

Contents

Meet the Author	6
About the Series	7
Characters	8
Before Reading	10
1 Violet and Babs	15
2 Where's the tiger?	19
3 The Gold Hall	22
4A Mamba and the snakes	25
5A The room at the bottom of the stairs	28
4B Felix and the cats	31
5B The cat and the monkey	35
6 The secret statues	39
7A The secret of the Golden Zoo	42
8A Violet's plan	45
7B A light at night	49
8B The power of the cat	52
9 The room with the statues	56
10A Jag	59
10B Mamba	63
10C Miss Gar	66
After Reading	69



THE SECRET STATUES BOOKS

A group of strange people called the Golden Zoo family have an orphanage and a school. They take children with no family, give them a home and teach them some very special lessons. Why are there so many animal pictures and statues? And what do these people want from the children?



Meet Violet.

Violet has no parents or family. She is a new girl at the Golden Zoo. She meets Miss Gar, the headteacher, and the other teachers, Mamba, Felix and Jag. She also makes friends with Babs and Corvin. But she is scared of the Golden Zoo. Why are the teachers so strange? And what is at the bottom of the long, dark stairs?



Meet Babs.

Babs is also a new girl at the Golden Zoo. She loves animals and all the animal statues at the Golden Zoo, except one. What animal does Babs not like? And can she be Violet's new best friend?



Meet Corvin.

Corvin is also new at the Golden Zoo. He is not very strong and he isn't very good at the lessons. Can Violet help him learn?

The Tiger's Tail is the first book in the Secret Statues mystery adventure series. Each book is a maze reader, which means that you, the reader, can make decisions along the way about what the characters do in the story. Each decision you make leads you to a different version of the story and a unique ending: so choose carefully!

To help you make the best decisions you need to know these words. Use a dictionary to look them up.

key

orphanage

power

statue

BEFORE READING

1 Match the tails to the animals.

a jaguar
d cat

b monkey
e snake

c crocodile
f tiger



2 Circle your favourite animal.

cat crocodile jaguar monkey snake tiger

Write a sentence about why you like this animal.

3  **Look at the characters on pages 8 and 9, then discuss these questions.**

- a** Who do you think likes snakes?
- b** Who do you think likes crocodiles?
- c** What animal do you think Jag likes?
- d** What animal do you think Violet likes?

4  **Work in pairs and choose the correct animal for each sentence.**

- a** This animal eats small stones.
☐ snake ☐ crocodile ☐ cat
- b** A group of these animals is called a tribe.
☐ monkey ☐ cat ☐ snake
- c** This animal doesn't like to swim.
☐ cat ☐ jaguar ☐ tiger
- d** This animal can run up to 65 kph.
☐ tiger ☐ cat ☐ monkey
- e** This animal doesn't lay eggs.
☐ crocodile ☐ snake ☐ jaguar
- f** This animal can understand numbers.
☐ cat ☐ tiger ☐ monkey
- g** This animal smells with its tongue.
☐ tiger ☐ snake ☐ crocodile
- h** Babies of this animal are called cubs.
☐ jaguar ☐ crocodile ☐ monkey

5 **The words in the box are homophones, which means that they sound the same, but have different spellings and meanings. Match each with its meaning.**

tale tail

- a** _____: the part of an animal at the end of its body
- b** _____: a story, often involving exciting events

CHAPTER 1

Violet and Babs



GUESS! WHO ARE VIOLET AND BABS?

- A They are best friends.
- B They are sisters.
- C They are strangers.
- D They are enemies.



Violet is in a new place[•]. There are lots of rooms and her room is very big. There are two big windows and two big beds. And above the beds there are two old paintings. One of a cat and one of a baboon. Violet doesn't like the paintings, she thinks they're scary[•].

She's eleven years old today, but she doesn't know it's her birthday. Violet is an orphan, with no mother and no father. No one knows that it's her birthday.

Suddenly, the door opens. Violet jumps[•] behind a bed and hides. When she looks up, there's a girl standing in the doorway[•].

'Umm, hello?' says the girl.

Violet gets up. The girl has long brown hair and big brown eyes. She's holding a toy monkey and she's got a small red bag. She looks nice.

