

Sample pages

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Software Publications Pty Ltd  
Unit 3, 25 Gibbes St  
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Ph: 02 9882 1000  
Fax: 02 9882 1800

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Written by Debs Hughes  
Series design by Blade Communications  
Cover illustration by Susan Hutchison  
Illustrated by Sarah Wimperis

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Today, more than ever, it is important that children can read and interpret text in many different forms. Traditional narrative is still important but, increasingly, vital information is now presented in a wide range of formats including graphs, flow charts, diagrams, timelines, pictures and illustrations. The overwhelming abundance of information available from internet sources places increasing demands on children to locate, sort, understand and interpret information more quickly than ever before. This series aims to help children develop strategies that will enable them to succeed in our information-overloaded world!

**About this series**

**Comprehension** is a series of books aimed at developing key comprehension skills from years 3 to 6.

The series aims to set the children thinking. It requires them not only to interpret what they read but to use the information they have gathered in a constructive way, by applying it to, for example, graphs, maps, diagrams, pictures and tables. Alternatively, many of the activities require the children to explain in words information that is contained in different visual representations, such as graphs, diagrams and illustrations. The **Comprehension** series aims to stimulate children so that they see things from a different perspective and respond in a variety of ways.

There are four books in the series.

Age ranges from Year 3 to Year 6.

- Book 1 – Year 3
- Book 2 – Year 4
- Book 3 – Year 5
- Book 4 – Year 6

Each book aims to:

- develop children's inferential skills, encouraging them to 'read between the lines' where they have to search for hidden clues or make a link between cause and effect;
- develop children's deductive skills, enabling them to relate information in the text to their own experiences and background knowledge;
- develop children's evaluative skills to encourage critical evaluation and expression of opinion;
  
- encourage enjoyment and curiosity as well as develop skills of interpretation and response.

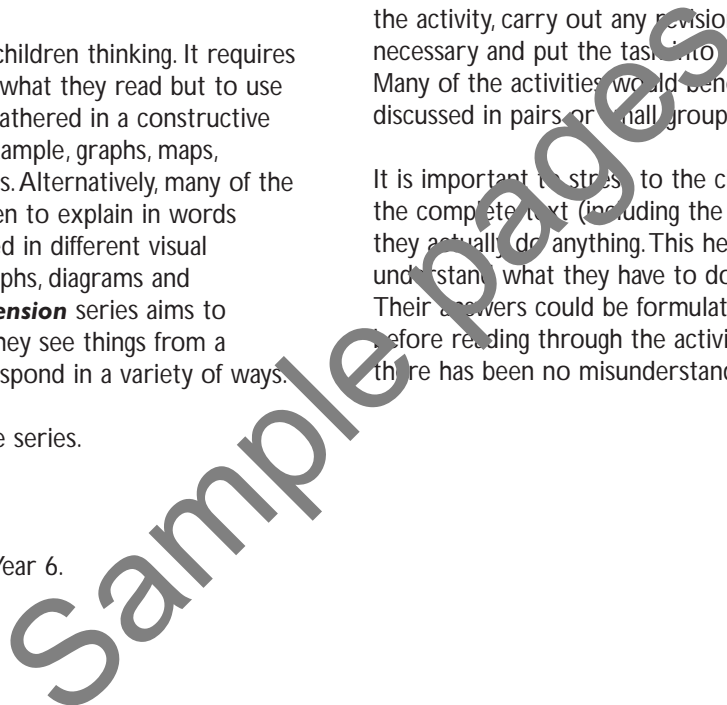
Each book is divided into ten fiction and ten non-fiction activities per term.

Many of the activities are cross-curricular, taking in aspects of science, history and geography, for example. Other activities are centred around the interests of children, and topics such as magic, Martians, wizards and dragons are included. All the activities are intended to be fun as well as purposeful!

