The Secret of the Stones

Twins Max and Laura spend an exciting summer in a small village near Stonehenge. A mysterious symbol, their uncle's old book of codes and secrets, strange people looking for a secret and much more. Read about the adventures of the two young and brave 'detectives' in this original story.

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 story, this reader contains:

- A wide range of activities practising the four skills
- Dossiers: Welcome to Stonehenge; Symbols
- KEY-style activities and Trinity-style activities (Grade 2)
- Full recording of the text
- Keys and WebActivities at www.blackcat-cideb.com

www.blackcatreaders.com:
a BLOG for a new reading experience.

Black Cat readers are now also available for Smartphone and Tablet from the official digital stores for both Android and iOS devices. For further information on the titles available: www.blackcat-cideb.com
The Characters

Back row from left: Stephen, Dad, Mom, Max and Laura, Mrs Black, Mr Knight, Barbara.
Welcome to Stonehenge

A Visitor’s Guide

Stonehenge is a very old monument in the South of England. The circle of enormous stones is more than 5,000 years old but nobody knows exactly what it is.

Every year thousands of tourists visit Stonehenge. They all want to know answers to the same questions: when, how, who, why. Unfortunately we don't know all the answers.
Listen to these conversations (1-5). Choose the correct answer – A, B or C.

1. What time does the shop open?

   - A
   - B
   - C

2. How much are the stamps?

   - A
   - B
   - C

3. What does Laura want to drink?

   - A
   - B
   - C

4. Which woman works in the shop?

   - A
   - B
   - C

5. Where are Max and Laura going now?

   - A
   - B
   - C
4 **SPEAKING – SHOPPING**

Max and Laura go to the shops in the village. Do you like shopping? Answer these questions with a partner.

1. Are there lots of shops where you live? What type of shops are they? What do they sell?
2. Do you like shopping? Why? Why not?
3. What are your favourite types of shop? What do you buy there?
4. Do you like shopping for food in the supermarket? Why? Why not?

5 **SPEAKING (PART 2)**

**Student B** here is some information about an archaeology museum.

**Student A** you don’t know anything about Archaeology Museum so ask Student B some questions. Use these words to help you.

Archaeology Museum
- where?
- what see?
- £?
- every day?

6 **WRITING**

You are in Stonecross. You are exploring the village and see many shops and a museum. Write a letter to your friend and tell her/him what you want to do.

Dear ....................
Stonecross is a very nice village! There are a lot of shops here: ....................
I can buy my favourite books there! There is a museum where I can see ....................
Now I’m hungry, I’m going .................... to buy some bread.
Uh, there is also a great ...................., my mother likes shopping there, she can buy ....................

Archaeology Museum
26 River Street, Crosston
Open Monday to Saturday 9am to 6pm

New Dinosaur exhibition!!!
Adults £5.00  Children £3.00
Stonehenge is near the village of Stonecross. They take the cars and in 20 minutes they are there. And down in the valley they see Mrs Black’s ‘circle of old stones’.

‘It’s spectacular,’ says Uncle Stephen.

‘It’s incredible,’ says Mum.

‘It’s fantastic,’ says Barbara.

‘Wow!’ says Laura.

‘It’s not very big!’ says Max.

‘Shut up, Max!’ says everyone.

‘Andrew, what do you think? Do you like Stonehenge? Andrew...?’

Dad doesn’t answer. He is a bit sleepy.

There is a rope around the stones. People can’t touch them but they can go very near and take photographs. ‘Why don’t we get a special audioguide?’ suggests Mum. ‘It’s like a telephone. You listen and it tells you the story of Stonehenge.’

Everyone gets an audioguide and they start to walk around the enormous stone circle. Uncle Stephen walks in the opposite direction and looks at his old book of mysteries. He reads something and then looks at the stones. Then he walks backwards. He looks at the hills and the trees near the stones. ‘Hmmm... three hills around the stones... yes... they make a sort of triangle,’ he says to himself. Then he looks at the stones again. Uncle Stephen is thinking.

Half and hour later the others return.

‘Stonehenge is fantastic,’ they say, but Uncle Stephen is not listening. He is reading his book again and looking at the stones.

‘Time for something to drink,’ says Mum.

‘Come on, Stephen. Are you coming with us?’

Finally Uncle Stephen puts his book in his bag and follows the others.
BEFORE YOU READ

1 VOCABULARY
Look at the verbs GO, HAVE and DO. Look at the other words and phrases around them. Draw a line from the words to the verbs if they go together. If you can’t put the verb and the words together don’t draw a line. There is one example.

GO
- home
- football
- cold
- 12 years old

HAVE
- lunch
- fun
- an idea
- a drink
- 12 years old

DO
- the shopping
- we ate lunch
- your homework
- a shower
- a photo

2 PREDICTION
Chapter Seven is called ‘Now I remember!’ What do you think is going to happen? Answer these questions and then compare your answers with the rest of the class.

1 Who do you think remembers something?
   A  Uncle Stephen
   B  Mrs Black
   C  Max and Laura

2 What do you think they remember?
   A  Where the car keys are.
   B  What the symbol means.
   C  What Mrs Black was wearing.

3 What do you think will happen in the chapter?
   A  Uncle Stephen discovers the secret of Stonehenge.
   B  Max and Laura explore again.
   C  Mum has a problem.
For two or three days everything is normal and everyone is happy. Mrs Black’s son has got the car keys, she says.

Everyone is happy about this too.

On Wednesday afternoon Mum and Dad go walking. Dad wants to sleep but Mum says, ‘No Andrew. You can’t sleep all holiday!’

‘Alright!’ he replies, but he is not very happy.

Barbara phones to ask if she can come too.

When she arrives she says, ‘What about you, Stephen? Are you coming with us?’

‘No, thanks. I must work.’

She laughs. ‘You never change Stephen. You work too much!’

‘Don’t laugh, Barbara,’ replies Uncle Stephen. ‘My work is very important.’

Everybody laughs. Sometimes Uncle Stephen is very funny.

‘Today I want to work a lot. Please don’t disturb me,’ he says and goes to the study.