Recipe for Success

Seren wants to go on a school trip to Paris more than anything. But when her Dad won’t even let her walk home from school by herself, Seren comes up with a plan. But will it be good enough to convince her Dad?

This reader uses the EXPANSIVE READING approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text. As well as the text, this reader contains:

- A wide range of activities practicing the four skills
- Dossiers: Wales, ‘The Land of Song’; Claude Monet; A Food Journey across The United Kingdom and Ireland
- KEY-style activities and Trinity-style activities (Grades 3-4)
- A full recording of the text
- Key and WebActivities at www.blackcat-cideb.com

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3 **Vocabulary – Countries and capital cities**

A Match the countries (1-6) with the correct flag (A-F).

1 Wales  
2 Spain  
3 Australia  
4 Japan  
5 Canada  
6 The Netherlands

B Unscramble the letters to find the name of each country’s capital city.

1 D M E S A R A M T ........................................
2 B A R C N A R E ........................................
3 O Y T O K ........................................
4 T O A W T A ........................................
5 A F I C F R D ........................................
6 R D M I D A ........................................

‘Daddy’s here, Seren.’

In English, there are many different ways of referring to family members. *Daddy* is generally used by children.

So when Arabella says to Seren, ‘Daddy’s here’ she isn’t being very nice to Seren.
Reading – School in England and USA

Read the text about schooling in England and USA. Choose the correct word from the box for each space (1-12) and complete the text.

or universities study every will child five are all studying when going fifth and children compulsory can start

In England, full-time education is compulsory for (1) children aged between 5 and 17. In 2015, the school leaving age (2) be 18 years old. Children start primary school in the reception class in the school year that he or she has their (3) birthday. Primary school finishes when the child is 11 years old and in ‘year 6’. Between the ages of 12 and 16 (year 7 to year 11), children in England attend secondary school. Usually, students will take their General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) exams in year 11 when they (4) 16 years old. Students can then decide to (5) for their GCE Advanced levels (A-levels). To be awarded an A-level in a particular subject, students must study the subject for two years, and take an exam at the end of each year.

In America, school is (6) for all children, but the age range varies from State to State. Children (7) Elementary school when they are 5 or 6 years old, and finish in 5th grade when they are aged 10 or 11. They then go to Middle School until they are 14. High School starts in 9th grade when (8) are 14 or 15. Children finish High School when they are in 12th grade, aged 18. In some States, children (9) leave school between the ages of 14 and 17, but only with their parents agreement. To test High School achievement, students will take either the American College Testing (ACT) (10) Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) examination. Most students will take this exam (11) they are in the 11th or 12th grade. The SAT or ACT is required for entry to many, but not all (12) in the USA.
‘Hi, Mary. You look nice this morning. Don’t you think so, Dad?’ I ask.

‘Sorry?’ he says. ‘Are you talking to me?’

‘I said, Mary looks lovely today, doesn’t she?’

Dad looks from me, to Mary. He really isn’t on the same planet as the rest of us this morning. He looks like he was awake all night. Awake all night worrying about me going to Paris. Maybe he wants me to feel guilty, so that I won’t ask him about going anymore. Well, his plan won’t work.

‘Did you say that Queen are your favourite group?’ asks Mary.

‘That’s right,’ I say. ‘Dad listens to their music all the time.’

‘I thought so,’ says Mary, sitting opposite Dad. She puts two tickets on the table in front of him. ‘A Queen tribute band are playing at the Civic Theatre. They’re called “A Kind of Magic.” One night only, next Wednesday. Would you like to come with me?’

For the first time, in a long time, Dad smiles. ‘“A Kind of Magic” are coming to Tenby?’

‘Have you heard of them?’ asks Mary.

‘Have I heard of them?’ smiles Dad. ‘They’re only the best Queen tribute band ever!’

Mary smiles too. ‘Would you like to come?’

‘Of course, he’d like to come!’ I say. *And Aunt Bronwyn has her bridge club, so I can’t go to her house. I think I have a plan...*

‘But Bronwyn goes to her bridge club on Wednesdays,’ Dad says. ‘Who’s Seren going to stay with while I’m at the concert?’

‘You can’t miss this opportunity, Dad,’ I say. ‘You work too hard. And on Wednesdays the restaurant is closed.’

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1. **Queen**: a very famous rock band in the 1970’s and 80’s.
2. **Tribute Band**: a music group that only plays the music of one well-known music group.
3. **“A Kind Of Magic”**: a very popular album and song by Queen.
The text and **beyond**

1 **Comprehension check**
Circle the correct option in italics to complete the sentences.

