



**A2Z Learning: 11+**

**English**

**Reading Comprehension**

**The Way Through the Woods (P)**

These comprehensions will help you to experience the type of texts that are usually used in 11+ exams or independent school entrance exams.

The number of marks next to each question will give you an idea about how detailed your answer will need to be. Therefore, if a question is worth 3 marks then the answer will need at least 3 separate points/pieces of evidence from the text.

School selection tests are usually timed, so working within a time limit is something you will need to practise.

A reading comprehension of this length (just over a page) will be expected to be completed in 25-30 minutes.

Make sure you **read the questions carefully**. If it asks you to write a sentence make sure you do!

Good luck! You can do this!



## The Way Through The Woods by Rudyard Kipling

Read the following poem then answer all the questions that follow.

They shut the road through the woods  
Seventy years ago.

Weather and rain have undone it again,  
And now you would never know

There was once a road through the woods 5  
Before they planted the trees.

It is underneath the coppice and heath  
And the thin anemones.

Only the keeper sees

That, where the ring-dove broods, 10  
And the badgers roll at ease,

There was once a road through the woods.

Yet if you enter the woods

Of a summer evening late,

When the night-air cools on the trout-ringed pools 15  
Where the otter whistles his mate,

(They fear not men in the woods,  
Because they see so few.)

You will hear the beat of a horse's feet,

And the swish of a skirt in the dew, 20  
Steadily cantering through

The misty solitudes,

As though they perfectly knew

The old lost road through the woods....

But there is no road through the woods. 25



1. What was shut?

(1)

2. What was in the wood before the trees were planted?

(1)

3. What does 'cantering' mean?

(3)

4. Name the three animals Kipling writes about.

(4)

5. Why are the animals in the woods unafraid of men?

(3)

6. List three words that describe movement in this poem.

(3)

7. Is this a rhyming poem?

(3)

8. Who might 'they' be (lines 1 and 6)

(5)

9. Why do you think the wildlife in the wood is described in such detail?

(5)

10. Explain why the words 'through the woods' are repeated five times in the poem?

(5)

11. Explain why you like or do not like this poem. Write three to five sentences. It will help to write about the images and the language of the poem.

(7)

Total: 40 Marks

