

- A It had not finished growing yet.
- B It had a crack across its shell.
- C It belonged to another family.
- D It was too heavy to carry home.

THE WORKED ANSWERS TO THOSE 3 QUESTIONS

1. What did Hana find when she first dug in the sand? [Detail]

Correct answer: C — a pipi about the size of a coin

- What is the question asking? It asks for a fact that the text states.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “a pipi, no bigger than a fifty-cent piece.”
- The text says the pipi was no bigger than a fifty-cent piece, which is about the size of a coin.
- So the correct answer is C (a pipi about the size of a coin).
- Why the other options are wrong:
 - A (a large shell as big as her hand): The pipi was small, no bigger than a fifty-cent piece.
 - B (an empty crab shell on the mud): She found a pipi, which is a shellfish.
 - D (a handful of smooth grey pebbles): She found a pipi, which is a shellfish.

LOS: Reading: finding information stated in the text

KEY TAKEAWAY

Go back to the text and find the exact words that answer the question, then match them to an option.

2. In the first paragraph, the word “squelching” describes the sound of [Vocab]

Correct answer: A — gumboots sinking into wet mud

- What is the question asking? It asks what a word means in this text.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “her gumboots squelching with every step.”
- The word comes straight after ‘gumboots’ and ‘with every step’, so it is the sound of walking in mud.
- So the correct answer is A (gumboots sinking into wet mud).
- Why the other options are wrong:
 - B (waves crashing against the shore): The waves had gone out, and the harbour was a mudflat.
 - C (a bucket being filled with water): Hana had not started collecting yet.
 - D (the wind whistling past her ears): The wind is described as nipping at her ears.

LOS: Reading: understanding word meaning in context

KEY TAKEAWAY

Reread the sentence, put each option in place of the word, and see which one still makes sense.

3. Why did Nana tell Hana to put the first pipi back? [Cause]

Correct answer: A — It had not finished growing yet.

- What is the question asking? It asks why something happened.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: "That one has not finished growing."
- Nana gives the reason herself: the pipi was too small and still growing.
- So the correct answer is A (It had not finished growing yet).
- Why the other options are wrong:
 - B (It had a crack across its shell.): Nana says nothing about a crack.
 - C (It belonged to another family.): Nana does not say this.
 - D (It was too heavy to carry home.): The pipi was small, not heavy.

LOS: Reading: understanding why things happen

KEY TAKEAWAY

Ask: what happened, and what made it happen? The word because is a clue.

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