

Each of the following cards contains a short story and some comprehension questions followed by a “Be a detective” section where you can research some information. The pictures can also be used as a prompt for your own story.

Max was patient, he had to be. Nothing in this world moved quickly, however much he wished that it would. He'd learnt to wait.

Max knew his contact would meet him under the bridge, sometime before midnight.



The cry of a seagull, the splash of an oar cutting through the river, broke the silence. Max watched a boat drift serenely into the shore beside him.

A casual nod from the oarsman was all Max needed. Nonchalantly, he stepped on board. No words were exchanged. As the boat edged away, Max wrapped his coat tighter.

Silently, they disappeared into the mist.

1. What do the words 'serenely' and 'nonchalantly' mean?
2. Why might Max and his contact want to meet near to midnight?
3. Why don't you think that Max and the oarsman spoke to each other?
4. What might be on the other side of the river, that Max is travelling towards?
5. It says that '*nothing in this world moved quickly*', Is Max from this world? If not, how might he have got here?

Be a detective.

Find out about the history of bridges. When were the 1st wooden, stone and metal bridges built? Try to build a bridge from spaghetti or rolls of paper, how high, or wide, can you build it? Find out about a famous bridge. How was it built? How tall, or long, is it? Does it break any records? Find out how to make a paper boat, how long can it stay afloat? Research when the 1st boats were made? What were they made from? How have their designs changed?

<p>01</p> <p>Write a description (or draw) either of the characters: How old are they? What are they wearing? What will their voice sound like? How do they walk? What kind of person are they - brave, shy, confident, trustworthy?</p>	<p>02</p> <p>What might the thoughts of the two characters be: Create thought bubbles for them... When they meet? As they travel over the water? When they reach the other side? Do they trust each other? Do they even look at each other?</p>
<p>03</p> <p>Imagine you are watching the characters. Write a note about them that you can pass to someone else. It only needs to be short, but include good details (adjectives and adverbs)</p>	<p>04</p> <p>When is the story set? How can you tell from looking at the picture? Now try and describe (or draw) what they might see on the other side of the river. You might need to research buildings, vehicles and clothes of the time.</p>

The last thing you expect to see in the middle of the woods is a gigantic head. Unless you're careful it COULD be the last thing you'll ever see...

We'd often walked these woods with the dog, next to the lake, tranquil – an escape from our normal hectic lifestyle. So, when a wooden sculpture appeared, we were excited to explore.

A spiral staircase led to its eyes – the perfect place to admire the view. Going back out to take a photo of Kelby and Hunter, I heard a creaking, groaning sound. I turned to see the mouth close... then silence.



1. Who are the main characters in this story? How old are they? Why do you think this?
2. What does the word tranquil mean?
3. What might the narrator do next? Explain why.
4. What kind of story is this? Why do you think this?
5. Use 3 adjectives to describe the sculpture and 3 adverbs to describe your feelings if you saw it.

A Starter for 10

Be a detective.



1. This is a wooden sculpture at Kielder Water. What sculptures are close to you. Who designed them?
2. Design a sculpture that says something about you, your interests, or personality.
3. Find out about a famous sculptor – why are they famous? Which sculptors use natural materials?
4. Describe what you think this sculpture might look like inside?
5. Do you think sculptures like this should be put in woodland, or does it spoil the natural view?

Scanning the sand for that one special stone, Millie passed hours on the beach. She had picked up enough stones to build a small mountain, but rejected them all. Too big, too small, too flat...

Just as she was about to call it a day, Millie saw what she had been looking for. She rolled it over in her hands.

The stone was placed into the ring, it fitted perfectly. Millie smiled. The smile turned to shock as the lines began to glow, the centre of the stones flickered from a blinding light to jet black.



An opening had appeared!

1. What kind of person is Millie? What tells you this in the text?
2. How long do you think it took Millie to collect the other stones? Why?
3. Which stone do you think was the last one to be collected? Explain why.
4. Where do you think the opening leads to? Why?
5. If you could ask Millie a question, what would you ask?
6. If you were Millie, what would you do next? Why?

A Starter for 10

Be a detective.



- These stones have quartz running through them. What are the most precious stones in the world? The lion, the witch and the wardrobe, Alice in Wonderland and Harry Potter's platform 9 ¾ all have portals to another world. Where do they take the characters? Where would you make a portal to? A wormhole is a possible way to travel through space. What are they? How might they work? If you could travel back in time, which time in history would you visit? Why?

Sweat trickled down Duncan and Keira's faces as they sat on a checked blanket.
 "This is so boring, we need some excitement." said Keira, a dark-haired girl with mischievous eyes.
 "I know, the sun is roasting." agreed her brother, Duncan.
 Their parents had brought them down to the beach for the day. The white powdery sand and sparkling blue ocean seemed to carry on for miles.
 "Let's go the cave." whispered Duncan, feeling his shoulders burning.
 He grasped his sister's hand and ran to the cave.
 Drops of icy water fell onto their bodies as they entered the cave.



1. Which words, or phrases, tell us how hot the day is?
2. How old are the children? Why do you think this?
3. What is Keira like? What evidence can you find?
4. Who do you think is in charge, Duncan or Keira? Why do you think this?
5. What do you think the children were doing before the story starts? Why?
6. Describe the inside of the cave. What might they discover?
7. What might happen next? Why do you think this?

Be a detective.



What interesting animals live in caves? How have they adapted?
 What are the largest caves in the world? Where are they?
 Can you find them on a map?
 What is the deepest cave in the world? Which tall buildings would fit inside it?
 What is a sink hole? How are they formed?
 What are considered the best beaches in the world? Which one would you choose?
 What would you choose as a perfect day at the beach? Describe it.

A Starter for 10

After months on the island, the last thing they wanted was their solitude breaking, someone disturbing their new, peaceful existence far away from anyone else.
 So the sight of a yacht sailing straight towards them filled everyone with dread, they didn't want to be 'discovered'.
 From behind rocks, and within the shadows of the trees they anxiously watched and waited, willing the yacht to sail past...it didn't!
 Signals flicked between them, before everyone vanished, into the forest darkness, hoping the 'invaders' wouldn't come ashore...they did.
 In whispered tones a plan of action was quickly agreed. Spreading out, they waited patiently.



1. Why do you think these people are on the island?
2. How do you think they got to the island?
3. Where could this island be? Why do you think this?
4. Describe how you think the islanders feel? Explain why.
5. What might the signals be that the islanders pass between them?
6. What do you think will happen when the people on the yacht land on the island?

Be a detective.



Learn how to say some words in sign language. Can you teach them to someone else?
 Find out about Easter Island, Galapagos Islands or Ellis Island. What is special about them?
 What are the largest islands in the world? Where are they?
 Robben Island was home to Nelson Mandela. Who was he? Why was he there?
 Find out amazing facts about a famous ship, or yacht. Why is it famous?

A Starter for 10