

The way through the woods



Rudyard Kipling was the British writer and poet who wrote *The Jungle Book* and the *Just So Stories*, which are still popular with children today. He wrote 'The way through the woods' for a young girl called Christabel, who was a friend of his daughter. When he asked Christabel if she had enjoyed a recent holiday in the New Forest, she told Kipling that she had been frightened of ghosts there. Her remark inspired him to write this poem.

They shut the road through the woods
Seventy years ago.
Weather and rain have undone it again,
And now you would never know
5 There was once a road through the woods
Before they planted the trees.
It is underneath the coppice and heath
And the thin anemones.
Only the keeper sees
10 That, where the ring-dove broods,
And the badgers roll at ease,
There was once a road through the woods.

Yet, if you enter the woods
Of a summer evening late,
15 When the night air cools on the trout-ringed pools
Where the otter whistles his mate,
(They fear not men in the woods,
Because they see so few),
You will hear the beat of a horse's feet,
20 And the swish of a skirt in the dew,
Steadily cantering through
The misty solitudes,
As though they perfectly knew
The old lost road through the woods.
25 But there is no road through the woods.



Rudyard Kipling (1865–1936)

1 Name the flowers that grow where the road once ran through the woods.

1 mark

2 What clues are there that few people walk in the woods?

1 mark

3 What clues are there that the horse and rider were not really there?

1 mark

4 Apart from the horse's hooves and the swish of the skirt, what other sound can be heard in the woods?

1 mark

5 Explain the meaning of 'solitudes'.

1 mark

6 What causes rings to appear on the surface of the pools?

1 mark

7 If you were reciting the poem, where might you

a) change tempo?

b) change volume?

Explain **how** and **why**.

a) _____

b) _____

4 marks

Chocolate



Roald Dahl is best known for his children's novels – including *Matilda* (which features in **Key Stage 2 Comprehension Book 3**) and *The Enormous Crocodile* (**First Comprehension Book 1**). This extract is taken from *Boy*, in which Roald Dahl describes his time at Repton School. It explains the origin of his lifelong love of chocolate – and the source of inspiration for one of his books.

Every now and again, a plain grey cardboard box was dished out to each boy in our House, and this, believe it or not, was a present from the great chocolate manufacturers, Cadbury. Inside the box there were twelve bars of chocolate, all of different shapes, all with different fillings and all with numbers from one to
5 twelve stamped on the chocolate underneath. Eleven of these bars were new inventions from the factory. The twelfth was the 'control' bar, one that we all knew well, usually a Cadbury's Coffee Cream bar. Also in the box was a sheet of paper with the numbers one to twelve on it as well as two blank columns, one for giving marks to each chocolate from nought to ten, and the other for comments.

10 All we were required to do in return for this splendid gift was to taste very carefully each bar of chocolate, give it marks and make an intelligent comment on why we liked it or disliked it.

It was a clever stunt. Cadbury's were using some of the greatest chocolate-bar experts in the world to test out their new inventions. We were of a sensible age,
15 between thirteen and eighteen, and we knew intimately every chocolate bar in existence, from the Milk Flake to the Lemon Marshmallow. Quite obviously our opinions on anything new would be valuable. All of us entered into this game with great gusto, sitting in our studies and nibbling each bar with the air of connoisseurs, giving our marks and making our comments. 'Too subtle for the
20 common palate,' was one note that I remember writing down.

For me, the importance of all this was that I began to realize that the large chocolate companies actually did possess inventing rooms and they took their inventing very seriously. I used to picture a long white room like a laboratory with
25 pots of chocolate and fudge and all sorts of other delicious fillings bubbling away on the stoves, while men and women in white coats moved between the bubbling pots, tasting and mixing and concocting their wonderful new inventions. I used to imagine myself working in one of these labs and suddenly I would come up with something so absolutely unbearably delicious that I would grab it in my hand and go rushing out of the lab and along the corridor and right into the office of the
30 great Mr Cadbury himself. "I've got it, sir!" I would shout, putting the chocolate in front of him. "It's fantastic! It's fabulous! It's marvellous! It's irresistible!"

From *Boy, Tales of Childhood*
Roald Dahl (1916–90)

1 Roald Dahl is well known as a **fiction** writer. What makes this extract **non-fiction**?

2 The memories described here inspired Roald Dahl to write one of his novels. Which novel was this?

3 Why do you think the samples of new chocolate bars were stamped with numbers and not names?

4 a) Which chocolate bar was usually used as a 'control bar'?

b) What would be its purpose?

5 In your own words, explain the meaning of the phrase 'entered into this game with great gusto' (line 17).

6 a) Why did Dahl consider the boys of Repton School to be 'experts' in the consumption and enjoyment of chocolate?

b) Which other word does Dahl use that means 'knowledgeable experts'?

7 What do you think Dahl meant by 'too subtle for the common palate' (line 19)?

8 In Dahl's imagination he invents the perfect chocolate bar. Of the four enthusiastic adjectives he uses to describe it, which one suggests that people won't be able to stop themselves from eating it?

1 mark

1 mark

1 mark

1 mark

1 mark

1 mark

1 mark

1 mark

1 mark

1 mark

Two owls



Owls have rounded heads and forward-facing eyes, giving them features that some recognise as a 'face'. Perhaps this is one reason why they are often written about. Found all over the world, most owls are active during the night and at dawn and dusk.

