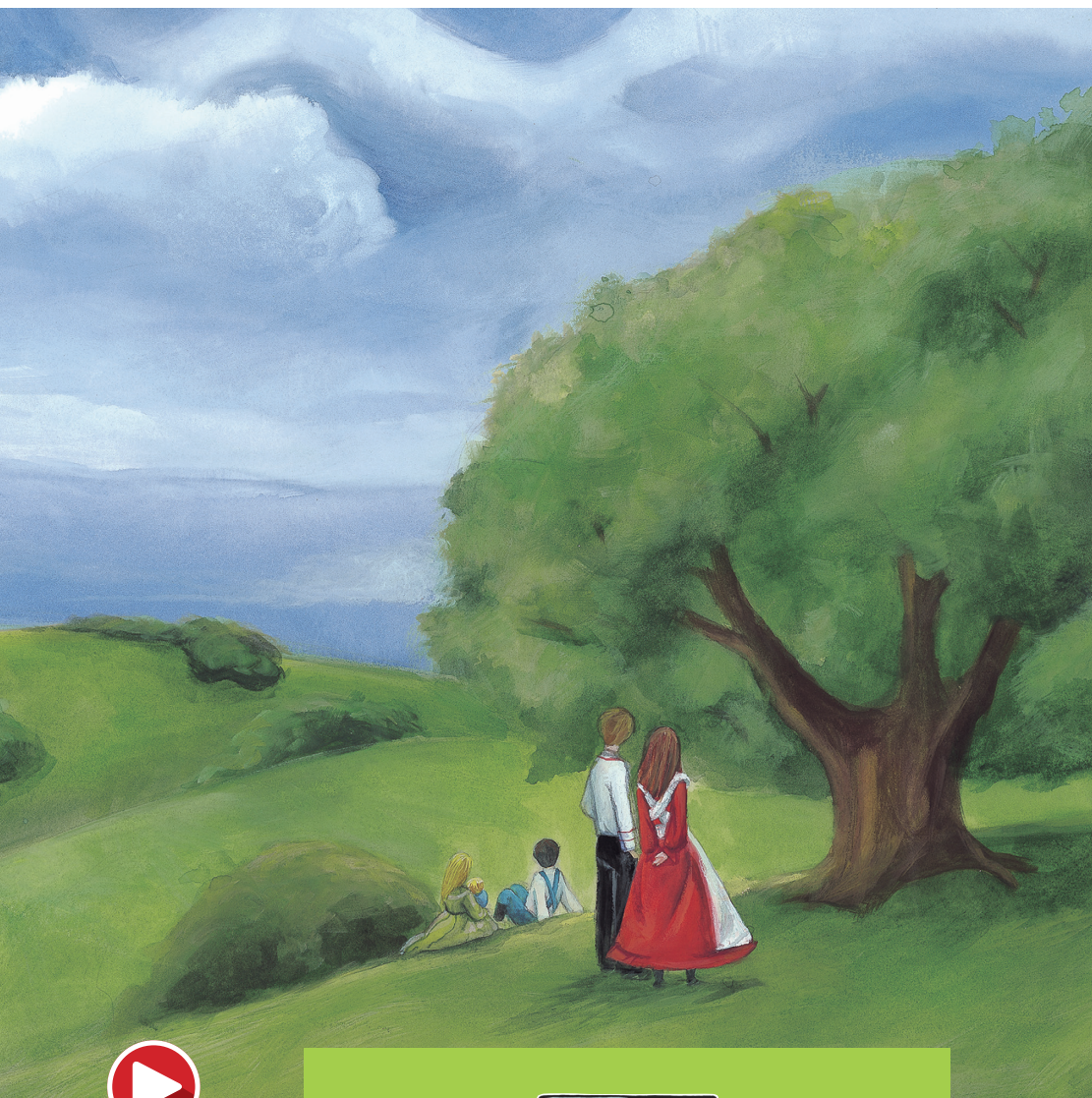




Five Children and IT

E. Nesbit



free Audiobook



Green  Apple

E. Nesbit

Five Children and **IT**

Retold by Cheryl Thompson



Illustrated by Chiara Fedele



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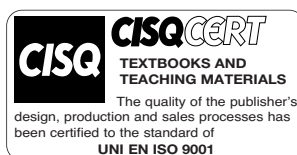
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The text is recorded in full.



