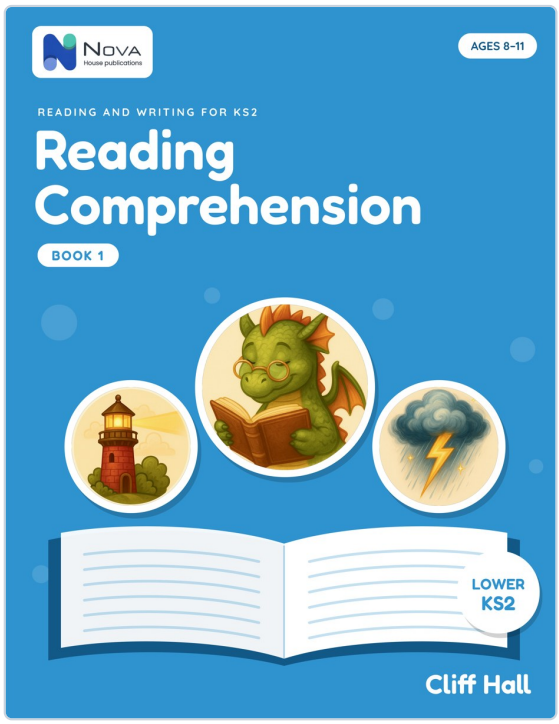
FREE SAMPLE PAGES

Reading Comprehension

Book 1 · Lower KS2 · Ages 8–11

Unit 1: The Library Dragon



Inside this sample

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1 Print

Print on A4 at home. Every page fits the sheet, so choose "Fit to page" if your printer asks.

2 Have a go

Do the warm-ups and talk about the discussion questions, then read the passage twice and answer the questions. Allow about 45 minutes.

3 Check together

Use the answers on page 8. The marks and explanations show how each answer is scored.

About the book

Ten carefully chosen texts for Lower KS2: stories, a mystery, a poem, true adventures, history and science. Every passage is prepared with warm-ups, discussion and a Vocabulary Check, then followed by 11+ style questions. Part of the Reading and Writing for KS2 series, for ages 8 to 11.

Find out more about the full book at novaeducation.uk

Unit 1

The Library Dragon



Fiction

In this unit

1. Warm-up 1: Before and After
2. Warm-up 2: Rules in the Library
3. Discussion: Rules and Kindness
4. Vocabulary Check
5. The Passage
6. Comprehension Questions

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Warm-up 1: Before and After

In a moment you will read a story about Spark, a tiny dragon who guards the silence in a school library. Something happens that makes him change.

In the table, write three words that might describe Spark at the start of the story. Then write three words that might describe him after he changes.

Spark the Enforcer (at the start)	Spark the Helper (at the end)
e.g. strict	e.g. kind

Warm-up 2: Rules in the Library

1. Give two reasons why a library might have a No Noise rule.

2. Give two reasons why a child might make a noise in a library by accident.

Discussion: Rules and Kindness

Talk about these questions with your parent or tutor. There are no right or wrong answers.

- Think of a rule you follow at home or at school. Why is it there?
- Should someone who breaks a rule by accident be treated the same as someone who breaks it on purpose? Why?
- Can you remember a time when someone was kind to you after you made a mistake? How did it feel?

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Vocabulary Check

Draw a line to match each word from the story to its meaning.

minuscule	telling someone off angrily
enforce	so interested in something that you notice nothing else
diligently	very; terribly
engrossed	extremely small
scolding	to make sure a rule is obeyed
dreadfully	carefully and with steady effort

Word forms: complete each sentence with the correct form of **enforce**: enforce, enforcer or enforcement.

1. Spark was the library's rule _____.
2. It was his job to _____ the No Noise rule.
3. Strict _____ of the rule made some children nervous.

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The Passage

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The Library Dragon

Perched on top of the enormous dictionary in Brookfield Primary School library sat a minuscule, purple-scaled dragon called Spark. He was no bigger than a teacup, but he had a very big job. Spark was the Guardian of Quiet, and his sole duty was to enforce the library's most important rule: NO NOISE.

