

# Becket Keys

Summer-Break

Brain Workout!



# English Nearly 100

Summer is a great time to rest after all of your hard-work at school this year.

Here is a little workbook that you can complete over the 6-week period to help keep your brain active.

It is not compulsory, do what you can to a maximum of **30 minutes per day**.

**Enjoy your time off and we look forward to seeing you in September!**

*Work will not be marked*

**Date:**

Reading Comprehension



**Learning Objective:** I can read and understand a fable



For eons, the Wind and the Sun had been bitter rivals. Each believed themselves the stronger. Each believed themselves the mightier. Each believed themselves more capable of imposing their will upon the Earth.

One day, a traveller was walking along a well-worn path, wearing a thick woollen cloak and scarf upon her shoulders. The flowers danced in the meadows either side of the road and the birds sang their sweet melodies in the oak and willow trees. These

sights and sounds soothed her weary soul as she trudged along the road, her feet aching and her back hunched.

The Wind looked down upon the traveller and said, "Sun, old friend, I propose a competition, so that we might decide, once and for all, who of us is truly the mightiest. Look at that human walking below. Do you see how she is wrapped tight in her woollen cloak? They are so fragile, these mortals, these humans, are they not? Well, whoever of us can remove that cloak off her shoulders shall be declared the winner. What say you, Sun?"

The Sun replied, "Wind, must we? Leave this poor creature alone. Humans are so feeble and fragile. Their lives are short and full of suffering. Leave her be, Wind; human life is hard enough."

"Oh, I see, Sun; you are scared - a coward!" The Wind responded smugly. "Well then, I propose a new competition. If you can take that cloak off the traveller, then not only will you be declared the mightier, but I will let her travel safely. If I win, I will be declared the mightiest, and I shall blow her town to the ground. What say you?"

The Sun frowned and sighed. "Very well, you first."

"With pleasure!" the Wind smirked. The Wind blew upon the traveller, but she wrapped the cloak tighter around herself. The Wind blew harder, and the traveller wrapped the cloak tighter around herself. The Wind blew harder and colder, so much that the traveller shivered and struggled to stand, but she found a tree, sat beneath it, and wrapped the cloak around her tighter. "AHHHHH! It is impossible!" The Wind bellowed.

"Maybe..." smiled the Sun, "Maybe not." The Sun gently shone a bit brighter, making the air warm and pleasant and balmy. The traveller stood up, stretched, and smiled. She took off her cloak, and lay contentedly on the lush green grass, happy to delay her journey to enjoy the balmy sunshine.

"Well done, Sun, you are victorious," the Wind said, "Well done indeed." Later, the traveller continued on her way to Manchester, reuniting with those she loved.

1. What word in paragraph one means “a very long period of time”?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. In paragraph 2, what suggests that the weather is not hot?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What verb in paragraph 2 suggests that the traveller is physically tired and walking slowly?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Find and copy 1 word/phrase that shows many people have walked along the path before the traveller.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What word, used by the Wind, means “delicate”?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Tick true or false for each of these statements:

Statement	True or False
The Wind is the one who proposes the competition	
The birdsong makes the traveller feel uncomfortable	
The Sun makes the weather unpleasantly hot	
The traveller takes off their jacket when the wind blows	
The Sun wins the competition	

7. Look at the table below. In the left hand column, there are events from the story. Place the numbers 1-8 in the right hand column, to show the order that these events happened in the story. The first has been done for you.

Event	What order did this occur in the story
The Wind proposes a competition to the Sun	
The traveller begins her journey along the path	1
The Wind blows hard upon the traveller	
The Sun refuses to take part in the competition	
The traveller sits down beneath a tree to escape the wind	
The Sun agrees to take part in the competition	
The traveller safely arrives at her destination	
The traveller takes off her cloak.	

