

# Reading Booklet

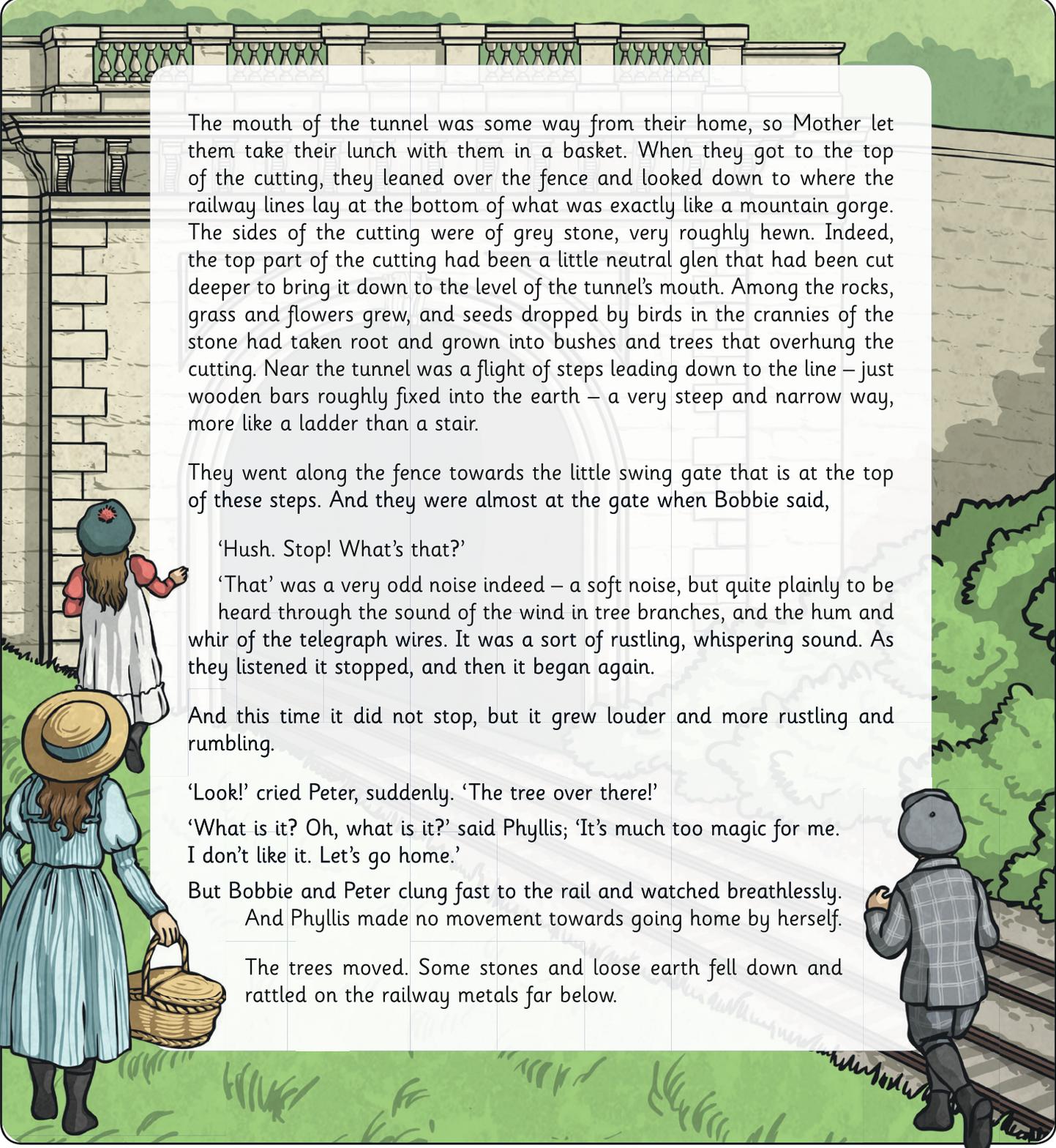
Year 3 Reading Assessment - Fiction



The Railway Children

# The Railway Children

by E. Nesbit Adapted by Twinkl This is a story about three children: Roberta (Bobbie), Phyllis and Peter. They move to a house near a railway line where they have many adventures. They find out all about the passing trains, the workers at the station and the people who travel on them.



