



## FLIGHT

Like a man-made magic wish, the aeroplane began to rise. The boy sitting in the cockpit gripped his seat and held his breath as the plane climbed into the arms of the sky. Fred's jaw was set with concentration, and his fingers twitched, following the movements of the pilot beside him: joystick, throttle. The aeroplane vibrated as it flew faster into the setting sun, following the swerve of the Amazon River below them. Fred could see the reflection of the six-seater plane, a spot of black on the vast sweep of blue, as it sped towards Manaus, the city on the water. He brushed his hair out of his eyes and pressed his forehead against the window.

**Read the extract of *The Explorer* by Katherine Rundell.**

**Can you answer these questions?**

- 1) Write down the missing words in this sentence.  
The boy sitting in the cockpit \_\_\_\_\_ his seat and \_\_\_\_\_ his breath as the plane climbed into the arms of the sky. **(R)**
- 2) What do these words tell you about how the boy was feeling? **(WC)**
- 3) What time of day did the plane take off?  
Morning or evening? How do you know? **(D)**
- 4) How many seats does the plane have? **(R)**
- 5) Why has the word 'swerved' been used to describe the Amazon River? **(WC)**
- 6) What do you think is going to happen next in the story? **(P)**

