

## Homework Tasks (Year 5):

- **Comprehension:** Please complete – and mark – ‘A Kind of Magic’ on pg.2 and 3 of this file. Answers can be found on pg.4. Your responses should be recorded in your Homework Jotter provided by school.
- **GPS:** Please read ‘Money’ on pg.5 of this file then answer – and mark – the ‘Text’ and ‘Punctuation’ questions on pg.6 and 7. Answers can be found on pg.8. Please use these to help work out how to answer any questions you are unsure about. Your responses should be recorded in your Homework Jotter provided by school.

***Please ensure your completed homework is handed in at school on  
Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May***

- **Spelling:** A spelling test on **Summer 1 Week 2** list of words will take place next **Friday**. The list of words is available separately on the Woodpecker Class page of the school website. Please log onto Spelling Shed to support practice at home.
- **Multiplication Facts:** A test of a variety of multiplication facts will take place every **Thursday**. Please practise all facts up to 12 x 12.
- **Reading:** You are expected to do **at least 20 minutes** of independent reading at home, **every day**. *Please remember to log all new books read – both those at home and at school – in our class reading log as there are no home reading records in Woodpecker Class.*

## A Kind Of Magic

To be honest, the bird had been looking “a bit peaky” for days. His feathers dull and bedraggled; his scaly claws dry and cracked; his wings tightly folded against his sides as if trying to trap some warmth next to his body. Yesterday, his chest had heaved heavily, as if even breathing was an effort. Today, it was worse. Ignatius barely lifted a sad, rheumy eye to his master. His lacklustre posture and feeble greeting suggesting the end was nigh.

Albert sighed, he knew this was the way of the world, that this life cycle must come to an end. It wasn't as if he hadn't experienced it before. As Head of the Aviary at Merlin's Academy, he had seen many a favoured feathered friend fly to the great garden in the sky. It was just that Ignatius was special. He had been with him for almost as long as Albert could remember, so he felt especially sad to see his little friend suffering.

Reaching into the cage, he gave Ignatius's scrawny back a gentle stroke and murmured soothing words. The bird responded by lifting his head and giving Albert a baleful look and a small, almost imperceptible peck on the fingertip. Then he hopped off into a corner of his ample cage and, facing away from his friend, he lay down. Strangely, the rest of the birds in the aviary stopped their incessant chittering, as if they too sensed the sombre mood of the moment.

Albert felt a tear spill down his cheek. This point was always upsetting, even though he had been through this before. He covered the small, bird's body with a tiny blanket and walked away. He knew Ignatius was gone, but he couldn't bear to deal with cleaning out his home now. He would come back a bit later and do it then, when he wasn't feeling quite so fragile.

Albert tried to keep himself busy for the next few days, but still the memory of Ignatius haunted him, he couldn't quite put him out of his head. Twice, he had snapped at his apprentice, who had hovered near the cage with the cleaning equipment, and the girl had scuttled off to deal with the owls instead. Finally, he knew the time had come. Carefully taking down the cage, Albert opened the door, swept the cage floor and cleaned out the food and water dishes. Finally, he lifted the skilfully knitted woollen cover and removed it, folding it tenderly and placing it in his desk drawer. Placing the cage in his private study, he sighed. It was done.

That evening, Albert sat at his desk making a note to order more seed for the finches who chirruped happily in the outer office. The clock ticked steadily on the mantle and the fire burned in the grate, warming his toes on this cold January night. Suddenly, all the chirping and hooting in the aviary stopped, almost as if someone had pressed a pause button. Albert looked up puzzled at the finches outside. What were they doing? Both birds were sat silently and expectantly on their perch peering into his office. It took a moment before he realised.

For the first time in days, a tiny smile began to play on Albert's face. He nodded serenely, moving



the cage into the light from the fire. A glance outside told him he was not the only one interested in what was about to happen. The corner where Ignatius had chirped his last, was glowing. Tiny sparks of light were jumping into the darkness. As the aviary held its collective breath, the sparks grew, glittering and dancing. Soon the whole corner of the cage was shining brightly, as if a fire had ignited and was steadily drawing air to breath itself to life. The aviary remained glued on tenterhooks to the scene unfolding in the cage. The flames danced and slowly, but surely began to coalesce into a shape, a tiny, winged shape. A head with two bright, inquisitive eyes peeped out of the flames, quickly followed by a body covered in the most amazing ruby red, orange and glittering gold feathers. Albert coughed as two shimmering scarlet wings fanned smoking sparks into this face. Finally, there was a loud squawk and Ignatius was reborn from the fire.

He jumped up onto Albert's shoulder, pecking his fingertip on the way, his trailing tail feathers leaving tiny burn marks on Albert's robes. He tutted, but he didn't really mind. He greeted Ignatius happily, stroking the now luminous feathers and smiling into the alert, shining eyes of the firebird. There were many wonders in this world, but watching a phoenix's life cycle begin again – that truly was a kind of magic.

## EXPLANATION FOCUS

1. Ignatius is described as being “special”. What does the author mean by this?
2. How does the author use figurative language to show how vibrant the bird is once he is reborn?
3. What hints are there in the text that Albert has seen this happen before?
4. What cohesive devices does the author use to help sequence the text and “glue” it together?
5. This story is called “a kind of magic” and also ends with that as a last line. Is this a good title? Explain with reference to the text.

## VIPERS QUESTIONS

**R**

In what ways does the bird look unwell?

**I**

Why does the bird give him a last peck?

**I**

Why is the bird called Ignatius?

