

# Reading Booklet

Year 5 Reading Assessment - Fiction



**Orpheus and Eurydice (A tragic love story)**

# Orpheus and Eurydice

(A tragic love story)



There once lived a contented and skilled musician named Orpheus, who could play his lyre so beautifully that his music would enchant all who heard it. It was so powerful that it could turn evil men good and tame even the most wild of beasts.

One day, Orpheus met the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her name was Eurydice and Orpheus was so captivated by her charm and beauty that he quickly fell in love with her. When Eurydice saw Orpheus playing his lyre, her heart melted at once and she too fell in love. The couple were married within a few days and were blissfully happy together.

Eurydice was enjoying a stroll through the woods one day when she came across a shepherd tending to his flock. The shepherd, whose name was Aristaeus, was in awe of

Eurydice and he longed to talk to her and find out who she was. Eurydice was frightened by the man and she began to run from him. Aristaeus, not understanding why she was so scared, pursued Eurydice. He chased her through the woods, calling out to her to stop and speak to him. Eurydice ran on in a panic, eventually tripping over a log and landing with a thud on the ground. Unseen by Eurydice, a vicious snake crawled out from beneath the log and bit her. Its venom was so potent that she died at once.

When Orpheus heard what had happened, he was distraught. His wonderful wife had been taken from him so soon and he was inconsolable in his grief. Orpheus played his lyre to help ease his pain and the music that emanated from the instrument was so haunting that it moved the men, gods and even the plants and trees to tears.

Orpheus decided that he must try to bring Eurydice back to him. He set out on a daring quest to beg Hades - god of the underworld - to allow his wife to return to the human world. Hades was deeply saddened by Orpheus' plight, and so moved by the poignant music Orpheus played for him, that he agreed to give him the opportunity to get Eurydice back. He presented a challenge to the eager musician.



“I will allow Eurydice to follow you out of the underworld on one condition. Whatever obstacles you may encounter along your journey, you must not look back at your wife. If you do, then she will remain here with me eternally.”

Orpheus did not hesitate in accepting the challenge. He was prepared to take on anything to get back his beloved wife. If all he had to do was not look at Eurydice as she followed him back out of the underworld, it would be easy!

Orpheus set off on his journey with hope in his heart and his beautiful Eurydice close behind him, but soon he came to a huge wooden door which was chained shut. Lifting his lyre, Orpheus' quick fingers began to play a magical tune. The chains burst off the door which swung gently open, allowing Orpheus to slip inside and continue on his way. The young man longed to turn around to check that Eurydice was still there but he managed to resist and he continued on.

Beyond the wooden door, Orpheus found himself inside a dank, dark room. The air was thick and stale and Orpheus' eyes watered involuntarily in the putrid atmosphere. As the light was so low, Orpheus pressed his hands against the moist, slimy walls and felt his way along through the room, moving as quickly as he dared. After a few minutes, he became aware of the sound of heavy breathing and a deep rumbling growl began to resonate off the walls, suddenly bursting into a thunderous roar. Orpheus' heart pounded in his chest and his ears rang painfully. He could just make out the shape of a humongous three-headed dog looming down on him menacingly. Orpheus recognised the beast at once as Cerberus - Hades' grotesque hound. Thinking quickly, Orpheus snatched up his lyre and began to play a soothing melody. Saliva rolled off the creature's three tongues, splashing onto a terrified Orpheus whose whole body trembled as he played. However, almost at once, the beastly dog began to calm down. It cocked its three heads sideways to listen to the soothing music and then it dropped to the ground, pacified by Orpheus' captivating tune. Orpheus crept on through the room, treading nervously over the dog's monstrous paws while continuing to play his instrument. Finally, he reached the end of the room and was able to slip away unnoticed. He took a deep breath and slumped against the wall, mopping his wet brow with the back of his hand.







In his terror, Orpheus had forgotten about Eurydice following him and he began to panic about whether she had made it through the room behind him or whether she was trapped with Cerberus. Orpheus remembered Hades' words – he had promised that Eurydice would follow unharmed as long as he did not look back at her and he managed to calm down. Ahead of him in the distance he could see the inky black waters of the river Styx and he knew that once he had sailed across the river he would be able to pass safely back into the mortal world and be with his dear wife once more.