These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the extracts linked to the listening activities.



E. Nesbit.

About the Author

Name: Edith Nesbit

Born: 15 August 1858, in London.

Family: In 1880 she marries Hubert Bland and has one son.

Early books: *The Story of the Treasure Seekers* (1899);
Five Children and It (1902).

Additional information: At 17 Edith publishes her first book of poems using the name E. Nesbit. A lot of people think she is a man. She becomes famous for her children's stories. Her home becomes a centre for other writers such as H. G. Wells and George Bernard Shaw.

Other books: *The Phoenix and the Carpet* (1904), *The New Treasure Seekers* (1904), *The Railway Children* (1906) and *The Enchanted Castle* (1907). *The Railway Children* is also a film.

Dies: 4 May 1924 in Kent, south-east England.

The Characters



Cyril



Anthea



Jane



Robert



Martha



Beale



Mother



Lamb



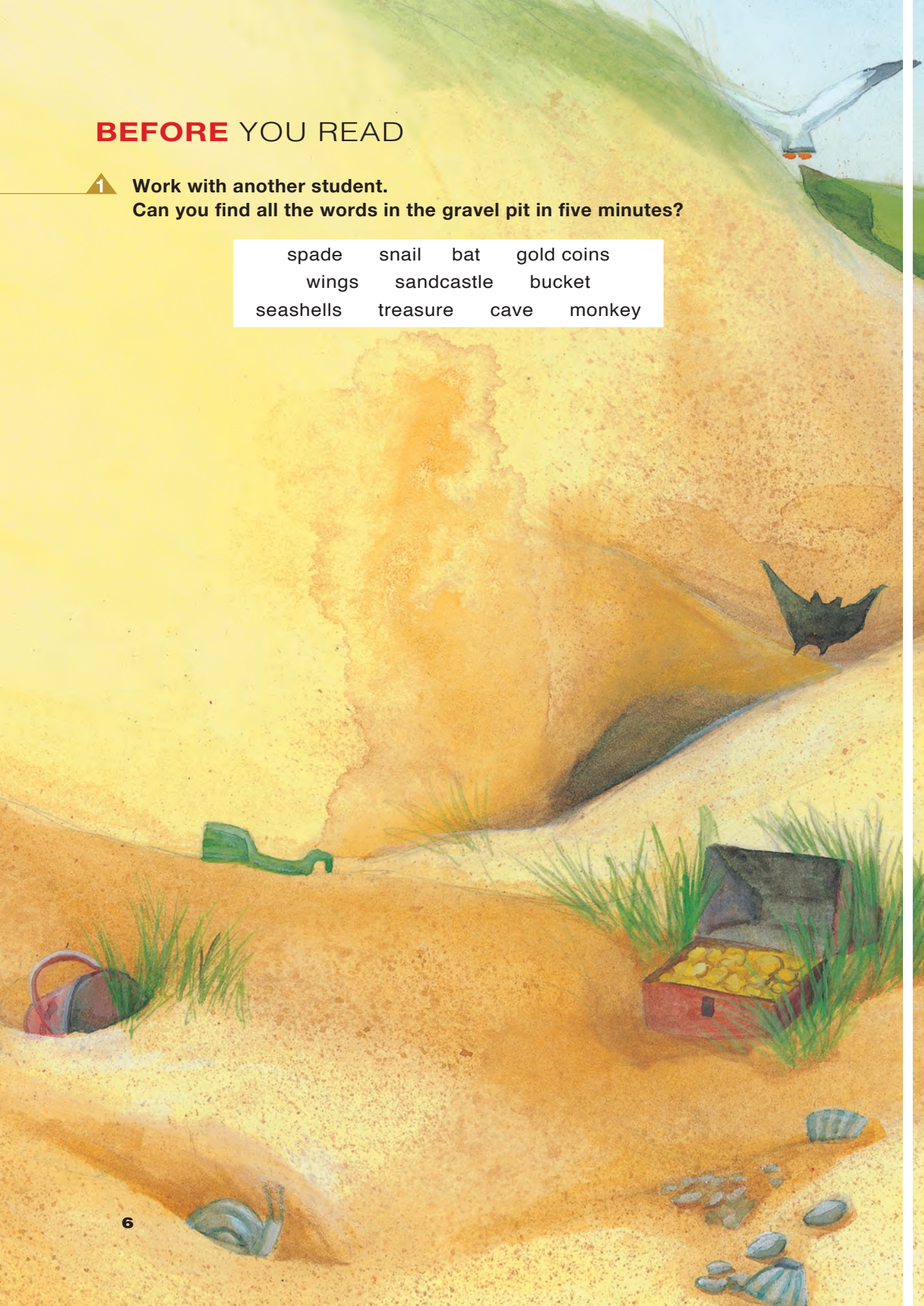
Father

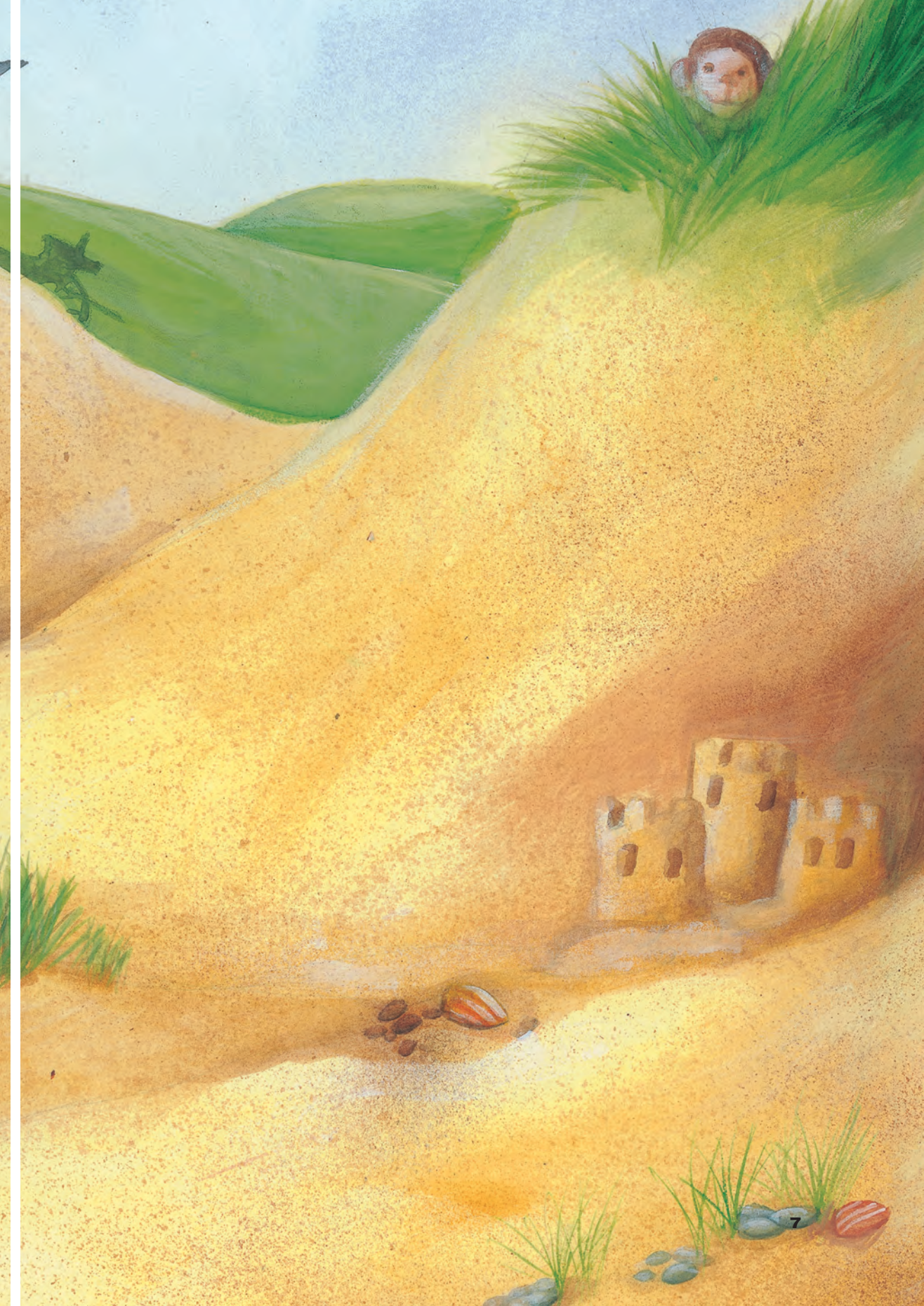
BEFORE YOU READ

1 Work with another student.

Can you find all the words in the gravel pit in five minutes?

spade	snail	bat	gold coins
wings	sandcastle	bucket	
seashells	treasure	cave	monkey





The SAND FAIRY

It is the school holidays. Five children are travelling to a house in the country with their mother and father and their nanny.¹ They look out of the window.

‘Are we there?’ asks Anthea.

‘Is this the house?’ asks Jane, her little sister.