8. What does the traveller hear on her journey that makes it a less unpleasant experience?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Which of these is the most appropriate message of this fable. Tick ONE

Be grateful for what you have	
Gentle persuasion is more powerful than force	
Eat your vegetables	
If a job is worth doing, it is worth doing well	

**Date:**

Spelling, punctuation and grammar

**Learning Objective:** I understand how to apostrophes of possession and omission.



- 1) Combine these words into a single contracted word
  - a) Do + not =
  - b) I + will =
  - c) You + will =
  - d) She + would =
  - e) He + would =
  - f) They + would =
  - g) It + would =
  - h) You + are =
  - i) I + am =
  - j) Can + not =
  - k) Could + not =
  - l) Should + not =
- 2) Uncontract these words
  - a) Wouldn't =
  - b) It's =
  - c) They'll =
  - d) Let's =
  - e) Didn't =
  - f) Haven't =
  - g) You've =
  - h) You'll =
  - i) I'd =
  - j) We'd =
- 3) Input the apostrophes of possession into these sentences.
  - a. Gian looked closely at Rahimas books.
  - b. Life thieves in the night, the cats stalked stealthily through Elliotts garden.
  - c. In the balmy cool of the oak trees shade, Naygi sat and read her mothers favourite book.
  - d. With the fury of an erupting volcano, Athena ravaged Arachnes tapestry.
  - e. The birds sang their sweet melodies in the willow trees, and the blood-red roses bloomed in Sophias garden.
  - f. In the Moons pale light, Keiden sat and thought deeply, pondering all of lifes great mysteries.
  - g. Amongst the clouds, the birds soared, looking down upon the vast citys many buildings.
  - h. "I am seeking entry into the Emperors palace," she announced, as she stood outside the palaces gargantuan wooden door.
  - i. Faaiz noticed something glittering and glistening brightly beneath Amiras desk, but he didn't want to attract anybody's attention to it.
- 4) Below each sentence, decide if the apostrophe indicates possession or omission.
  - a. He visited his friend's hometown.  
=
  - b. They didn't notice the helicopter.  
=
  - c. Surely, they'll arrive on time.  
=
  - d. As the clock struck midnight, a strange rustling began from Aurora's garden.  
=
  - e. Shayaan sat upon the galloping horse's back, and rode along the pebbly path.  
=

**Date:**

Spelling, punctuation and grammar

**Learning Objective:** I can correctly use the there/their/they're homophone



Carefully read the sentences below. Input the correct version of the there/their/they're homophone into the gaps.

- i. The altruistic children donated \_\_\_\_\_ money to charity.
- ii. \_\_\_\_\_ are 100 centimetres in a metre.
- iii. Slowly and carefully, the foxes pursued \_\_\_\_\_ prey.
- iv. After the marathon, \_\_\_\_\_ going to feel exhausted!
- v. Before sunrise, \_\_\_\_\_ was a devastating earthquake.
- vi. Although the journey will be long and difficult, \_\_\_\_\_ not going to give up!
- vii. Plants absorb energy from sunlight using \_\_\_\_\_ leaves.
- viii. "\_\_\_\_\_ are 24 hours in a day on Earth, and \_\_\_\_\_ are 365 days in a non-leap year on Earth," the intelligent scientist explained to her friends.
- ix. They worked hard, because they wanted to make \_\_\_\_\_ world better.
- x. As the curious boy looked at the blood-red flowers, he said, "\_\_\_\_\_ so beautiful!"
- xi. "I adore the Harry Potter books because \_\_\_\_\_ full of mystery and adventure!" he cheerfully remarked.
- xii. Like a thief in the night, the children crept out of \_\_\_\_\_ bedrooms, hunting for midnight snacks in \_\_\_\_\_ kitchen.
- xiii. \_\_\_\_\_ were 2 paths that led through the forest; one would lead them to \_\_\_\_\_ home, and the other would lead them to \_\_\_\_\_ doom.

**Date:**

**Spelling, punctuation and grammar**



**Learning Objective:** I can confidently punctuate direct speech, and convert between direct and indirect speech

**Challenge 1:** Input the missing speech marks in these examples of direct speech.

- I. We should donate some of our money to a charity! Sophia enthusiastically cheered.
- II. Oh, you **MUST** read this enthralling book! Wunmi declared. It's more thrilling than a rollercoaster! I couldn't put it down!
- III. Jasper stepped cautiously towards the treasure chest and whispered, Yes...I've finally found it. It's mine...**ALL MINE!**
- IV. Rahima looked cautiously around the corner and then whispered, I think the creature has gone. I think we can escape, but we must quick and quiet. **Go!**
- V. Shiyao looked at the blood-stained letter and said to herself, This will be my most deadly and daring mission yet.
- VI. Khadija - who had just qualified as a doctor - proudly declared, We saved 10 lives today! Good job team!
- VII. Arthur, the author of 10 inspiring novels, sat by the roaring fireplace and shouted, Eureka! I have an idea for a truly mind-blowing new novel!
- VIII. Peddling her bike furiously and sweating from head to toe, Kyrah rasped, I can't be late! I can't be late! They need me at the laboratory!
- IX. It is very hard to do, Charlie said, but we are going to try.
- X. It is essential that we all take steps to reduce our impact on the planet, Jasmine eloquently began, and we should start by walking or cycling to school instead of driving.