Orpheus took large purposeful strides towards the river. He felt giddy with excitement, encouraged by the thought of holding and talking to Eurydice very soon. At the water's edge two boats were moored, ready to transport Orpheus and Eurydice to safety. Orpheus climbed into the first boat and the magical waters started to ripple, pushing the boat on its way. If he listened carefully, Orpheus could just about make out the sound of the second boat beginning its journey too and he knew that Eurydice was following behind. Orpheus smiled happily. His journey was almost complete. His quest would be a success! Suddenly, a huge wave was formed from nowhere and crashed heavily against the boat and then slid over Orpheus to the deck. Slick, black hands and arms, which formed from the murky waters, began to grab at the

boat and then slide over Orpheus' face and body, pulling him towards the water. Orpheus struggled against them but he could not move. He cried out in frustration and anger but the hands moved around his throat and tightened their grip and Orpheus feared this was how he would die. Orpheus' lyre lay next to him at the bottom of the boat. He scrabbled around trying to grasp it towards him with his one free hand. Suddenly, he managed to get a grip on it and he strummed it, releasing a single note. At once, the hands relaxed and Orpheus took his chance, grabbing the lyre properly and beginning to play. The hands released him fully and sank back below the water. Orpheus' music had saved him again!



The boat continued on. Orpheus carried on playing his lyre in case the grabbing hands returned again. He listened for the sound of Eurydice's boat following along but by now he couldn't hear it anymore so he stopped playing his lyre to listen more carefully. Nothing. Not a sound. Orpheus started to worry. Had the hands taken Eurydice? Had her boat stopped moving? He strained to hear even the tiniest sound but there was only silence and Orpheus began to despair that Eurydice had gone. Without thinking, he turned around and looked for her. Eurydice was there! Her boat was sailing towards him and she waved and smiled, filling his heart with joy. Then it happened...

# Reading Booklet

Year 5 Reading Assessment - Non-Fiction



Brazil

# Brazil



## Where in the World?

Brazil is situated in the continent of South America. Brazil is located on the eastern coast of South America, sharing land borders with: Uruguay in the south; Argentina and Paraguay to the southwest; Bolivia and Peru to the west; Colombia to the northwest; and Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname and the French overseas department of French Guiana to the north. In 2016, Brazil was named as the sixth largest economy in the world.

## Cities and Sightseeing

### São Paulo

This is the largest city in Brazil with over 11 million people living here. Those who live here are called Paulistanos.

#### Human Features

- São Paulo Cathedral is a Roman Catholic place of worship.
- Parque Hopi Hari is a theme park in the city.

#### Physical Feature

- Pico do Jaraguá is the highest mountain of the city.



### Brasília

#### Human Features

- The Palácio da Alvorada is the official residence of the President of Brazil.
- Paranoá Lake is a man-made lake on the east side of the city.
- Cathedral of Brasília is a Roman Catholic cathedral designed by a Brazilian architect.

#### Physical Feature

- Itiquara Falls is 168 metres high.



Photo courtesy of Rodrigo\_Soldon@flickr.com – granted under creative commons licence – attribution.

## Rio de Janeiro

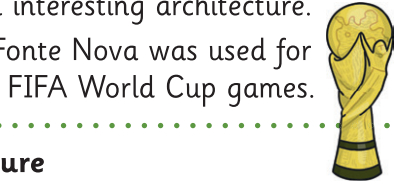
People call Rio de Janeiro 'Rio' for short. It is the second largest city in Brazil.

### Human Feature

- Tijuca Forest is a hand-planted rainforest.
- Christ the Redeemer statue is situated in Tijuca Forest and is a religious statue that stands on top of Corcovado Mountain.

### Physical Features

- Sugarloaf Mountain is a peak located at the mouth of Guanabara Bay. It is nearly 400 metres high.
- Copacabana beach is 4km in length.
- Rio is very famous for its carnivals too.



## Salvador

### Human Features

- The historic centre with its pretty-coloured buildings and interesting architecture.
- The Estádio Fonte Nova was used for several 2014 FIFA World Cup games.

### Physical Feature

- The Porto da Barra beach is a physical feature with two human features built on to it: a white fort at one end and a small church on the opposite hill side.

## The Brazilian Flag



The Brazilian flag has a fascinating history behind its unique design and colours. The Brazilian flag begins with a dark green background with a large yellow diamond in the middle. In the centre of the diamond

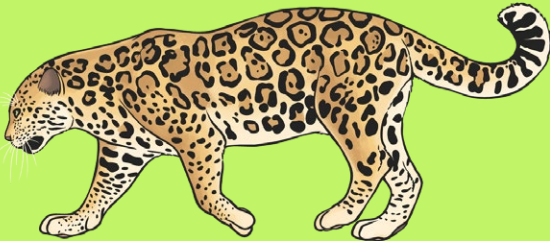
is a blue globe with 27 five-pointed white stars. Each star represents one of each of the states in the Federal District, which are arranged in the same pattern as the stars in the Brazilian night sky. Across the globe is a white banner that reads, 'Ordem e Progresso', which translates in English to 'Order and Progress'.