‘Is that the house?’ ask their brothers, Cyril and Robert together.

‘No, it isn’t,’ says their mother impatiently.

Suddenly, at the top of the hill, they see a beautiful, white house. It has a big garden and lovely trees.

‘That’s our house,’ says their mother.

The children are all happy. They live in London and there is nowhere like this to play in a big city.

A few days later their father goes away on business, and their mother goes to visit their grandmother because she is ill. The five children are all alone with their nanny, Martha.

They become bored and so they decide to go and play in the gravel pit near the house. They want to have an adventure.

‘Let’s go and play in the gravel pit,’ says Cyril. ‘We can bring our buckets and spades so it’s like the seaside.’

1. **nanny** : this person’s job is to look after children.



Five Children and IT

‘Yes, and we can dig ¹ holes in the sand. Maybe we can find some treasure,’ says Anthea.

‘Good idea,’ says Robert. ‘Let’s take the Lamb.’ They call their baby brother ‘the Lamb’ ² because he only says ‘Baa!’, like a sheep.

The gravel pit is very big. At first the children build a sand castle. Then they decide to dig a hole to Australia. They dig and dig until their hands are hot and red. The sand at the bottom of the hole is soft and dry. It is like the sand you find at the seaside.

The Lamb is sleeping near them.

‘Look!’ cries Jane. ‘There are little seashells here.’

