

**Sacred Heart College
Junior School
Annual Sample Paper**

Year 4

English (Rdg. Compr.)

Duration: (prt of 1 hr 40m)

Read the following passage *carefully*. Answer the questions on Test Paper (Ex. G).

THE STONE CUTTER

Once upon a time there lived a stone cutter, in a small village. All day long he worked hard, cutting the hard stones and making the shapes which were needed by his customers. His hands were hard and his clothes were dirty.

One day he went out to work on a big stone. It was very hard to work and the sun was very hot. After spending several hours cutting the stone, he sat down in the shade and soon fell asleep.



After sometime, he heard the sound of somebody coming. Walking up he saw a long procession of people. There were many soldiers and attendants and in the middle, in a palanquin carried by strong people, sat the king.

“How wonderful it must be to be the great king,” thought the stone cutter. “How happy I would be if I were the king instead of a poor stone cutter.” As he said these words, a strange thing happened. The stone cutter found himself dressed in silk clothes and shining jewels. His hands were soft and he was sitting in a comfortable palanquin.

He looked through the curtains and thought, “How easy it is to be a king, these people are here to serve me.”

The procession moved on and the sun grew hot. The stone cutter, now the king, became too warm for comfort. He asked the procession to stop so that he could rest for some time.

At once the chief of the soldiers bent before the king and said, “Your Majesty, only this morning you swore to have me hanged to death if we did not reach the palace before the sun set.”

The stone cutter felt sorry for him and ordered the procession to go on its way again. As the afternoon wore on, the sun grew hotter, and the king became more and more uncomfortable.

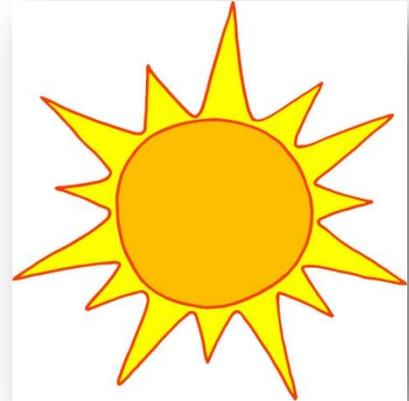
"I am powerful, it is true, but how more powerful the sun is," he thought. "I would rather be the sun than a king."

At once, he became the sun, shining down on the earth. His new power was hard to control.

He shone too strongly, he burned up the fields with his rays and turned the ocean into vapour and formed a great cloud which covered the land.

But no matter how hard he shone, he could not see through the clouds.

"It is obvious that the clouds are even stronger and more powerful than the sun," said the stone cutter, now the sun. "I would rather be a cloud."



Suddenly he found himself turned into a huge dark cloud. He started using his new power. He poured rain down on the fields and caused floods. All the trees and houses were swept away but a boulder, which once he had been cutting when he was a stone cutter, was unmoved and unchanged.



However much he poured down on the stone it did not move.

"Why is that rock more powerful than I am?" wondered the stone cutter, now a cloud. "Only a stone cutter could change the rock by his skill. How I wish I were a stonecutter."

No sooner he said the words that he found himself sitting on a stone with hard and rough hands.

He picked up his tools and set to work on a boulder, happily.