**Read the extract and complete the tasks below:**

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|  | Arthur and the Sword in the Stone  The legend of King Arthur dates back to Anglo-Saxon times. There may have once been a leader called Arthur but over thousands of years the story has been added to and we can’t be sure which parts are fact and which are fiction. Here is the story of how Arthur became king:  Sadness descended over Britain as news spread of the death of King Uther. But after the sadness, quickly came anger and arguments about who should be the next king. None of the powerful knights or nobles knew about Uther’s son, Arthur, who had been sent away to keep him safe from attacking Saxon armies.  Fights raged for many months until one freezing morning when the frost covered the trees like a crystal white blanket, a great stone appeared. It lay in front of the ancient church of St Paul and thrust deep into the stone was a glittering sword. When the knights came closer, they could read a message carved into the shining metal of the blade saying, “Whoever pulls this sword from the stone is the rightful King of England.”  Many times they tried to wrench the sword from the stone. They tugged and heaved and strained with all their might. But it was no use. The sword would not budge for any of them.  Years passed and young Arthur was dashing through the city, looking for a sword. His foster brother Kay was due to fight in a competition but had lost his sword. Suddenly, Arthur’s eyes fell upon the stone, the metal of the sword glistening in the early morning sunlight. He stepped towards the sword, fallen leaves crunching under his steady footsteps. Reaching out, he clasped the jewelled handle of the weapon and pulled. The sword slid out like a knife gliding through butter. |  |

1. Why didn’t people know who should be the next king?

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1. Where was the sword in the stone?

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1. What time of year did the sword appear? Explain how you can tell.

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1. Why do you think that the sword in the stone might have appeared?

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1. The author uses lots of other words for ‘pulled’. List the ones that you can find:

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1. Was it easy or hard for Arthur to pull the sword out? Explain how you know.

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1. Why you think Arthur was able to pull the sword out when all the other men couldn’t?

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**Read the extract and complete the tasks below:**

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|  | Viking Myths  *Vikings loved to tell stories and recite poems. Lots of their stories are about the Norse gods. Here is one called “Loki’s children”:*  The Norse God of mischief Loki and the Giantess Angroboda had three monstrous children. The eldest was the wolf Fenrir; the second was Jormungand, greatest of serpents; and the third was a daughter called Hel. Hel's looks were quite likely to single her out. Although most of her body was normal, from her hips down, every inch of Hel's skin looked decayed and greenish-black. Her expression was always the same: gloomy, lazy and selfish.  "Expect nothing from them but the worst," one of the gods said. "Expect them to harm you and endanger you.” And so the gods agreed that Loki's children must be captured. So a group of gods crossed by night into Jotunheim, the world of the giants. They burst into Angroboda's hall, gagging and binding her and they then kidnapped her children and carried them back to Asgard, the home of the gods.  The god Odin was in no doubt as to what should be done with the serpent. He picked up Jormungand and hurled him into the ocean surrounding Midgard, the world of men. Jormungand hurtled through the air smashing through the iron face of the water. There he lived and there he grew.  Odin was just as sure what to do about the serpent's sister. He took one look at Hel and hurled her out of Asgard down into the mist and darkness of Niflheim, the world beneath the worlds. As she fell she heard Odin's order that she should look after the dead, all those in the nine worlds who died of illness or old age.  Fenrir was dealt with as well, but that’s another story . . . |  |

1. Give the names of Loki’s 3 children.

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1. Where were the children taken to when they were captured?

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1. Read the sentence about Jormungand being thrown into the water. Is he travelling quickly or slowly? How do you know?

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1. Describe Hel’s looks and personality in your own words:

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1. Why do you think Odin punished Hel by making her look after people?

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1. How do you think Loki and Angroboda felt when their children were taken away?

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1. What do you think might happen to Fenrir?

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**Read the extract then complete the tasks below.**

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|  | James didn’t think twice. He sprang over the side of his car, pressed the electric starter and wrenched it into reverse gear. As the engine exploded into life the young man stopped briefly, then broke into a run.  James released the handbrake and the car leapt backwards, seeming to tear at the ground in its eagerness to be off. He pressed his foot down on the accelerator and headed straight for the young man, who jumped aside, slipping and sliding into the gutter.  James stamped on the brake and the car slid to a halt. Quick as he could he pressed the clutch and jostled the gear lever into first. The young man was back on his feet, though, and he made a grab for the car, just managing to get a grip on the top of the doorframe with his fingertips.  James accelerated and as the car pulled forward the man yelped and let go.  James didn’t stay to watch. He careered down the street and pulled left on to the main road, the back of the car slewing round into a skid. He steered into it and goosed the accelerator just enough to regain control. Once he had straightened up he changed gear and roared off, a line of startled cyclists pulling over to the side to let him pass, the rasping scream of his engine echoing off the shop fronts.  from *Double or Die*, Charlie Higson |  |

1. Which verb from the first paragraph suggests that James Bond’s actions were urgent?

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1. Choose 5 other words from the whole extract that suggest urgency.



