Year 4 reading comprehension: passage pack

English · Reading comprehension
Level: Easy, medium and hard

Student: _____ Date: _____

Instructions
- Read each text first. There are 38 questions. Read each one carefully.
- Circle the best answer. Look back at the text to find the words that tell you.
- A grown-up can read the text aloud — that's fine.
- The answers are at the end. Check them together when you have finished.

Questions

Read this, then answer questions 1–4.



No Wi-Fi at Nan's

Nan's house has no Wi-Fi.
None. Not even one bar.
I held my tablet up to the window.
I held it up in the kitchen.
Nan said, “Try the lemon tree.”
So I climbed the lemon tree
with a tablet and a sulk.
Then a lorikeet landed beside me
and looked at me, head on one side,
and I forgot to check for bars.

1. What does ‘with a tablet and a sulk’ tell us?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** The speaker has brought a sulky friend along.
- ○ **B** The speaker is in a grumpy mood.
- ○ **C** The speaker is feeling very cheerful.

2. Why does the speaker dislike Nan's house at first?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** There is no Wi-Fi for the tablet.
- ○ **B** A lorikeet follows the speaker around.
- ○ **C** Nan makes the speaker climb a tree.

3. What does the word ‘tablet’ tell us about the speaker?

Circle one answer.

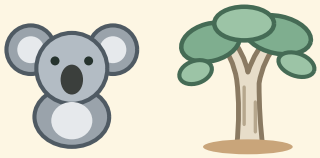
- ○ **A** The speaker has never used the internet.
- ○ **B** The speaker is learning to write letters to Nan.
- ○ **C** The speaker is used to being online.

4. Why does the speaker forget to check for bars?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** The speaker is busy watching the lorikeet.
- ○ **B** The tablet has found Wi-Fi.
- ○ **C** Nan has taken the tablet away and put it in a drawer.

Read this, then answer questions 5–7.



Kiki and the Slippery Trunk

Kiki the koala wanted the fresh leaves high in a tall gum, but rain had made the trunk too slippery. She did not give up. She looked around and found a long, fallen branch. She leaned it against the trunk, like a ladder, and climbed it, step by step. Soon she was among the leaves, munching happily, with a plan that had worked.

5. What does the writer admire about Kiki?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** She is strong enough to climb a wet trunk.
- ○ **B** She is good at giving orders.
- ○ **C** She finds a way instead of giving up.

6. Why did Kiki’s plan work?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** The trunk dried out very quickly in the morning sun.
- ○ **B** Other koalas lifted her up.
- ○ **C** She used something nearby in a clever way.

7. Which saying best matches the story?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** Where there’s a will, there’s a way.
- ○ **B** Don’t cry over spilt milk.
- ○ **C** Too many cooks spoil the broth.

Read this, then answer questions 8–9.

Bossy Magpie

Magpie thought every tree in the park was his. 'Go away!' he squawked at the little wrens. 'Go away!' he squawked at the lorikeets.

Silly Magpie. The park has hundreds of trees, and there is plenty of room for everyone.

8. What does the narrator think of Magpie?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** He is kind to the wrens.
- ○ **B** He is right, because the trees are his.
- ○ **C** He is being silly and bossy.

9. Which sentence gives the narrator's own opinion?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** Magpie thought every tree in the park was his.
- ○ **B** 'Go away!' he squawked at the little wrens.
- ○ **C** Silly Magpie.

Read this, then answer questions 10–11.



The Kookaburra's Laugh

A kookaburra's laugh can be heard at dawn and at dusk. A group of kookaburras laughs together to tell other kookaburras to keep away from their patch. So the laugh is a way of marking their home.

10. Which sentence states the main point?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** A group of kookaburras laughs together to tell other kookaburras to keep away from their patch.

○ **B** A kookaburra's laugh can be heard at dawn and at dusk.

○ **C** So the laugh is a way of marking their home.