The owl

Downhill I came, hungry, and yet not starved;
Cold, yet had heat within me that was proof
Against the North wind; tired, yet so that rest
Had seemed the sweetest thing under a roof.

- 5 Then at the inn I had food, fire, and rest,
Knowing how hungry, cold, and tired was I.
All of the night was quite barred out except
An owl's cry, a most melancholy cry

- Shaken out long and clear upon the hill,
10 No merry note, nor cause of merriment,
But one telling me plain what I escaped
And others could not, that night, as in I went.

- And salted was my food, and my repose,
Salted and sobered, too, by the bird's voice
15 Speaking for all who lay under the stars,
Soldiers and poor, unable to rejoice.



Edward Thomas (1878–1917)

Owl

- Why does night rest its gourd in my breast?
Why does the moon puff out my feathers?
Why do mice twinkle like stars?
Why does the darkness hoot in my ears?
5 Why does a hollow tree seem like heaven?
I am so bespectacled with questions,
The poor fools call it wisdom.

John Agard

1 Both these poems are written in (ring **one**): the first person the third person.

1 mark

2 a) At the opening of the first poem, what three feelings could have made the speaker feel dejected? _____

1 mark

b) Why does he not feel downhearted? _____

1 mark

3 What similarities are there between Thomas's 'inn' and Agard's 'hollow tree'? _____

2 marks

4 What does 'no merry note' and 'nor cause of merriment' tell us about both the owl and the speaker, in the first poem? _____

1 mark

5 a) Which adjective describing the owl's cry also sums up the speaker's feelings on hearing the bird? _____

1 mark

b) What does the word mean? _____

1 mark

6 What thoughts preoccupy the traveller's mind at the end of Thomas's poem? _____

1 mark

7 In Agard's poem, who is asking the questions? _____

1 mark

8 A question to which no answer is expected is described as (ring **one**):
methodical analytical rhetorical impractical artificial.

1 mark

9 From the second poem, quote an example of
a) a simile _____

1 mark

b) a metaphor _____

1 mark

10 Do you think it is a warm or a cold night in the second poem? Explain your answer. _____

1 mark

11 Give one example of how Thomas's poem is more traditional than Agard's in style and form.

1 mark

12 What common human belief about owls is challenged in Agard's poem? _____

1 mark

Mammoth find

Complete baby turns up in Siberia



The word 'mammoth' comes from the Russian word *mamont*. This is the name given to a type of elephant, sometimes with long curved tusks and long hair, which lived many thousands of years ago. 'Mammoth' is also used to mean gigantic (or 'as large as a mammoth').

Its tail is lopsided. Close up, it looks suspiciously like a small, and unremarkable, Asian elephant.

5 But scientists were yesterday hailing the sensational discovery of a perfectly preserved baby woolly mammoth, which died around 10000 years ago and was found in the frozen tundra of northern Russia. Experts said
10 the six-month-old female calf was a rare complete specimen. The animal's trunk and eyes are intact. It even has fur.

15 A reindeer herder, Yuri Khudi, stumbled across the carcass in May near the Yuribei river in Russia's Yamal-Nenents autonomous district, in a virtually inaccessible part of north-western Siberia.

20 Extinct woolly mammoths – and giant tusks – have turned up in Siberia for centuries. But it is unusual for a complete example to be recovered. The last major find was in 1997
25 when a family in the neighbouring Taymyr Peninsula came across a tusk attached to what turned out to be a 20380-year-old mammoth carcass.

30 The latest 130cm tall, 50kg Siberian specimen appears to have died just as the species was heading for extinction during the last Ice Age. It is being sent to Japan for further tests.

35 "The mammoth has no defects except that its tail was a bit off," Alexei Tikhonov, one of a group of international experts who examined the mammoth last week in the Arctic town of Salekhard, told BBC Online.
40 He added: "In terms of its state of preservation, this is the world's most valuable discovery."

45 Global warming has made it easier for woolly mammoth hunters to hack the animal out of Russia's thawing permafrost. An entire mammoth industry has sprung up around the far eastern frontier town of Yakutsk.

50 Many examples are simply sold on the black market – and can be seen in Russian souvenir shops, next to unhappy-looking stuffed brown bears.

55 Mammoths first appeared around 48 million years ago. Most of them died out 12000 years ago at the end of the Pleistocene era.

Luke Harding
Wednesday 11 July 2007,
Guardian, Moscow

Glossary

autonomous having the right to govern itself

carcass dead body

permafrost soil that is permanently frozen

Pleistocene the period of history when the last great Ice Age occurred

1 a) In the opening paragraph, to what does the pronoun 'it' refer?

1 mark

b) Why did the journalist choose to use this pronoun before saying what he is writing about?

1 mark

2 What is 'tundra'?

1 mark

3 In which part of Russia was the mammoth found?

1 mark

4 The remains of other woolly mammoths have been found before. What aspects of this find are particularly exciting?

2 marks

5 What gender was the woolly mammoth?

1 mark

6 What expression does the journalist use early in the report, based on Tikhonov's observation that 'its tail was a bit off'?

1 mark

7 How do unscrupulous people try to make money out of smaller finds like this?

1 mark

8 What is a 'black market'?

1 mark

9 When did the woolly mammoth species become extinct?

1 mark

10 What sentence in this report might make readers hope for further information about this find in due course?

1 mark