'Don't just stand there! Go inside!' says a very loud[•] woman. She pushes[•] the girl into the room and stands beside her.

'What do you say, Violet?' asks the woman.

'Good morning, Miss Gar,' says Violet quietly.

'Good girl! Here at the Golden Zoo we are always polite[•].' Miss Gar is tall, with green eyes and a wide mouth. Violet doesn't like her.

'Violet, this is Barbara. She's new, like you. Girls, when the bell rings, come downstairs to the Gold Hall and meet[•] the family.'

'The family?' asks Violet.

'Yes! Now you are part of the Golden Zoo family,' says Miss Gar, and she walks out of the room, closing the door behind her.



Glossary

- **doorway:** area where a door is
- **jumps:** (here) moves quickly
- **loud:** (here) with a big voice
- **meet:** (here) know someone for the first time
- **place:** (here) house
- **polite:** nice and kind
- **pushes:** moves her forward with her hands
- **scary:** that make her feel afraid



The girl puts her monkey and her bag on one of the beds and smiles at Violet.

‘Call me Babs,’ she says. ‘No one calls me Barbara.’

‘OK, Babs! I’m Violet.’

‘Who is *she*? I don’t like her!’ says Babs.

‘Me neither,’ says Violet. ‘I think she’s the head of this orphanage’. But I’m not sure.’

‘What kind of orphanage is it? And who is the Golden Zoo family? Oh, I really want a nice family! This place is great!’ says Babs.

‘I don’t know. I don’t like it here, it feels scary.’

‘But it’s so big. And there’s a family. And we can be friends.’

Babs looks at the paintings on the wall.

‘I don’t like that painting of the cat,’ she says. ‘I like animals, but I don’t really like cats, I don’t know why.’

‘Oh... I don’t like many animals, but cats are nice,’ says Violet.

Babs goes over to the window and looks out at a beautiful garden.

‘I don’t believe it!’

‘What?’ says Violet.

‘There’s – a – tiger – in – the – garden!’

‘A tiger? Don’t be silly!’ says Violet, and she goes to the window, too. But Babs is right! There *is* a tiger in the garden.

‘Let’s go down to the garden!’ says Babs.

‘What? No!’ says Violet.

‘Come on, Violet!’ Babs laughs and takes Violet’s hand. Violet doesn’t know what to do. Babs is nice, but she’s a little strange.

At that moment, a bell starts ringing.

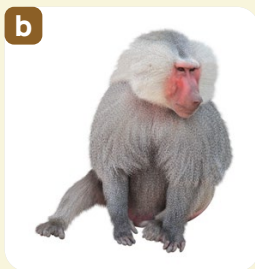
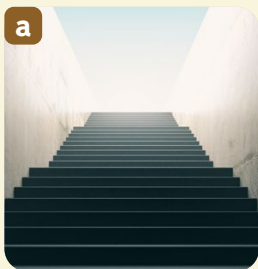
‘Babs, we have to go to the Gold Hall,’ says Violet.

Glossary

- **call me:** say my name is
- **great:** very good
- **laughs:** makes a sound to show something is funny (ha! ha!)
- **let’s:** (suggestion) why don’t we?
- **orphanage:** house where orphans live

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Write the words below the pictures.



2  Take turns to choose a word from Exercise 1 and explain why it is important in the story.

THE MONKEY IS
IMPORTANT BECAUSE...

THERE ARE STAIRS
THAT GO...

K A2 Key English Test Listening Part 3

 **1** Listen to Violet talking to Babs. Choose the correct answers.

1 Where are Violet and Babs?

- a ☐ in a classroom
- b ☐ in their room
- c ☐ in the garden

2 Why does Violet say, 'Oh stop it, Babs, please'?

- a ☐ Because Babs is laughing at Violet.
- b ☐ Because Babs is singing loudly.
- c ☐ Because Babs is jumping on the bed.

3 What does Babs call Violet?

- a ☐ a baby
- b ☐ a loser
- c ☐ a bad student

4 How does Babs describe herself?

- a ☐ big and strong
- b ☐ big and happy
- c ☐ little and clever

5 What does Violet tell Babs?

- a ☐ She can change into a cat.
- b ☐ She wants to be a baboon.
- c ☐ There is a boy in a prison.