11. Which title fits the whole text best?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Birds of the Bush

○ **B** Dawn and Dusk

○ **C** A Laugh That Says Keep Away

Read these texts, then answer questions 12–14.

Joeys

Read the three texts on the theme of kangaroos.

TEXT A

A newborn kangaroo is about the size of a jellybean. Blind and hairless, it crawls up through its mother's fur and into her pouch, where it drinks milk and keeps growing. After about six months it starts to poke its head out, and soon it hops out to explore.

TEXT B

Something wriggled in the pouch. Then a pair of huge ears popped out, followed by two shiny black eyes and a twitching nose. The joey stared at the world for a long moment, blinked, and dived back down head first, leaving only its long feet sticking out.

TEXT C

Many kangaroos are hit by cars at dawn and dusk. Please slow down when you drive through the bush at these times. If you find an injured kangaroo, call a wildlife rescue group, because there could be a joey in the pouch that needs help.

12. Which text gives facts about how a joey grows?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts A and B

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13. Which text asks readers to do something?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts A and C

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14. Which text is mainly written to make readers smile?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts B and C

Read this, then answer questions 15–17.

Fewer Nests

Each spring, Ranger Kim counts the shearwater nests on Bird Island. Ten years ago she counted 90 nests. This year she counted only 35. A visitor said, “There are plenty of birds, so there is nothing to worry about.” The number of nests has dropped by more than half, and Ranger Kim wants to find out why.

15. What does the last sentence show Ranger Kim wants to do?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Find out why the nests have dropped

○ **B** Count the nests again in ten years’ time

○ **C** Stop counting the nests

○ **D** Tell visitors there is nothing to worry about

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16. What do Ranger Kim's counts show?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** There are plenty of birds, so nothing is wrong.

○ **B** The number of nests has fallen a lot.

○ **C** The nests are bigger than before.

○ **D** The number of nests has risen.

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17. What is the main idea of this text?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Shearwater nests on Bird Island have dropped, and the ranger wants to know why.

○ **B** There were 90 nests ten years ago.

○ **C** Ranger Kim counts the nests each spring.

○ **D** A visitor thinks there is nothing to worry about.

Read this, then answer questions 18–20.



Forty-Seven Messages

I turn my tablet on at four
and the class group chat has 47 messages.
Forty-seven! Who has that much to say?
Half are thumbs-up emojis.
A third are “lol”.
Somewhere in there, Mr Singh
has written, “Excursion forms due Friday,”
but it's buried under six dancing cats
and an argument about whose turn it is to bring the ball.
I don't hate my friends.
I just wish the important bits
would wave a flag.
So I scroll, and scroll, and scroll,
and in the end I ring Mum
and ask her what's due on Friday.

18. What do the words ‘emojis’ and ‘lol’ show about the speaker's world?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Children chat online in quick, playful messages.

○ **B** The speaker writes letters to friends.

○ **C** Children there are not allowed to write sentences.

○ **D** The speaker finds spelling very hard.

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19. What does the speaker's last action imply?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** The speaker gave up searching and asked an adult.
- ○ **B** Mum wrote the message for Mr Singh.
- ○ **C** The speaker is leaving the class chat.
- ○ **D** The speaker found Mr Singh's message quickly among the others.

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20. The tone of the poem is best described as

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** calm and bored
- ○ **B** weary but good-humoured
- ○ **C** proud and boastful
- ○ **D** furious and cruel towards the class

Read this, then answer questions 21–23.

My First Nippers Day

I had never been so nervous in my life. The waves at the beach looked as tall as houses.

Coach Dimitri blew his whistle. 'Into the water, Nippers!' he called. 'Hold hands with your buddy.'

My buddy was Lily, who had done Nippers for two whole years. She grabbed my hand and grinned. 'Duck under the big ones,' she said. 'Like this!'

We ducked, we kicked, and we came up spluttering. By the time we ran back up the sand, I had almost forgotten to be scared. Lily gave me a high five. I didn't tell her my knees were still shaking.

