

C Appendices

1 Practice activity extracts

Some of the practice activities in this book require children to read an extract before completing their task. Details of each extract are given below.

● Extract A

This extract relates to the text continuation practice activity for question prompt 8 (see page 20).

The Silver Unicorn

5 Once upon a time there existed the wild woods that covered the country with tall, towering trees. In those days there were not that many people, and those who existed lived in small settlements. They needed the forests for their survival. They would hunt for animals and birds and pick fruit and berries from the trees.

Sylvac and his sister Vishnie lived in the Northern settlement and would often play in the woods trying to find animal footprints or birds' nests high up in the trees. They had heard that a beautiful unicorn lived in the woods, but they had never seen it. They had seen deer, wild boar, bears and wolves, but no unicorns.

10 One frosty winter morning, Sylvac and Vishnie set off into the woods as usual when they heard an eerie sound. A woodpecker often made tapping noises on the tree trunks and stags could be heard ripping the velvet from their fierce antlers, but this was a very different noise. This was tip-tap-tip; far deeper than a woodpecker and duller than a stag. What on earth was it? Sylvac and Vishnie moved quietly through the undergrowth, taking care to avoid standing on the newly fallen, rustling leaves and dry branches. Suddenly Vishnie stopped. Putting her finger up to her lips she signalled Sylvac to stand still and look ahead.

20 Just ahead of them the two children could see a body unlike anything else they had ever seen. A bent neck hid the head of the beast but then up it snapped, and Sylvac and Vishnie saw a most astonishing sight. Upon its horse's head glowed a silver horn. Like some ghostly phantom, the creature was a pale, lunar white. The silver unicorn! The creature had not heard the two children and continued as before making the strangest of noises. Putting its head down, the creature began headbutting a tree, trying hard to splinter off strips of bark.

25 What was it trying to do?

Sylvac moved forward slowly with Vishnie tentatively following. Eventually they could see that the creature was feeding. By tearing the bark, it was exposing the sticky, yellow tree sap which it lapped up slowly. Every time the creature licked the tree the children heard it whimper a little; Vishnie could tell that something was wrong. At that moment, Sylvac edged closer. Crack! He had stood on a dry branch that went off like a gun shot.

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