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THE HOUSE OF HEROES BOOKS

The evil Black Owl and the good White Owl are enemies. Many years ago, the White Owl and his followers put the Black Owl in prison. Now the Black Owl's followers want to free him, but first, they need to find special crystal eggs to open his prison. They are looking everywhere in time and space to find these eggs. In the House of Heroes, the White Owl also travels through time and space to try to stop them. He finds people who can help him to find the crystal eggs first. But these heroes have to go into new worlds, and some heroes do not come back.



Meet Zhou and Ren.

Zhou and Ren are teenagers. They live in the same apartment block and walk to school together every day. One morning, Zhou is hungry. He follows his nose, and it takes him and Ren into a strange alleyway. They enter the House of Heroes, and it changes their lives. Who do they meet? Where do they go? And what happens to them?



The Red Spirit is the second book in the House of Heroes 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!

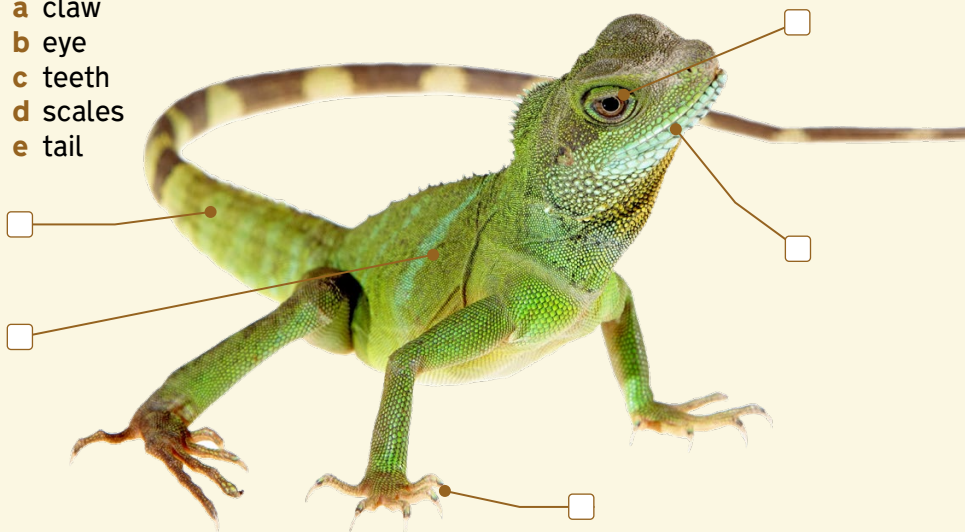
To help you make the best decisions, you need to know these words. Use a dictionary to look them up.

creatures evil power spirit

BEFORE READING

1 Look at this photo of a lizard. Match the words to the parts.

- a claw
- b eye
- c teeth
- d scales
- e tail



2 What do you know about lizards? Tick (✓) true (T) or false (F).

	T	F
a Some lizards can change colour.	☐	☐
b Some lizards can swim.	☐	☐
c All lizards eat meat.	☐	☐
d Lizards don't make any sounds.	☐	☐
e Some lizards never drink.	☐	☐
f Some lizards can run on water.	☐	☐
g Some lizards can make their tails fall off.	☐	☐
h Lizards live to 15 years old.	☐	☐

3 Read the lines from Chapter 1 below.
Then answer the questions.

//

'Wait!' he shouted.

A small hand came out of the lift
and stopped the doors. Zhou jumped in.

'You are 30 seconds late,' said a girl.

It was Zhou's best friend, Ren.
She was wearing headphones and Zhou
could hear music coming from them.
She was carrying a big bag of schoolbooks, too.

Zhou pointed at her bag, 'Can I help?' he asked.

Ren nodded and gave him the bag. It was heavy.

'You study too much,' he said. Ren smiled.



//

a Who is in the scene?

b Where are they?

c Find these words in a dictionary:

clever helpful late punctual strong studious

d Which words do you think describe Ren?

e Which words do you think describe Zhou?

f Which of these words describe you?

CHAPTER 1

Dumplings



Guess! Where do you think the story begins?

- A** It begins in London.
- B** It begins in New York.
- C** It begins in Shanghai.
- D** It begins in Mumbai.