21. Who is the narrator of this story?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** a storyteller who is not in the story
- ○ **B** a new Nipper, Lily's buddy
- ○ **C** Lily
- ○ **D** Coach Dimitri

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22. Who says, 'Duck under the big ones'?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Coach Dimitri

○ **B** the narrator

○ **C** Lily

○ **D** a lifesaver on the beach

23. What does the narrator know that Lily does not?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** You should duck under the big waves.

○ **B** Lily has done Nippers for two years.

○ **C** Coach Dimitri is cross with them.

○ **D** The narrator's knees were still shaking.

Read these texts, then answer questions 24–27.

The red rock

Read the three texts on the theme of Uluru.

TEXT A

Uluru is a huge rock in the desert of the Northern Territory. It is made of sandstone that contains iron. Over a very long time, the iron has reacted with the air, a little like a bike left out in the rain, and that is why the surface is a rusty red. At sunrise and sunset, sunlight passes through more of the air before it reaches the rock, so the light is redder, and Uluru seems to glow orange and deep red.

TEXT B

We reached the viewing area just as the sun slipped behind the dunes. Nobody spoke. The rock, which had looked brown and dusty all afternoon, began to burn, first orange and then a red so deep it was almost purple. Even my little brother, who never stays still for anything, stood with his mouth open. When the colour finally faded, I realised I had forgotten to take a single photo.

TEXT C

For the Anangu people, Uluru has been a sacred place for tens of thousands of years. Since 2019, visitors have not been allowed to climb it, and that was the right decision. A sacred place is not a playground. If you visit, walk around the base, listen to the Anangu guides and follow the signs that ask you not to take pictures of certain places. Showing respect costs nothing.

24. Which text gives a scientific reason for the colour of Uluru?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts A and B

25. Which text suggests that the writer was so amazed they forgot what they had planned to do?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts B and C

26. Which text tells readers how they ought to behave when they visit?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts A and C

27. Which texts describe the colours Uluru seems to turn at sunset?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Texts A and B ○ **B** Texts A and C ○ **C** Texts B and C

○ **D** All three texts

Read this, then answer questions 28–30.

The Echidna and the Fox

An echidna was snuffling for ants by the track,
When a red fox came trotting, the sun on his back.
'Dear friend,' he purred softly, a smile on his face,
'Why sit in the dust? Come and see my nice place.
There's shade by the creek, and the ants there are sweet.
Just follow, I'll lead you, and we'll have a treat.'

The echidna said nothing. She dug herself down
Till only her spines showed above the red ground.
The fox sniffed and circled. He pawed at a spine.
'Ow!' he yelped. 'Very well. I've no wish to dine.'
He slunk off at last, and the echidna stayed
Safe down in her hollow till daylight would fade.
So when a smooth stranger says, 'Trust me, come too,'
Stay safe where you are – as the echidna knew.

28. Which well-known saying best fits the poem's moral?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** Better safe than sorry.
- ○ **B** Every cloud has a silver lining.
- ○ **C** Strike while the iron is hot.
- ○ **D** A friend in need is a friend indeed.

29. The writer wants readers to think the echidna was

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** lucky that the fox had no wish to dine
- ○ **B** silly to miss the sweet ants by the creek
- ○ **C** wise to stay hidden and say nothing
- ○ **D** rude not to answer the fox

30. Which line states the moral of the poem?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** Till only her spines showed above the red ground.
- ○ **B** Stay safe where you are – as the echidna knew.
- ○ **C** He slunk off at last, and the echidna stayed
- ○ **D** Just follow, I'll lead you, and we'll have a treat.

Read this, then answer questions 31–35.





