

TEST I

Date:

Time:

Comprehension total: 15	Language total: $30 \div 2 = 15$	Writing total: 15
My total:	My total: $\div 2 =$	My total:

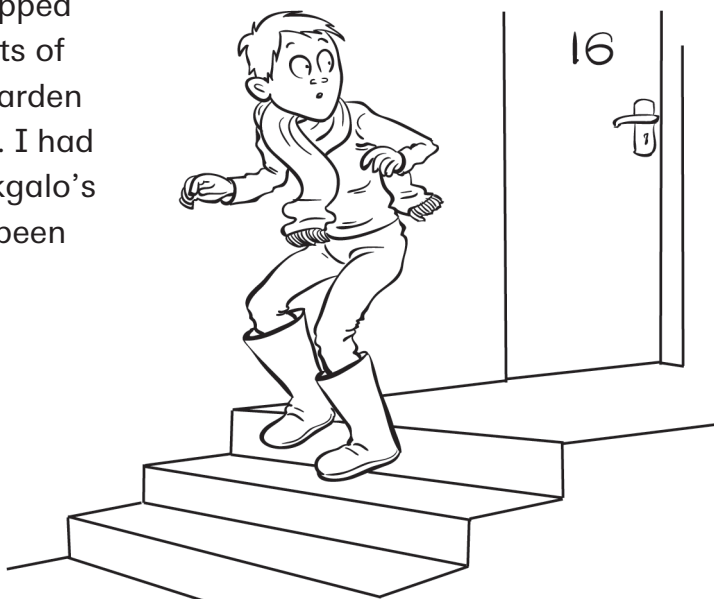


Read the comprehension carefully and answer the questions that follow.

Buffaloes

¹ First light. It was time. Tip-toeing to the door, I kept my boots off until I was at the threshold. I reached for my scarf that was hanging on the coat rack and did a sort of dance to wrap the woolly scarf around my neck and pull on the thick, black gumboots without toppling over.

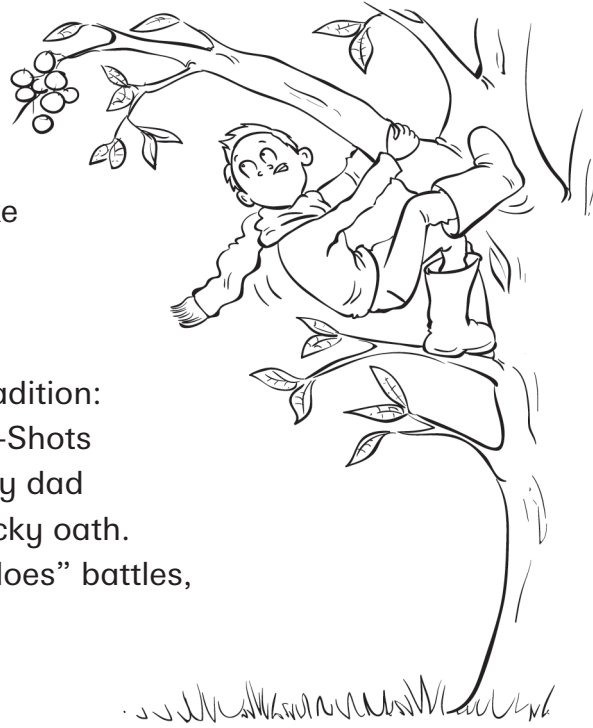
² I quietly opened the front door and slipped outside. I still had to navigate three flights of stairs in silence before I made it to the garden and the mighty Hairy Buffalo Thorn Tree. I had to pass Davey's door at number 16, Mokgalo's at 14 and Ryno's at 10. All of them had been eyeing the same prickly casing as I had been for the last four weeks. "Buffaloes" is serious stuff in our block and I had been the *veld* champion for two seasons running. The rules were simple – crack the hard, brown nut of your opponent in three or less tries. If neither nut cracked, you would resort to a shoot-out. I was the Big-Shot of "Buffaloes" and I did not fancy that changing this year.