**Using the activities**

The activities are versatile enough to be used as part of whole-class lessons, group work or homework /reinforcement tasks. The teacher's role is to introduce the activity, carry out any revision of terms that may be necessary and put the task into a suitable context. Many of the activities would benefit from being discussed in pairs or small groups before commencing.

It is important to stress to the children that they read the complete text (including the required tasks) before they actually do anything. This helps to ensure they understand what they have to do before they begin. Their answers could be formulated in note form before reading through the activity again to make sure there has been no misunderstanding.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Stripey's room

Of course my room isn't always perfect, though I think it's pretty tidy, but it is ORGANISED! The trouble is not everybody else sees it that way.

I fancy myself as a bit of an interior designer, creating new layouts like they do on 'Changing Rooms'. I decided to brighten up my room and started by moving the bed so that it was underneath the window; that way when I wake up I don't actually have to get out of bed to draw open the curtains, I can just reach up and tug them apart. This means I can read my books and magazines, which I keep on a shelf also by the window, in the morning light and stay all cosy. Heaving the bed across the room I completely forgot that all of the toys, games and clothes I'd stashed away underneath would be revealed, along with an inch of dust.

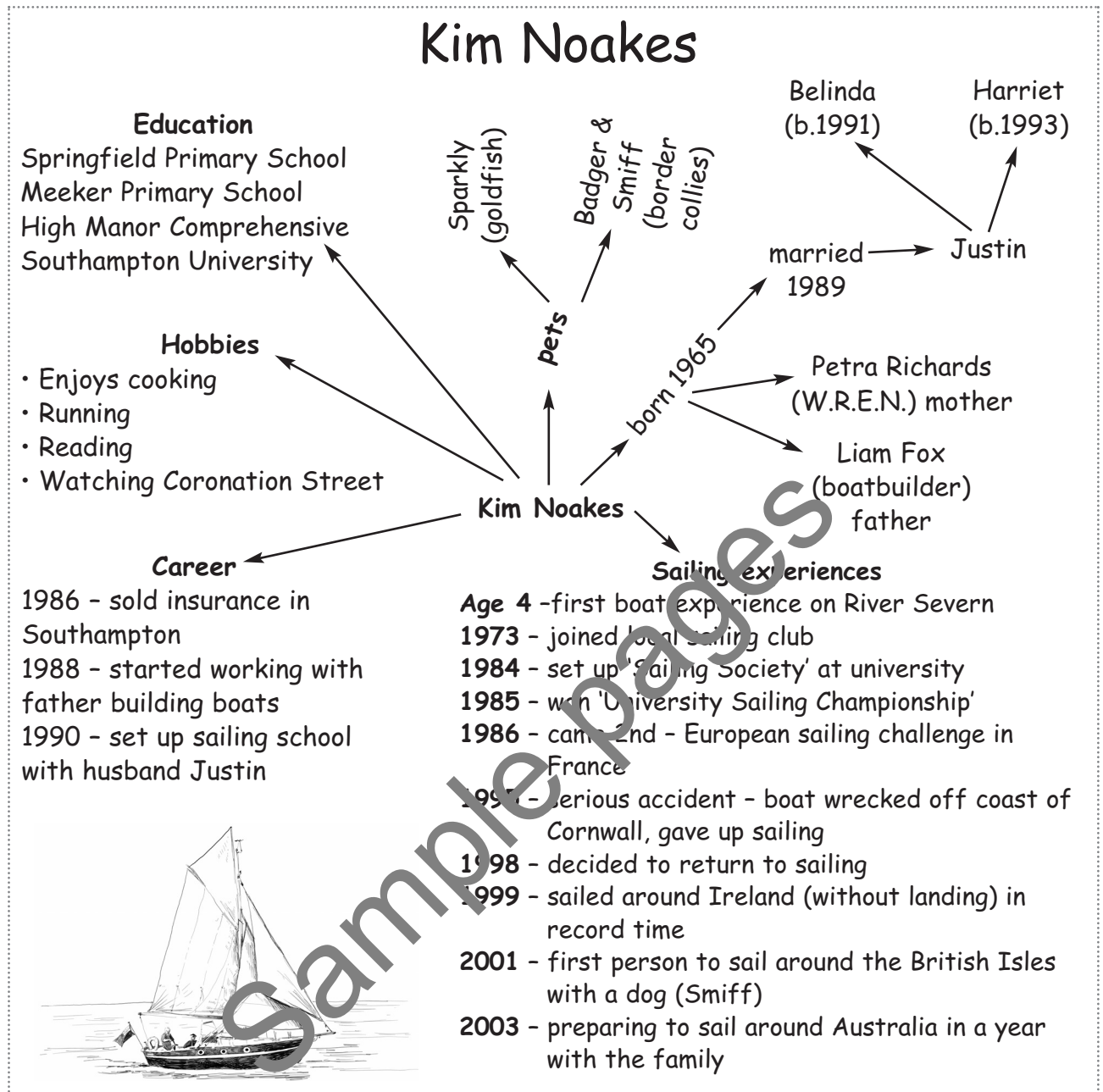


Next, I had a great idea to cover up that 'yucky' baby wallpaper with a load of cool posters that I'd torn from magazines. I couldn't wait to get them up. In my rush to find something to stand on, I accidentally knocked a pile of freshly ironed and folded clothes all over the floor. I should have picked them up immediately but somehow they ended up strewn across the patterned carpet.

Borrowing the portable television from the kitchen was the best idea! Nobody was around so I guessed they wouldn't mind. Having struggled to carry it upstairs, I lifted it on to my yellow drawer unit and plugged it in. Perfect for watching in bed! My room looked SUPERB! Jumping into bed, I settled down to watch television.

