

## 6e ENTRANCE TEST

### The Eagle's Shadow

5 *This is a story about a boy called Miguel who lives in the Philippines, a country in south-east Asia*

Once, when I was twelve years old, our teacher, Mr Santos, took four of us for a two-day trek into the forest. I was the youngest of the group.

10 As we walked into the forest there was an eagle gliding above the tree tops. His shadow moved across the trees and across us as well.

When the shadow passed over me, I felt as though the bird himself had touched me. I crouched down, even though he was so high, and then I looked round quickly to see if the  
15 others had noticed.

We walked on and I knew that I was the only one who was not happy. The forest was full of strange clickings, rustlings and the sudden screeches of forest animals. The towering trees and tangled undergrowth made me feel small and scared. And then, as the shadow  
20 of that massive eagle passed over me a second time and then a third, it began to seem like the forest itself was warning me, threatening me.

Mr Santos pointed out all kinds of things, but I hardly looked; I was watching the patches of sky above, hoping the eagle would not return.  
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The sky remained empty and I followed as Mr Santos led us to a twisted tree. The fruit on its branches was just beginning to ripen. Mr Santos said we should stay out of sight, keep quiet and watch what came to feed.

30 A hornbill came first, tearing at the tree with its great beak. Then we heard a chattering sound, and Mr Santos whispered that it meant monkeys were near. I looked up, hoping to see them.

And it was there! The eagle! High on a branch at the edge of the clearing, quite still, its  
35 shape outlined against the sky.

I gave a shout that sent the hornbills clattering away into the distance. Mr Santos asked what was the matter. I pointed to the eagle and tried to explain that it was watching me.

40 Mr Santos said it was true that the eagle was watching. But it wasn't watching me, it was hunting. As he spoke, the eagle spread his wings and flapped slowly out of sight.

"There, it's gone!" said Mr Santos. I tried to speak so the others couldn't hear. I tried to convince Mr Santos that it would come back. I told him I knew it was out to get me.

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Mr Santos was kind. He told me I was afraid of the jungle because it was unknown territory. There was no danger to us from the eagle. He told me about the two kinds of fear. He said that there is fear of danger which is useful because it makes you protect yourself. But he explained there is also fear of being afraid, which is not useful. He told me that I

50 was suffering fear of being afraid, and showed me what to do about it.

He cleared a patch of the dusty ground with his foot. Then he picked up a long stick and told me to draw the eagle. Everyone was watching me. I took the stick and just stared at the patch of earth – and then I knew how to do it. I drew it the way I'd first seen it. I drew an

55 enormous outline, with the powerful wings at full stretch and the head to one side so the great beak showed.

"Well done, Miguel," said Mr Santos. Then he told me to look carefully at the picture. He said that what I had drawn was not the eagle itself but my fear of the eagle. He told me to

60 cross it out.

A little part of me didn't want to spoil it. But at the same time I hated it and didn't want it to stay there. So I took the stick in both hands, stabbed one end of it into the earth near the head, and crossed the whole thing out in one move. It seemed important to do it all at

65 once. The line went through the head, then through one wing, in a curve across the body and out through the tail in a long 's' shape. I stood back and threw down the stick.

"Excellent," said Mr Santos. "The eagle is still free, but your fear is destroyed. You're all right now, aren't you?"

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What could I say when he had taken so much trouble? I said, "Yes," but it wasn't true.

That night the eagle and my fear were in my dreams.

75 The next day, when we left the camp and walked back through the forest, my fear hung over me like a cloud.

A twig got into my shoe and I knelt down to undo the laces. The others walked on. They didn't know they were leaving me behind and I was too embarrassed to call them back. I  
80 thought I'd already made enough fuss.

And then something dropped out of the sky like a falling stone. Suddenly, something warm and heavy thudded into my shoulder and knocked me over. Feathers brushed against my skin, and as I rolled on my back all I could see were great wings. I lay still, hardly  
85 breathing, and I saw the eagle surging upwards again; and I understood why it had swooped – it was carrying a king cobra. I could see the long body and hooded head of the snake hanging from its claws. I heard running footsteps and I was aware that Mr Santos was beside me; but I couldn't look away from the eagle, rising into the sky.

90 The thing was – the really extraordinary thing was – the snake looped from the eagle's claws in a sweeping 's' shape, exactly matching the line I had made through my drawing.

