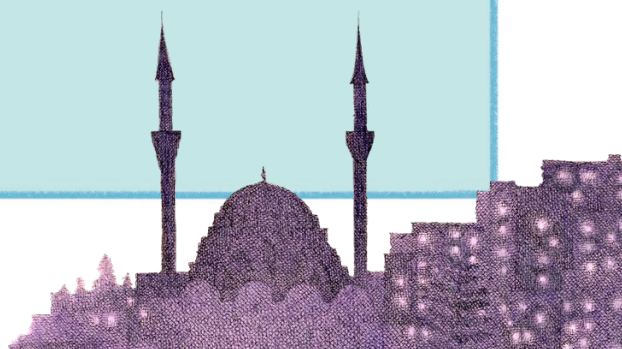


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BEFORE READING



1 Look at the pictures in the book. Guess what happens in the story.

a Which of the following do you think happens in the story? Tick (✓).

- ☐ death ☐ murder ☐ train journey ☐ kidnapping
☐ romance ☐ birth ☐ a mystery to solve

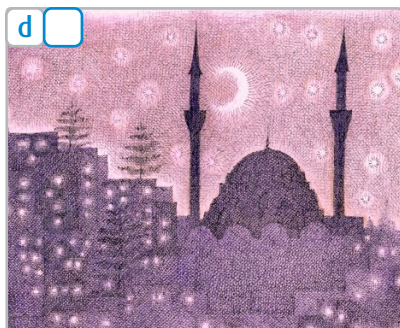
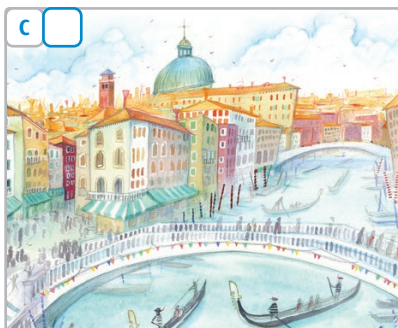
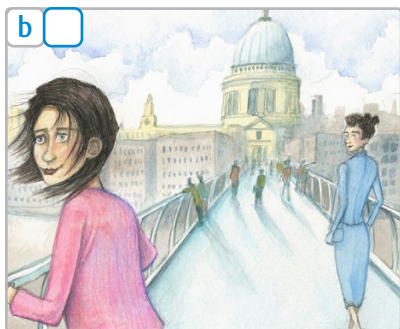
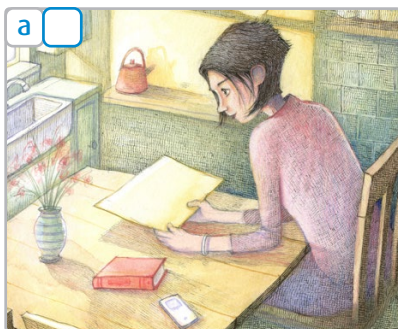
b Where does the story take place? Tick (✓).

- ☐ Rome, London & Athens ☐ Paris, Athens & Venice
☐ Istanbul, Venice & Madrid ☐ London, Venice & Istanbul

c When does the story take place? Tick (✓).

- ☐ in the past ☐ in the present ☐ in the future

2 Look at the Contents on page 3 and guess which chapter these pictures are from.



BEFORE READING

1 These verbs are from the story. Match them to the correct definitions.

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| a ☐ pick somebody up | 1 make somebody remember something |
| b ☐ grab | 2 walk slowly |
| c ☐ feel homesick | 3 look at for a long time |
| d ☐ be glad | 4 say something very quietly |
| e ☐ stroll | 5 be a little angry |
| f ☐ stare | 6 be happy |
| g ☐ whisper | 7 miss your home |
| h ☐ be cross | 8 collect somebody in a car |
| i ☐ remind | 9 take hold of quickly |

2 Match the sentences from the story to the cities. Write I, L or V.
I = Istanbul L = London V = Venice

- a ☐ We can take a ferry boat up the Bosphorus from Beşiktaş.
- b ☐ The two taxis went quickly across the Galata Bridge, over the Golden Horn.
- c ☐ She walked past the long queue outside Madame Tussaud's and stopped at number 25, Baker Street.
- d ☐ The boat moved slowly up the busy Grand Canal.
- e ☐ Sibel stared out across the muddy brown water of the River Thames.
- f ☐ They sat in a restaurant in St Mark's Square, the sun dancing across the marble paving to the sound of an orchestra playing at a neighbouring café.