1. The cake in the fridge is *Aunt Bronwyn’s/Aunt Bronwyn’s best friend’s* birthday cake.
2. When Seren’s Dad leaves, Seren and Megan go into the *living room/dining room*.
3. Seren’s French textbook is on *an armchair/a table*.
4. Seren is *happy/embarrassed* about lying to Megan.
5. When Seren goes into the kitchen, Megan *stays in the other room/goes with her*.
6. Megan *is sure/isn’t sure* that Seren is telling her the truth.
7. Seren is in the *kitchen/living room* when the doorbell rings.
8. Seren is *happy/isn’t happy* to see her school friends on her doorstep.

2 **Vocabulary: Clothes**
Match each item of clothing (1-6) to the correct picture (A-F).

1. tie 4. raincoat
2. suit 5. swimming costume
3. trainers 6. belt

![Picture A](image1)
![Picture B](image2)
![Picture C](image3)
![Picture D](image4)
![Picture E](image5)
![Picture F](image6)
**3 What’s the matter?**

Look at the sentences (1-5) and decide what is wrong with the clothes (A-E).

1 [ ] I need a bigger size. This T-shirt is ......
2 [ ] I love that skirt. It’s beautiful. But it costs £100. It’s ......
3 [ ] I went on a diet and I lost 10 kg. I’m really happy, but now my clothes are all ......
4 [ ] These trousers are ...... . They touch the floor!
5 [ ] I really like this jacket. The colour is perfect, but the sleeves are ...... (or maybe my arms are too long!)

A too expensive  
B too short  
C too big  
D too long  
E too tight

**4 Conversation**

Two days before the concert, Seren’s Dad phoned Megan’s Mum. Complete the conversation between Seren’s Dad and Megan’s Mum and choose the correct answer — A, B or C.

1 Hello, can I speak to Megan’s mother or father, please?  
   A [ ] I hope so.  
   B [ ] Of course!  
   C [ ] I would like that too.

2 Seren would like Megan to come here this Wednesday. Is that OK?  
   A [ ] She’s going to visit her grandmother next Wednesday.  
   B [ ] Of course Seren can come to our house!  
   C [ ] Yes, that’s fine.

3 Are you going somewhere nice?  
   A [ ] I went to a concert.  
   B [ ] I’m going to a concert.  
   C [ ] I think so.

4 What time will you bring her home?  
   A [ ] At about half past ten.  
   B [ ] Yes, I’ll bring her home.  
   C [ ] I’ll drive her back home after the concert.
Chapter Six

Where is everyone?

The last time I was in Dad’s restaurant I was twelve, and it was my birthday. I remember that it was a beautiful sunny day, and I had a party at the restaurant. Dad made fish and chips for everyone, and a huge birthday cake in the shape of a horse.

Today when we get to the restaurant, there are big, black clouds in the sky, and when I think about the night of my twelfth birthday, it seems like it happened a hundred years ago.

‘I’m going into the kitchen. You can set the tables. Tablecloths and napkins are in this cupboard here, and the cutlery is in that drawer over there,’ Dad says without a smile. ‘The restaurant opens at seven.’
Where is everyone?

Before I can answer, he disappears into the kitchen. It’s only five o’clock. I’d really like to sit down with a cup of coffee and draw, but I don’t want to make him angrier than he already is. So I start work immediately.

When I’ve finished I look at the photos on the walls of Dad with some of his customers. In the photos Dad is smiling, and he looks a few years younger.

Some of the people in the photos are famous, and the photos have signatures on them. I didn’t know Dad knew all these famous people. Will any famous people come into the restaurant tonight? I really hope so. Then Arabella Jones will be so jealous!

There are also two certificates in frames on the wall that say ‘Best Restaurant in Wales’.

There are also some restaurant reviews that Dad has cut out from newspapers and magazines in frames on the walls.

‘Five-star food! Absolutely delicious!’ says one. ‘The Best Restaurant for miles!’ reads another, and I smile with pride.

It’s funny, but I hardly ever eat my Dad’s food.

I eat at Aunt Bronwyn’s house every day except Wednesdays, and her idea of cooking is putting a frozen meal in the microwave. And when Dad’s off on Wednesdays he usually falls asleep in front of the television, so I end up preparing something quick and easy for the both of us.

What delicious meals will he prepare tonight for his customers? Just reading the menu makes me hungry, but I couldn’t eat a thing. I’m too nervous. This really is my last chance to show Dad that I can be trusted.

When will the other staff arrive? When I’m late, Dad always gets upset. He’s going to be really angry when his other chefs arrive.