

The Little White Horse

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- 1 They had come to the edge of a clearing in the wood, a desolate place like a quarry strewn with boulders, with stagnant pools of water between the rocks. On three sides the rock rose up sheer like a wall and crowning the wall the way they were facing was a castle built foursquare like a tower, so old that it looked like part of the rock upon which it was built. Upon each side of it, except just this side where its great gate looked down upon the clearing, the pine trees closed about it with the darkness of night. It was a terrifying castle. The only way to reach it, as far as Maria could see, was to climb up the flight of steps that had been cut in the cliff beneath; and to do that they would have to leave the shelter of the pine trees and cross the clearing under the eyes of whoever might be looking out of that window above the gate.
- 12 "There's another way," whispered Robin. "Wroolf showed it to me when we were here before."
- 14 Look, he's leading us that way now."
- 15 They went back among the pine trees, turned to their left in a wide half-circle and began to climb steeply upwards, climbing over the rocks that had pushed themselves out of the ground between the pine trees, and pushing their way through thickets of bramble bushes. ... Then they swerved round to the right again, and they had come right round to the back of the castle. Its frowning walls rose sheer up above them. But there was no door here. No window even. Nothing but the great high wall, as high as the tallest pine tree, with battlements along the top.
- 23 "We climb up the tallest tree, and then onto the battlements," explained Robin airily. "I tried it the other day to see if it could be done, and it's quite easy."

1. "They had come to the edge of a clearing in the wood, a desolate place like a quarry strewn with boulders, with stagnant pools of water between the rocks." (paragraph 1)

Underline **one** word in this sentence that warns the reader that the clearing is an unpleasant place.

2. "On three sides the rock rose up sheer like a wall" (paragraph 1).

What is the effect of the simile "like a wall" in this sentence?

3. How do you think Maria felt when she looked up at the castle and knew she had to go in?

4. How does Robin know the way in to the castle?

5. (a) Find two different words the author uses instead of "said" in the text.

(b) Explain why the author chose one of those words.

6. (a) Tick the best description of the atmosphere in this extract.

hopeful ☐ cheerful ☐ sad ☐ dangerous ☐

(b) Give three details from the text to support your answer.

7. "It's frowning walls rose sheer up above them." (paragraph 3)

What is the meaning and effect of the word "frowning" in this sentence?

8. Do you think Maria and Robin will manage to get into the castle? Explain your answer, thinking about other adventure stories you have read.

9. Tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
The woods seemed safe.		
The path up the cliff to it looked a safe route.		
There was a way up at the back.		
The castle looked scary.		
There was no way up at the front.		
Maria thought that it looked easy to do.		

2a
☐
1 mark

2g
☐
1 mark

2d
☐
1 mark

2b
☐
1 mark

2g
☐
2 marks

2f
☐
2 marks

2a
☐
1 mark

2e
☐
1 mark

2c
☐
2 marks

Winter Paralympics — Question Set 1

- 1 Which of these statements best summarises the purpose of the newspaper article?

Tick one box

To inform people of the decline in viewers of the Paralympics.

☐

To share the success of the South Korea Winter Paralympics.

☐

To encourage people to vote to have the next Paralympics back in South Korea.

☐

To celebrate the hundreds of medals won by Great Britain in the 2018 Winter Paralympics.

☐

- 2 What record has the Paralympian Brian McKeever set for his country?



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- 3 Draw lines to match the country with the correct information.

China

took part in the 2018 Winter Paralympics for the first time

Slovakia

has produced the most successful cross-country Paralympian of all time

South Korea

held the most watched Winter Paralympics to date

Canada

will welcome home a Paralympian who has won 4 golds and 1 silver

Tajikistan

will host the Winter Paralympics next time

- 4 Names of places have been matched with the year the Paralympics were or will be held there. Identify which are true and which are false.

	True	False
1994 China	☐	☐
2006 Turin	☐	☐
2018 South Korea	☐	☐
2022 Lillehammer	☐	☐

Scan the text for the place names and then read around that part of the text.



- 5 List three ways in which the Pyeongchang Games were different from previous years.

1.
2.
3.

Use the subheadings to help navigate around the newspaper report.



- 6 Each of these extracts is an example of a newspaper article feature. Match the extract with the correct feature.

'...and 26 out of the 49 countries taking part won at least one medal.'

'Country debuts and first gold medals'

'Winter Paralympics: the best bits from the Pyeongchang Games'

'Fitzpatrick said she wanted to celebrate with a "proper cup of English tea".'

headline

facts and figures

quote

subheading

When you have to match answers, do the ones you're most sure of first.