‘Cyril, come here!’ Anthea suddenly cries. ‘It’s alive! Quickly!’

Cyril, Robert and Jane run to Anthea.

‘What is it?’ they ask excitedly.

‘I don’t know, but it has feet and fur,’ ³ cries Anthea. ‘Keep digging.’

Suddenly the children hear a voice in the sand. ‘Leave me alone,’ says the voice. The children are scared so they jump back.

‘Who are you?’ asks Robert bravely. ‘We want to see you.’

‘Yes,’ cries Anthea. ‘Please come out.’

‘Oh, alright,’ says the voice.

Then something brown, fat and furry comes out of the hole.

The children look at the strange creature. It has the eyes of a snail. They move in and out of its head. It has the ears of a bat, the hands and feet of a monkey, and the body of a spider.

‘What is it?’ says Jane. ‘Can we take it home?’

The creature looks at her and says, ‘Do you always say silly ⁴ things?’

‘She doesn’t want to say silly things,’ says Anthea trying to be nice to the creature. ‘Please, don’t be scared. We don’t want to hurt you.’

‘Hurt me,’ it says. ‘Me, scared. Do you know who I am?’

1. **dig** : make a hole in the ground.

2. **lamb** : a baby sheep.

3. **fur** : thick hair on an animal.

4. **silly** : stupid.





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‘Don’t be angry with us,’ says Anthea. ‘Who are you? Please tell us.’
‘I’m a Psammead,’ he says slowly, thinking they are a little stupid.
‘A Sammyadd? What’s that?’ asks Anthea, trying to repeat his name.

‘A Psammead is a sand fairy. Don’t you know what sand fairies are?’