Mr Santos pulled me to my feet. He looked really worried. He told me it was good that the eagle wasn't as afraid of me as I was of him, because cobras are deadly.  
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But the thing I had really feared – the eagle swooping out of the sky onto me – had happened. He had been so close, I had smelt him, felt his warmth, sensed his weight; and yet I was all right. He had dropped down onto me and rolled me clear of the snake. My fear had become real, the worst had happened; and I was all right – I wasn't afraid any more.  
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## Questions

1. How old was Miguel when he went into the forest? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is the first thing Miguel did that showed he was afraid? Tick **one**.

He walked on  He looked round quickly

He drew the eagle  He crouched down

3. Look at lines 17-21. What **three** things made it seem as though the forest was warning Miguel?  
Tick **three** things.

unusual sounds  the hornbill's beak  the eagle's shadow

the empty sky  the tall trees  the fruit on the tree

4. Look at lines 25 to 29 . Why was the twisted tree a good place to watch for animals?

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5. What made the hornbills fly away?

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6a. Look at lines 37 to 41. What did Miguel think the eagle was watching?

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6b. What did Mr Santos say the eagle was really doing?

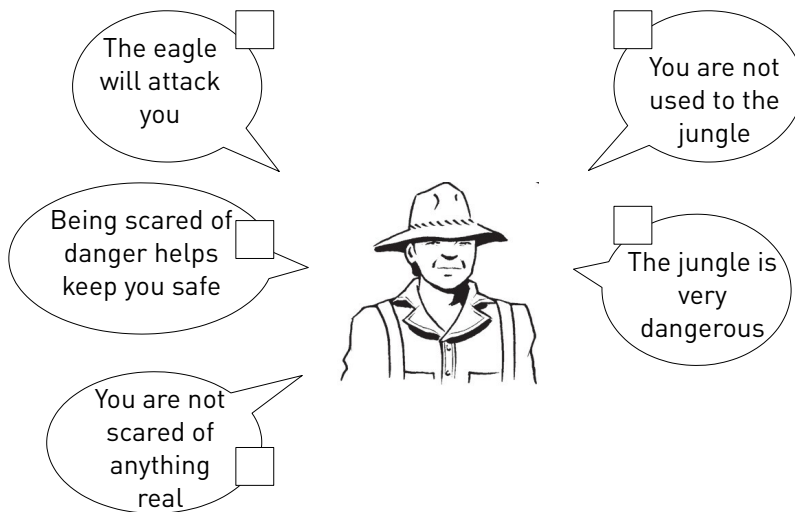
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7. Look at lines 45 to 60. Mr Santos said the jungle was *unknown territory*. What did he mean?

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8. Mr Santos talked to Miguel about fear. Tick three speech bubbles to show what Mr Santos meant.



The eagle will attack you

You are not used to the jungle

Being scared of danger helps keep you safe

The jungle is very dangerous

You are not scared of anything real

9. Look at lines 58 to 60.

Why did Mr Santos tell Miguel to cross the drawing out? Tick **one**.

- because Miguel had drawn a hornbill
- because it would make the eagle go away
- because it would get rid of his fear
- because the drawing wasn't good enough

10. This text appears in lines 62 to 66. Underline **the word** that shows how much Miguel hated the eagle.

So I took the stick in both hands, stabbed one end of it into the earth near the head, and crossed the whole thing out in one move.

11. Why was Miguel too embarrassed to call the others back?

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12. What does the simile like a falling stone tell you about the movement of the eagle? (line 82)

