

A House on the Water

PASSAGE · NON-FICTION

SKILLS TRAINED

Working memory

Delayed recall

Comprehension

HOW TO USE THIS SHEET

About 10 minutes

- 1 Read the passage twice, slowly. Take about two minutes.
- 2 Turn to the next page and cover this one. No looking back.
- 3 Write what you remember, then mark it on the last page.

High in the mountains of Peru there is a big lake. Its name is Lake Titicaca.

Some families do not live on land. They live on the lake.

They build islands out of reeds. Reeds are tall plants that grow in the water.

The people cut the reeds and tie them together. The island floats. Houses sit on top.

Their boats are made of reeds too.

When the reeds at the bottom get old, the people add new ones on top.

Cover the passage before you start.

Looking back turns this into a copying exercise. Getting it slightly wrong from memory is what makes it work.

PART A Tell it back

Write down everything you can remember about the floating islands.

PART B 3 questions

1 What is the name of the lake?

2 What are the islands made of?

3 What do the people do when the reeds get old?

PART C Mark your own work

Now go back to the passage. Tick every answer you got right. You do not need the same words as the answer below — if you wrote the same idea in your own words, it counts.

- ☐ 1 • Lake Titicaca.
- ☐ 2 • Reeds, which are tall plants that grow in the water.
- ☐ 3 • They add new reeds on top.

FACTS RECALLED IN PART A

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QUESTIONS CORRECT

— / 3

DATE

THE STRATEGY Look away and try

Stop after you read. Look up at the ceiling and try to say one thing you remember. Then look back and check. Trying first, even when it is hard, is what makes it stick.

WHERE YOU ALREADY DO THIS

What is one thing in your home that gets fixed or added to again and again?

FOR THE PARENT OR TEACHER · Read the passage aloud with your child the first time, then let them read it on their own the second time. During Part A, resist helping. A child who says “I forgot” and then remembers one more thing has done exactly the work this sheet is for.