

# Reading comprehension: test 1

**Time: 30 minutes (both parts)**

## Part 1: The Sheep Pig

■ Read the extract then answer the questions.

By dark it was plain to Farmer Hogget that, whether he liked it or no, Fly had not four, but five children.

All the long summer evening Babe had followed Fly about the yard and buildings, aimlessly, it seemed to the watching farmer, though of course this was not the case. It was in fact a conducted tour. Fly knew that if this foster-child was to be allowed his freedom and the constant reassurance of her company for which he obviously craved, he must quickly learn (and patently he was a quick learner) his way about the place; and that he must be taught, as her puppies had been taught, how to behave like a good dog.

‘A pig you may be, Babe,’ she had begun by saying, ‘but if you do as I tell you, I shouldn’t be a bit surprised if the boss doesn’t let you run about with us, instead of shutting you up. He’s a kind man, the boss is.’

‘I knew that,’ said Babe, ‘when he first picked me up. I could feel it. I knew he wouldn’t hurt me.’

‘You wait...’ began one of the puppies, and then stopped suddenly at his mother’s warning growl. Though she said nothing, all four of her children knew immediately by instinct what she meant.

‘Wait for what?’ said Babe.

‘Er... you wait half a tick, and we’ll take you round and show you everything,’ said the first puppy hastily. ‘Won’t we Mum?’

So babe was shown all round the yard and the farm buildings, and introduced to the creatures who lived thereabouts, the ducks and chickens and other poultry, and the farm cats. He saw no sheep, for they were all in the fields.

Even in the first hour he learned a number of useful lessons, as the puppies had learned before him: that cats scratch and hens peck, that turning your back on the

*Text extract © 1985, Dick King-Smith (1985, Puffin)*

### L3.1 Transitional assessment

turkey-cock means getting your bottom bitten, that chicks are not for chasing and eggs are not for eating.

‘You do as I do,’ said Fly, ‘and you’ll be all right.’

She thought for a moment. ‘There is one thing though, Babe,’ she said, and she looked across at the back door of the farmhouse, ‘if I go in there, you stay outside and wait for me, understand?’

‘Aren’t pigs allowed in there?’ asked Babe.

‘Not live ones,’ said one of the puppies, but he said it under his breath.

‘No, dear,’ said Fly. Well, not yet anyway, she thought, but the way you’re going on, I shouldn’t be surprised at anything. Funny, she thought, I feel really proud of him, he learns so quick. Quick as any sheep-dog.

That night the loose-box in which Babe had first been put was empty. In the next-door one, all six animals slept in the straw together. Though he did not tell his wife, Farmer Hogget had not had the heart to shut the piglet away, so happy was it in the company of the dogs.

At first the puppies had not been equally happy at the idea.

‘Mum!’ they said. ‘He’ll wet the bed!’

‘Nonsense,’ said Fly. ‘If you want to do anything, dear, you go outside, there’s a good boy.’

I nearly said ‘there’s a good pup’ she thought. Whatever next!

In fact, in the days that followed, Babe became so doglike, what with coming when Fly came and sitting when Fly sat and much preferring dog’s food to anything else he was offered, that Farmer Hogget caught himself half expecting, when he patted the piglet, that it would wag its tail. He would not have been surprised if it had tried to accompany Fly when he called her to go with him on his morning rounds, but it had stayed in the stables, playing with the puppies.

Taken from: *The Sheep Pig* by Dick King-Smith

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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### The Sheep Pig questions

1. Who was Fly's fifth child?

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

2. What kind of animal was Babe?

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

3. What did Fly want to teach Babe?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

4. What do the words 'and patently he was a fast learner' tell us about Babe?

Tick ✓

- Babe was very patient
- Babe found learning difficult
- Babe was obviously a quick learner
- Babe liked learning

1 mark

5. How did Babe know the Farmer was a kind man?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

6. Why did the puppy who was saying 'You wait...' stop?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

7. What do the words 'by instinct' tell us about the puppies?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

**L3.1**  Transitional assessment

Name	Date
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8. Do you think the puppies were pleased to show Babe around the farmyard?

Tick ✓

Yes

No

Why?

2 marks

9. What helpful things did Babe find out?

Tick ✓

Cats scratch

Hens bite your bottom

Eggs are not for eating

Don't chase chicks

Male turkeys are good to play with

2 marks

10. What did the puppy mean by the words 'not live ones'?

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2 marks

**L3.1**  Transitional assessment

Name	Date
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11. Why did Fly think that Babe might one day be allowed to go inside the farmhouse?

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1 mark

12. Why did Farmer Hogget not shut Babe in the loose-box?

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1 mark

13. Do you think Farmer Hogget is impressed with Babe?

Tick ✓

Yes

No

Why?

2 marks

**End of part 1**

**Part 2: Green Valley Farm Visitor Centre**

■ Read the extract then answer the questions.

# Green Valley Farm

## Visitor Centre

**Adventure Play Area**  
**Large Climbing Frame**  
**Nets and Ropes**  
**Tunnels**  
**Swings & Slides**

### Pigs

Pigs give us meat, including ham, bacon and pork. They are very intelligent animals and learn quickly. They dislike the heat and roll in the mud to keep cool and even like swimming! A pig will eat almost anything. Pigs can run a mile in 7 minutes.

### Cows

Cows are kept for the milk they produce. Most of the milk we drink comes from cows. We also get meat (beef) from cows. A female is called a cow and a male is called a bull. A cow drinks about 30 gallons of water a day.

### Sheep

Sheep are kept for their wool and for their meat. A female sheep is called a ewe and a male is called a ram. Sheep are social animals and often live in hilly areas. They protect themselves from predators by staying in large flocks.

### Chickens

Female chickens are called hens. They lay eggs throughout their lives. Hens need to have a private nest, in which they can lay their eggs. She builds her nest by first scratching a hole in the ground. She will then pick up twigs and leaves to put around the hole.

**Open daily: 9am to 5pm**

**Adults: £5.75 • Children: £3.25**

**Family Ticket: £16**

**Animal Feeding: 10am and 2pm**

Green Valley Lane, Blacktown, Herefordshire HY6 3UT **Tel: 0432 333336** [www.greenvalley.co.uk](http://www.greenvalley.co.uk)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### Green Valley Farm Visitor Centre questions

14. When could you go to Green Valley Farm Visitor Centre?

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

15. Where would I find information on the Internet about Green Valley Farm?

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

16. Fill in this table correctly.

	True	False
Cows drink about 60 gallons of water daily		
We get beef from cows		
Pigs love being warm		
Pigs can run a seven minute mile		
Sheep like being together		
Chickens do not lay eggs when they get older		

2 marks

17. What has the author done to make it easier to find the information about each animal?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

18. Which words tell us that a pig is an easy animal to train?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 marks

19. If I had a farm in a mountainous area, which animal would you suggest keeping?

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark

**L3.1**  **Transitional assessment**

Name	Date
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20. Would you like to visit Green Valley Farm?

Tick ✓

Yes

No

Why?

2 marks

**End of test**