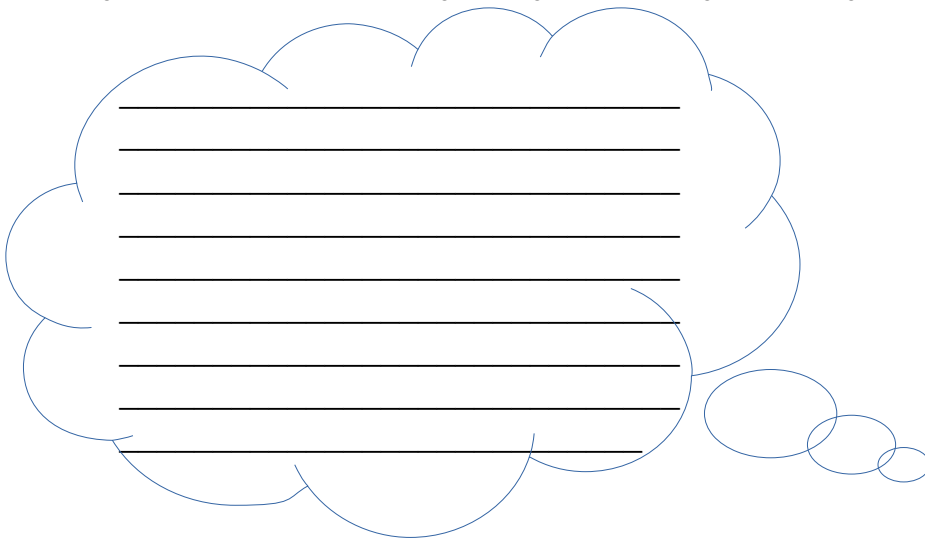
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13. Why did the eagle swoop onto Miguel? Tick **one**.

- It was attacking Miguel.
- It was hunting the snake.
- It was falling down.
- It was chasing monkeys.

14. Look at lines 84 until the end. After the eagle had flown away, Miguel lay on the ground. Fill in the thought bubble to show what Miguel might be thinking and feeling.



15. Look at lines 93 and 94. Why did Mr Santos look worried? Tick **one**.

because the eagle had flown away  because the eagle had caught the snake

because cobras are poisonous  because the cobra had hurt Miguel

16. Put the following events in the correct order. The first and the last have been done for you.

They go to a tree to watch animals.

The eagle knocks Miguel over.

Miguel becomes scared of the eagle.  1

Miguel draws a picture in the ground.

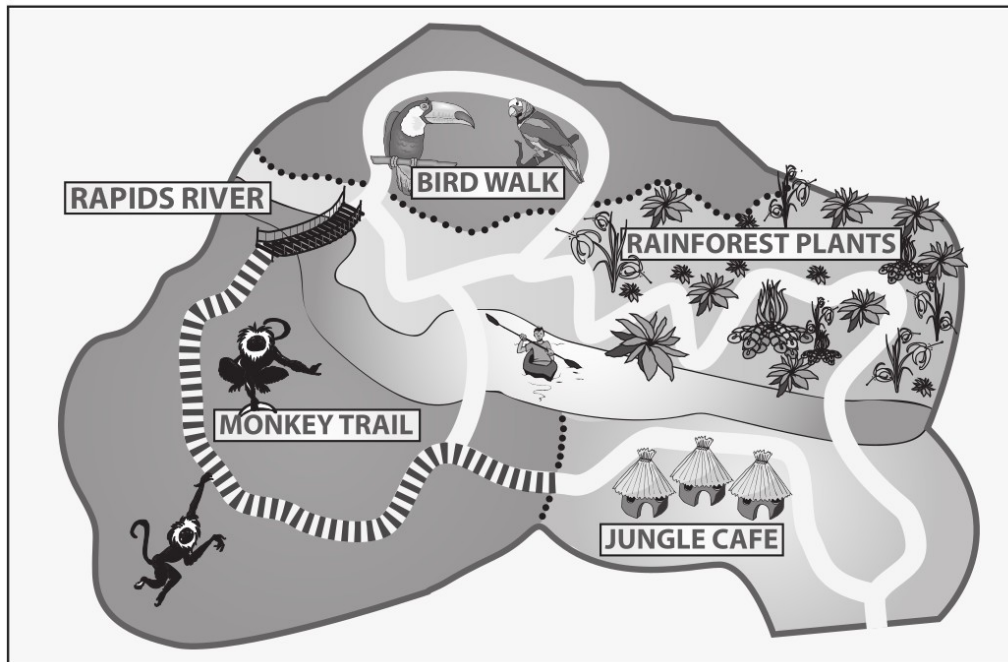
Miguel is no longer afraid of the eagle.  6

Mr Santos realises Miguel is scared.

Longer writing task: (You should spend about 40 minutes on this task.)

## Rainforest World

Here is a map showing the different areas of Rainforest World.



Imagine that you have visited this park. Your school wants to know if it would be a good place for other pupils to visit.

Your task:

**Write a report about Rainforest World for your school website.**

You should think about the different areas and make some comments about them.

Use the map and your own ideas.

Give reasons for your opinions.

The report should tell other pupils what you liked about it and what you didn't like about it.

