



# Upper KS1/Lower KS2 (SATS style) Reading Comprehension Booklet 8



Name.....

## Useful words

reared

produce

process

varies

suitably

combine harvester

Halloween

# Harvest



## What is the harvest?

A lot of the food that we eat is grown or **reared** in farms across the countryside. As well as dairy farms (that produce milk) and livestock farms (rearing cattle, pigs and sheep), many other farms grow a wide variety of crops such as grain, fruit and vegetables.

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## Questions

**1** What do you think the word "reared" means?

Tick one.

to take to the shop

to cook

to give away

to bring up and care for

**2** Name two crops that a farmer might grow.

1)

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2)

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When a crop has grown and is ready to eat, the farmer must collect it from the fields. This is known as the harvest. Depending upon the crop, the process of harvesting varies a lot.

Grain crops such as wheat and barley are collected by huge combine harvesters. Some fruits are picked by special, tall machines which tower over the trees, these include pears and sometimes apples, but many apples are actually picked by hand. Other fruits that are picked by hand include strawberries.

**3** What is used to collect crops such as wheat and barley?

Tick one.

trucks

lorries

combine harvesters

tall machines

**4** Which fruit is always picked by hand?

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**When is the harvest?**

Farmers plant their crops at different times throughout the year, depending on the growing patterns of each crop. Some crops benefit from being in the frozen ground over winter, whilst others like to be planted in spring when there is less risk of frosts. As a result, different foods are harvested at different times of the year.

**5** Why do some crops benefit from being planted in spring?

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Once harvested, the farmer wants to get his **produce** to markets and shops as fast as possible, so that when you eat it, it's nice and fresh!

**6** What do you think the word "produce" means?

Tick **one**.

the crops that the farmer has grown

the clothes that the farmer has made

the farm machinery

the farmer's car

**7** Why do farmers want to get their produce to markets as fast as possible?

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On the next page is a short list to give you an idea of when your favourite foods are at their very best in the UK!

- **Apples** - the best time for picking apples is from October to January
- **Blackberries** - yum yum when fresh. You'll find them ready to pick and in shops in August and September
- **Brussel sprouts** - a treat with Christmas lunch, sprouts are in season between October and February
- **Lemons** - if you want a tasty lemon that's grown in this country, you have to wait until the end of December
- **Peas** - even though you can get them all year, this is only because they are frozen. Peas are actually only in season from May to November
- **Pumpkins** - suitably for their links with Halloween, pumpkins are in season from October until December
- **Strawberries** - you find British strawberries during the summer

**8** When can you pick or buy blackberries?

Tick one.

October to January

May to November

October to December

August and September

**9** Which vegetable is linked to Halloween?

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## Useful words

apologise

outburst

# Harry the Hedgehog's Falling Leaves

Harry was a lively little hedgehog who could get rather grumpy at times.

One September morning, Harry noticed that the leaves had started falling from the trees.



"Why are the leaves falling off the trees so early?" Harry asked his sister, Heather, who had just come outside. "We are going to have an early winter," said Heather.

"No way!" yelled Harry. "That isn't good. This is only the beginning of the autumn season."

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**10**

When did Harry notice that the leaves were falling from the trees?

Tick **one**.

one sunny day

one September morning

one September evening

one October morning



11

Why did Heather think the leaves were falling from the trees so early?

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"Don't yell at me," said Heather. "I'm not in charge of the weather."

"You are right," said Harry. "I apologise for my angry outburst."

"It's okay," said Heather, who was used to Harry's outbursts. "I came out here to tell you that Mother wants you to rake up the leaves."

Heather went back into the house. Harry grabbed the rake and began raking up the hundreds of red, orange and yellow leaves that were scattered all over the garden.

12

What did Harry apologise for?

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13

Why did Heather come outside?

Tick **one**.

to sweep the path

to rake up the leaves

to tell Harry to rake up the leaves

to play with Harry

"There must be a way to stop winter from coming," said Harry. "It is just way too early. I am not ready for winter."

Harry thought hard about what he could do to stop winter from coming. He looked at the pile of leaves and then he looked up at the tree. He came up with an idea.

"Maybe I can put the leaves back on the tree," said Harry. "That should stop winter."

Harry gathered up a huge armful of leaves and threw them up into the tree. He grabbed another and another.

"Oh no!" yelled Harry, angrily. "This isn't going to work."

Harry noticed that when he threw the leaves up into the tree, they didn't stay there. They all fell straight to the ground.

**14** What did Harry try to do to stop winter from coming?

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**15** What happened to the leaves when Harry threw them up into the tree?

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"Harry," he heard his sister, Heather, call. "Dinner is ready."

Harry trudged over to where Heather was standing.

"What have you been doing?" asked Heather, seeing the leaves scattered all over the garden.

"I was trying to stop winter from coming," said Harry. "I tried throwing the leaves up into the tree but they all just fell to the ground. Then I tried gluing the leaves to the tree but that was going to take forever."

"Harry," laughed Heather. "You can't stop winter from coming. I can't. Nobody can."

"Really?" said Harry.

"Yes really," said Heather.

Harry thought about what Heather said while he ate his dinner. He knew she was right and he did feel foolish for even trying to stop winter.

16

Why do you think Heather laughed when Harry told her that he was trying to stop winter from coming?

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After dinner that evening, he went outside and raked up all the leaves and then he jumped into the big pile of leaves he had made.

"I may as well enjoy the rest of the autumn season," said Harry.

Heather saw what he was doing and she came out to join in the fun too.

The End

**17** What did Harry do after he had raked up all the leaves?

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**18** How did Harry's feelings change about the autumn season?

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**19**

Write down two words from the poem that describe the sound made by autumn leaves.

1)

2)

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**20**

***make a carpet on the ground***

What does this mean?

Tick one.

the leaves magically turn into a carpet

the leaves cover the ground in the same way as a carpet covers a floor

the leaves fall onto a carpet.

carpets are made out of leaves