

Guided Reading, week commencing 1st February 2021

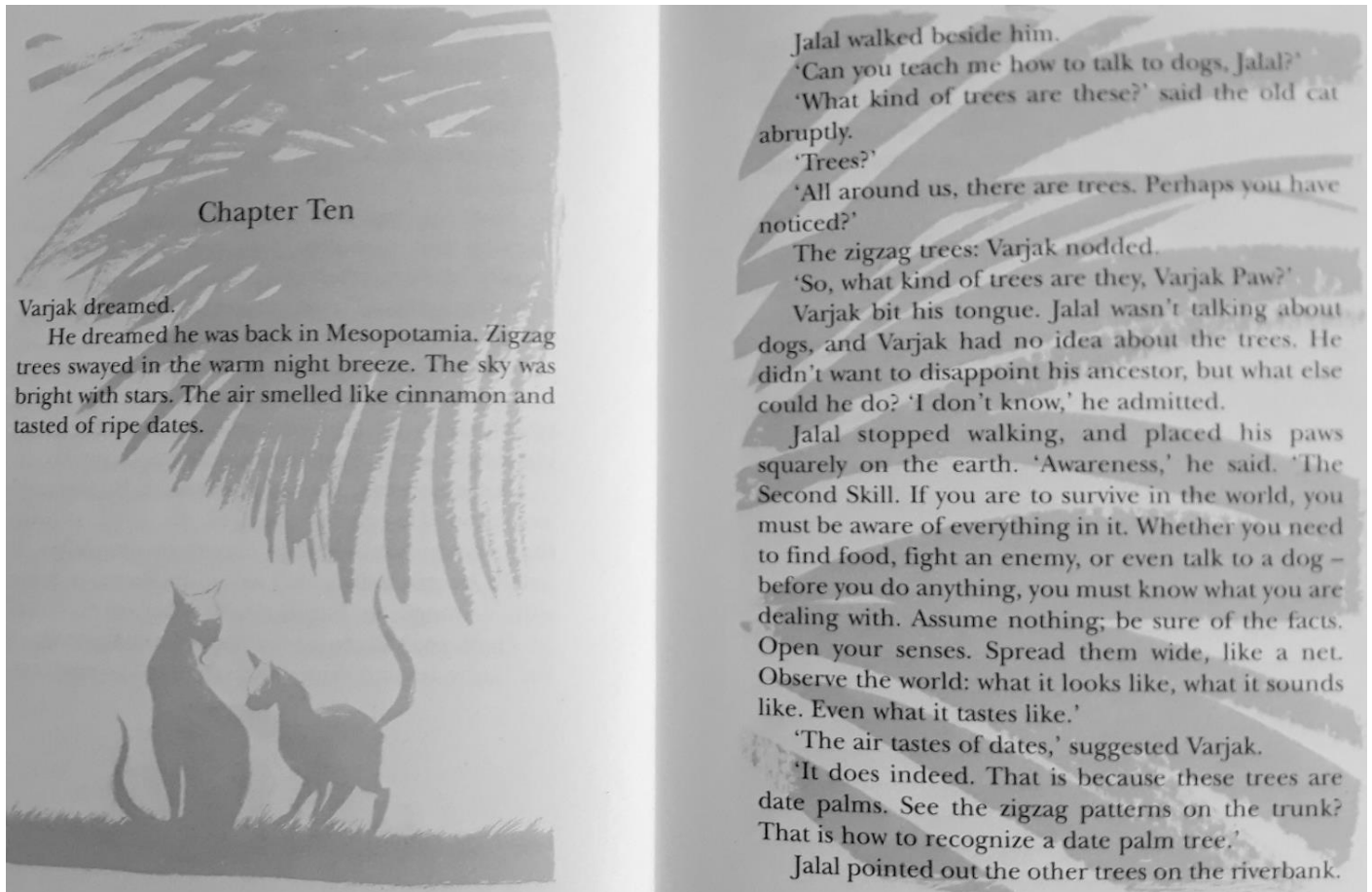
Task 1, Monday.

Varjak Paw

Your first task is to read Chapter 10 of Varjak Paw (don't worry, this is a short chapter!)

- 1) Listen to Mr. Gamage read the extract on the blog.
- 2) Listen again, whilst reading along.
- 3) Read it again and make a note of any words or phrases you are unsure about.
- 4) Read the text aloud to yourself, with expression.
- 5) Perform the text to someone else (sibling, parent, relative, friend, etc).
- 6) Why do you think that Varjak dreams of Jalal?

This extract finds Varjak asleep in the hut, sheltering from the storm, and, for the second time, dreaming of Jalal...



He gave names to the trees, and taught Varjak how to recognize them by the patterns on their trunks and the scents of their fruits. Varjak stored the knowledge carefully in his mind as they stood under the palms, practising Awareness, for a timeless time.

'Again,' Jalal always said. He was a stern teacher. 'Again.' And then, at last, 'Enough.'

'I never knew there was so much in the world,' said Varjak.

'That is because until now, you have used only a small part of your potential. The rest is locked within you. But you are capable of anything, my son, anything at all. Each sense is like a fine web that goes out into the world. Your whiskers can detect the slightest changes in the air, the smallest movements. Your nose can scent fear. Once developed, your Awareness can even feel danger, and tell you when you are being watched.' Jalal's ears suddenly pricked up. He dropped into a low crouch. 'Listen! Can you hear it?'

Varjak listened to the peaceful Mesopotamian

night. He could hear nothing unusual.

'Pay attention!' said Jalal. 'Near the top of the range, there is a scratching, squeaking, chirping noise. It comes from the edge of the water. Can you hear it now?'

Varjak closed his eyes, and concentrated. There it was, just as Jalal said.

'I hear it. But what is it?'

'Breakfast,' said Jalal.

