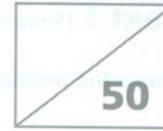


Practice Paper 2



What It's All About Skimming for Prediction (Strategy 1)

Skim Texts 1 to 3 by reading and viewing any heading, subtitle, illustration and the first sentence of each paragraph. Then, write the common topic of the three texts below.

Common topic:

Scanning (Strategy 5)

Scan through Texts 1 to 3 to find the answers to as many of the questions as you can within two minutes.

1. How many people live in Asia?

2. Which ruler of a state features in *Unlucky Sura*?

3. Who was the sealed letter sent to?

4. Who was Sura's lucky friend?

5. What did the widow find in the watermelon?

Text 1 [5 marks]

Study the webpage below and answer Questions 1–4.

SITE OF TALES
FOLK TALES, FAIRY STORIES AND TALES FOR CHILDREN — FROM AROUND THE WORLD!

Home
Folk Tales
African
Australian
Asian
European
North American
South American
Fairy Tales
Fables
Other Stories
Useful Links
Books A – Z
Contacts
Subscribe

A folk tale is a story that has been passed down verbally from generation to generation. Different folk tales bear the characteristics of the culture, folklore and customs of the people from which they originated.

The world's largest continent, Asia, is home to over four billion people. This populous continent has a rich cultural heritage.

In our collection, you can find over 500 folk tales. The following categories are just some examples:

ARABIC CHINESE INDIAN JAPANESE FILIPINO

Today's Tale

Once upon a time in China, there lived a king who had three daughters. The fairest of them was Ying, the youngest. The old king was proud of this daughter, so he decided that she should be the heir to his throne, and her husband, ruler of his kingdom. However, strange as it may seem to you, Ying was unhappy. She did not enjoy the pageantry and splendour of court life. She could see no satisfaction in ruling as a queen, and even feared that, in such a high position, she might feel out of place and lonely.

Every day she went to her room to read and study ...

Read more about Ying here: www.yingfolktales.com

1. What does the webpage claim about Asian culture?
_____ [1]
2. How does the illustration of Ying in the bottom left corner interest the reader?
_____ [1]
3. Explain in **your own words** the conflict that would cause a reader to click on the link and read more about Ying's tale.
 - (a) On one hand, Ying is _____ [1]
 - (b) On the other, she fears being _____ [1]
4. What is the main purpose of this website?
_____ [1]

Text 2 [20 marks]

The text below is about two soldiers and how they deal with luck. Read it carefully and answer Questions 5–13.

1	Have you ever noticed how some people seem to be born lucky, whereas others never seem to have any luck? Without any difficulty, the lucky types seem to succeed in everything that they do. On the other hand, whatever the unlucky types do, things always seem to go wrong for them.		
2	Once upon a time there lived a Sultan gifted in the art of prophecy. He believed that people were either born lucky or unlucky. He reckoned that he only had to look at a person's face to know what sort of future that person would have. One day, as he sat idly on the front verandah of his palace watching his guards on parade, he noticed one particular soldier with a sad expression on his face. The Sultan knew immediately that this man was not born under a favourable star, that his life was difficult and would remain difficult. Moved by pity, and to test out his own knowledge, the Sultan decided to help this man — but not openly because that might prejudice the test. He would help the man in a roundabout way.	5	
3	The Sultan asked the soldier to take a sealed letter to the District Chief. Sura, the chosen soldier, took the letter with a respectful bow, saluted smartly and set out. The problem was that the District Chief lived 15 kilometres away and it was a hot, sunny day. After walking for an hour, Sura rested at a village coffee shop. He had another two hours to go under the hot sun. In came a fellow soldier, Reksa, who was on leave. Sura grumbled to him about having to take the message, the distance and the heat.	15	
4	"Goodness! Surely it is an honour to deliver a message for the Sultan!" exclaimed Reksa. "It means he trusts you. I would go even if the Sultan was not paying me."	20	

5	"Why don't you take the message for me then if that is what you think?" Sura challenged.	
6	That was how it came to be that Reksa, and not Sura, delivered the message two hours later. Before entering the District Chief's house, Reksa combed his hair and brushed his clothes — he was the Sultan's messenger, after all!	25
7	The District Chief greeted him well, and asked if he knew the contents of the letter. Reksa assured the Chief that he did not know, but hoped it was good news. The Chief smiled and said that before he told him what the letter contained, Reksa could stay and have lunch with him after his long journey. <i>Wait till I tell Sura!</i> thought Reksa. <i>He'll regret his laziness when he hears about the meal.</i> The District Chief asked his wife to slaughter the fattest chicken and duck they had. It was a meal to remember and Reksa beamed all over.	30
8	After they had finished, the District Chief asked Reksa to sit with him on the front verandah. Taking out the precious letter, he informed Reksa, "The Sultan has asked me to be so kind as to accept the bearer of this message as my son-in-law and marry him to my youngest daughter. His Majesty will take care of the bride price and pay for the wedding. Do you, as the bearer of the letter, agree?"	35
9	Of course, Reksa agreed, though he could not understand why the Sultan would do such a thing for a mere palace guard. Fate had been kind to him — marrying the daughter of a district chief was good fortune indeed!	40

5. (a) Which word in paragraph 1 suggests the benefit of being lucky in life?
_____ [1]
- (b) Which phrase in paragraph 1 suggests the drawback of being born unlucky?
_____ [1]
6. (a) Which word in paragraph 2 suggests that the Sultan was talented?
_____ [1]
- (b) What was it about Sura that caused the Sultan to notice him?
_____ [1]
- (c) Why did the Sultan not want to help Sura 'openly' (line 12)?