The Invitation

The invitation says, “Disco theme!”

with a glitter ball in pink and green.
I've read it eight times. It still says disco.
I like Ruby. I like her cake.
I like her dog, who thinks he's a person and sits at the table.
I do not like the part
where the music goes up and everyone
forms a circle, and somebody shouts,
“Go on, show us your moves!”
I have no moves. I have two feet
that disagree about which way to go.
Mum says, “Just say you're sick.”
But I can't. My face goes red
when I tell even small lies,
and Ruby would see it from across the room.
(I tried it once at Gran's. My sister still brings it up.)
So I'm learning one dance move
in the hallway, in my socks.
It looks a bit like a chicken
trying to be a helicopter.
It will have to do.

31. The tone of the poem is best described as

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** serious and gloomy from start to finish
- ○ **B** calm and confident
- ○ **C** humorous, with some worry underneath
- ○ **D** cruel and mocking

32. What does the last line, ‘It will have to do’, imply?

Circle one answer.

- ○ **A** The speaker has decided not to go.
- ○ **B** The speaker will teach the move to Ruby.
- ○ **C** The speaker will go and try anyway.
- ○ **D** The speaker is proud of the dance move.

33. The words ‘two feet that disagree about which way to go’ mainly suggest that the speaker

Circle one answer.

○ **A** has hurt one of their feet

○ **B** is lost on the way to the party

○ **C** feels awkward and uncoordinated when dancing

○ **D** enjoys arguing with other people at parties and discos

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34. What stops the speaker from following Mum's advice?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** The speaker blushes whenever telling even a small lie.

○ **B** The speaker is too excited about the disco.

○ **C** The speaker has already promised Ruby to dance in front of everybody.

○ **D** Mum has changed her mind about the party.

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35. What is the main reason the speaker dreads Ruby's party?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** the disco theme on the invitation

○ **B** being watched while dancing in a circle

○ **C** not liking Ruby or her cake

○ **D** Ruby's dog behaving like a person

Read these texts, then answer questions 36–38.

Busy bees

Read the three texts on the theme of bees.

TEXT A

Honey begins as nectar, a sugary liquid made inside flowers. A worker bee sucks up the nectar through its long, tube-like tongue and carries it back to the hive in a special pouch called a honey stomach. Inside the hive, other bees pass the nectar from mouth to mouth and pack it into the six-sided wax cells of the honeycomb. Because nectar is mostly water, the bees fan their wings over the cells to dry it out. When the honey is thick enough, they seal each cell with a lid of wax.

TEXT B

Our gardens should be full of bees, yet in many suburbs bees are struggling to find enough food. You can help. Plant flowers that bloom at different times of the year, so there is always something for bees to eat. Choose natives such as grevilleas and bottlebrush. Most importantly, stop spraying insect poison on your flowers, because it does not only kill pests. If every family planted one bee-friendly garden bed, our streets would buzz again!

TEXT C

By mid-morning the lavender hedge was alive. Bees rolled from blossom to blossom like tiny gold barrels, their legs heavy with yellow dust. The whole hedge hummed, a low and steady note, as though somebody had left an engine running under the leaves. Mia knelt on the warm path and held her breath. She had never seen anything so busy, or so careful, in all her life.

36. Which text explains, step by step, how bees turn nectar into honey?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts A and C

37. Which text tries to get readers to change what they do in their own gardens?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts A and B

38. Which text shows a sense of wonder at the bees?

Circle one answer.

○ **A** Text A ○ **B** Text B ○ **C** Text C

○ **D** Texts B and C

Answer key

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1. B — The speaker is in a grumpy mood.
The text says: “with a tablet and a sulk.” A sulk is a grumpy mood, and the speaker carries it up the tree with the tablet. The speaker is in a grumpy mood.

2. A — There is no Wi-Fi for the tablet.
The text says: “Nan's house has no Wi-Fi. None. Not even one bar.” The first two lines are about Wi-Fi and the speaker keeps holding up the tablet. The speaker dislikes the house because it has no Wi-Fi.

