

2026 national curriculum tests

Key stage 1

English reading

Braille transcript of Paper 2: reading booklet

**Jack's New Boat
Bamboo**



**Standards
& Testing
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Jack's New Boat

Jack went to stay with his Uncle Jim for a holiday. Uncle Jim was a sailor. He had made Jack a red toy boat. Jack loved his new boat. He wanted to sail it right away.

"Can we sail my boat now?" asked Jack.

"Better wait. It looks as if a storm is coming," said Uncle Jim. "Those

[braille page 3] waves would sweep your boat out to sea."

Each day the storm only got worse. Each morning Jack asked, "Please can I sail my boat today?"

And each time Uncle Jim answered, "All the big boats are still docked, Jack. Let's wait for a calmer sea."

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All Jack could think about was sailing his new red boat. But each day was windy and wet, and the sea still crashed against the shore. Jack thought he would burst if he couldn't sail his boat soon.

Still the rain came down. Until at last ... it stopped!

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Jack picked up his boat, raced out of the cottage, and ran down to the beach. The waves were still very big. I'll just put it in at the edge of the water, thought Jack. Then I'll let it go for only a moment.

Jack watched it bob up and down on the waves. "Not too far," he called as the boat bobbed out of reach. **[braille page 6]** But the little toy boat drifted farther and farther out to sea.

"Come back! Don't go!" cried Jack, as the boat tipped and disappeared beneath a giant wave.

"Uncle Jim, Uncle Jim!" cried Jack. "I've lost my boat – a big wave took my boat!"

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"Let's go and see if we can get it back," said Uncle Jim. They walked along the beach for hours, searching, but couldn't find Jack's new boat. "Let's go home now," said Uncle Jim. "It's getting late and dark. We'll look again in the morning."

The next morning was bright and sunny. It made Jack feel hopeful.

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They searched again along the beach but they couldn't find the boat anywhere. Then Jack saw something red, but it wasn't his boat.

"I wish I'd waited for the weather to change," Jack said sadly. "Do you think we'll ever find my boat?"

"I don't know," said Uncle Jim. "I hope so."

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"Let's do something else for a little while to cheer us up," he said. "Let's go and look at the big boats in the harbour."

Sure enough, Jack cheered up when he saw all the colourful boats lined up along the pier. He shouted out the colours as he passed. "Green, white, orange, yellow, green, blue, yellow, red ... Red!"

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Jack ran to look. "It's my boat!" he shouted.

"I found my new red boat! Can we fix it?"

"Aye-aye!" said Uncle Jim. "We'll make her seaworthy again."

And that's just what they did.

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Bamboo

What is bamboo?

Have you ever seen bamboo? Bamboo is a type of grass that grows in many countries. You probably think that grass is short and thin, like the grass you see on football pitches and in parks. But bamboo has long, hard, straight stems called canes.

[braille page 12] It can grow as tall as a tree and, once chopped down, bamboo can be used to make many different things.

The bamboo plant

Bamboo is one of the fastest growing plants on Earth. It can grow in most places, even in water, and it is easy to grow in a garden. **[braille page 13]** People plant it because they love how the canes look when they sway backwards and forwards in the wind. When the canes knock against each other, they make a gentle popping noise. Bamboo even looks good in winter as the beautiful leaves stay green all year round.

[braille page 14] Some bamboo plants grow white flowers. This doesn't happen very often, so they are rarely seen. Some types of bamboo only grow flowers every 120 years!

Bamboo for building

Bamboo is very strong. This makes it a good material for making furniture like beds, chairs and tables. **[braille page 15]** Furniture made from bamboo feels very smooth and is a lovely golden colour.

Did you know that bamboo can be used to make toys? Many toys are made from wood and plastic (such as building blocks and dolls' houses) but toys can also be made from bamboo! **[braille page 16]** Bamboo is so strong that it can even be used to make bikes and skateboards that won't break easily when you are riding them. They are also easy to lift and carry because bamboo is so lightweight.

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Bamboo for cooking

Amazingly, you can also eat bamboo! Bamboo shoots are delicious when added to meals such as stir-fries as they are nice and crunchy. People also use the shoots to make tasty soups and curries.

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We all need to keep our bodies healthy. Bamboo is packed with vitamins that are good for our skin, hair and bones. It's important to cook it carefully because raw bamboo shoots have a poison inside which is dangerous to humans when eaten!

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Bamboo for wearing

It might surprise you to learn that something you can eat can also be used to make clothing. Material made from bamboo is popular for clothes such as t-shirts, pyjamas and socks. Clothes made from bamboo are often warmer and softer than clothes made from cotton or wool. **[braille page 20]** Bamboo is especially useful for making socks because the material stops feet becoming smelly.

From terrific toys to comfy clothing, who would have thought one plant could have so many uses?

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