‘We don’t know anything about sand fairies,’ says Jane.

The Psammead shakes his head, amazed.

‘Well,’ it says, ‘you don’t see many sand fairies now. It’s such a long time ago since...’ it begins sadly, and then it stops.

‘Are there any dinosaurs?’

‘Dinosaurs? Of course not,’ they all reply.

‘What do you eat?’ it asks, ‘...no nice dinosaur meat or hot dinosaur soup for dinner? Oh, I’m too old for this world.’

‘But, what are you doing here in the gravel pit?’ asks Anthea.

‘I don’t know myself,’ says the sand fairy. ‘Sand fairies live in the sand but we like to stay dry and so I always make my house at the beach because it’s dry there. But now I’m here and the sea is far away and there isn’t a beach any more, just this gravel pit.’

‘Oh!’ say the children, a little surprised.

‘Are you magic like other fairies?’ asks Robert. ‘Can you grant wishes?’¹

‘What a question! Of course I can grant wishes. I’m a sand fairy. What do you want?’

‘I don’t know. How do we make a wish?’ asks Robert.

‘Like everyone of course,’ replies the Psammead. ‘You just say, ‘I wish...’ and then you make your wish. But be quick! I’m tired of your questions.’

1. **grant wishes** : give something to a person that they secretly want.

UNDERSTANDING THE TEXT

KET

1

COMPREHENSION

Are these sentences 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B). If there is not enough information to answer 'Right' (A) or 'Wrong' (B), choose 'Doesn't say' (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

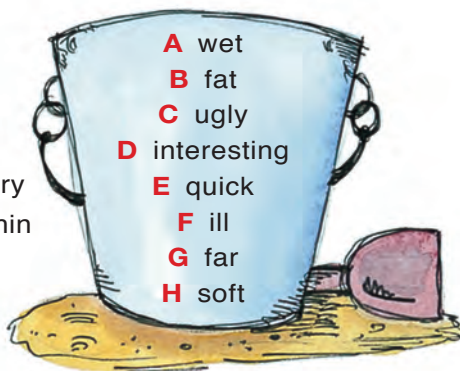
- | | | | | |
|---|--|---------|----------------|---------------|
| 0 | The five children are going to a beautiful, white house in the city. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 1 | The children's adventures start at a gravel pit. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 2 | They want to dig a hole to Austria. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 3 | Cyril is almost ten years old. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 4 | Anthea finds a strange creature in the gravel pit. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 5 | The sea is about 200 kilometres away. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |
| 6 | The sand fairy has no magic powers. | A Right | B Wrong | C Doesn't say |

2

VOCABULARY

Find the opposite of these words in the bucket.

- | | | | |
|--------|-------------|----------|--------|
| 1 hard | 2 well | 3 near | 4 dry |
| 5 slow | 6 beautiful | 7 boring | 8 thin |



KET

3

WRITING

Imagine you are Anthea. Complete this postcard to your friend, Harriet. Write one word in each space (1-10).

Dear Harriet,

I'm here in (0).....the..... country with (1)..... brothers and sister. We're staying (2)..... a beautiful white house and you're never going to guess our news!

There's a gravel pit and we take (3)..... buckets and spades there. It's just like the seaside! We (4)..... having a real adventure, like the ones you read about in books. I really want you to be (5)..... with us. There's a

strange creature (6)..... the gravel pit. It's (7)..... sand fairy! It's old I think and it's not very friendly. Do you know that sand fairies (8)..... grant wishes? I must think of a really good one. Tell your mother you want (9)..... come to visit (10)..... .

Love Anthea

T: GRADE 2

4

Topic – family and friends

Describe your best friend or a member of your family to another student. Describe what they look like, what they do, etc.

5

SPEAKING

Look again at page 11 and describe the children. Now look at the photos below and describe the people below.



6

Think of a famous person and describe him or her. Do not say his or her name! Can the class guess who you are talking about?

BEFORE YOU READ

1

Look at the picture on page 16. Who can you see? Compare them to the children on page 11.

2

What happens next? What do you think their first wish is?

- A ☐ to be very beautiful
- B ☐ to have more money than the Queen
- C ☐ to be rich and successful