3. C — The speaker is used to being online.
The text says: “I held my tablet up to the window.” The speaker holds the tablet up to hunt for Wi-Fi bars, so the speaker is used to being online.

4. A — The speaker is busy watching the lorikeet.
The text says: “Then a lorikeet landed beside me and looked at me, head on one side, and I forgot to check for bars.” The lorikeet lands and looks at the speaker, and then the speaker forgets about the bars. The speaker is watching the lorikeet.

5. C — She finds a way instead of giving up.
The text says: “She did not give up. She looked around and found a long, fallen branch. She leaned it against the trunk, like a ladder, and climbed it, step by step. Soon she was among the leaves, munching happily, with a plan that had worked.” The text says ‘She did not give up’ and shows her clever plan. The writer admires that Kiki finds a way instead of giving up.

6. C — She used something nearby in a clever way.
The text says: “She did not give up. She looked around and found a long, fallen branch. She leaned it against the trunk, like a ladder, and climbed it, step by step.” She found a fallen branch and used it as a ladder. She used something nearby in a clever way.

7. A — Where there’s a will, there’s a way.
The text says: “She did not give up. She looked around and found a long, fallen branch. She leaned it against the trunk, like a ladder, and climbed it, step by step. Soon she was among the leaves, munching happily, with a plan that had worked.” Kiki did not give up, and she found a way to climb. ‘Where there’s a will, there’s a way’ matches the story.

8. C — He is being silly and bossy.
The narrator says 'Silly Magpie' and that there is 'plenty of room for everyone'. The narrator thinks he is being silly and bossy.

9. C — Silly Magpie.
'Go away!' is Magpie talking, and 'thought every tree… was his' is Magpie's idea. 'Silly Magpie.' is the narrator's opinion.

10. C — So the laugh is a way of marking their home.
‘So’ begins the sentence that sums up the others: the laugh marks the kookaburras' home. ‘A kookaburra's laugh can be heard at dawn and at dusk.’ is in the text, but it is not what the question asks for.

11. C — A Laugh That Says Keep Away
The title must say what the laugh is for. ‘Dawn and Dusk’ is only about when the laugh is heard, and ‘Birds of the Bush’ is too big: the text is only about the kookaburra's laugh.

12. A — Text A
Text A gives facts in order: a newborn is 'about the size of a jellybean', it drinks milk in the pouch, and 'After about six months' it pokes its head out. Text C says 'joey' too, but it is asking drivers for help.

13. C — Text C
Text C says, 'Please slow down' and 'call a wildlife rescue group'. It asks readers to act.

14. B — Text B

Text B is funny: the joey 'dived back down head first, leaving only its long feet sticking out'. Text C is serious; it is about injured kangaroos.

15. A — Find out why the nests have dropped

The last sentence says she ‘wants to find out why’ the number has dropped. Counting nests is what she has already done, and the visitor is the one who says not to worry.

16. B — The number of nests has fallen a lot.

Ninety nests ten years ago and only 35 now is a big drop. The visitor's opinion does not change the counts. ‘There are plenty of birds, so nothing is wrong.’ is only what one person in the text says.

17. A — Shearwater nests on Bird Island have dropped, and the ranger wants to know why.

The counts show a big drop and the last sentence says Ranger Kim wants to find out why. ‘Ranger Kim counts the nests each spring.’ is in the text, but it is not what the question asks for.

18. A — Children chat online in quick, playful messages.

The text says: “Half are thumbs-up emojis. A third are “lol”.” Emojis and ‘lol’ belong to online messages. The speaker's world is full of quick, playful online chat.

19. A — The speaker gave up searching and asked an adult.

The text says: “So I scroll, and scroll, and scroll, and in the end I ring Mum and ask her what's due on Friday.” After scrolling ‘and scroll, and scroll’, the speaker rings Mum to ask what is due. The speaker gave up searching and asked an adult.