1 Letters and riddles



It was June in London. The sun shone in through the window, but the room wasn't warm. The little book her great-uncle* had given her about the architect Mimar Sinan lay on the kitchen table. Sibel sat staring out of the window, playing with the silver bracelet on her arm. Suddenly, the bracelet snapped* open. Maybe she had turned it too hard. She felt nervous, but she didn't know why. She had finished her last exam.

Her phone beeped loudly, interrupting her thoughts. It was a message from her dad:

Hi, darling! Exams over, well done!
Come to the café now!

Dring! The doorbell rang. Sibel jumped. She really was very nervous today. She went to open the front door. The postman stood on the doorstep.

'A special delivery* for a Miss Sibel Karaman,' he said cheerfully.

'That's me,' said Sibel, and she signed for the envelope. Then she closed the door, and went back down the hallway to the kitchen. She put the mysterious envelope on the old wooden table and sat down.

The postmark* was London, and the handwriting was her great-uncle's—neat, black ink, every letter beautifully formed—unmistakably his. She could see him now, sitting at his desk with his pen. There was a smile on his lips, and a sadness in his dark brown eyes that was always there. It was definitely from her great-uncle. She opened it, and she found a letter with a riddle* in the form of a rhyme, which she guessed she had to solve.

- **great-uncle:** mother or father's uncle
- **postmark:** stamp by the post office with the date and where it's from
- **riddle:** cleverly worded question asked as a game
- **snapped:** opened suddenly with a sound
- **special delivery:** letter one has to sign to receive

Before Sibel had time to read the letter, her mobile phone rang. It was her father telling her to hurry up and come to the café. She put the letter in her bag and took the bus to Covent Garden.

Sibel's mum and dad owned the Mihrimah Café, and she had always loved it—the cosy feel, the comfy* leather armchairs, the shelves full of books, the old brass* coffee grinders*, and the wonderful smell of fresh coffee.

'Thank goodness you're here,' said her father.

'Sit down,' said her mother, and she placed a cup of Sibel's favourite coffee on the table in front of her.