Spark took his job extremely seriously. Every morning, before the first bell rang, he polished his claws, straightened the bookmarks and checked that every chair was tucked neatly under its table. Then he settled on the dictionary and waited. If a child giggled, Spark puffed a warning smoke ring towards them. If someone dropped a book with a thud, he puffed two. For years he had diligently guarded the silence, and the library had become the quietest room in the whole school. Some children thought he was rather fierce. Others were simply too frightened to whisper.

One rainy Tuesday, a boy called Arlo was curled up in the beanbag by the window. He was utterly engrossed in a comic book about pirates, which he had found at the very back of the bottom shelf. The pages were yellow, and the cover was furry with dust. As Arlo turned to the chapter where Captain Saltbeard discovers the treasure, his nose began to twitch. His eyes began to water. He tried to hold it in, but it was no use.

"ACHOO!"

The gigantic sneeze exploded across the library like a cannon blast. Pencils rattled. A pile of leaflets slid to the floor. Every head in the room turned towards Arlo, and then, slowly, towards Spark.

Arlo froze. His cheeks burned. He squeezed his eyes shut and waited for the smoky scolding that he knew was coming.

But no smoke ring came. Instead, Arlo heard the soft flutter of tiny wings. When he opened his eyes, Spark was hovering in front of him, looking more concerned than cross. From behind one wing, the dragon produced a neatly folded tissue.

"Bless you," Spark sighed, in a voice like rustling pages. "Those old pirate stories are dreadfully dusty. Nobody has borrowed that one for thirty years."

Arlo took the tissue and blew his nose as quietly as he possibly could. "I'm sorry," he whispered. "I didn't mean to break the rule."

Spark thought about this for a long moment. He had always believed that a rule was a rule. Yet he could see that the boy had not been careless or rude. A sneeze was not the same as shouting across the room.

"Rules are there to help people," Spark said at last, "not to frighten them."

From that day on, the library was still a quiet place, but it was a friendlier one. Spark kept a box of tissues beside the dictionary, and the children no longer trembled when they walked past him. And every week, without fail, Arlo returned to borrow another dusty pirate story.

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Comprehension Questions

1 What was Spark's sole duty in the library? Retrieval (1 mark)

2 Give **two** things Spark did every morning before the first bell rang. Retrieval (2 marks)

3 What did Spark do if someone dropped a book with a thud? Retrieval (1 mark)

4 Which word is closest in meaning to **minuscule**? Vocabulary (1 mark)

- ☐ **A)** purple
- ☐ **B)** tiny
- ☐ **C)** fierce
- ☐ **D)** friendly

5 Arlo was "utterly engrossed" in his comic book. What does this tell you about how he was reading? Vocabulary (2 marks)

6 Find and copy **one** word from the second paragraph that means "carefully and with steady effort". Vocabulary (1 mark)

7 Why do you think some children were "too frightened to whisper"? Inference (2 marks)

8 "The gigantic sneeze exploded across the library like a cannon blast." Name the technique the writer uses here and explain its effect. Language (2 marks)

05

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9 How did Arlo feel straight after he sneezed? Give **two** pieces of evidence from the text. Inference (2 marks)

10 Spark speaks "in a voice like rustling pages". Why is this a good description for a library dragon? Language (2 marks)

11 Number these events 1–4 in the order they happen. Sequencing (2 marks)

- ☐ Spark produces a tissue.
- ☐ Arlo finds a pirate comic.
- ☐ Spark keeps a box of tissues by the dictionary.
- ☐ A pile of leaflets slides to the floor.