Unfortunately the socket was on the far wall, which meant that the cable stretched across the door. This I realised when the door was suddenly sprung open, the cable pinged, the television flashed off and I heard an outraged yell from outside. Something told me that all was not well.

1. Draw a detailed picture of Stripey's room.
2. Highlight any words or phrases in the text that give us clues as to who the writer is and what he or she is like.
3. What kind of character is Stripey? How old? Tidy or messy? Draw a picture of how you think Stripey looks.
4. Compare your picture with others in your class. Are they similar or completely different?



1. What is the name of Kim's older daughter?
2. Name the people and pets in Kim's family who have connections to sea and boats.
3. How old was Kim when she sailed in the European challenge?
4. Why did Kim stop sailing and for how long?
5. At the age of 7 Kim and her parents moved house. What tells you this?
6. Write part of Kim's autobiography or biography. You could begin:

Some might say that my love of the sea started early; my mother, Petra, had been in the Royal Navy before meeting my father who was a boat builder...

or

You could say that Kim's love for the sea started early...

## A windy day

My soul is awakened, my spirit is soaring  
 And carried aloft on the wings of the breeze;  
 For above and around me the wild wind is roaring,  
 Arousing to rapture the earth and the seas.

The long withered grass in the sunshine is glancing,  
 The bare trees are tossing their branches on high;  
 The dead leaves beneath them are merrily dancing,  
 The white clouds are scudding across the blue sky.

I wish I could see how the ocean is lashing  
 The foam of its billows to whirlwind of spray,  
 I wish I could see how its proud waves are dashing,  
 And hear the wild roar of their thunder re-day!

Anne Brontë



1. What time of year do you think the poem is set? Explain why.  
 \_\_\_\_\_
2. How has the writer made the poem seem lively?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
3. Underline the lines that show that the poet is feeling excited.
4. On another sheet of paper explain why you think she is feeling that way.
5. 'The long withered grass in the sunshine is glancing'. What do you think 'glancing' might mean?  
 \_\_\_\_\_
6. Find ten words which suggest movement and circle them.
7. Draw a picture to illustrate the second verse; what colours do you think would reflect the mood of the poet?