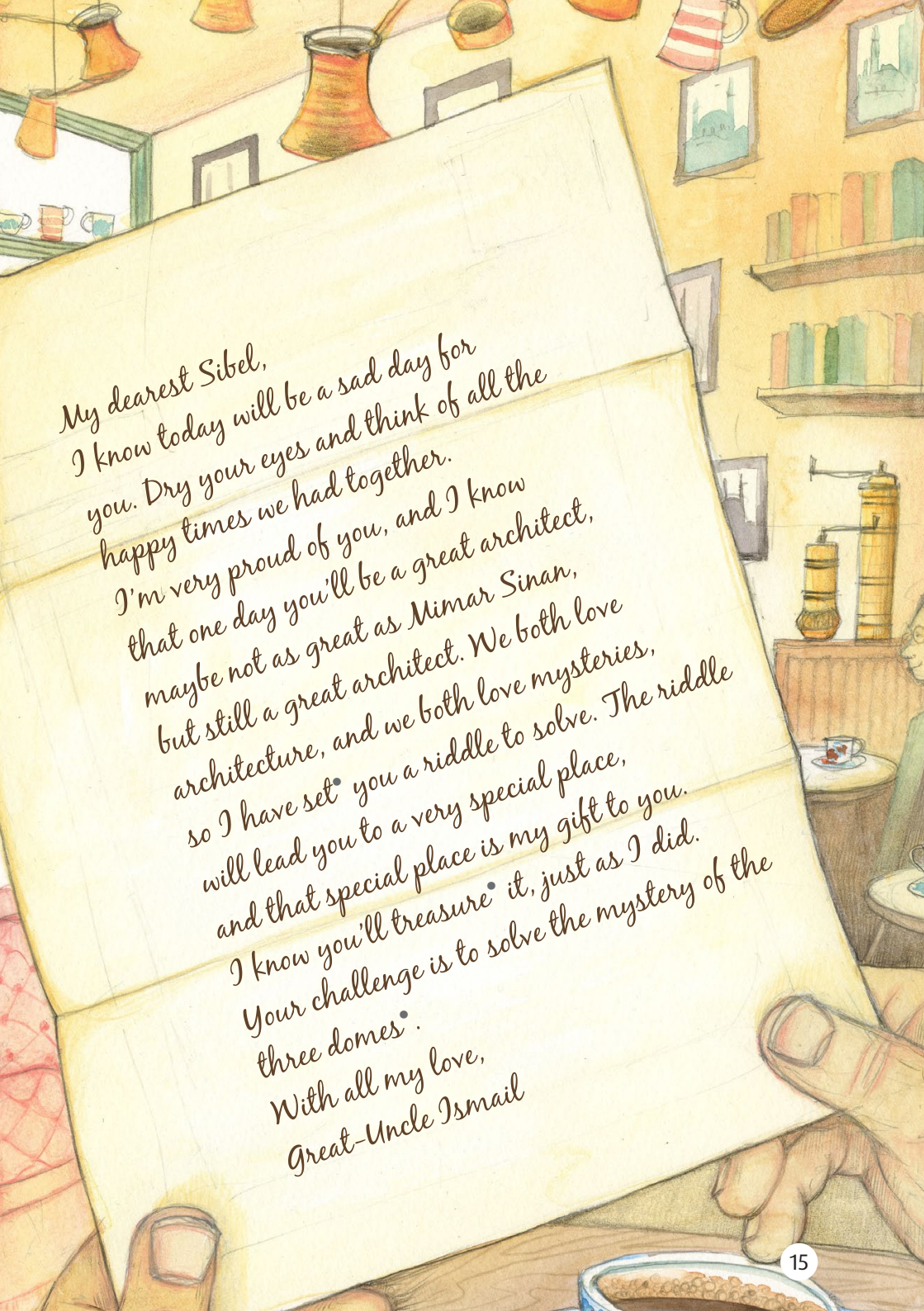
'What's wrong?' asked Sibel. *Something's wrong*. Possible disasters* ran through her mind, *It's the cat? My brother? The house? The café?*

'Your great-uncle died peacefully in his sleep last night,' said her father.

'That's not possible,' said Sibel. 'I got a special delivery with a letter from him this morning. Look, I've brought the letter with me. Read it.'

Her father read out the letter.

- **brass:** yellow metal
- **coffee-grinders:** devices used to turn coffee beans into powder
- **comfy:** short form for comfortable
- **disasters:** bad things that happen
- **domes:** rounded roofs with a circular base
- **set:** given; prepared
- **treasure:** love and look after



My dearest Sibel,
I know today will be a sad day for
you. Dry your eyes and think of all the
happy times we had together.
I'm very proud of you, and I know
that one day you'll be a great architect,
maybe not as great as Mimar Sinan,
but still a great architect. We both love
architecture, and we both love mysteries,
so I have set you a riddle to solve. The riddle
will lead you to a very special place,
and that special place is my gift to you.
I know you'll treasure it, just as I did.
Your challenge is to solve the mystery of the
three domes.
With all my love,
Great-Uncle Ismail

'This is just like your great-uncle to leave a riddle like this. He loved mysteries. His whole life was a mystery! Why did he leave Turkey and come to England? Why did he never go back to Istanbul? All those secrets—secrets that we should bury* with him. Sibel, you've got university to think of and your studies. You can't waste time solving some silly riddle. Just forget about this letter,' her father said angrily. And he placed it on the table without even reading the riddle.

