

# Upper KS1/Lower KS2 (SATS style) Reading Comprehension Booklet 3



Name.....

## Useful words

herbivorous

equines

originate

estimate

reputation

stubborn

captivity

# Donkeys



The donkey is a herbivorous (plant-eating) animal and the smallest member of the horse (equine) family.

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## Questions

**1** What does the word **herbivorous** mean?

**2** To which family do donkeys belong?

Tick one.

canines

bovines

felines

equines

Donkeys originate from desert areas of the Earth. In the desert, a donkey is able to hear the call of another donkey 60 miles away with its long ears. Today donkeys can be found in many other places, with an estimated 40 million of them roaming worldwide.

**3** From where do donkeys originate?

Tick one.

desert areas

swamp areas

jungle areas

mountain areas

**4** About how many donkeys are roaming the Earth today?

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Donkeys are very intelligent animals. They have an incredible memory and can remember other donkeys or animals for up to 25 years. Donkeys are also surprisingly strong - stronger than horses of a similar size. Because of their strength, donkeys have long been used by man as work animals. In some parts of the world, families would struggle to survive without their donkeys which help them to carry heavy loads of water, fuel and food to and from their homes. It is because of this that the donkey has become known as a "beast of burden".

**5** Why has the donkey become known as a "beast of burden"?

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Donkeys have a reputation for being stubborn - it is very difficult to make a donkey do something if it doesn't want to. However, this is because donkeys are very good at sensing when there is danger. If a donkey sensed that there was danger round the corner, then it would dig its heels in and flatly refuse to move in that direction.

**6** Why do donkeys have a reputation for being stubborn?

Tick **one**.

because they like to get their own way.

because they are lazy

because they are good at sensing danger

because they are strong

Donkeys are very loving animals and enjoy the company of other animals and people. Donkeys need companions or they will become very depressed (sad).

**7** Why might a donkey become depressed?

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In the wild, donkeys eat a mixture of grasses, bark and leaves. They can survive on very little food and water because of their body's natural ability to cope in hot, dry areas such as deserts. In captivity, donkeys are usually fed on hay and straw. Donkeys love to eat lush, green grass and, if allowed, will often eat more than is good for them. Donkey owners need to make sure that this does not happen.

**8**

What do wild donkeys eat?

Tick **three**.

carrots

leaves

straw

apples

grasses

bark

**9**

Why can donkeys survive on very little food and water?

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## Useful words

jubilant

stroll

draped

reflection

curtsy

# The Donkey in Lion's Skin

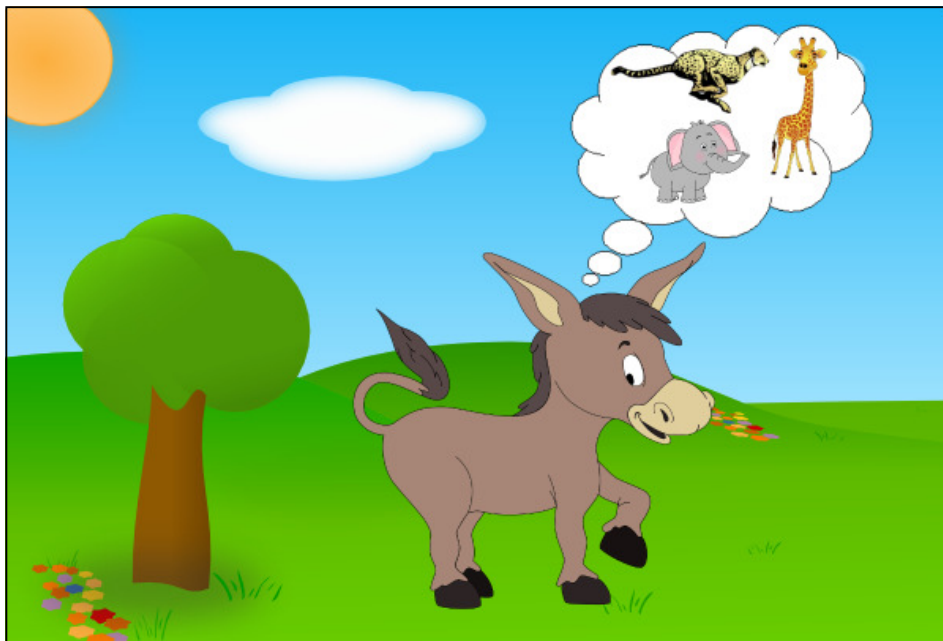
There was once a foolish donkey who wished he was something else.

"If only I was a giraffe," he would say. "then I could look over the tops of trees."

"If only I was an elephant, then I could remember where I left things."

"If only I was a cheetah, then I could run like the wind."

Anything was better than being a donkey. Everyone laughed at donkeys



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**10**

Why did the donkey wish he was something else?