The mouth of the tunnel was some way from their home, so Mother let them take their lunch with them in a basket. When they got to the top of the cutting, they leaned over the fence and looked down to where the railway lines lay at the bottom of what was exactly like a mountain gorge. The sides of the cutting were of grey stone, very roughly hewn. Indeed, the top part of the cutting had been a little neutral glen that had been cut deeper to bring it down to the level of the tunnel's mouth. Among the rocks, grass and flowers grew, and seeds dropped by birds in the crannies of the stone had taken root and grown into bushes and trees that overhung the cutting. Near the tunnel was a flight of steps leading down to the line – just wooden bars roughly fixed into the earth – a very steep and narrow way, more like a ladder than a stair.

They went along the fence towards the little swing gate that is at the top of these steps. And they were almost at the gate when Bobbie said,

‘Hush. Stop! What’s that?’

‘That’ was a very odd noise indeed – a soft noise, but quite plainly to be heard through the sound of the wind in tree branches, and the hum and whir of the telegraph wires. It was a sort of rustling, whispering sound. As they listened it stopped, and then it began again.

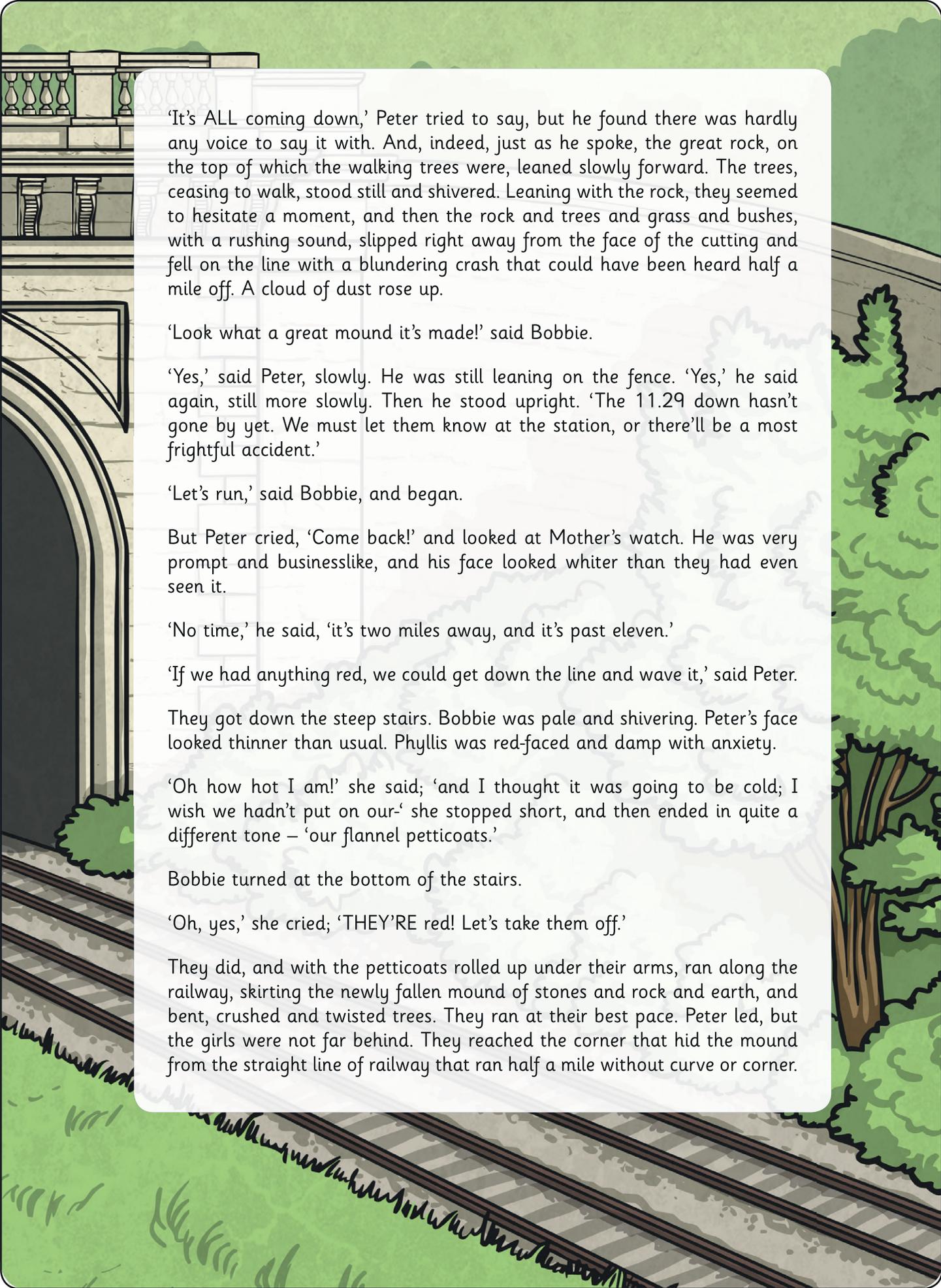
And this time it did not stop, but it grew louder and more rustling and rumbling.