# Meeting at night

1. Fill in the missing words in this poem by Robert Browning.

**voice • slushy • scratch • hearts • lighted • grey • startled • sleep  
fields • half-moon**

The \_\_\_\_\_ sea and the long black land;  
And the yellow \_\_\_\_\_ large and low;  
And the \_\_\_\_\_ little waves that leap  
In fiery ringlets from their \_\_\_\_\_,  
As I gain the cove<sup>1</sup> with pushing prow<sup>2</sup>,  
And quench<sup>3</sup> its speed I' the \_\_\_\_\_ sand.

Then a mile of warm sea-scented beach;  
Three \_\_\_\_\_ to cross till a farm appears;  
A tap at the pane, the quick sharp \_\_\_\_\_  
And blue spurt of a \_\_\_\_\_ match,  
And a \_\_\_\_\_ less loud, thro' its joys and fears  
Than the two \_\_\_\_\_ beating each to each!

Robert Browning

<sup>1</sup>a small bay      <sup>2</sup>the bow (front) of a boat      <sup>3</sup>slow



2. Find between 10 to 15 adjectives. Circle them.
3. Choose three images from the poem to illustrate below.

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4. Did you like the poem? Say why or why not.



# Autumn haiku

- Read the haiku poems below, then create a storyboard showing the various aspects of the autumn scene that animate the poems. Remember to include close-ups as well as middle distance and far away shots. Find the colours described to bring an autumnal feel to your storyboard.

Leaves float dreamily,  
 Sleeveless branches stretch upwards,  
 Breath mists chilly air.



Scarves, hats - warm children,  
 Showering each other with leaves,  
 Skinny trees shiver.



Dogs scatter damp mud.  
 Gather conkers going home,  
 A great family day.


- If you have PowerPoint, you could create your scenes on the computer and run them alongside the words.

# Garden in a bottle

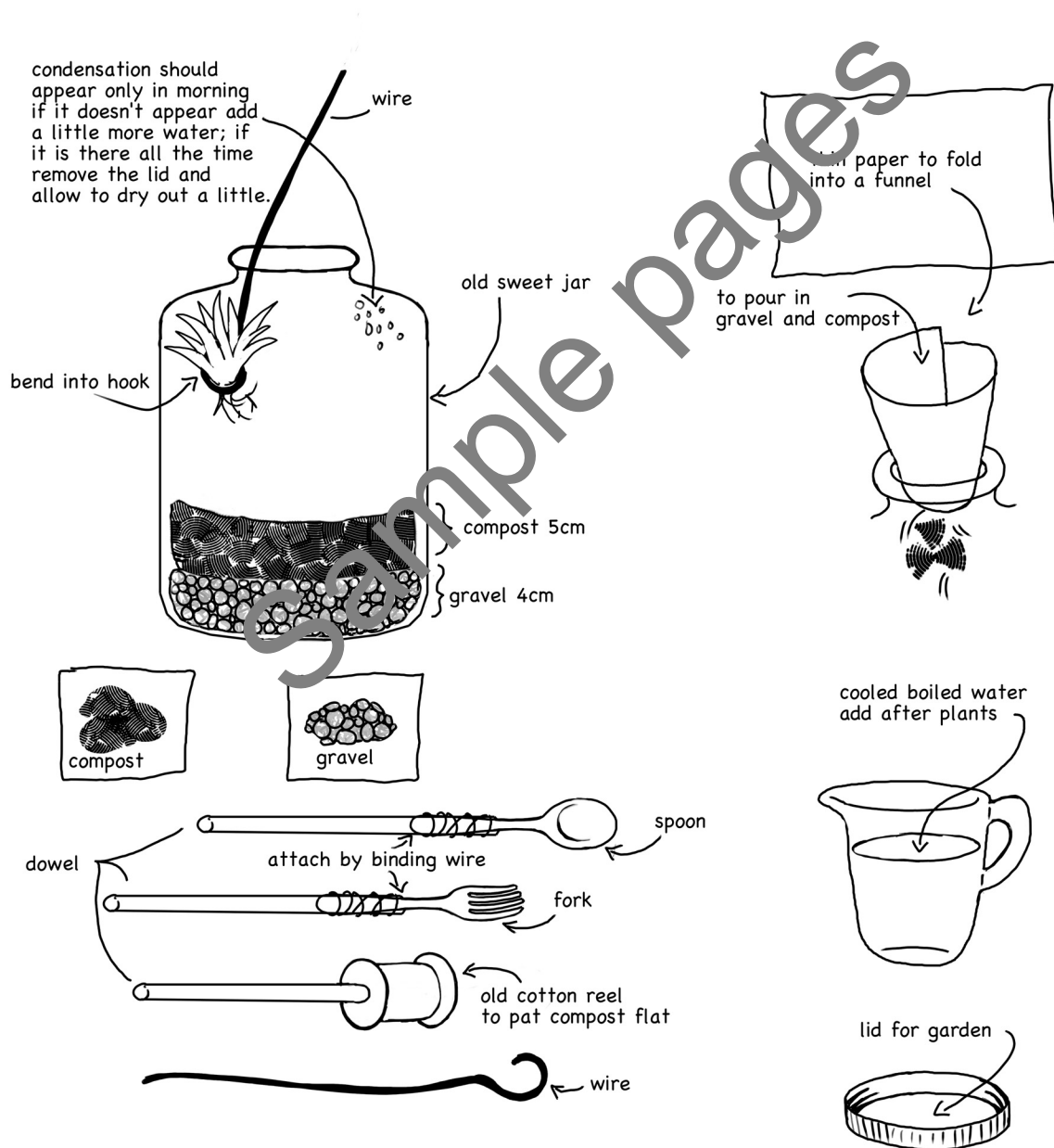
- Using the pictures and labels below, write instructions for making a 'bottle garden'. Use the following headings.