**Challenge 2:** In the **RED** column, write whether the sentence is an example of **DIRECT** or **INDIRECT** (reported) speech.

Sentence	Is it an example of direct or indirect speech
"Don't let them hear you!" the spy urgently messaged to his comrade over the walkie-talkie.	
The teacher told his attentive class that plants use sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to generate energy using photosynthesis.	
She asked her friend if he had any book recommendations.	
The teacher told his class, "All even numbers are divisible by 2."	
She stood in front of the wizard and firmly shouted, "Stop immediately! I shall not allow you to do this!"	
The diligent waitress asked the famished customer what food she would like to eat.	
The boy told his friends that ' <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> ' – a novel by Jane Austen - was his favourite book.	
The wise man (with a glorious crown of grey hair) calmly said, "Don't judge a book by its cover."	
"If you'd like a delicious and nutritious snack," she started saying, "I have apples, bananas, carrots and olives for you to enjoy."	
The architect finished designing the museum and whispered proudly, "This is my masterpiece. It is a triumph!"	
"Make sure you try your best to make our precious planet a kinder, happier and more equal place," the teacher cheerfully told his intelligent students.	
The Sun shone brightly in the sky, the trees danced lazily in the breeze, and the girl whispered, "time to relax with a book."	

**Challenge 3:** Read the sentences carefully. Convert all direct speech into indirect speech, and vice versa.

Direct Speech	Indirect speech
Elliott announced, "I am going to study to become an aeronautical engineer."	
	In the emergency meeting, Hong-Yin told everybody that he had eaten all of the biscuits.
Mr Mckezie clearly informed his class, "The First World War began in 1914, and ended in 1918."	
	Patrick (the world-changing scientist) told his friends that he had found a way to prevent deforestation!
"This poem melts my heart and makes my soul sing!" James said with a tear in his eye.	
	As the snow fell gently, Sze-Ting told her mum that she was going to build a gargantuan snowman.
As she bulleted enthusiastically to the British Museum, Sienna shouted, "I'm so excited to see the Anglo-Saxon weapons!"	
	Yusuf jumped in the air and screamed, "I'm going to Japan!"



## Close reading comprehension

Below, there are some extracts from a gothic horror story. Read each sentence closely, and RE-READ it before you answer each question. GOOD LUCK!

*"It had been precisely 5 minutes since the clock on the wall had struck 11pm, when Jane first heard the sound of slow footsteps in the snow. She gasped. They came closer and closer, through the nearby forest towards the great mansion that Jane stood within, the snow crunching beneath their feet like a blanket of brittle bones."*

1. What time is it in this sentence? Circle the correct answer.

- a. 10:55 pm
- b. 11:05 pm
- c. 11 pm

2. What season is it most likely to be in this extract?

- a. Winter
- b. Summer

3. The people travelling in the snow are likely...

- a. Running
- b. Walking

4. Jane is in:

- a. A forest
- b. A castle
- c. A mansion

5. True or false: the footsteps are going into the forest

- a. True
- b. False

6. Write down one simile in this extract.

7. Which word best describes how Jane feels when she first hears the footsteps:

- a. Confident
- b. Shocked
- c. Furious
- d. Contented

8. We are not told who the approaching people are, yet we know they are coming. How does this make you feel as you read it?