‘Look!’ cried Peter, suddenly. ‘The tree over there!’

‘What is it? Oh, what is it?’ said Phyllis; ‘It’s much too magic for me. I don’t like it. Let’s go home.’

But Bobbie and Peter clung fast to the rail and watched breathlessly. And Phyllis made no movement towards going home by herself.

The trees moved. Some stones and loose earth fell down and rattled on the railway metals far below.



'It's ALL coming down,' Peter tried to say, but he found there was hardly any voice to say it with. And, indeed, just as he spoke, the great rock, on the top of which the walking trees were, leaned slowly forward. The trees, ceasing to walk, stood still and shivered. Leaning with the rock, they seemed to hesitate a moment, and then the rock and trees and grass and bushes, with a rushing sound, slipped right away from the face of the cutting and fell on the line with a blundering crash that could have been heard half a mile off. A cloud of dust rose up.

'Look what a great mound it's made!' said Bobbie.

'Yes,' said Peter, slowly. He was still leaning on the fence. 'Yes,' he said again, still more slowly. Then he stood upright. 'The 11.29 down hasn't gone by yet. We must let them know at the station, or there'll be a most frightful accident.'

'Let's run,' said Bobbie, and began.

But Peter cried, 'Come back!' and looked at Mother's watch. He was very prompt and businesslike, and his face looked whiter than they had even seen it.

'No time,' he said, 'it's two miles away, and it's past eleven.'

'If we had anything red, we could get down the line and wave it,' said Peter.

They got down the steep stairs. Bobbie was pale and shivering. Peter's face looked thinner than usual. Phyllis was red-faced and damp with anxiety.

'Oh how hot I am!' she said; 'and I thought it was going to be cold; I wish we hadn't put on our-' she stopped short, and then ended in quite a different tone - 'our flannel petticoats.'

Bobbie turned at the bottom of the stairs.

'Oh, yes,' she cried; 'THEY'RE red! Let's take them off.'

They did, and with the petticoats rolled up under their arms, ran along the railway, skirting the newly fallen mound of stones and rock and earth, and bent, crushed and twisted trees. They ran at their best pace. Peter led, but the girls were not far behind. They reached the corner that hid the mound from the straight line of railway that ran half a mile without curve or corner.

Peter took hold of the largest flannel petticoat. 'Tear them into little bits if you like,' said Bobbie. 'If we can't stop the train, there'll be a real live accident, with people KILLED. Oh horrible!'

'There!' said Peter, tearing in his turn. He divided each petticoat into three pieces. 'Now, we've got six flags.' He looked at the watch again. 'And we've got seven minutes.'

Then came the distant rumble and hum of the metals, and a puff of white steam showed far away along the stretch of line.

'Stand firm,' said Peter, 'and wave like mad! When it gets to that big furze bush step back, but go on waving! Don't stand ON the line, Bobbie!'

The train came rattling along very, very fast.

