

MASTER COACHING

NAME:

# G & T ENGLISH BOOK 3

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Edition 1



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\* Read the passage “Deception Gorge”: *ch 8*

The punt quivered under Tim’s hands as he stepped aboard. Rushing brown water exploded against the blunt bow, stinging his face with cold spray, and Larry shouted at Straw as both men groped for their oars. They slid from the bank, bucketed in the current and spun for a perilous handful of seconds until the oar blades bit into the river.

Tim had forgotten the pounding tension for the old battle with the river, and took a last wistful look at the quiet piece of wilderness that he had almost made his home. He could see where the tents had been, the tree marked by the tiger, his rock, even his currawong...Then the bank curled round a bend. There was nothing left but the river.

He sat in the punt, watching the river buck and foam past as the scoured banks moved toward each other, and he began to grin. Already the river was narrowing, running faster, beginning to roar. Dad’s country. Soon he could see white water far ahead.

‘Double Fall,’ Straw panted. ‘Try to get as close as we can?’

Larry nodded, exchanged his oar for a pole and stood in the punt.

Straw rowed hard with both oars, while Larry pulled the pole back to lever the punt into the bucking water. Soon Straw was pushing his oars against water-carved boulders and Tim pushed the punt off the rocks.

‘Now, Tim!’ Larry yelled over the roar.

Tim turned in confusion for a moment and saw a tongue of rock almost under the punt’s bow. He grabbed the bow rope, leapt for the rock and threw a loop over a boulder before the punt pulled back. Straw landed beside him, patted him on the shoulder and pulled the punt onto the rock.

‘I did all right, didn’t I?’ shouted Tim.

Larry ignored him. ‘Straw, take bow rope ahead.’ He was bellowing. ‘I’ll put the punt into the rapid.’

Straw uncoiled the rope as he climbed beside a foaming channel of wild water and rocks. He stopped twenty feet away, passed the rope across his back and braced his legs. ‘Okay!’ he shouted. ‘What do I do?’ Tim said.

‘Keep out of the way.’

Tim felt a touch of anger. Still a schoolboy. No matter what.

Larry flipped Tim’s loop off the boulder, allowing the punt to slide back into the foam until Straw anchored it. Now boulders and a rock ledge lay between the punt and Straw. The two men couldn’t shout to each other now and Larry had to push the punt sideways into the rushing water to move it. They fought the bucking punt and the rapids for forty minutes to ease it past the first fall, and a further twenty minutes to clear the entire stretch of rapids. They fell into the punt, panting, dripping, as Tim rowed them across a placid stretch of red tinged water to a beach of fine gravel for lunch. That was how they travelled for the next few days. They would row and pole until the shallow rapids became too fast, then they would get out and wade. They would carry the punt over smooth grey rocks, with Tim scrambling beside them, and pull the punt through white rapids on a rope.

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- 1 When Tim boarded the punt
- a the river was calm and peaceful
  - b Larry shouted at him
  - c it was very unsteady and the current was strong
  - d both answers b and c
- 
- 2 Tim had forgotten
- a the tents
  - b the battle faced by people in boats on the river
  - c the blades for rowing
  - d the peace of the wilderness
- 
- 3 Which word is similar in meaning to ‘dangerous’?
- a exploded
  - b pounding
  - c wistful
  - d perilous

away at the dispersing touch of the cool fingers of the short midsummer night. Mole lay stretched on the bank, still panting from the stress of the fierce day that had been cloudless from dawn to late sunset, and waited for his friend to return. He had been on the river with some companions, leaving the Water Rat free to keep an engagement of long standing with Otter; and he had come back to find the house dark and deserted, and no sign of Rat, who was doubtless keeping it up late with his old comrade. It was still too hot to think of staying indoors, so he lay on some cool dock-leaves, and thought over the past day and its doings, and how very good they all had been.

The Rat's light footfall was presently heard approaching over the parched grass. 'O, the blessed coolness!' he said, and sat down, gazing thoughtfully into the river, silent and preoccupied.

'You stayed to supper, of course?' said the Mole presently.

'Simply had to,' said the Rat. 'They wouldn't hear of my going before. You know how kind they always are. And they made things as jolly for me as ever they could, right up to the moment I left. But I felt a brute all the time, as it was clear to me they were very unhappy, though they tried to hide it. Mole, I'm afraid they're in trouble. Little Portly is missing again; and you know what a lot his father thinks of him, though he never says much about it.'

'What, that child?' said the Mole lightly. 'Well, suppose he is; why worry about it? He's always straying off and getting lost, and turning up again; he's so adventurous. But no harm ever happens to him. Everybody hereabouts knows him and likes him, just as they do old Otter, and you may be sure some animal or other will come across him and bring him back again all right. Why, we've found him ourselves, miles from home, and quite self-possessed and cheerful!'

'Yes; but this time it's more serious,' said the Rat gravely. 'He's been missing for some days now, and the Otters have hunted everywhere, high and low, without finding the slightest trace. And they've asked every animal, too, for miles around, and no one knows anything about him. Otter's evidently more anxious than he'll admit. I got out of him that young Portly hasn't learnt to swim very well yet, and I can see he's thinking of the weir. There's a lot of water coming down still, considering the time of the year, and the place always had a fascination for the child.'

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- 1 Mole was resting on the river bank. He was thinking about the day. It had been  
**a** a hot day but a very good one      **b** a bad day because it had been so hot  
**c** a hot but cloudy day      **d** a long, hot, boring day
- 
- 2 Mole had spent the day with: **a** Otter and Rat      **b** some companions on the river  
**c** The Willow-Wren      **d** The Willow-Wren and Otter
- 
- 3 Which word from the passage means "continuing in a weakened state"?  
**a** dispersing    **b** lingering    **c** standing    **d** keeping
- 
- 4 When Rat first arrived to join Mole he was **a** happy and talkative    **b** thoughtful and quiet  
**c** hot but happy      **d** very angry
- 
- 5 Rat had spent the day with Otter and his family. Rat was worried about Otter because he  
**a** believed that they were trying to hide something  
**b** knew that they were having financial problems  
**c** realised that their child was missing again  
**d** had not been very happy during the day
- 
- 6 Which word from the passage means "near here"? **a** stayed      **b** home  
**c** everywhere      **d** hereabouts
- 
- 7 Mole describes Little Portly as  
**a** adventurous and self-possessed    **b** lost  
**c** self-possessed and cheerful      **d** adventurous, self-possessed and cheerful
-

1 B 2 C 3 A 4 B 5 C

**6 VERBAL REASONING**

1 C 2 A 3 B 4 C 5 C

**8 FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

1 C 2 C 3 A 4 B 5 B

**7 LETTER CODES**

1 D 2 A 3 D 4 A 5 B