*“Jane hid behind the blood-red silk curtain, and peered out at the trio of unfamiliar shadows standing in the snow, bathed in the pale moonlight. She clutched the loaded pistol close to her pounding chest. Outside, the wind wailed, the trees quivered, and the moon hung like a great accusing eye. Still clutching the pistol, Jane hastily wiped the sticky mix of sweat and blood and still wet mud off of her hands and onto her once-white dress.”*

1. How many men could Jane see standing in the snow?

- a. One
- b. Two
- c. Three



2. Which of these statements are true? Circle TWO.

- a. Jane recognizes the people standing in the snow
- b. Jane is trying to avoid being seen by the people standing outside
- c. Jane does not recognize the people standing in the snow
- d. Jane is outside



3. True or false: There are bullets inside the pistol

- a. True
- b. False

4. What tells you that it is nighttime in this extract?

5. Give an example of personification in this extract.

6. Which phrase shows us that Jane is scared?

7. What three colours do we know are now on Jane's dress?

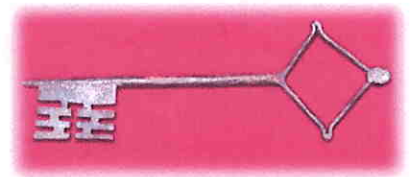
8. Jane's hands are covered in a sticky mix of sweat and blood and wet mud. What do you think has happened?

*Caroline hurried into the room, her chest heaving and panting, but with a joyous look upon her face. "I've found it! I've found it! Marcus's key! The key Edgar told us of in that letter, before he ..."* She paused and looked at the pool of blood on the floor, "Oh that letter! It..."

*"SHHHHH!!!!"* Jane whispered. She raised her finger to her lips, and then pointed one finger out the window, at the shadows standing in the snow.

*"Oh no! They're here! They're early! We should've had more time!"* Caroline rasped. "We must go to The Red Room immediately! Come, Jane! Come now!"

1. Which of these are true? Circle TWO:
  - a. Caroline has been running
  - b. Jane has been running through the house
  - c. Caroline has just been looking for a letter
  - d. Caroline has just been looking for a key
2. Write down the phrase that shows Caroline is feeling out of breath
3. Which of these words best describes Caroline's emotions when she FIRST ENTERS the room:
  - a. Terrified
  - b. Ecstatic
  - c. Lethargic
  - d. Anxious
4. What do you think has happened to Edgar? Why do you think this?
5. Which of these best describes Caroline's emotions when she sees the men in the snow:
  - a. Joyful
  - b. Curious
  - c. Panicked
6. Who finds out that the three men are outside first?
  - a. Caroline
  - b. Jane
7. Who owned the key that Caroline had found?
  - a. Jane
  - b. Marcus
  - c. Edgar
8. Who TOLD Caroline about the key?
  - a. Jane
  - b. Marcus
  - c. Edgar



*“Jane! Edgar! Caroline!” the man in the green scarf called out, his voice quaking as his body shivered. “We know you have broken into this awful house! Please, come out. We mean you no harm, but PLEASE! Do not unlock the Red Room! What you have heard is all lies; there is no fortune within, no glory, no hope. It is a trap! There is a dark and hungry evil inside that room, and if you enter, you will die. Leave the house and go.” But Jane and Caroline had fled downstairs before he had even opened his mouth.*

1. Who is talking?
2. How many people does the man think he’s talking to?
  - a. One
  - b. Two
  - c. Three
  - d. Four
3. What phrase shows us that this is NOT Jane’s house?
4. Which word best describes the way the man is speaking? Circle one:
  - a. Threateningly
  - b. Aggressively
  - c. Anxiously
  - d. Joyously
5. Which phrase shows us that the man in the green scarf is probably cold?
6. Why did Jane and Caroline not hear his warning?
7. What does the man claim will happen if Jane and Caroline unlock the Red Room?
8. What does the man think is the reason that Jane and Caroline are trying to enter the Red Room?:
  - a. They love the colour red
  - b. They set a trap
  - c. They believe it will make them rich
  - d. They are hiding from the police
9. What do you think will happen next?



## COMPREHENSION EXERCISE 1:

'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' written by C.S. Lewis.

Looking into the inside, she saw several coats hanging up — mostly long fur coats. There was nothing Lucy liked so much as the smell and feel of fur. She immediately stepped into the wardrobe and got in among the coats and rubbed her face against them, leaving the door open, of course, because she knew that it is very foolish to shut oneself into any wardrobe. Soon she went further in and found that there was a second row of coats hanging up behind the first one. It was almost quite dark in there and she kept her arms stretched out in front of her so as not to bump her face into the back of the wardrobe. She took a step further in — then two or three steps always expecting to feel woodwork against the tips of her fingers. But she could not feel it.