_____ [2]
7. Which **two** actions of Sura in paragraph 3 show his respect towards the Sultan?
- (a) _____ [1]
- (b) _____ [1]

8. What are the **three** reasons that made Sura unhappy about delivering the letter?
- (a) _____ [1]
- (b) _____ [1]
- (c) _____ [1]
9. What can the reader learn about Sura's character from his conversation with Reksa at the coffee shop?
- _____ [1]
10. 'Reska combed his hair... he was the Sultan's messenger, after all!' (lines 26–27) What does this suggest about Reksa's character?
- _____ [2]
11. What was unusual about the Chief giving Reksa lunch?
- _____ [1]
12. What message does Reksa understand from his being able to marry the Chief's daughter?
- _____ [1]
13. The structure of the text develops the plot of this moral tale. Complete the flow chart by choosing one word or phrase from the box to summarise each stage described in the story. You do not need to use all the words or phrases in the box. [4]

A moral tale

- | | | |
|--|----------------------|------------------|
| • Reksa's marriage to the Chief's daughter | • setting the scene | • climax |
| • the honour of delivering a message | • a favourable star | • moral theme |
| | • first complication | • a long journey |

Flow Chart

(a) Paragraph 1:



(b) Paragraph 2:



(c) Paragraphs 3–6:



(d) Paragraphs 7–8:

Text 3 [25 marks]

The text below continues the story of Sura. Read it carefully and answer Questions 14–18.

1	Forty days after their wedding, as was the custom, the bride and groom went to the capital to pay their respects to the Sultan. Sura, who happened to be on guard duty that day, was amazed to find that his friend, Reksa, had married so well and asked him how he had managed it. Reksa was quite honest about the letter that he, Sura, had been asked to deliver. Sura was sick with envy and regret.	5
2	When the Sultan realised what had happened, he decided to give Sura another chance, despite the fact that Sura had disobeyed his orders before. Once again, he summoned Sura, who went with a pale face, afraid of how the Sultan might treat him. But this time, the Sultan smiled and handed a large watermelon to Sura. He had too many for his own needs, he explained. "Take it home and eat it."	10
3	Sura accepted the fruit with a deep bow and murmured his gratitude. On the way home, Sura decided to rest at a coffee shop because the watermelon was heavy. He wanted to buy tobacco and coffee but he had no money. Outside the coffee shop, he met the local fruit seller, a widow.	
4	"Madam, would you buy this watermelon from me?" he asked. After bargaining, the widow gave him a coin for the melon. Sura smiled happily, bought his tobacco and coffee and went on his way.	15
5	When the widow cut open the melon, she found, in the hollow of the fruit, some beautiful jewellery — a ring, a necklace and a handful of gold coins. The news of the widow who had suddenly grown rich soon spread through the town and reached the Sultan's ears. It reached Sura's ears too and he moaned about his unhappy fate. While he was depressed, a messenger came, ordering Sura to take a letter from the Sultan to the Village Chief.	20
6	Sura's face brightened. <i>I have learnt my lesson. This time I am going to deliver the message properly. How good his Majesty is to give me another chance!</i> Sura thought. He hurried off to complete his mission. The Village Chief read the letter aloud to Sura. "Sir, the bearer of this message has twice disobeyed my orders. Therefore, put him immediately in prison for two months!"	25
7	Poor Sura went white as a sheet. He closed his eyes and mumbled weakly, "Oh, why is fate so unkind to me?"	30

14. Using your own words, explain the effect that Reksa's news had on Sura.

[2]

15. 'Sura ... went with a pale face' (line 8).

(a) What did Sura's 'pale face' reveal about his emotions at meeting the Sultan again?

_____ [1]

(b) Why did he feel like this?

_____ [1]

16. Jane and Ali are discussing Sura's sale of the watermelon.



Jane

I can understand why he sold it.

I can't. He was foolish to do it.



Ali

(a) Give two reasons to support Jane's view.		[1]
		[1]
(b) Give two reasons to support Ali's view.		[1]
		[1]

17. From his experience, Sura learnt that fate was 'unkind to him' (line 30). What different lesson is the reader meant to learn from this tale?

 _____ [2]

18. **Using your own words as far as possible**, summarise what the Sultan did from the time he decided to give Sura another chance.

USE ONLY INFORMATION FROM PARAGRAPHS 2–6.

Your summary, which must be in continuous writing (not note form), must not be longer than **80** words, not counting the words given to help you to begin.

Begin your summary as follows:

Hearing of Sura's disobedience and bad luck, the Sultan decided ...

Method

1. Underline the key words in the summary question that tell you what to focus on.
2. Read the passage and underline the points that answer the summary question.
3. List the points and make brief notes in your own words about what you have underlined in the passage.

Points to select from text	No.	Suggested own words
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	
	5	
	6	
	7	
	8	

Your notes should be marked out of 7 for language by your teacher / tutor.

Vocabulary Extension

What is the meaning of the words in bold in the context of the texts below? These are for further practice.

From Text 1

- 1. ... the people from which they **originated**. _____
- 2. She did not enjoy the **pageantry** ... _____

From Text 2

- 3. ... a Sultan **gifted** in the art of prophecy. (line 5) _____
- 4. ... that might **prejudice** the test ... (line 13) _____
- 5. Sura **grumbled** to him about ... (line 19) _____
- 6. Taking out the **precious** letter, ... (line 36) _____
- 7. ... do such a thing for a **mere** palace guard. (line 41) _____

From Text 3

- 8. ... murmured his **gratitude** (line 11) _____
- 9. ... he **moaned** about his unhappy fate (line 21) _____
- 10. He ... **mumbled** weakly ... (line 29) _____
