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Transcription of the Braille Version

2022 national curriculum tests
Key stage 1
English reading
Braille
Paper 2: reading booklet
Festivals
The Hurricane Tree

STA/22/8402/BTp

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Festivals

What are festivals?

Festivals are special days or times of the year when people celebrate. People might have time off work or school. At festivals, people dance and sing. Sometimes, they wear beautiful costumes and take part in parades in the **[braille page 3]** streets. Often, there will be fireworks at festivals.

People all over the world celebrate many different festivals. Below, you can read about some of them.

Harvest festivals

Harvest festivals are held in many countries. They celebrate the food that has been grown and **[braille page 4]** harvested to last throughout the winter.

In this country, harvest festivals take place at the end of September. Many schools make displays of food and flowers. They also give food to charity.

Sometimes, bakers will make special harvest loaves. These loaves are shaped like wheat to celebrate the harvest. Wheat is important **[braille page 5]** because it is used in many types of food, including bread.

New Year festivals

New Year festivals celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of the new one.

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Hogmanay

In Scotland, people call the New Year festival Hogmanay and they celebrate it on the last day of the year. At Hogmanay, there are dazzling firework displays and lots of singing and dancing.

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Chinese New Year

The Chinese New Year festival is celebrated on the first day of the new year in the traditional Chinese calendar. This day changes every year but it is always in January or February.

At Chinese New Year, people celebrate with music and dancing. They often **[braille page 8]** have wonderful parades. In the parades, huge puppets move through the streets and people wave colourful flags. The most impressive puppet is the dragon. In Chinese legends, dragons are friendly and bring good luck. In the parades, the dragon puppet always comes last.

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After the parades, people let off firecrackers (noisy fireworks). Everyone has fun!

Flower festivals

Flower festivals are held all over the world in spring and summer. They usually celebrate the arrival of spring and the new flowers that grow.

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In a country called the Netherlands, people decorate boats and lorries (called floats) with tulips and other flowers. The Netherlands is famous for its tulips.

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In a country called Italy, people make huge carpets of flowers in the streets. The flowers stay in place for days or even weeks. At the end of the festival, children are allowed to play in the flowers.

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On an island called Jersey, people make giant models of animals, boats and cars out of flowers and take these models on a parade through the island's towns. There is music and dancing. At night, the models are covered in lights and they make the streets sparkle. At the end of the parade, there is a huge firework display.

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The Hurricane Tree

This story is about what happened to a tree in a hurricane. A hurricane is a big storm with strong winds.

Once there was a boy called William, who lived in a house underneath a tall tree.

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William's mummy sometimes took him to the window at bedtime to see the big yellow moon shining through the leaves at the top of the tree.

"When I'm big," said William, "I'm going to climb right up that tree and sit next to a bird's nest and look at the stars."

"It's a very old tree," said William's daddy. **[braille page 15]** "It's more than a hundred years old. Someone must have planted it in the old days, and looked after it to help it grow straight and strong. When that tree was a new shoot, there weren't any cars or aeroplanes. And people didn't have electricity. They cooked their food on wood fires."

"They didn't have electric lights, either," **[braille page 16]** said Mummy. "Children had candles to light them to bed."

One night, very late, William woke up feeling frightened. A wind was blowing, a very strong wind indeed. He could hear the tiles rattling on the roof and the trees sighing and creaking. The noise made him sad. He climbed out of bed and went to the window, **[braille page 17]** but everything was black outside. He couldn't see the garden, and he couldn’t see the tree. Something went CRASH! in the dark.

In the morning, the family looked out of the window.

"Oh!" they all shouted together. The big tree was down. The wind had knocked it over in the night. You could see its roots tipped **[braille page 18]** up, and even the very top branches were lying on the ground in the mud.

William began to cry. "You said it took a hundred years to grow!" he sobbed.

He couldn't eat his breakfast and he wouldn't play with his toys. William just stood and looked at the poor old tree.

After a while William said, "May I climb on it?"

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"Yes," said Daddy. And he helped him up. William sat on the trunk and held a high branch. "I'm a squirrel," he said. Then William moved further along and found a higher branch to sit on. It felt safe and secret, among the leaves. "The tree is still my friend," he said.

There wasn't any electricity all day, because **[braille page 20]** the wind had knocked down all the poles and wires. At lunchtime, they had to make a fire and cook sausages on it.

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"We're cooking on a wood fire," said William. "Just like the old days when my tree was little. Will we have to have a candle to light us to bed?"
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"Yes, I think so," said Mummy. "And to eat our supper by."

William played on the tree all day. When it was dark, Mummy lit candles in the kitchen. William made a picture of the tree, and said to his daddy, "Can we plant another tree, just like the old one?"

"Yes." Daddy was pleased. "We'll plant a **[braille page 22]** young tree. We'll have to look after it properly while it's little. In a hundred years, your great-grandchildren can play under the tree with all their friends. Every year the tree will get bigger and stronger and more beautiful."

"Will the hundred-years children know it was us who planted it?" said William.
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"Well," said Daddy, "they might guess it was someone who loved trees."

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