

L. O, I am learning to improve my fluency when I read aloud.

*Practise reading this extract 3 times.*

"I am sorry," said Shahrqo, slumping down on the floor. Thami was unforgiving.

"How did you not see the danger?" he hissed. "And why didn't you wake me in the night as we agreed?"

"I did not realise it was so late," Shahrqo replied gloomily. "Suddenly it was almost dawn and the camp was right there in front of us..."

"It would have happened whoever had been driving," said Nefi. "We picked the straightest route from the oasis to Thebes. We should have known our father might already have posted his advance guard here."

Thami relented, although Shahrqo remained disconsolate. Soon the sounds of the rest of the camp beginning to wake up drifted in through the walls of the tent.

"We should be quiet in case anyone overhears us," said Finn. "And we should listen to the soldiers' conversations. We may learn something useful about what is going on in Thebes."

"Yes," Thami agreed, nodding enthusiastically. "That is a very good suggestion." Finn soaked up the praise. It was the first time he had felt useful since falling off his horse.



#### Pacing

Work on your pacing by reading the passage three times.

- Decode unfamiliar words.
- Ask questions to clarify the meaning of the story.
- Read the words correctly.
- Improve your pace each time.

*Use these tips to help you as you practise.*