

Year 6 Summer 1 Week 5 Reading

<https://www.lovereading4kids.co.uk/extract/16030/Lightning-Mary-by-Anthea-Simmons.html>

Lightning Mary

Isn't everybody gets struck by lightning and lives to tell the tale.

But I did. Not that I recall. I was only a baby. My father wasn't there when it happened but he would have told you the story if you'd asked him and would have recounted how he found me wrapped in a cloth, quite gone from my mind.

Like dead. But not.

It was the night the circus came to Lyme Regis. Jugglers and fools. Bearded ladies. Performing monkeys. Dashing riders on powerful steeds, performing amazing acts, so folks said. More like showing off on a pony, if you ask me.

A neighbour of ours, Elizabeth Haskings, took me to see the spectacle, perhaps as a kindness to my mother who had just given birth to another stillborn, or so she could use me as a reason to get up close enough to see the riders' handsome faces.

There was an almighty storm. Rain lashing down like something out of the Bible . . . Noah's flood, maybe. The lightning lit up the sky over and over again and the thunder was like ten thousand rocks bouncing down from the cliff face and into the sea. Elizabeth held me tight in her arms as we sheltered under a huge tree with two others. All screaming, no doubt. Except me. I am not, nor ever have been, a screamer.

A bolt of lightning struck that tree, a mighty elm, and split it in two. But it didn't stop there. It struck Elizabeth and the other folk and frizzled them up like fat in a pan. Elizabeth dropped me like a stone when it struck her.

My father heard word that I was dead with the rest of them and he threw his chisel aside and ran up from his workshop fast as he could, with terror in his heart and tears in his eyes. Some folk had carried me back home and put me in a basin of hot water to try to bring me back, but I reckon it was only when I heard my father calling: 'Mary! My Mary! Come back! Come back to me!' that I drew breath again. I think it would have broken his heart to lose two Marys.

It is strange that I should have so nearly been burned.

There was another Mary before me. My big sister, she would have been. She burned away in a trice in a terrible fire. Mother never spoke of it, but I know what happened. Left for a moment in a room full of Father's wood shavings, she tipped over the lamp and whoosh, she was gone!

And then I came.

They do say I was a dull, sickly child before the Lord smote me with his lightning and that I burned brighter after; but I don't know about that. All I know is, something lit a fire in my being and it wasn't the lightning . . .

Questions 1-12 are about the extract from *Lightning Mary*

- 1 According to the second paragraph, who found Mary after she had been struck by lightning?

1 mark

- 2 Look at the paragraph beginning '*It was the night the circus came...*'

What is Mary's opinion of the circus?

1 mark

- 3 Look at the fifth paragraph. Why would it have been a kindness to Mary's mother to take Mary to the circus?

- 4 Elizabeth held me **tight** in her arms as we sheltered under a huge tree with two others.

The word *tight* suggests that Elizabeth is...

Tick **one**.

caring.

☐

scared.

☐

strong.

☐

screaming.

☐

1 mark

- 5 Look at paragraphs six and seven. What impressions do you get of the storm?

Give **two** impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Impression	Evidence

3 marks

6

What does Mary's father do after hearing the news about the lightning strike?

Complete the table below to show what he does:

Before Mary's father finds her	_____
After Mary's father finds her	_____

2 marks

7

'It is strange that I should have so nearly been burned.'

What does Mary mean when she says this?

1 mark

8

'I think it would have broken his heart to lose two Marys.'

Who was the other Mary?

1 mark

9

What happened to the other Mary?

1 mark

10

People think that Mary *burned brighter after* being struck by lightning.

They think that she became more...

Tick **two**.

intelligent.

☐

exciting.

☐

healthy.

☐

glowing.

☐

1 mark

11

Look at the last paragraph, beginning: *'They do say I was a dull, sickly child...'*

Find and copy a group of words that suggests that Mary **agrees** with the people

Find and copy a group of words that suggests that Mary **disagrees** with the people

2 marks

12

What impressions do you get of the character of Mary?

Give **two** impressions, supporting your answer with evidence from the text.

1. _____

2. _____

3 marks

<https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/seasonal/winter/pets>

Pets in Cold Weather

With darker nights and colder days we at the RSPCA want you and your pets to stay safe and warm this winter. Check out our tops tips and find out how you can help.



Walking dogs in winter

Stay safe when walking your dog in the dark, wear reflective clothing and think about a reflective collar or light for your dog's collar.

If you have an elderly or sickly dog, you can buy a special coat or jumper to keep them warm.

Keep your dogs away from ponds and lakes that are iced over. Thin ice may break under a dog's weight. And, if it's snowing outside, watch out for your dogs' paws becoming compacted with snow, which can cause discomfort.

Be aware that antifreeze and rock salt can be poisonous to pets. After walking your dog in areas that may have been gritted with rock salt ensure you wash their paws thoroughly.