**You will need**

**Making the tools**

**Constructing the garden**

**Advice in watering**





## Power Bright night lights

### Power Bright All-Rounder Cycle Lamp

Our most popular product, this 35 watt halogen lamp is ideal for off-road riding or road riding. To please even the most fashion conscious it comes in blue, black or silver titanium casing. Mounted on your handlebars with our secure locking system, it provides six hours of bright, white light. Re-charge with our super-fast, automatic charger in under three hours. Price includes long-life 13.2v battery pack. Weight 800g.

**Price: \$29.99 With charger: \$38.99**

### Power Bright Off-Road Lamp

Light but tough the 40 watt Power Bright Carbon Lamp weighs a mere 640g and is one of the lightest night lights on the market. Manufactured from top grade carbon and supplied with our famous Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) battery. The system comes with Power Bright's Turbo Charger, re-fuelling your lamps in just four hours. Optional two-hour turbo charger prepares your lamp to be used again in less than half the usual time.

**Price: \$45.99 \$64.99 with two-hour turbo charger**

### Power Bright Sports Lamp

Power Bright's machined aluminium lamp unit is the latest innovation to hit the world of biking. Equivalent to 40 watts of halogen light it will illuminate the trail for up to five hours. Weighing an incredible 590g it won't hold you back! Our standard super-fast, automatic charger is provided too, along with a Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH) battery pack.