Just like the American flag, each colour stands for something very important to the Brazilian culture. Yellow represents the gold reserves the country holds. Green symbolises the great Amazon Rainforest, the Atlantic jungle, and the Panama – Brazil's amazing tropical landscape.



# Brazilian Rainforest

The Amazon is the largest tropical rainforest in the world. Covering over 5.5 million square kilometres, it is so big that the UK and Ireland would fit into it 17 times! Most of the Amazon rainforest is in Brazil. This area of immense natural beauty is sometimes referred to as 'the



lungs of the Earth'. This is because the rich vegetation takes carbon dioxide out of the air and releases oxygen back in. In fact, more than 20% of the world's oxygen is produced by the Amazon.

Running through the north of the rainforest is the Amazon River. Flowing a length of around 6,400km, it is the second longest river in the world.



## The Different Layers of a Rainforest

There are four main parts of a rainforest:

**Emergent Layer** – It's very sunny here because it is at the very top. Only the tallest trees reach this level.

**Who lives here?** Birds, butterflies, small monkeys, bats, snakes and bugs.

**Canopy Layer** - Most trees in the forest grow to this height. There are plants that grow in the canopy layer but their roots don't reach the ground - these are called air plants.

**Who lives here?** Birds, monkeys, frogs, sloths, lizards, snakes and many insects.

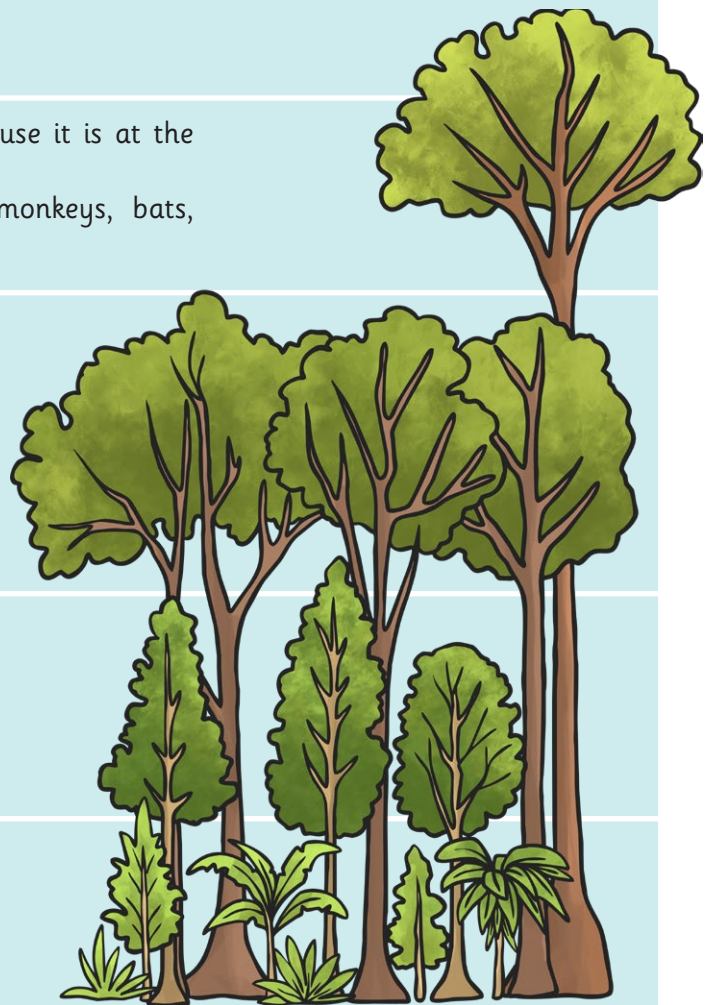
**Understory Layer** - Many vines and dense vegetation can be found here. There is very little light.

**Who lives here?** Birds, butterflies, frogs and snakes.

**Forest Floor** – A damp part of the forest full of many dead leaves, twigs and dead plants. The forest floor is dark; it is estimated that only 2% of the sunlight actually reaches the floor. When it rains, it takes around ten minutes for the water to reach the ground due to the thickness of the canopy.

