

# Released Reading Selections, 2017

Grade

# 3

Primary Division • Language

# READING BOOK



Education Quality and  
Accountability Office





## Waiting for the Tulips



Ava drew back the curtains. Outside, the sun beamed. A robin hopped across the grass, and a squirrel darted around the yard, busily searching for last year's buried nuts. 1

Maybe this was the day! 2

As she put on her coat and boots, Ava recalled the time her grandfather had visited her last autumn. He had brought her something special. 3



"These are tulip bulbs," Grandpa had explained, as colourful leaves tumbled gently around them in the backyard. "I like to call them *patient plants*." 4

"Why?" asked Ava, eyeing them curiously. 5

"Because they wait all winter long before they start to grow." 6

Together, they had selected a special spot in the garden. Then Grandpa directed Ava through the process of how to plant them carefully. 7



"Make sure you plant them point up," he had advised. "And plant them about a hand's-length deep. Squirrels love to dig them up and eat them!" 8

"When will they start to grow?" asked Ava as she carefully tamped down the garden soil. 9

"In the spring," replied Grandpa. 10

- “But that’s so far away,” Ava sighed. 11
- “Then you will have to be like the tulips,” smiled Grandpa. “You will have to become a patient gardener.” 12
- So she tried. 13
- As the last flock of Canada geese flew south, she watched and waited. 14
- As winter’s snow blanketed the yard, she looked through the frosty windows and imagined the plants hibernating underground. 15
- And even though seeing her first robin of the year made her heart leap, still she waited. 16
- Grandpa had said to look for the tulips when the snow began to melt and the days began to get longer. 17
- Now it was spring, and the weather was getting warmer. 18
- Ava opened the door and ran down the steps. The robin flew away as she ran to the garden, and the squirrel scurried up the tree. It watched her as she got down on her hands and knees to look for the tulips. 19
- There they were! She had refrained, as Grandpa had instructed her, from clearing away the old leaves that protected them. But now, eight tiny green sprouts were finally visible where she and her grandfather had planted the bulbs. 20
- Ava hurried back inside to tell her parents. 21
- Dad smiled and asked, “Why don’t you call Grandpa, and invite him over to see them?” 22

On the phone, Grandpa sounded almost as excited as Ava. He promised to visit on Saturday. 23

Saturday brought a late snow flurry. Ava got up and ate her breakfast. She tried to read and watch TV while waiting for Grandpa, but she couldn't sit still. *Would the tulips survive the cold?* 24

When Grandpa finally arrived, Ava bolted to him to ask her question. 25

"They're hardy, Ava," Grandpa said. "Let's go examine those plants of ours." 26



Outside, Grandpa bent down and gently brushed some snow off one of the smaller plants that had sprouted. Ava crouched beside him. 27

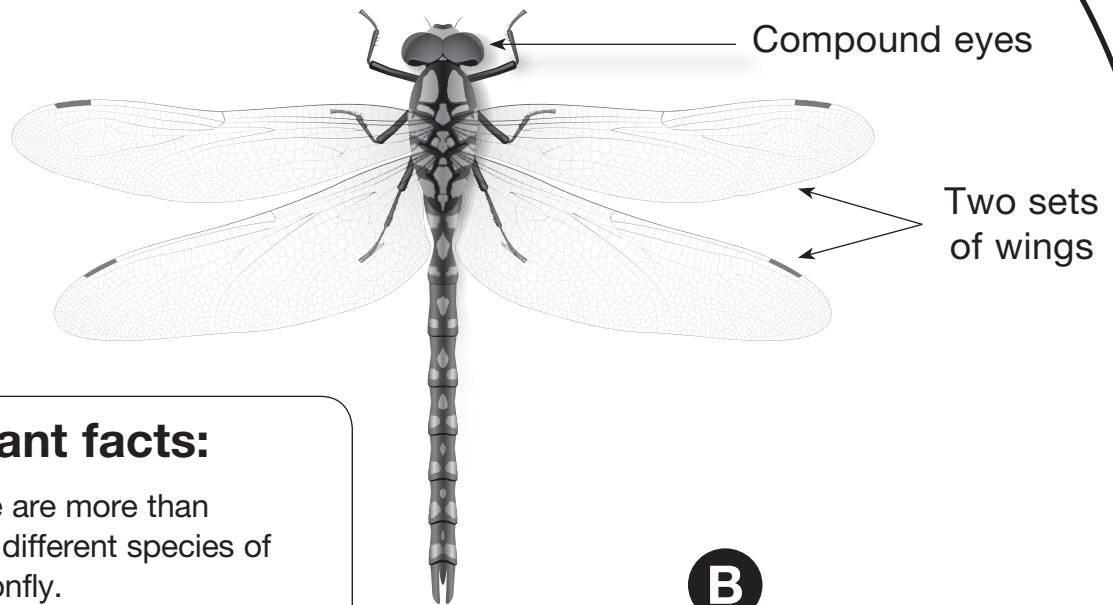
Grandpa looked at the plants, and then at Ava, and smiled. "They were growing while the earth was still frozen. They waited for the right time. And I'm proud of *you*, Ava," he said. "You *have* been like the tulips." 28

# Amazing Dragonflies

**A**

## Why are dragonflies in a hurry?

Most dragonflies live for only a few months as adults, so we zoom around searching for food and a mate. The largest dragonflies can fly 40–60 kilometres per hour, making us the fastest flying insects.