Keeping cats warm

In the coldest months it's important that your cat has access to a warm environment, such as your home or another inside area with appropriate heating.

Check your feline friend's bedding is away from cold draughts, and stays warm and dry.



Horses and ponies

Horses and ponies kept outside need to have access to shelter, constant fresh water and some may need a waterproof rug to protect them from cold and wet weather. Provide extra feed and good quality long fibre, as grass is often sparse. Check water troughs and buckets are clear of ice.

If it's wet and muddy, be sure to regularly check hooves, for problems such as abscesses and loose shoes, and legs, for any signs of mud fever. Owners should ensure horses have access to a dry resting area, out of the mud.

When riding in the winter, beware of getting your horse sweated up as they can easily catch a chill. Always wear reflective clothing when riding on the roads.



Rabbits and guinea pigs

Outdoor pets, such as rabbits and guinea pigs, need extra bedding, such as dust-free hay in winter months. Make sure their home is protected from adverse weather by using blankets or covers which can be purchased to help insulate hutches in the

winter months. Care must be taken to ensure there is adequate ventilation.

To protect them from wet weather the indoor area of their enclosure should have a sloped roof to allow water to drain away. Hutches should be raised off the ground by at least four inches, and be placed in a sheltered position, facing away from wind and rain.

If the temperature drops to below 15 degrees centigrade you may want to consider moving their enclosure into an outhouse shed or unused garage. If you decide to bring your rabbits or guinea pigs indoors they'll need plenty of time and room to exercise in a safe and secure environment.

Birds in aviaries, coops, or runs

Protect pet birds kept outside from cold weather by providing plenty of additional dry, warm bedding such as straw and cover enclosures to keep the wind and rain out.

Birds will eat more to keep warm in cold conditions so ensure the birds always have access to plenty of food and fresh water, ensuring water does not freeze over.

Fish ponds in your garden

If you have a fish pond check it every day to make sure the surface is not entirely frozen as poisonous gases can build up under the ice.

Don't break the ice as this can harm the fish, but carefully place a saucepan of hot water on the surface to gently melt a hole in the ice. Never tip boiling water straight onto the pond either, as this can also harm or kill any fish living there.

Questions 1–14 are about the article entitled *Pets in Cold Weather*

- 1** What does the RSPCA want to help the reader to do?

1 mark

- 2** Look at the section headed: **Walking dogs in winter.**

Complete the table below with **one** piece of evidence from the leaflet to support each statement.

	Evidence
It can be dangerous to walk dogs in the dark	
Old and sick dogs need extra protection in the cold	

2 marks

- 3** *After walking your dog in areas that may have been gritted with rock salt ensure you wash their paws thoroughly.*

Explain the meaning of the word *ensure* in the above sentence:

1 mark

4

In the coldest months it's important that your cat has access to a warm environment, such as your home or another inside area with appropriate heating.

This suggests that in the winter...

Tick **one**.

cats must be warm at all times.

☐

cats don't go outside.

☐

cats cannot be outside at all.

☐

cats cannot be outside all the time.

☐

1 mark

5

What is the purpose of the section of the article entitled ***Horses and ponies***?

1 mark

6

Why should horse owners provide extra food for their horse in the winter?

1 mark

7

Why is it important to check horse's legs in the winter?

Tick **one**.

for problems such as abscesses.

☐

for signs of mud fever.

☐

to look at their hooves.

☐

to check they are not wet.

☐

1 mark

8

Look at the section headed: **Rabbits and guinea pigs**.

Find and **copy one** word that means the same as *enough*.

1 mark

9

Look at the section headed: **Rabbits and guinea pigs.**(a) Tick one box in each row to show the **main reason** why each action is suggested:

	To keep them warm	To keep them dry
Extra bedding, such as dust-free hay		
Sloped roof		
Hutches raised off the ground		
Moving enclosure into an outhouse		

(b) Explain why hutches or enclosures should be placed in a sheltered position:

2 marks

10

Look at the section headed: **Birds in aviaries, coops, or runs.**

This advice suggests that...

Tick **one**.

all pet birds are kept outside.

☐

birds don't like cold weather.

☐

birds can survive well outside.

☐

birds are really greedy.

☐

1 mark

11

Look at the section headed: **Fish ponds in your garden.**

Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
Check the ice daily in winter		
Poisonous gases can build up under the ice		
You should break the ice		
You should pour hot water on the ice		

2 marks

12

Look at the whole text.

Complete the table below to show what the text says about the dangers of different types of winter weather.

The dangers of ice	The dangers of wet weather
1. _____ _____	1. _____ _____
2. _____ _____	

2 marks

13

Give one example of the use of informal language in the article.

1 mark

14

Some of the advice in the article was repeated for different animals.

Give **two** things that you can do to help many different pets during the winter:

1. _____

2. _____

2 marks