12 Why did Spark decide not to puff a smoke ring at Arlo? Use the text to support your answer. Inference (2 marks)

13 Explain in your own words what Spark means when he says: "Rules are there to help people, not to frighten them." Summary and theme (2 marks)

14 How is the library different at the end of the story compared with the beginning? Structure (2 marks)

15 Do you think Spark made the right decision? Give a reason from the story. Personal response (1 mark)

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Answers and Explanations

Unit 1 The Library Dragon

Vocabulary Check: minuscule = extremely small; enforce = to make sure a rule is obeyed; diligently = carefully and with steady effort; engrossed = so interested in something that you notice nothing else; scolding = telling someone off angrily; dreadfully = very; terribly. Word forms: 1 enforcer, 2 enforce, 3 enforcement.

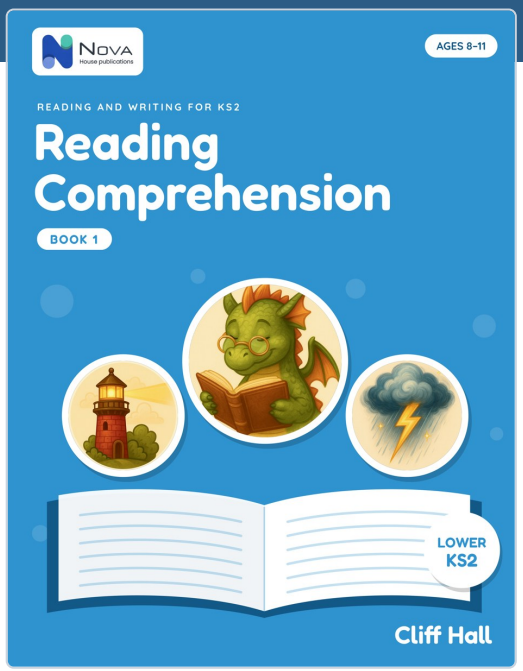
No.	Answer	Explanation	Marks
1	To enforce the No Noise rule (to keep the library quiet).	Stated in the first paragraph.	1
2	Any two: polished his claws; straightened the bookmarks; checked every chair was tucked under its table.	1 mark for each correct action.	2
3	He puffed two warning smoke rings.	"Two" is needed for the mark.	1
4	B) tiny	Spark is "no bigger than a teacup", which confirms the meaning.	1
5	He was concentrating completely and did not notice anything else around him.	1 mark for "concentrating hard / very interested"; 1 mark for "utterly" showing it was complete.	2
6	diligently	The word appears in "he had diligently guarded the silence".	1
7	They were scared of Spark's smoke rings / he seemed fierce, so they did not dare make even a small sound.	1 mark for the reason; 1 mark for linking it to Spark's strictness.	2
8	A simile. It shows how loud and sudden the sneeze was, as if it shattered the silence.	1 mark for naming the simile; 1 mark for the effect.	2
9	Embarrassed / scared. Evidence: "Arlo froze"; "His cheeks burned"; "squeezed his eyes shut".	1 mark for each piece of evidence matched to a feeling.	2
10	Rustling pages are a quiet, gentle sound that belongs in a library, so the voice suits his home and shows he is soft-spoken.	1 mark for the link to books; 1 mark for the quiet, gentle quality.	2
11	1 Arlo finds a pirate comic; 2 a pile of leaflets slides to the floor; 3 Spark produces a tissue; 4 Spark keeps a box of tissues by the dictionary.	2 marks for all four correct; 1 mark for two or three correct.	2
12	He realised the sneeze was an accident: Arlo "had not been careless or rude", and a sneeze "was not the same as shouting".	1 mark for the idea of an accident; 1 mark for supporting evidence.	2
13	Rules should keep people safe or make things better for everyone; they should not be used to make people scared.	2 marks for a clear explanation in the child's own words; 1 mark if it partly copies the text.	2
14	At the start it was quiet but children were frightened; at the end it was still quiet but friendlier, and children no longer trembled.	1 mark for what stays the same or the start; 1 mark for what changes.	2
15	Any sensible opinion supported by the story, e.g. "Yes, because Arlo did not mean to sneeze and Spark's kindness made the library friendlier."	The reason must come from the story.	1

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