



Summer and the Nature god's Challenge

The sun shone brightly over the land, it's blazing heat pouring down onto the Earth. At first, gentle drops of water fell, but soon the rain stopped completely. The sun grew too intense and without rain the plants began to suffer. If the rain did not return soon, they would die.

Ah Kin Mai sat sadly, studying his calendar and the changing conditions. "The sun is too powerful," he sighed. "It is too strong for the plants to grow. Without the return of rain, the crops will fail - and without crops, the people will not survive." The next day, aware of the danger, he blew his conch shell. "Beware!" he warned. "Danger is coming, soon."

Far away in the dry, desperate rainforest, a girl named Summer swam in a nearby river. Her strong legs kicked rapidly through the water. "I am the faster swimmer there is!" She boasted confidently. "Race me - I will win!"

"Hush!" her friends whispered urgently. As Summer climbed out of the water, her friends ran towards the sound of the conch shell. The villagers were worried and desperate, but Summer only grew frustrated.

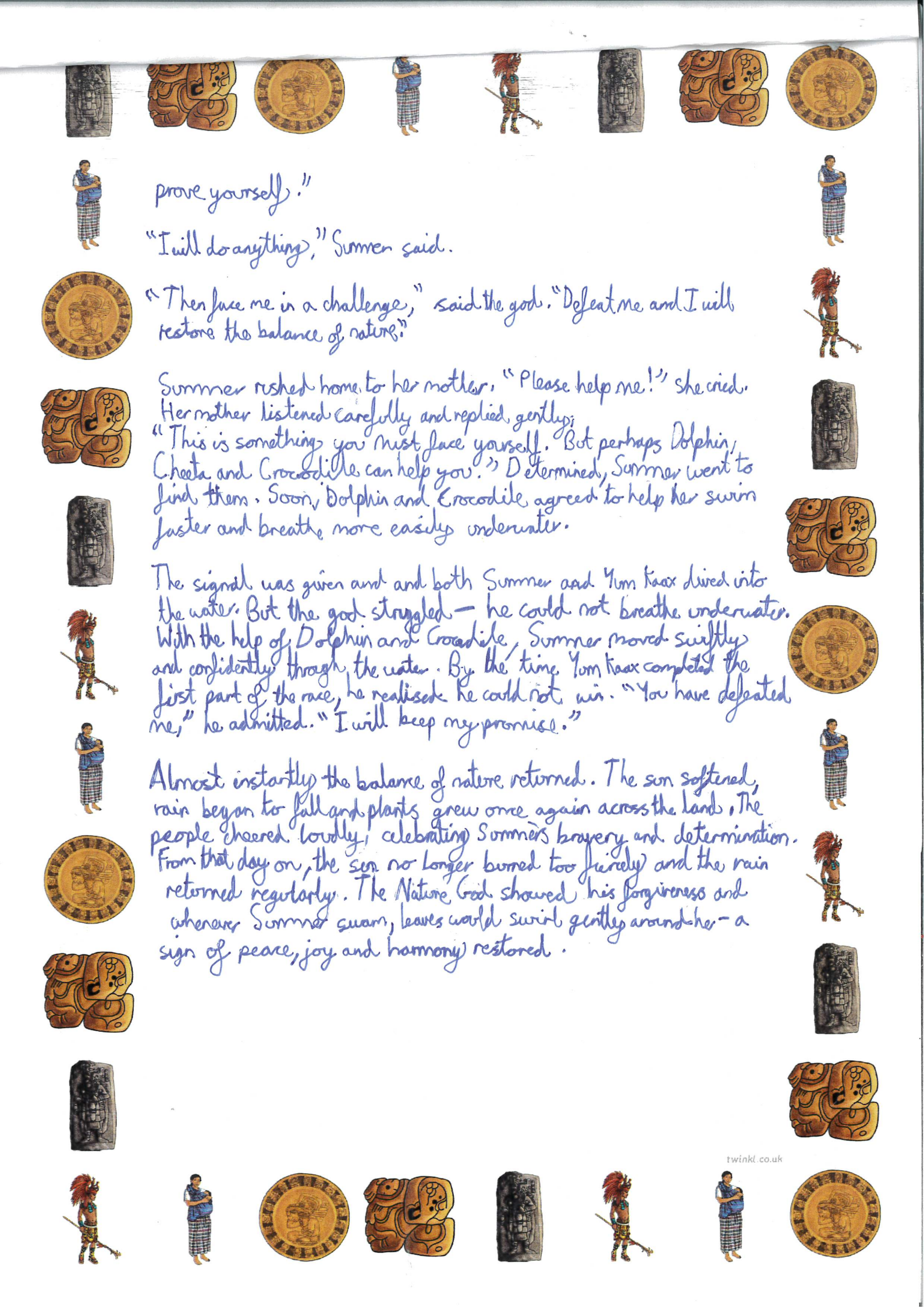
"Why do the gods ignore our needs?" She muttered sarcastically. Suddenly, sharp weeds rose from the ground, forming a circle around her. Her friends quickly jumped away, recognising that this could only mean one thing - the Nature God was angry.

Without warning, Summer was lifted high into the sky. When she opened her eyes, she found herself before Yum Kaaix, the powerful Nature God.

"I am ashamed of you," he said deeply, turning away from her.

"My lord, I am sorry!" Summer sobbed. "Please forgive me!"

"You must earn forgiveness," Yum Kaaix replied. "You will need to



prove yourself."

"I will do anything," Summer said.

"Then face me in a challenge," said the god. "Defeat me and I will restore the balance of nature."

Summer rushed home to her mother. "Please help me!" she cried. Her mother listened carefully and replied, gently; "This is something you must face yourself. But perhaps Dolphin, Cheetah and Crocodile can help you." Determined, Summer went to find them. Soon, Dolphin and Crocodile agreed to help her swim faster and breathe more easily underwater.

The signal was given and both Summer and Yom Kox dived into the water. But the god struggled — he could not breathe underwater. With the help of Dolphin and Crocodile, Summer moved swiftly and confidently through the water. By the time Yom Kox completed the first part of the race, he realised he could not win. "You have defeated me," he admitted. "I will keep my promise."

Almost instantly the balance of nature returned. The sun softened, rain began to fall and plants grew once again across the land. The people cheered loudly, celebrating Summer's bravery and determination. From that day on, the sun no longer burned too fiercely and the rain returned regularly. The Nature God showed his forgiveness and whenever Summer swam, leaves would swirl gently around her — a sign of peace, joy and harmony restored.