1. Choose one of these words and explain in detail how they add excitement/suggest urgency.

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1. James Bond is referred to as ‘James’ while his enemy is not named. Why do you think the writer has chosen not to name the adversary?

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1. “…the car leapt backwards, seeming to tear at the ground in its eagerness to be off.” Which word here has connotations of destruction?

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1. “..he changed gear and roared off…” Does the verb ‘roared’ make the car sound more or less powerful? Explain your answer.

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**Read the extract and complete the tasks below:**Diagon Alley

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|  | Harry had never been to London before. Although Hagrid seemed to know where he was going, he was obviously not used to getting there in an ordinary way. He got stuck in the ticket barrier on the Underground, and complained loudly that the seats were too small and the trains too slow. "I don't know how the Muggles manage without magic," he said as they climbed a broken-down escalator that led up to a bustling road lined with shops.  Hagrid was so huge that he parted the crowd easily; all Harry had to do was keep close behind him. They passed book shops and music stores, hamburger restaurants and cinemas, but nowhere that looked as if it could sell you a magic wand. This was just an ordinary street full of ordinary people. Could there really be piles of wizard gold buried miles beneath them? Were there really shops that sold spell books and broomsticks? Might this not all be some huge joke that the Dursleys had cooked up?  If Harry hadn't known that the Dursleys had no sense of humour, he might have thought so. Yet somehow, even though everything Hagrid had told him so far was unbelievable, Harry couldn't help trusting him. "This is it," said Hagrid, coming to a halt, "the Leaky Cauldron. It's a famous place."   For a famous place, it was very dark and shabby. A few old women were sitting in a corner, drinking tiny glasses of sherry. One of them was smoking a long pipe. A little man in a top hat was talking to the old bartender, who was quite bald and looked like a toothless walnut. The low buzz of chatter stopped when they walked in. Everyone seemed to know Hagrid; they waved and smiled at him, and the bartender reached for a glass, saying, "The usual, Hagrid?"  "Can't, Tom, I'm on Hogwarts business," said Hagrid, clapping his great hand on Harry's shoulder and making Harry's knees buckle.  "Good Lord," said the bartender, peering at Harry, "is this? Can this be?" The Leaky Cauldron had suddenly gone completely still and silent. "Bless my soul," whispered the old bartender, "Harry Potter... what an honour." He hurried out from behind the bar, rushed toward Harry and seized his hand, tears in his eyes. "Welcome back, Mr. Potter, welcome back!" Harry didn't know what to say. Everyone was looking at him. The old woman with the pipe was puffing on it without realizing it had gone out.  Hagrid was beaming. Then there was a great scraping of chairs and the next moment, Harry found himself shaking hands with everyone in the Leaky Cauldron. "Doris Crockford, Mr. Potter, can't believe I'm meeting you at last."  "So proud, Mr. Potter, I'm just so proud."  "Always wanted to shake your hand, I'm all of a flutter."  "Delighted, Mr. Potter; just can't tell you, Diggle's the name, Dedalus Diggle."  "I've seen you before!" said Harry, as Dedalus Diggle's top hat fell off in his excitement. "You bowed to me once in a shop."  "He remembers!" cried Dedalus Diggle, looking around at everyone. "Did you hear that? He remembers me!" Harry shook hands again and again; Doris Crockford kept coming back for more.  A pale young man made his way forward, very nervously. One of his eyes was twitching. "Professor Quirrell!" said Hagrid. "Harry, Professor Quirrell will be one of your teachers at Hogwarts."  "P-P-Potter," stammered Professor Quirrell, grasping Harry's hand, "c-can't t-tell you how p- pleased I am to meet you." "What sort of magic do you teach, Professor Quirrell." "D-Defense Against the D-D-Dark Arts," muttered Professor Quirrell, as though he'd rather not think about it. "N-not that you n-need it, eh, P-P-Potter?" He laughed nervously. "You'll be g-getting all your equipment, I suppose. I've g-got to p-pick up a new b-book on vampires, m-myself." He looked terrified at the very thought.  But the others wouldn't let Professor Quirrell keep Harry to himself. It took almost ten minutes to get away from them all. At last, Hagrid managed to make himself heard over the babble. "Must get on -- lots ter buy. Come on, Harry." Doris Crockford shook Harry's hand one last time, and Hagrid led them through the bar and out into a small, walled courtyard, where there was nothing but a trash can and a few weeds.  Hagrid grinned at Harry. "Told yeh, didn't I? Told yeh you was famous.” |  |

1. What did Hagrid complain about on the way to London?

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1. What types of shop did Harry and Hagrid pass on their way through London?

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1. What is the name of the pub they enter before going to Diagon Alley?

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1. What does the bartender look like?

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1. Who has Harry met before? Can you explain why Harry remembers him?

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1. What magical items are mentioned in this extract? (Hint: there are at least 8)

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1. What impression do you get of Professor Quirrell from this extract? Use quotes to illustrate your answer.

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