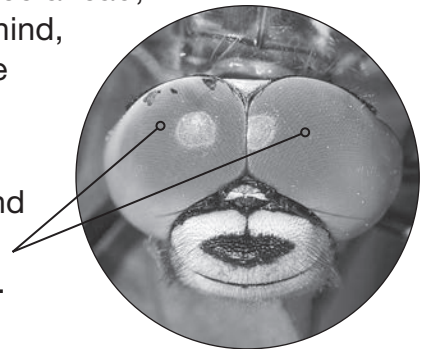
### Important facts:

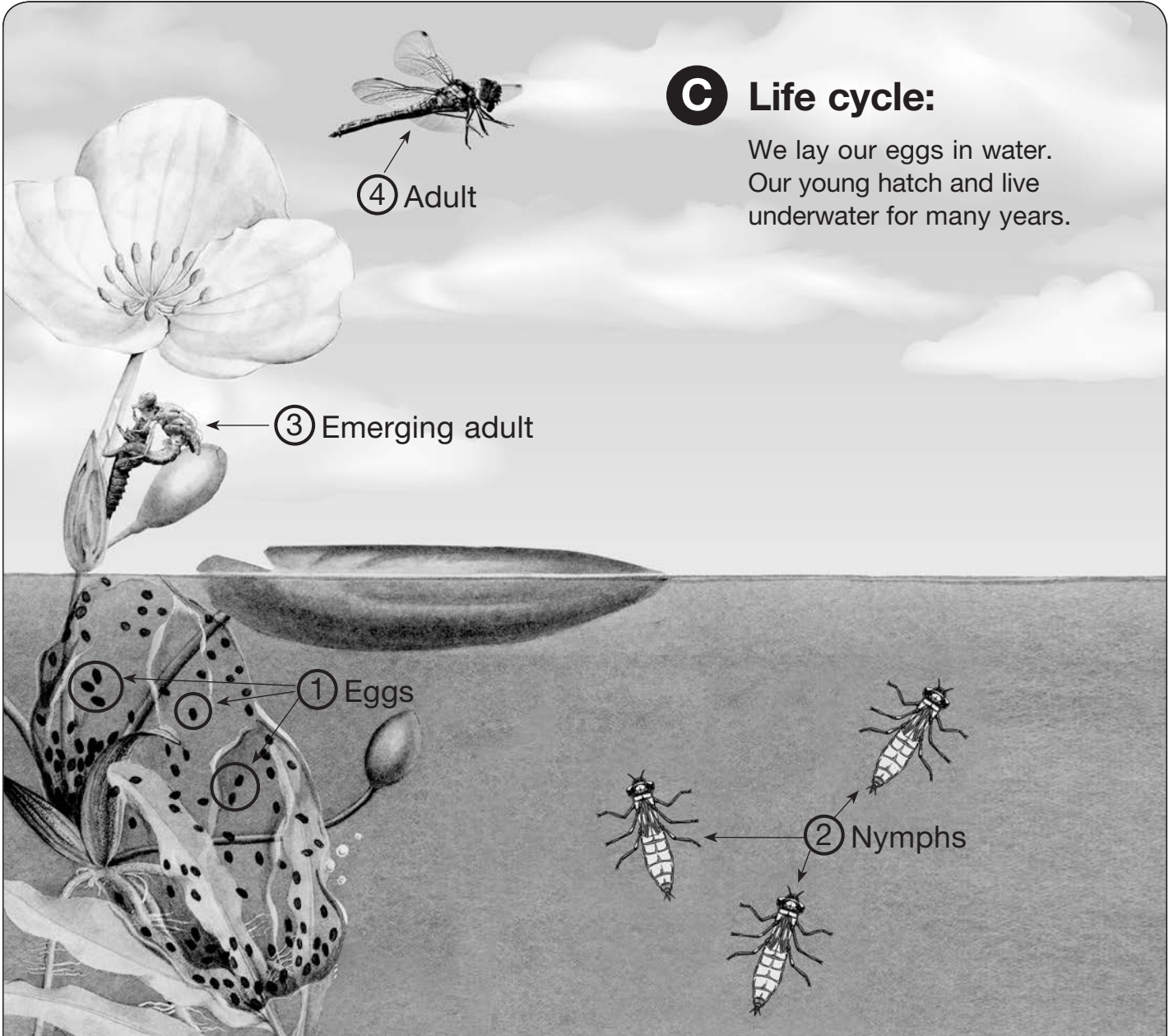
1. There are more than 5000 different species of dragonfly.
2. We are found on every continent except Antarctica.
3. We eat other bugs, such as mosquitoes, midges and spiders, that we capture as we fly.
4. We have been around for 300 million years.
5. We do not harm people.

**B**

We have the biggest eyes of any insect. They take up most of our head and enable us to see ahead, below and behind, all at the same time.

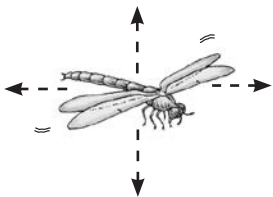
Each compound eye has up to 5000 tiny eyes.





**C Life cycle:**

We lay our eggs in water. Our young hatch and live underwater for many years.



**Skilled fliers**

Our wings are powered by very strong muscles. Each wing can move on its own or together as a pair.



Like helicopters, we can hover. To do so, we twist our wings on the downward stroke, which creates a whirlwind of air that flows across our wings. We can hover in the air for up to one minute in the same place.

GO TO

Language  
ANSWERS

**D1**

**Permissions and Credits**

**Section C1: Reading**

Written for EQAO.

**Section D1: Reading**

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