20. B — weary but good-humoured

The text says: “Forty-seven! Who has that much to say? … I don't hate my friends.” The speaker jokes about the chat and says ‘I don’t hate my friends’. The tone is weary but good-humoured.

21. B — a new Nipper, Lily's buddy

The narrator says 'I had never been so nervous' and 'My buddy was Lily'. So the narrator is Lily's buddy, a new Nipper, not Lily or the coach.

22. C — Lily

Lily 'grabbed my hand and grinned', then 'Duck under the big ones,' she said. 'She' is Lily. The coach spoke earlier, about holding hands.

23. D — The narrator's knees were still shaking.

'I didn't tell her my knees were still shaking.' Lily gives a high five, but she doesn't know this. Lily already knows how long she has done Nippers and how to duck the waves.

24. A — Text A

Text A gives the reason: the sandstone 'contains iron', and the iron has reacted with the air, 'and that is why the surface is a rusty red'. Text B shows the colours but never says why they happen.

25. B — Text B

Text B says, 'I realised I had forgotten to take a single photo.' People usually plan to take photos on a trip, so the writer must have been too amazed to remember. Text C mentions pictures, but only in a rule for visitors.

26. C — Text C

Text C speaks to visitors: 'If you visit, walk around the base, listen to the Anangu guides and follow the signs.' Text B is about a visit, but it tells a story; it doesn't tell readers what to do.

27. A — Texts A and B

Text A says Uluru seems to 'glow orange and deep red', and Text B says it turns 'first orange and then a red so deep it was almost purple'. Text C never mentions colours.

28. A — Better safe than sorry.

The echidna 'dug herself down' instead of following the fox, and the poem ends 'Stay safe where you are'. 'A friend in need' only shares the fox's word 'friend'.

29. C — wise to stay hidden and say nothing
The poem ends, 'Stay safe where you are – as the echidna knew.' The writer holds her up as wise. The sweet ants and 'no wish to dine' are only the fox's words.

30. B — Stay safe where you are – as the echidna knew.
'Stay safe where you are' tells the reader how to act. The other lines describe events, or are the fox's tricky words.

31. C — humorous, with some worry underneath
The text says: “I have no moves. I have two feet … But I can't. My face goes red … trying to be a helicopter.” The jokes are funny, but the speaker is clearly nervous about being watched. The tone is humorous with some worry underneath.

32. C — The speaker will go and try anyway.
The text says: “trying to be a helicopter. It will have to do.” ‘Will have to do’ means it is not perfect, but good enough, so the speaker is still going. The speaker will go and try anyway.

33. C — feels awkward and uncoordinated when dancing
The text says: “I have no moves. I have two feet that disagree about which way to go.” Feet that ‘disagree’ cannot move together, which is a joke about having no moves. The speaker feels awkward and uncoordinated when dancing.

34. A — The speaker blushes whenever telling even a small lie.
The text says: “But I can't. My face goes red when I tell even small lies, and Ruby would see it from across the room.” ‘My face goes red when I tell even small lies’ and Ruby would see it. The speaker cannot lie without blushing.

35. B — being watched while dancing in a circle
The text says: “I do not like the part where the music goes up and everyone forms a circle, and somebody shouts, “Go on, show us your moves!”” The speaker likes Ruby, her cake and her dog, but not the part where everyone shouts ‘show us your moves’. The speaker dreads being watched while dancing in a circle.

36. A — Text A
Text A gives the steps in order: the bee 'sucks up the nectar', other bees 'pack it into the six-sided wax cells', they 'fan their wings' to dry it, then 'seal each cell'. Text C shows bees at work but never explains how honey is made.

37. B — Text B
Text B speaks to the reader: 'You can help', 'Plant flowers', 'stop spraying insect poison'. Text A only gives facts; it doesn't ask anyone to do anything.

38. C — Text C
In Text C, Mia 'held her breath' and 'had never seen anything so busy, or so careful'. That is wonder. Text B shows worry ('struggling'), not wonder.