Read and discover

IGCSE First Language English 0500

Name: _____ Date: _____

Understand the idea

Read once for the main idea. Read again to find the detail or evidence needed for each answer.
Example: A question beginning Why needs a reason supported by the text.
Read the original text. Answer all questions using the information given. Write short answers unless a question asks for more.
පාඨය කියවා ප්‍රශ්නවලට පිළිතුරු ලියන්න.

At dawn the harbour seemed to be holding its breath. Ropes creaked against the posts, and a single light trembled on the dark water. My uncle stood beside the boat with the patient expression he wore whenever I asked whether we were ready. I had imagined departure as a shout and a sudden rush. Instead, he checked a knot, checked it again and placed my bag where it would stay dry. Beyond the harbour wall, the sky was slowly losing its colourless edge. "Now," he said, almost quietly enough for the water to swallow the word. We moved out between the posts. The shore did not vanish; it loosened its hold a little at a time.
වරායෙන් පිටත්වීම කථකයා බලාපොරොත්තු වූ කලබලය වෙනුවට නිහඬ, ක්‍රමවත් අත්දැකීමක් වේ.

Try it yourself

1. At what time of day does the passage begin?

2. Identify two details suggesting quietness.

3. What kind of departure had the narrator imagined?

4. How does the uncle behave instead?

5. Explain "the water to swallow the word".

6. Explain the effect of the final sentence.

Build better sentences

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Understand the idea

Read the whole sentence. Check who or what it is about, the time, and how the words fit together.
Example: She plays every day. Yesterday she played.
Complete each activity. Check meaning, grammar, spelling and punctuation. Say your corrected sentences aloud.
මුලින් ඔබම ක්‍රියාකාරකම් කරන්න. පසුව වෙනම පිළිතුරු පත්‍රය බලන්න.

Try it yourself

1. Rewrite using although: The notice was online. Some residents did not see it.

2. Change to passive: The organiser confirmed the booking.

3. Correct: Each of the visitors have a question.

4. Write a polite request for further information.

5. Choose a precise alternative to "a lot of stuff" in the context of a workshop.

6. Explain why purpose and audience affect a writer's language.