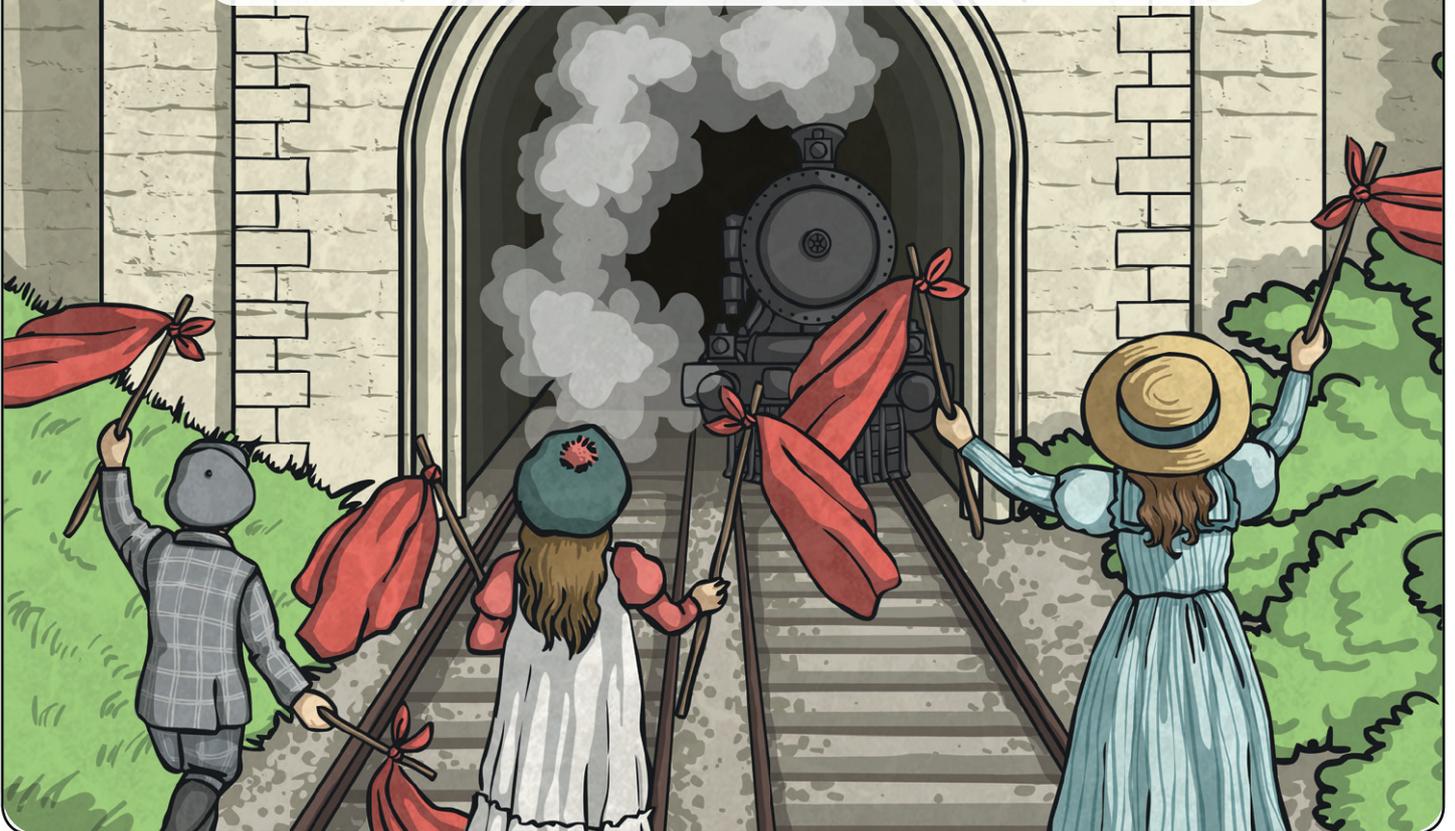
'They don't see us! They won't see us! It's all no good!' cried Bobbie.

It was very near now.

'Stand back!' cried Peter, suddenly, and he dragged Phyllis back by the arm.

The front of the engine looked enormous. Its voice was loud and harsh. 'Oh, stop, stop, stop!' cried Bobbie.

The train slackened swiftly, slackened and stopped. She saw the great black engine stop dead, but somehow she could not stop waving the flags.



# Reading Booklet

Year 3 Reading Assessment - Non-Fiction



India

# India

India is a country in the continent of Asia. It is home to the Himalayan Mountains, the highest mountain range in the world. It is also home to the world's second largest population.



## Food

Nobody in India eats beef because cows are seen as **sacred** animals. In fact, many people are vegetarian. People use their fingers, rather than cutlery, to eat their food. Look at these rules to find out more about eating in India.

- 1 It is considered impolite if the food reaches past the first joint of the finger when eating.
- 2 The fingers should not touch the mouth whilst food is being eaten.
- 3 Only the right hand should be used when eating.

Many people in northern India eat chapatis with their meal. These are flat pieces of bread used to soak up or scoop food. Lentils, fish and coconut milk are used in many meals all over India. Meals often use many delicious spices to add flavour to food.