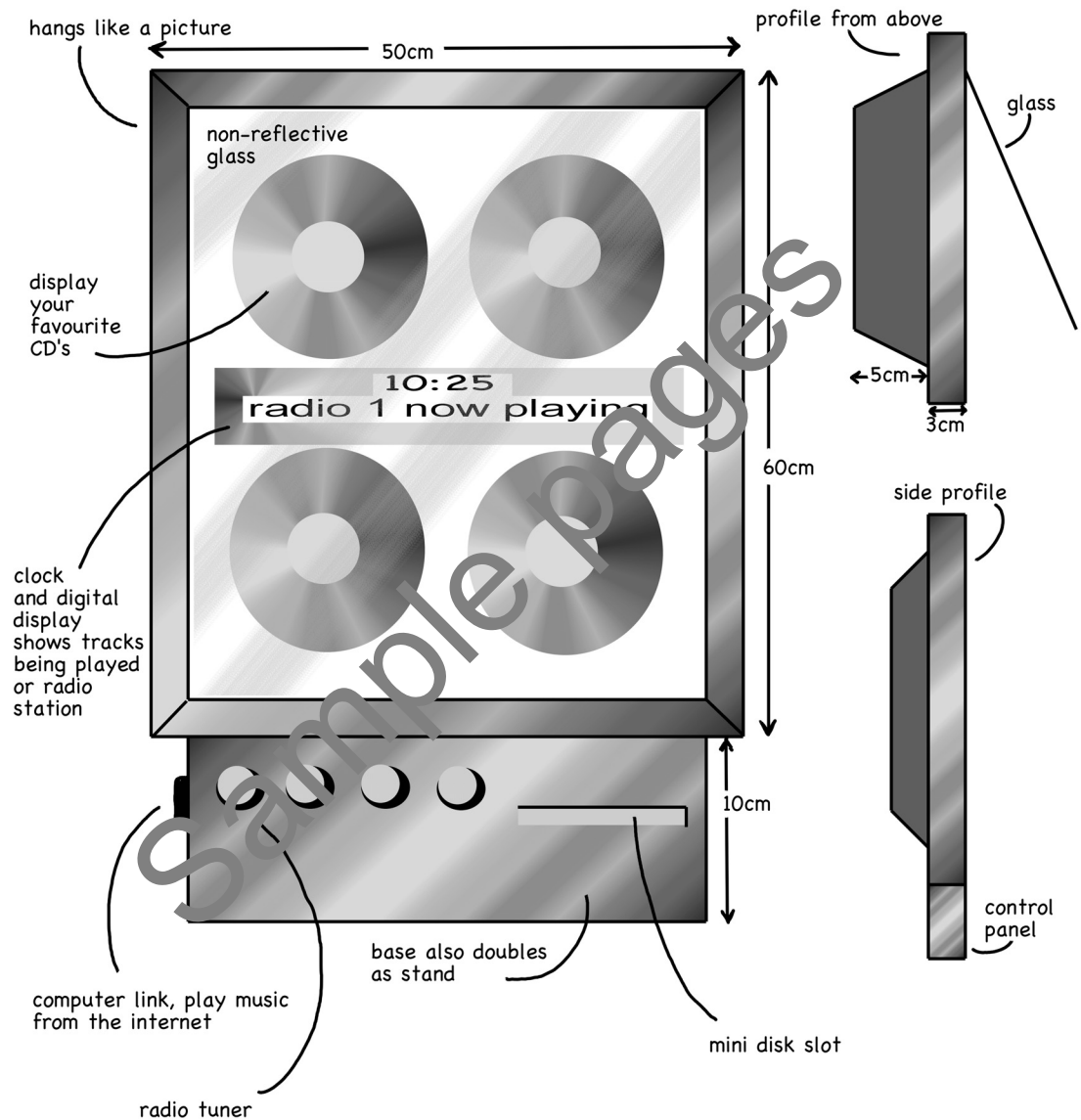
**Price: \$52.99**

- Using the information above, complete the table:

		Power Bright Off-Road Lamp	
Basic price			
Materials			
Weight			
Power Output	35 watt halogen lamp		
Battery Life			
Charger			
Battery Type			

# Music wizard

□ Look at the labelled picture below.



1. Write down the overall dimensions of the unit.
2. How many music sources does the unit play?
3. Write down five or more selling points or advantages of The Music Wizard.
4. Write a page from the instruction manual to go with this diagram.