"This must be a simply enormous wardrobe!" thought Lucy, going still further in and pushing the soft folds of the coats aside to make room for her. Then she noticed that there was something crunching under her feet. "I wonder is that more mothballs?" she thought, stooping down to feel it with her hand. But instead of feeling the hard, smooth wood of the floor of the wardrobe, she felt something soft and powdery and extremely cold. "This is very queer," she said, and went on a step or two further.

Next moment she found that what was rubbing against her face and hands was no longer soft fur but something hard and rough and even prickly. "Why, it is just like branches of trees!" exclaimed Lucy. And then she saw that there was a light ahead of her; not a few inches away where the back of the wardrobe ought to have been, but a long way off. Something cold and soft was falling on her. A moment later she found that she was standing in the middle of a wood at night-time with snow under her feet and snowflakes falling through the air.

Lucy felt a little frightened, but she felt very inquisitive and excited as well. She looked back over her shoulder and there, between the dark tree trunks; she could still see the open doorway of the wardrobe and even catch a glimpse of the empty room from which she had set out. (She had, of course, left the door open, for she knew that it is a very silly thing to shut oneself into a wardrobe.) It seemed to be still daylight there. "I can always get back if anything goes wrong," thought Lucy. She began to walk forward, crunch-crunch over the snow and through the wood towards the other light. In about ten minutes she reached it and found it was a lamp-post. As she stood looking at it, wondering why there was a lamp-post in the middle of a wood and wondering what to do next, she heard a pitter patter of feet coming towards her. And soon after that a very strange person stepped out from among the trees into the light of the lamp-post.

He was only a little taller than Lucy herself and he carried over his head an umbrella, white with snow. From the waist upwards he was like a man, but his legs were shaped like a goat's (the hair on them was glossy black) and instead of feet he had goat's hoofs. He also had a tail, but Lucy did not notice this at first because it was neatly caught up over the arm that held the umbrella so as to keep it from trailing in the snow. He had a red woollen muffler round his neck and his skin was rather reddish too. He had a strange, but pleasant little face, with a short pointed beard and curly hair, and out of the hair there stuck two horns, one on each side of his forehead. One of his hands, as I have said, held the umbrella: in the other arm he carried several brown-paper parcels. What with the parcels and the snow it looked just as if he had been doing his Christmas shopping. He was a Faun. And when he saw Lucy he gave such a start of surprise that he dropped all his parcels.

“Goodness gracious me!” exclaimed the Faun.

## QUESTIONS

1. Why do you think that Lucy left the door open?
  - a) So that she could see the empty room
  - b) So that her friends could come after her
  - c) Because it was foolish to be trapped inside a wardrobe
  - d) She needed light
  
2. What did Lucy step on that made a crunching sound?
  - a) Wooden wardrobe
  - b) Tree branches
  - c) Mothballs
  - d) Snow
  
3. What does the word ‘queer’ mean?
  - a) Silly
  - b) Obvious
  - c) Strange
  - d) Frightening
  
4. What does the word ‘inquisitive’ mean?
  - a) Curious
  - b) Scared
  - c) Confused
  - d) Doubtful

5. How did Lucy end up in the woods?
  - a) The wardrobe was enormous
  - b) She left the door open
  - c) The wardrobe had no back
  - d) The wardrobe was magical
  
6. Where was the light coming from which Lucy followed?
  - a) Daylight
  - b) The room
  - c) Lamp-post
  - d) Between the dark tree trunks
  
7. Who made the 'pitter-patter' sound?
  - a) Faun
  - b) A postman
  - c) Lucy
  - d) A Goat
  
8. Why was Faun a 'strange person'?
  - a) He had no tail
  - b) He had only one horn
  - c) He had hoofs instead of feet
  - d) He was shorter than Lucy
  
9. Why didn't Lucy notice Faun's tail at first?
  - a) It was covered with snow
  - b) He hung it on his arm
  - c) He didn't have a tail
  - d) She was distracted by his hoofs
  
10. What colour was Faun's face?
  - a) White with snow
  - b) Red
  - c) Glossy black
  - d) Brown