‘Don’t go without eating!’ Zhou’s mother came to the door of their small kitchen. She had a bowl of noodle soup in her hands. She watched as her son ran through the living room to the front door with his school bag on his back. He stopped for a moment, looked at his mother, and smiled.

‘Sorry Ma, I’m late. I’ll get something on the way,’ he said, and ran out of the door. ‘Bye!’

Zhou ran down the hallway of their apartment building. He could see the doors of the lift closing.

‘Wait!’ he shouted.

A small hand came out of the lift and stopped the doors. Zhou jumped in.

‘You are 30 seconds late,’ said a girl.

It was Zhou’s best friend, Ren. She was wearing headphones and Zhou could hear music coming from them. She was carrying a big bag of school books, too.

Zhou pointed to her bag. ‘Can I help?’ he asked.

Ren nodded and gave him the bag. It was heavy.

‘You study too much,’ he said. Ren smiled.

Just then, the lift doors opened, and they went outside into the street. It was a beautiful sunny morning in Shanghai. The sky was blue, and they could hear cicadas in the trees. Zhou listened. He thought the cicadas were saying something, but he didn’t know what.

‘Come on, Zhou,’ said Ren. Zhou stopped thinking about the cicadas and followed her.

It was busy on the street, with people on their way to work and school. Lots of them stopped at the food stalls to buy breakfast dumplings, noodles, and warm soya milk. Zhou felt very hungry now.

‘Wait, I have to get some dumplings, Ren,’ he said.

‘No, there isn’t any time. We’re going to be late,’ she said. And they walked on.

Glossary

- **building:** structure like a house, shop or school, etc
- **cicadas:** insects that make a loud noise
- **dumplings:** typical Chinese street food
- **food stalls:** places outside that sell food
- **headphones:** 
- **nodded:** moved her head up and down to say ‘yes’
- **soya milk:** drink made from soya beans



Then suddenly, Zhou stopped. There was a smell[•]. A delicious[•] smell. What was it? He turned around and around. Where was the smell coming from?

‘This way,’ he said, and ran down a small alleyway[•].

‘ZHOU!’ Ren shouted. She wanted to go to school, but Zhou had her books. She followed him down the alleyway and into another. Then he stopped.

‘Zhou, what are you doing?’ she asked.

‘Look!’ he said.

Ren turned around. There was a wall of fog[•] in front of them. And it was glowing[•].

‘What is it?’ Ren asked.

‘I don’t know, but that smell is coming from the other side, and it’s very good.’

‘Stop, Zhou!’ shouted Ren. But it was too late. Zhou disappeared[•] into the fog.

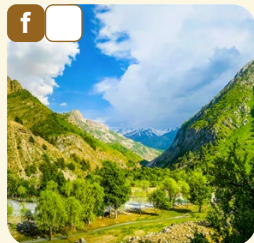


Glossary

- **alleyway:** narrow street with buildings or walls on both sides
- **delicious:** very good to eat
- **disappeared:** was gone
- **fog:** thick, low cloud
- **glowing:** shining
- **smell:** something your nose detects

AFTER READING VOCABULARY

1 Label the pictures. Then order them according to the story.



2  Use the words from Exercise 1 to tell a simple version of the story.

ZHOU AND REN SEE SOME
GLOWING FOG IN SHANGHAI.

YES, THEY GO INTO THE FOG AND
FIND THE HOUSE OF HEROES.

K A2 Key English Test Reading and Writing Part 4

1 Read the extract from the story. Without looking at the story, choose the correct answer (A, B or C).

Zhou, Ren and Taro walked for a long **1** _____. The two friends could see that Taro was in **2** _____, but he walked quietly and quickly in front of them. They came to a small river, and Taro followed it **3** _____ a dark valley with a tall mountain at the end. He then **4** _____ to the right, and Zhou and Ren followed him up a hill. He was walking more slowly now. After a **5** _____, they stopped and looked down into the valley. Ren didn't know why, but this **6** _____ felt bad. Many of the trees and plants were black, and there was lots of smoke. They could see strange creatures moving through the smoke and trees towards the mountain.

1 A hour

B minute

C time

2 A ill

B pain

C hurt

3 A before

B into

C under

4 A came

B stopped

C turned

5 A while

B space

C thought

6 A place

B topic

C time