## Wildlife

One of the world's rarest animals lives in the Indian Himalayas. The snow leopard can be found in its mountains, in very cold conditions. Their thick fur acts like a winter coat whilst its huge paws behave like snow shoes. The most likely prey for these speedy and powerful animals comes in the form of birds, hares, goats and sheep. When they stray into farms, hunting for prey, they risk being killed by local people. This, as well as other factors, has led to dramatically reduced numbers of the big cats in the wild.



## The People and Their Religions

More than a billion people live in India. The population continues to grow at a rapid rate, which makes some worry about how the country will manage to feed its people. This means that growing crops and looking after animals is very important to the future of the country.

Many people in India have religious beliefs. The two main religions in India are Hinduism and Islam, although there are other religions in the country.

## Land

India has a varied landscape. From deserts and jungles to coasts and cities, India can grow many different crops whilst providing ideal habitats for a range of rare animals. The country is prone to cyclones, heavy rains, floods and other types of extreme weather conditions such as monsoons. This is a big problem because so much of the country relies on farming the land, which can be destroyed in these weathers.

## Glossary

**Population** – the people who live in a place

**Lakshmi** – Hindu goddess of good luck

**Sacred** – something or someone that is special to a religion

## Diwali – The Festival of Light

Diwali is a Hindu festival famous for light and colour. It usually happens around the end of October and symbolizes the beginning of a new year. The celebration welcomes the goddess **Lakshmi** to people's homes. Every home burns special clay lamps to light the way for the goddess to their homes. In preparation for her visit, homes are cleaned and decorated whilst many people make Indian sweets, sharing them with family and friends. Indians use jasmine flowers to decorate their homes and visit temples to worship. People dress in fine clothes made of beautiful silks, eat delicious foods and celebrate good luck. The cities and homes are decorated with lights and firework displays whilst firecrackers are used to frighten off evil spirits. Presents are exchanged and parties are held.

## Fact File

**Capital** New Delhi

**Flag**



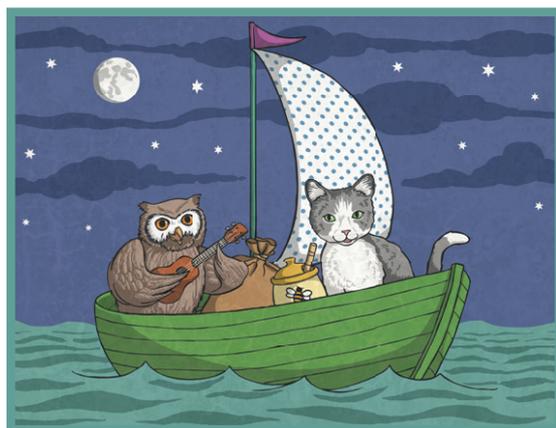
**Currency** Rupees

**Language** Hindi (most common)

**Longest river** Ganges

# Reading Booklet

Year 3 Reading Assessment - Poetry



The Owl and the Pussycat



# The Owl and the Pussy-Cat



The Owl and the Pussy-Cat went to sea  
In a beautiful pea-green boat,  
They took some honey, and plenty of money,  
Wrapped up in a five-pound note.  
The Owl looked up to the stars above,  
And sang to a small guitar,  
“O lovely Pussy! O Pussy, my love,  
What a beautiful Pussy you are,  
You are,  
You are!  
What a beautiful Pussy you are!”

Pussy said to the Owl, “You elegant fowl!  
How charmingly sweet you sing!  
O let us be married! Too long we have tarried:  
But what shall we do for a ring?”  
They sailed away, for a year and a day,  
To the land where the Bong-Tree grows  
And there in a wood a Piggy-Wig stood  
With a ring at the end of his nose,  
His nose,  
His nose,  
With a ring at the end of his nose.



“Dear Pig, are you willing to sell for one shilling  
Your ring?” said the Piggy, “I will.”  
So they took it away, and were married next day  
By the Turkey who lives on the hill.  
They dined on mince, and slices of quince,  
Which they ate with a runcible spoon;  
And hand in hand, on the edge of the sand,  
They danced by the light of the moon,  
The moon,  
The moon,  
They danced by the light of the moon.

*tarried - stayed longer than intended*

*runcible - curved fork with a sharp edge for cutting*

by Edward Lear