'I can't forget it,' said Sibel. 'I've finished my exams. It's the summer holidays now. Great-Uncle Ismail has died and set me this challenge*. He wants me to solve the mystery. I can't let him down*. He trusted* me, and I'll do it for him.'

'Let's not talk about this now,' said her mother, not wanting an argument. She picked up the letter and the riddle, and put them into Sibel's bag. They sat in silence while Sibel drank her coffee and thought about Great-Uncle Ismail. Mixed thoughts of sadness* and excitement came and went from Sibel's mind.

Domes? Architects? Mimar Sinan, Great-Uncle's favourite architect? What was it all about? Help! I need some help. Aunt Sofia! She knew my great-uncle better than anyone. She'll help.

Sibel stood up and grabbed* her bag.

'I have to go, Mum. Dad, I'm fine. I'll call you. Don't worry.'

The doorbell rang as she left the café.

Her mum stood at the door and called after her, 'Sibel!' Sibel turned to face her. 'Don't do anything stupid, will you?'

'No, Mum,' she said.

Then she waved, and walked quickly down the street to the tube* station.

- **bury:** put under the ground
- **challenge:** test
- **grabbed:** took hold of quickly
- **let him down:** disappoint him

- **sadness:** sad feelings
- **trusted:** believed in
- **tube:** name for the underground railway in London

AFTER READING

VOCABULARY

1 Use five of the words in the box to complete the sentences.

bunch kidding shutter damage
grave busker dust spooking

- a Luckily, Donne's statue didn't break. A brown burn mark was the only
- b 'You can't be serious. You must be '
- c Inside the chest there was a of old keys and the usual envelope.
- d 'Somebody's been here', said Sibel. 'There's no on the desk.'
- e A sat on a sun lounger on the beach below, playing an old Beatles song.

2  In pairs, make three sentences with the words left out in Exercise 1.

3 In each of the following sentences, an adjective has been used instead of a noun, or a noun instead of an adjective. Underline the mistake then correct it.

Example: *I'm very pride of you* → *I'm very proud of you*

- a There was a smile on his lips, and a sad in his dark brown eyes that was always there.
- b I think it may help to sit at his desk for a while, to be in the place where he felt most comfort. It may give us some clues.
- c Both of them were silence. Sibel stared out across the muddy brown water of the River Thames.
- d All these statues of death men and women staring at us. It's creepy.
- e It might be a very important plaque. Take a photo of it, it might be use to us later.

AFTER READING

CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH EXAMS

P B1 Preliminary English Test Reading Part 5

1 Complete the sentences below with the correct answer (A, B, C or D).

- 1** 'All the books and paintings in the world can't prepare you for this! So how I, a simple private detective, to do it?'
A could **B** can **C** was **D** would
- 2** Aunt Sofia walked out of sight, and Sibel ran to catch up her.
A with **B** for **C** at **D** on
- 3** She'd inherited them from her mother who, in, had inherited them from her grandmother.
A chance **B** time **C** exchange **D** turn
- 4** The church was completed in 1592, after Palladio's in 1580.
A death **B** dead **C** died **D** dying
- 5** At 9:35 am, on time, the train pulled into Santa Lucia Station.
A about **B** left **C** right **D** well
- 6** 'Tell me the legend of Mihrimah. I'm to hear it.'
A dying **B** loving **C** starving **D** wanting
- 7** 'Wow! Dad would be so jealous if he me in this car.'
A should see **B** sees **C** would see **D** saw
- 8** 'I hope you like the house for it is yours now. it bring you as much happiness as it brought me.'
A Could **B** May **C** Will **D** Might
- 9** 'Well, 21st March was also Safiye's birthday, and sometimes we visit the mosque in Edirnekapi together.'
A didn't **B** could **C** may **D** would
- 10** 'Well, we have solved the mystery of the three domes,' said Jake, 'but it's not the last we'll hear about domes. Not on our course!'
A could **B** will **C** might **D** must