³ I was safely past my rivals and into the open ground of the communal garden – a wild tumble of indigenous trees and shrubs. With dawn just breaking through the grey above, the tree and its offerings were truly a magnificent sight.

4 I began my ascent, wishing I had worn my *takkies*. Gumboots are not the best for climbing Hairy Buffalo trees but they did offer some protection from the caterpillar-like barbs that spiked from its branches.

5 And there it was. I inched slowly forward along the skinny branch towards my prize. Gripping the stem I said in true Buffaloes tradition: “Blinkblaar-wag-’n-bietjie”. All Buffaloes Big-Shots spoke to their prickly battalions this way. My dad told me that even Mr Bosman recited the lucky oath. And if it brought him good fortune in “Buffaloes” battles, who was I to tempt fate? So far, so good.



Comprehension

1. Circle the best option to complete the sentence below. (1)

The main character’s name is:

- I.1 Davey
- I.2 Mokgalo
- I.3 Ryno
- I.4 Buffalo
- I.5 None of the above

2. Is the following statement true or false? (1)

The *Buffaloes Big-Shot* for the last two seasons climbed a tree. _____

3. What is the objective of the game “Buffaloes”? (2)

4. What was a *Buffaloes Big-Shot* expected to say to his prize? (1)



5. Complete the sentence below by writing one word for the underlined phrase. (1)

The story begins at first light and it therefore starts in the _____.

6. What are the *caterpillar-like barbs* actually referring to in paragraph 4? (2)

7. Why would gumboots be a good defence against them? (2)

8. In what season do you think this story takes place? Motivate your answer from the text. (3)

9. Why do you think the main character does not want to wake anyone as he goes outside? (2)

Language

10. Answer true or false to the following:

10.1 In the sentence *I inched slowly forward along the skinny branch towards my prize*, the words *I* and *my* are personal pronouns. _____ (1)

10.2 The word *slowly* is an adverb. _____ (1)

10.3 The word *skinny* is a noun that is being described by the adjective *branch*. _____ (1)



11. In the sentence *I began my ascent*:

11.1 Identify and write down the subject. _____ (1)

11.2 Identify and write down the object. _____ (1)

11.3 Identify and write down the verb. _____ (1)

12. Read the sentence below and answer the questions that follow.

With dawn just breaking through the grey above, the tree and its offerings were truly a magnificent sight.

12.1 Underline two examples of metaphor. (2)

12.2 Circle the three prepositions. (3)

12.3 Put a line through the articles. (3)

12.4 Rewrite the sentence in the simple present tense. (2)

12.5 Rewrite the sentence in the simple future tense. (2)

12.6 Write down an antonym for the word *magnificent*. _____ (1)

13. Rewrite the sentence with the correct punctuation. ($\frac{1}{2} \times 6$)

“even mr bosman spoke to his buffalo nut” said my dad

14. Write down an English word for each of the Afrikaans words below. Your English word should fit the context in which it is used.

14.1 *veld* _____ (1)

14.2 *takkies* _____ (1)

15. Read through the score card and then answer the questions.

Contestant	Rounds	Shoot-out	Wins and losses
Mokgalo Coetzee	II II II III	1	3
Ryno Juba	III III	2	2
Nyati Biffles	II II II II	0	2
Jamie Africa	II II II II II III		4

15.1 How many contestants are listed on the score card? (1)

15.2 Alphabetise the contestants according to their surnames. (1)

15.3 Which contestant had the most rounds? (1)

15.4 What is confusing about the column entitled *Wins and losses*? (2)

15.5 What number should be written in the blank space under the column entitled *Shoot-out*? (1)

Writing

16. Complete the following writing assignments.

16.1 Invent five rules for the game of “Buffaloes” that would make it a fun, safe and challenging game to play. (5)

16.2 Write out the five-line certificate awarded to the Buffaloes Big-Shot
Champion of the season.

(5)

16.3 Write a five-line acceptance speech of the award of Best Buffaloes
Player of the season.

(5)