One day, when he was walking through the forest the donkey saw something draped over the branch of a tree. When he got closer he could see that it was a lion costume.

"I'd look good in that," he thought.

So he put it on.

It covered him from head to foot. The donkey found a pool and looked at his reflection.

"I look magnificent," he said.

**11** What was the donkey doing when he found the lion costume?

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**12** Where did the donkey find the lion costume?

Tick **one**.

in the village

in a field

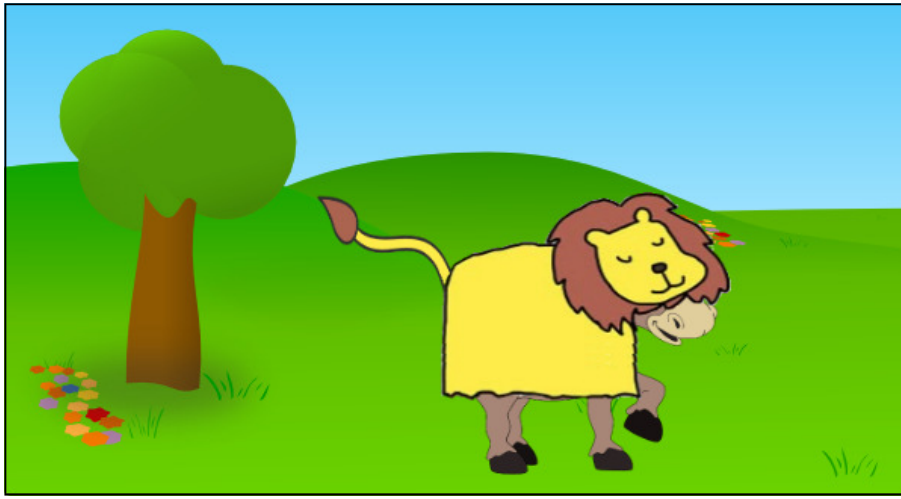
in the forest

near a mountain

He marched up and down looking at his reflection from every angle. The massive head of the lion covered his donkey's head and the lion's golden mane flowed round his neck.

"I look like a lion and I feel like a lion," he said.

"No-one will laugh at me now because I am King of the Beasts!"



**13**

Why did the donkey think that no-one would laugh at him?

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The donkey couldn't wait to show himself to other animals.

He walked up to a giraffe who was eating leaves from the top of a tall tree. She stopped when she saw the donkey and bent her long legs in a curtsy.

"Your Majesty," she said, in a fearful voice.

"Greetings, giraffe," said the donkey in a deep, lion-like voice. "Won't you join me in a stroll?"

"I can't today," said the giraffe, "I have to get tea for my children."

And she ran away as quickly as she could.

The donkey smiled to himself.

**14**

What was the giraffe doing when she met the donkey?

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**15** Why do you think the donkey smiled when the giraffe ran away?

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Next the donkey saw a hippo in the river.

The hippo bowed his head when he saw the donkey.

"Your Majesty," he said, in hushed tones.

"Greetings hippo," said the donkey. "Won't you join me in a stroll?"

"I can't today," said the hippo. "I have to call on a friend who is sick."  
And he sank out of sight.

Inside the lion costume the donkey was grinning all over his face.

He tripped over a crocodile sunbathing on a rock.

"Your Majesty!" said the crocodile, smiling with his teeth on the  
outside of his lips.

"Greetings crocodile," said the donkey. "Won't you..."

But the crocodile had slipped into the water and disappeared.

**16** What was the crocodile doing when the donkey met him?

Tick **one**.

eating

reading

sunbathing

grinning

The donkey was jubilant.

He wanted to leap up and down with delight. What a marvellous thing it was to be a lion. A lion was admired and feared by all the other animals. He felt like a king.

Just then a clever old fox came into view.

When he saw the donkey he turned to run.

The donkey could contain his delight no longer.

"I'm a lion," he thought. "I look like a lion, I act like a lion. I feel like a lion. I BET I EVEN SOUND LIKE A LION."

And the foolish donkey lifted his head and roared.

"Hee-Haw, Hee-Haw, Hee-Haw!"

The fox stopped in his tracks.

He knew that sound.

He grabbed the lions mane and pulled. The lion costume came off in his hands.

The donkey stood there, trembling.

The fox began to laugh.

So did the crocodile.

So did the giraffe.

And so did the hippo.

**18**

Why did the fox stop in his tracks?

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**19**

How many animals laughed at the donkey?

Tick one.

three

five

four

six

"If only I had kept my mouth shut," thought the donkey.

The other animals put their arms round him.

"Don't worry," they said, "we like you just as you are."

And they all hurried away before the real lion came along.

The End

**20**

What lesson can we learn from this story?

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