

English - Summer 2 Week 4 - Home Learning

Session 5

Today, you will be completing a reading comprehension titled 'Moon Pack'.

As always, read the text carefully and answer the comprehension questions to the best of your ability.

How to share your work:

- Write your answers into your exercise book and take a picture of your work.
- Type your answers directly into the boxes on this page or use Google Docs to edit.

Once you've completed the work, submit your work to Google Classroom following this set of instructions:

1. Go to classroom.google.com
2. Click the class - Classwork - the assignment.
3. To attach an item, click 'Add or create' and select 'Google Drive', 'Link' or 'File' depending on what type of file you have created.
4. The status of your work will change to 'Turned in'.

Text: Moon Pack

Blacktip the vixen has helped an old wolf named Kallak to escape from hunters. She also has an urgent warning for Kallak's pack, whose territory in the High Hills is about to be threatened by the men of the Long Valley.

After a long, steep climb through the dense forest, they came to a broad clearing. Exhausted from the effort of keeping pace with Kallak, Blacktip paused to take in the surroundings. A smooth, flat-topped boulder dominated the open space, behind which the hills rose steeply to a range of bare, rocky peaks. The cold, star-pricked night sky cast dark shadows amongst the trees, although it was noticeably lighter around the high horizon where a sliver of silvery light was now emerging from behind one of the tallest crags.

'The moon is rising. It is about to begin,' whispered Kallak. 'As long as you stay here, no harm will come to you.'

If this were meant to reassure Blacktip, it failed. Her fur bristled with anxiety as all her senses strained to keep her alert to any possible danger. A strong scent of wolf hung threateningly in the air. The rustlings and calls of unseen nocturnal animals had deadened to an eerie silence and even the wind through the branches seemed to have ceased in anticipation of what was to come.

Ghostly light now flooded the clearing and the fox lifted her eyes once more to the hills. With the dazzling disc of the moon now almost fully revealed, she noticed the silhouette of a wolf bounding up the side of the crag. When it reached the summit, it paused for a moment, then tipped its head back. Blacktip shivered as a haunting howl echoed around the hillsides. A few heartbeats later, it was answered by another more distant howl, then another, much closer and off to the left. Soon, the night was filled with the mournful cries of the pack.

As if cued by a secret signal, the howling suddenly stopped. Blacktip's ears now picked up another sound, coming closer and closer: twigs snapping, rocks tumbling, paws pounding the ground. She glanced up at the distant peak – the wolf was nowhere to be seen.

Kallak started to circle Blacktip, ears twitching and flicking to pinpoint each fresh sound. Suddenly he bounded around to stand behind her, facing the forest, and half crouched as if preparing to pounce. The fox twisted her head round to follow Kallak's gaze. Her sharp eyes picked out shadows moving amongst the trees. Moonlight flashed in a pair of eyes – then another, and another. The clearing was surrounded. A rasping, low growl rolled out of the gloom.

'Show yourself Brother Grimly,' barked Kallak. 'I'd recognise your wheezy breath from half a hillside away.'

A powerful grey wolf slunk into the clearing and circled Kallak at a distance, trying to get a better look at the fox. 'Brother Kallak, is your memory fading with your age?' he drawled. 'It's been many winters since you've been able to overtake me in the

chase.' He then bounded over, teeth bared. Snarling, Kallak sprang to intercept him. There was a brief stand-off, before they both burst into laughter and nuzzled each other in friendly greeting.

'Good to see you again, brother,' said Grimly, placing a paw gently upon one of Kallak's. 'And what have we here? An intruder? A hostage? A snack?'

'A friend,' replied Kallak soothingly. 'She saved my life. She may yet save yours.'

'You must be really losing your touch,' laughed Grimly as he eyed Blacktip curiously. 'A wolf, rescued by a fox less than half his size? I'm surprised you didn't die of shame.'

'Strength alone is no protection against humans,' replied Kallak. 'It was her quick-thinking that set me free – that and her knowledge of the ways of men.'

Having been distracted by these exchanges, Blacktip hadn't noticed the other members of the pack slinking into the clearing. Now, as she glanced around the clearing, she saw an almost perfect circle of wolves, all sitting silently, staring at her.

'If what Kallak says is true, sister fox, you have earned the trust and protection of the pack and are welcome here at Council Rock.' Grimly bowed respectfully and walked off to take his place.

Questions: Moon Pack

Q1. In the paragraph beginning: *After a long, steep climb...* **find** and **copy one** word meaning skyline.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Q2. In the paragraph beginning: *If this were meant to reassure Blacktip...* **find** and **copy one** word meaning stopped.

Click or tap here to enter text.

Q3. *Soon, the night was filled with the mournful cries of the pack.*

Which word most closely matches the meaning of the word mournful? Tick **one**.

- ☐ anxious
- ☐ depressing
- ☐ dying
- ☐ animated

Q4. Look at the paragraph beginning: *If this were meant to reassure...* Write down **three** things that tell us that Blacktip is worried.

1. Click or tap here to enter text.
2. Click or tap here to enter text.
3. Click or tap here to enter text.

Q5. In the paragraph beginning: *Ghostly light now flooded the clearing...* why did the wolf tip its head back when it came to the top of the hill?

Click or tap here to enter text.

Q6. What is revealed at the end of the text? Tick **one**.

- ☐ The humans have taken the territory for themselves.
- ☐ Kallak is becoming weak and will soon die.
- ☐ Blacktip is welcomed and will be protected by the wolf pack.
- ☐ Blacktip is advised to leave Council Rock permanently.

Q7. Below are some summaries of different paragraphs from the text. Number them to show the order in which they appear in the text. One has been done for you.

Choose an item. Kallak tells Blacktip to stay where she is so that she doesn't get hurt.

Choose an item. Grimly accepts Blacktip.

1 Blacktip struggles to keep up with the wolf as they move through the forest.

Choose an item. Kallak explains that Blacktip helped him outsmart the humans.

Choose an item. Kallak circles Blacktip to protect her from harm.

Q8. What evidence is there that Kallak is getting old? Give **two** examples.

1. Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Click or tap here to enter text.

Q9. What evidence is there of Kallak being fearless when he encounters Grimly? Give **two** points.

1. Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Click or tap here to enter text.

Q10. How might Blacktip's character appeal to the reader? **Explain fully, giving evidence from the text.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

Q11. Do you think the wolf pack would attack Blacktip if they met her again without Kallak? **Explain your answer fully.**

Click or tap here to enter text.

Q12. Match each part of the extract with the correct quotation from the text.

- Choose an item. It was her quick-thinking that set me free - that and her knowledge of the ways of men.
- Choose an item. The rustlings and calls of unseen nocturnal animals had deadened to an eerie silence and even the wind through the branches seemed to have ceased.
- Choose an item. A smooth, flat topped boulder dominated the open space, behind which the hills rose steeply to a range of bare, rocky peaks.
- Choose an item. Suddenly he bounded around to stand behind her...

Q13. ... *a haunting howl echoed around the hillsides*. Why do you think the author has chosen these words to describe the sound? Give **two** reasons.

1. Click or tap here to enter text.

2. Click or tap here to enter text.

Q14. How do you think Blacktip's feelings might have changed at the end of the text, compared to how she felt at the beginning? **Use evidence from the text to explain your answer.**

Click or tap here to enter text.