**Who lives here?** It is teeming with insect life and is home to the biggest animals of the rainforest.

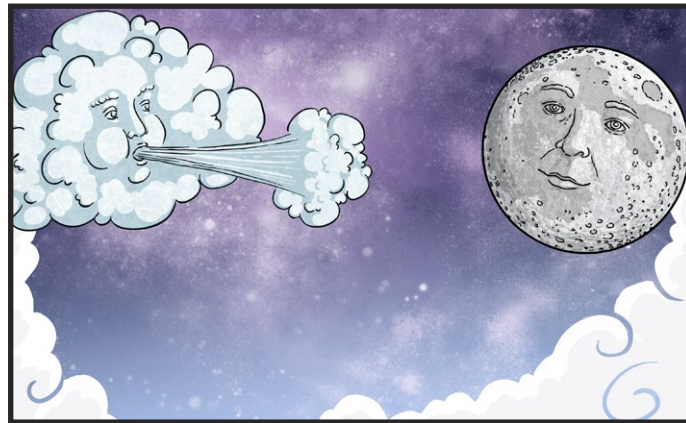
**In the Water** – Beware... electric eels, anacondas and piranhas all live in the water!





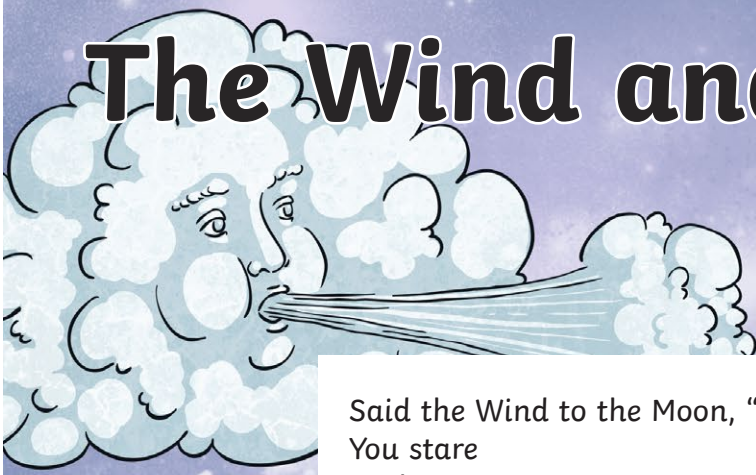
# Reading Booklet

Year 5 Reading Assessment - Poetry



## The Wind and the Moon

# The Wind and the Moon



Said the Wind to the Moon, "I will blow you out;  
You stare  
in the air  
Like a ghost in a chair,  
always looking what I am about-  
I hate to be watched; I'll blow you out."

The Wind blew hard, and out went the Moon.  
So deep  
On a heap  
Of clouds to sleep,  
Down lay the Wind, and slumbered soon,  
Muttering low, 'I've done for that Moon."

He turned in his bed; she was there again!  
On high  
In the sky,  
With her one ghost eye,  
The Moon shone white and alive and plain.  
Said the Wind, "I will blow you out again."

The Wind he took to his revels once more;  
On down,  
In town,  
Like a merry-mad clown,  
He leaped and hallooed with whistle and roar-  
"What's that?" the glimmering thread once more!

He flew in a rage- he danced and blew;  
But in vain  
Was the pain  
Of his bursting brain;  
For still the broader the Moon-scrap grew,  
The broader he swelled his big cheeks and blew.

Slowly she grew- till she filled the night,  
And shone  
On her throne  
In the sky alone,



# The Wind and the Moon



A matchless, wonderful silvery light,  
Radiant and lovely, the queen of the night.  
The Wind blew hard, and the Moon grew dim.  
"With my sledge  
And my wedge,  
I have knocked off her edge!  
If only I blow right fierce and grim,  
The creature will sooner be dimmer than dim."

He blew and he blew, and she thinned to a thread.  
"One puff  
More's enough  
To blow her to snuff!  
One good puff more where last week was bred,  
And glimmer, glimmer, glum will go the thread."

He  
blew a great blast, and the thread was gone.  
In the air  
Nowhere  
Was a moonbeam bare;  
Far off and harmless the shy stars shone-  
Sure and certain the Moon was gone!

Said the Wind: "What a marvel of power am I!  
With my breath  
Good faith!  
I blew her to death-  
First blew her away right out of the sky-  
Then blew her in; what strength have I!"

But the Moon she knew nothing about the affair;  
For high  
In the sky  
With her one white eye,  
Motionless, miles above the air,  
She had never heard the great Wind blare.  
GEORGE MACDONALD