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THE HOUSE OF HEROES BOOKS

The evil Black Owl and the good White Owl are enemies. Many years ago, the White Owl and his followers put the Black Owl in prison. Now the Black Owl's followers want to free him, but first they need to find special crystal eggs to open his prison. They are looking everywhere in time and space to find these eggs. In the House of Heroes, the White Owl also travels through time and space to try to stop them. He finds people who can help him to find the crystal eggs first. But these heroes have to go into new worlds and some heroes do not come back.



Meet Zhou and Ren.

Zhou and Ren are teenagers. They live in the same apartment block and walk to school together every day. One morning, Zhou is hungry. He follows his nose and it takes him and Ren into a strange alleyway. They enter the House of Heroes and it changes their lives. Who do they meet? Where do they go? And what happens to them?



The Red Spirit is the second book in the House of Heroes 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!

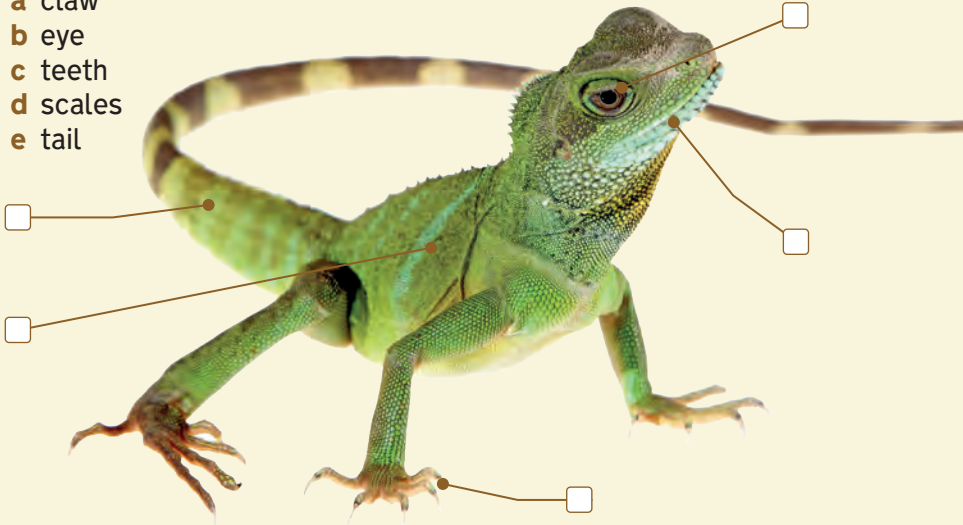
To help you make the best decisions you need to know these words. Use a dictionary to look them up.

creatures evil power spirit

BEFORE READING

1 Look at this photo of a lizard. Match the words to the parts.

- a claw
- b eye
- c teeth
- d scales
- e tail



2 What do you know about lizards? Tick (✓) true (T) or false (F).

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| a Some lizards can change colour. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b Some lizards can swim. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c All lizards eat meat. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d Lizards don't make any sounds. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| e Some lizards never drink. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| f Some lizards can run on water. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| g Some lizards can make their tails fall off. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| h Lizards live to 15 years old. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3 Read the lines from Chapter 1 below.
Then answer the questions.



“

‘Wait!’ he shouted.

A small hand came out of the lift and stopped the doors. Zhou jumped in.

‘You are 30 seconds late,’ said a girl.

It was Zhou’s best friend, Ren. She was wearing headphones and Zhou could hear music coming from them. She was carrying a big bag of schoolbooks, too.

Zhou pointed at her bag, ‘Can I help?’ he asked.

Ren nodded and gave him the bag. It was heavy.

‘You study too much,’ he said. Ren smiled.

”

a Who is in the scene?

b Where are they?

c Find these words in a dictionary:

clever helpful late punctual strong studious

d Which words do you think describe Ren?

e Which words do you think describe Zhou?

f Which of these words describe you?

CHAPTER 2

The House of Heroes



Guess! What happens next?

