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## THE SECRET STATUES BOOKS

A group of strange people called the Golden Zoo family have an orphanage and a school. They take children with no family, give them a home and teach them some very special lessons. Why are there so many animal pictures and statues? And what do these people want from the children?



### Meet Violet.

Violet has no parents or family. She is a new girl at the Golden Zoo. She meets Miss Gar, the headteacher, and the other teachers, Mamba, Felix and Jag. She also makes friends with Babs and Corvin. But she is scared of the Golden Zoo. Why are the teachers so strange? And what is at the bottom of the long, dark stairs?



### Meet Babs.

Babs is also a new girl at the Golden Zoo. She loves animals and all the animal statues at the Golden Zoo, except one. What animal does Babs not like? And can she be Violet's new best friend?



### Meet Corvin.

Corvin is also new at the Golden Zoo. He is not very strong and he isn't very good at the lessons. Can Violet help him learn?

*The Tiger's Tail* is the first book in the Secret Statues mystery adventure series. Each book is a maze reader, which means that you, the reader, can make decisions along the way about what the characters do in the story. Each decision you make leads you to a different version of the story and a unique ending: so choose carefully!

To help you make the best decisions you need to know these words. Use a dictionary to look them up.

key      orphanage      power      statue

# BEFORE READING

1 Match the tails to the animals.

a jaguar  
d cat

b monkey  
e snake

c crocodile  
f tiger



2 Circle your favourite animal.

jaguar   cat   tiger   snake   crocodile   monkey


Write a sentence about why you like this animal.

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**3**  **Look at the characters on pages 8 and 9, then discuss these questions.**

- a Who do you think likes snakes?
- b Who do you think likes crocodiles?
- c What animal do you think Jag likes?
- d What animal do you think Violet likes?

**4**  **Work in pairs and choose the correct animal for each sentence.**

- |   |           |           |           |
|---|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| a This animal eats small stones.              | SNAKE     | CROCODILE | CAT       |
| b A group of these animals is called a tribe. | MONKEY    | CAT       | SNAKE     |
| c This animal doesn't like to swim.           | CAT       | JAGUAR    | TIGER     |
| d This animal can run up to 65 kph.           | TIGER     | CAT       | MONKEY    |
| e This animal doesn't lay eggs.               | CROCODILE | SNAKE     | JAGUAR    |
| f This animal can understand numbers.         | CAT       | TIGER     | MONKEY    |
| g This animal smells with its tongue.         | TIGER     | SNAKE     | CROCODILE |
| h Babies of this animal are called cubs.      | JAGUAR    | CROCODILE | MONKEY    |

**5** **The words in the box are homophones, which means that they sound the same, but have different spellings and meanings. Match each with its meaning.**

tale    tail

- a \_\_\_\_\_: the part of an animal at the end of its body
- b \_\_\_\_\_: a story, often involving exciting events

## CHAPTER 2

# Where's the tiger?



GUESS! WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- A Violet and Babs meet a man.
- B Violet and Babs get lost.
- C Violet and Babs are scared by the tiger.
- D Violet and Babs stay in their room.



Babs opens the door and smiles at Violet.

‘Yes, but we can go to the Gold Hall in a minute,’ she says. ‘First, let’s go to the garden.’

Babs is leaving their room. Violet thinks. She doesn’t know what to do. Then she follows Babs.

‘Which way is the garden?’ Babs asks Violet.

‘I don’t know,’ says Violet.

‘OK, let’s go this way,’ says Babs.

They walk and walk. The orphanage is very big. There are lots of pictures of animals. Violet doesn’t like them. They are scary.

‘Where are we?’ asks Violet.

‘I don’t know. There are lots of rooms!’ says Babs. ‘This place is amazing.’

‘It’s too big, I don’t like it. And there are too many animals!’

‘Come on! Let’s find that tiger!’ says Babs.

‘What about the Gold Hall and Miss Gar?’ asks Violet.

Babs stops. ‘LOOK! The tiger!’

‘WHAT? In the house?’ says Violet.

They see the tiger’s orange and black tail disappear into a room.

‘Come ON, Violet,’ says Babs, and she walks towards the door. They can’t hear anything. Babs puts her hand on the door.

‘Don’t go in!’ says Violet. ‘Please Babs, it’s dangerous!’

At that moment, a tall man comes out of the room. He looks down at them and smiles.

‘Hello, girls! What are you doing here?’ he says.

‘We want to see the tiger!’ says Babs.

‘Tiger? What tiger? There’s no tiger in here,’ he says, and opens the door to the room.

The room is empty! Where’s the tiger? And who’s the man?

‘I don’t understand...’ says Babs. The man smiles.

‘My name’s Felix. Are you new to the Golden Zoo?’

## Glossary

- **amazing:** very good
- **dangerous:** not safe
- **empty:** with nothing inside
- **follows:** walks after

'Yes, we are! I'm Babs and this is Violet.'

'Hello, Babs. Hello, Violet. Tell me, do you like animals, girls?'

'I love animals!' says Babs.

'Umm... I like cats,' says Violet.

Felix smiles a very big smile. 'Hahaha! You're in the right place!'

The girls look at each other. The man is a little strange.

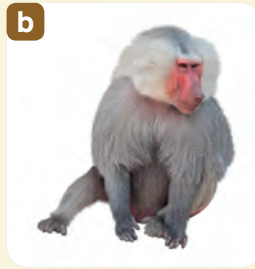
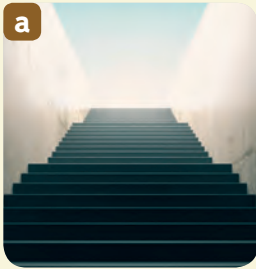
'There are lots of wonderful things here. It's a very special place and we are a very special family. And it's time to meet everyone! Come with me to the Gold Hall!' says Felix.




- **special:** (here) different in a good way
- **wonderful:** (here) very beautiful

# AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Write the words below the pictures.




2  Take turns to choose a word from Exercise 1 and explain why it is important in the story.

THE MONKEY IS  
IMPORTANT BECAUSE...

THERE ARE STAIRS  
THAT GO...



## K A2 Key English Test Listening Part 3

1  Listen to Violet talking to Babs. Choose the correct answers.

1 Where are Violet and Babs?

- a  in a classroom
- b  in their room
- c  in the garden

2 Why does Violet say, 'Oh stop it, Babs, please'?

- a  Because Babs is laughing at Violet.
- b  Because Babs is singing loudly.
- c  Because Babs is jumping on the bed.

3 What does Babs call Violet?

- a  a baby
- b  a loser
- c  a bad student

4 How does Babs describe herself?

- a  big and strong
- b  big and happy
- c  little and clever

5 What does Violet tell Babs?

- a  She can change into a cat.
- b  She wants to be a baboon.
- c  There is a boy in a prison.