**I**

How does Albert's sombre mood affect the rest of the aviary?

**I**

Why do the other birds stop making noise in the aviary (hint – it happens twice and also relates to the title)?



## Answers - Stage 5 - A Kind Of Magic:

1. He is special because he is a rare and magical bird, a phoenix, but also because he has been with Albert a long time, so he feels special and important to him.
2. The author uses alliteration to help the reader picture the vividness and brightness of the colours, “glittering golds”, “ruby red”. By using the simile comparing the moment to a fire growing we get the idea that something is breathing into life. The personification of the flames dancing helps show something alive is in the glowing cage. These contrast with the picture we are given at the start.
3. Using phrases such as “It wasn’t as if he hadn’t experienced it before”, “It took a moment before he realised”, and “he nodded serenely” alongside the reference to Ignatius having been with Albert most of his life, suggests that this bird is not a normal bird and refers to the cycle of life, death and re-birth associated with phoenixes. Albert has clearly seen this before – he saves the blanket in his desk, ready for the next time.
4. Cohesive devices:
  - there are many time conjunctions to help sequence the text (yesterday, today, finally, that evening).
  - there are also repeated references to Albert having experienced this before throughout the paragraphs.
  - The repetition of the birds being silent at key moments links the key moments of the phoenix’s life together.
  - The reference to a “peck on the fingertip” at the moment of the phoenix’s death and re-birth also helps tie the text together.
  - The title is also the last line -mimicking the cycle of the story.
5. It is a good title. The phoenix or firebird is a magical bird and it is not an ordinary thing or a bird to be re-born from its ashes. Getting to witness this moment is also something magical. It is also magical for Albert to find his friend returning to him after he is worried he is gone. The title appearing at the start and end mimics the life cycle of the bird and ties it all together nicely.

### The bird is:

- looking “a bit peaky” – meaning looking ill.
- His feathers dull and bedraggled.
- his scaly claws dry and cracked.
- his wings tightly folder against his sides suggest he is feeling cold.
- He can’t breathe well.
- His eyes look poorly “sad, rheumy eye” “baleful”
- He has no energy “lacklustre posture”
- And he does not interact much “feeble greeting “small, almost imperceptible peck”.

The last peck is almost as if he is saying goodbye (he will repeat it when he is reborn)

Ignatius refers to the fact that he is a firebird or phoenix and he will be reborn when a fire ignites his ashes.

The birds are quieter when Albert is sad and he snaps at his apprentice who then stays out of his way.

The other birds are silent at the two key moments which mark the phoenix’s death and re-birth. It is as if they know they must mark these key magical moments and pay their respects.

## Money



Even since people have been using money, other people have been trying to create counterfeit coins and notes. Many of the design details on modern money are a result of trying to make it harder for forgers to copy.

The Ancient Greeks and Romans were some of the first to criminalise counterfeiting money. It was punishable by death. Many of the Roman coins dug up today are actually ancient counterfeits!

One of the ways Romans deterred forgeries was to give their coins a serrated edge. This made it harder to create a cast from them and is still used on many modern coins.

Many modern notes include holograms to make it nearly impossible to forge them accurately. They aren't the only things, though. Some coins also include visual trickery. If you look at the serrated spot at the bottom of a British one-pound coin and slowly tilt the coin, you will notice that at one angle, you can see a £ sign, and at another, the number 1!



# FOCUS ON - TEXT

**1** Which verb tense is represented by the underlined words?  
Tick one.

Even since people have been using money, other people have been trying to create counterfeit coins and notes.

- present
- present perfect
- past perfect
- present perfect continuous

**2** Circle the correct verb form.

Counterfeiters **was / were** always trying to create illegal copies of coins and notes.

Holograms **was / were** introduced as a way to try and deter forgeries.

In Ancient Greek and Roman civilisations, it **was / were** illegal to produce counterfeits.

**3** Choose an appropriate conjunction to complete the text below.  
Tick one.

Remember to use appropriate punctuation.

One of the ways Romans deterred forgeries was to give their coins a serrated edge. \_\_\_\_\_, this made it harder to create a cast from them.

- When
- While
- Therefore
- Unless



# FOCUS ON - PUNCTUATION

**1** Insert a comma into the sentence below.

One of the ways Romans deterred forgeries was to give their coins a serrated edge which made it more difficult to reproduce accurately.

**2** Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- Many modern notes' holograms make it practically impossible to forge them accurately.
- Many modern note's holograms make it practically impossible to forge them accurately.
- Many modern notes hologram's make it practically impossible to forge them accurately.
- Many modern notes holograms' make it practically impossible to forge them accurately.

**3** What is the name of this punctuation mark?



At the bottom of a one-pound coin, depending on which way you tilt it, you can either see a £ sign or the number 1.

**4** Fill in the missing boxes in the table below.

no contraction	apostrophe	contraction	apostrophe
		aren't	
you will			
it is			



# Answers - Money

## TEXT

1. 4th option – present perfect continuous
2. Counterfeiters was / were always trying to create illegal copies of coins and notes.  
Holograms was / were introduced as a way to try and deter forgeries.  
In Ancient Greek and Roman civilisations, it was / were illegal to produce counterfeits.
3. 3rd option – Therefore

## PUNCTUATION

1. One of the ways Romans deterred forgeries was to give their coins a serrated edge, which made it more difficult to reproduce accurately.
  2. 1st option – Many modern notes' holograms make it practically impossible to forge them accurately.
  3. hyphen
  4. are not = aren't
- you will = you'll  
it is = it's