- A Zhou finds a dumpling shop.
- B Zhou and Ren go into a shop.
- C Ren leaves Zhou and goes to school.
- D The fog makes Ren and Zhou sleepy.



Ren looked at the fog. It was moving away from her. Where was Zhou? She looked around for help, but there was no one in the alleyway. There was only one thing she could do – follow him. Ren took a deep breath and walked slowly into the fog.

‘Zhou,’ she whispered, ‘Zhou? Where are you?’

‘Ren, this way.’

Ren heard her friend’s voice.

‘Where?’ she asked.

‘Over here,’ replied Zhou.

Ren moved towards his voice, holding her arms out in front of her. She could see a light now. As she got closer, she saw that the light was coming from an open door.

‘Zhou? Are you in there?’ she asked. There was no reply.

Ren pushed open the door and walked inside. It was bright. She blinked and looked around. She was in a shop full of interesting things – books, paintings, statues and old clothes. Zhou was standing at the back of the shop near an open door. Ren’s bag of books was on the floor next to him.

‘What happened?’ he asked.

‘What happened? YOU walked in here and I followed you. And we need to go – now,’ Ren replied angrily.


‘I don’t understand,’ said Zhou. ‘There was a smell of dumplings, delicious dumplings. And now, where are they?’

‘I don’t know, Zhou. Let’s get out of here.’ Ren turned around to leave. ‘Zhou, where’s the door?’ Behind her there was a wall.

Zhou ran to the wall and pushed. ‘What happened? How can a door disappear?’

‘I don’t know, but I don’t like this place.’ Ren pointed to the open door at the back of the shop. ‘Look! There’s a hallway. That must be the way out. Let’s go,’ she said.

Glossary

- **blinked:** opened and shut her eyes quickly several times
- **breath:** air you take into your body
- **bright:** with a lot of light
- **closer:** nearer
- **pointed:** used her finger to show
- **replied:** answered
- **statue:** 
- **towards:** in the direction of
- **whispered:** said in a quiet voice



Zhou picked up • Ren's bag of books and followed her into the hallway.

Suddenly, they could hear voices coming from a room on the right. They stopped and listened. They could hear two voices. One of the voices was a man's, but the other was strange.

Zhou and Ren moved closer.

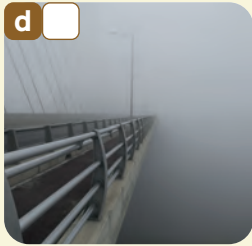
The strange voice was speaking. 'The Black Owl's monsters are getting closer to the mountain. We must wake the Red Spirit. We haven't got much time.'


'Do not worry,' said the man. 'The House of Heroes always finds a way. Heroes come when they are needed. And I think they are here now. Come in!'

- **picked up:** lifted from the ground

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Label the pictures. Then order them according to the story.



2  Use the words from Exercise 1 to tell a simple version of the story.

ZHOU AND REN SEE SOME
GLOWING FOG IN SHANGHAI.

YES, THEY GO INTO THE FOG AND
FIND THE HOUSE OF HEROES.

K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

1 Read the extract from the story. Without looking at the story, choose the best word for each space.

Zhou, Ren and Taro walked for a long **1**_____. The two friends could see that Taro was in **2**_____, but he walked quietly and quickly in front of them. They came to a small river and Taro followed it **3**_____ a dark valley with a tall mountain at the end. He then **4**_____ to the right and Zhou and Ren followed him up a hill. He was walking more slowly now. After a **5**_____, they stopped and looked down into the valley. Ren didn't know why, but this **6**_____ felt bad. Many of the trees and plants were black, and there was lots of smoke. They could see strange creatures moving through the smoke and trees towards the mountain.

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 A hour | B minute | C time |
| 2 A ill | B pain | C hurt |
| 3 A before | B into | C under |
| 4 A came | B stopped | C turned |
| 5 A while | B space | C thought |
| 6 A place | B topic | C time |

