

KS2 English Reading: Taster Paper

Name: _____ Date: _____

Reading Booklet

The Secret of the Attic

Leo pushed the heavy wooden door, coughing as a cloud of dust danced in the pale shaft of sunlight. The attic smelled of old paper and forgotten secrets. He stepped carefully over a cracked floorboard, not wanting to make a sound in the silent house.

In the furthest corner, half-hidden beneath a moth-eaten sheet, sat a large oak chest. It was covered in intricate carvings of fierce dragons and terrifying sea monsters.

Leo's heart hammered against his ribs. He had been told never to come up here, but his curiosity had finally won. He knelt beside the chest and brushed the dust from the lid. Slowly, he reached out and touched the rusty bronze lock. To his surprise, it wasn't fastened. He took a deep breath and pushed the lid open.

Please read the text carefully before turning the page to answer the questions.

Reading Answer Booklet

1. What did the attic smell like?

(1 mark)

2. Find and copy one word from the second paragraph that shows the sheet was old and damaged.

(1 mark)

3. What creatures were carved onto the oak chest?

(1 mark)

4. How do we know Leo was feeling nervous or excited? Give one piece of evidence from the text.

(1 mark)

5. Why was Leo's discovery of the unfastened lock a "surprise"? Explain using evidence from the text.

(2 marks)



Mark Scheme

- 1. Old paper and forgotten secrets.** (*Accept either or both*)
- 2. Moth-eaten**
- 3. Fierce dragons and terrifying sea monsters.** (*Accept 'dragons and sea monsters'*)
- 4. His heart hammered against his ribs.** (*Also accept taking a 'deep breath'*)
- 5. Award 1 mark for identifying it was a rusty lock, and 1 mark for explaining that rusty locks are usually stuck or locked.**
Example: It was a surprise because the lock was rusty and old, so he probably expected it to be completely stuck or locked tight, but it opened easily.