

TEXT 1 — STORY EXTRACT

Questions 1–5

The Booming

Kiri's first night on the island was louder than she had expected. The wind combed through the rimu trees, waves slapped the rocks below the hut and, somewhere out in the dark, something was making a deep, thudding sound like a drum played underwater. She had come to help her uncle Hemi, the ranger, for the school holidays. Until now, she had thought the job would be boring.

"That is him," whispered Hemi, appearing at her bedroom door with a red torch. "Rangi. He has been booming for three nights, which means he is serious." Kiri pulled on her jacket and followed him down the track, careful to step where he stepped. The forest was hushed, as though it were holding its breath. "Red light only," Hemi murmured. "White light frightens them."

They found the bird in a bowl-shaped hollow that he had scooped out of the ground. He was bigger than she had imagined, round and mossy green, with a face like a startled owl. As Kiri watched, his chest swelled until it looked ready to burst. Then came the boom, so deep that she felt it in her ribs. Again and again he called, a lonely sound that rolled out over the dark hills.

"He is calling for a mate," Hemi explained quietly. "He will keep it up for hours, every night, for weeks. It is a lot of work for a bird that cannot fly." Kiri thought about this. There were fewer than three hundred of his kind left in the whole world. She felt a strange ache, as if she were looking at something that could disappear in the blink of an eye.

At dawn, they trudged back to the hut, cold and happy. Kiri's job for the morning was to check the traps along the shoreline, where stoats might land from boats. It was muddy, smelly work, and she did not complain once. "It is not boring any more," she told Hemi, as she lifted the lid on an empty trap. He smiled. "Nobody who meets Rangi ever says it is," he said.

1. Why had Kiri come to the island?

- A to study birds for school
- B to help her uncle, a ranger
- C to find a lost kākāpō
- D to take a holiday by the sea

2. In the second paragraph, "hushed" means

- A very cold
- B very dark
- C very quiet
- D very wet

3. Why does Hemi use a red torch?

- A Red light shows the track best.
- B The white torch had run out of power.
- C White light would frighten the birds.
- D Red light keeps the insects away.

THE WORKED ANSWERS TO THOSE 3 QUESTIONS

1. Why had Kiri come to the island? [Detail]

Correct answer: B — to help her uncle, a ranger

- What is the question asking? It asks for a fact that the text states.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “She had come to help her uncle Hemi, the ranger, for the school holidays.”
- The first paragraph explains why.
- So the correct answer is B (to help her uncle, a ranger).
- Why the other options are wrong:
 - A (to study birds for school): The text says she came to help Hemi.
 - C (to find a lost kākāpō): The text says she came to help Hemi.
 - D (to take a holiday by the sea): The text says she came to help Hemi.

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 second paragraph, “hushed” means [Vocab]

Correct answer: C — very quiet

- What is the question asking? It asks what a word means in this text.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: “The forest was hushed, as though it were holding its breath.”
- Hushed means silent.
- So the correct answer is C (very quiet).
- Why the other options are wrong:
 - A (very cold): ‘Hushed’ describes silence.
 - B (very dark): ‘Hushed’ describes silence.
 - D (very wet): ‘Hushed’ describes silence.

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 does Hemi use a red torch? [Inference]

Correct answer: C — White light would frighten the birds.

- What is the question asking? It asks what the clues in the text show.
- Go back to the text and find the evidence: "Red light only," Hemi murmured. "White light frightens them."
- Hemi gives the reason himself.
- So the correct answer is C (White light would frighten the birds).
- Why the other options are wrong:
 - A (Red light shows the track best.): Hemi says white light frightens them.
 - B (The white torch had run out of power.): The text does not say this.
 - D (Red light keeps the insects away.): The text does not say this.

LOS: Reading: working out what the text suggests

KEY TAKEAWAY

When the text does not say it directly, use the clues it gives, then ask: what must be true?

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