**Section 2 Flames in the Forest**

**Reading 1**

**1. Rising action**

a. Romi and Prem see smoke.

b. Romi decides to go home to his father; he paddles through the forest and falls off his

bicycle.

c. Romi meets Teju who is also trying to go home and escape from the forest fire.

**Falling action**

a. A burning branch of a tree fell off in front of Romi and Teju.

b. They find the bridge is on fire.

c. They wade across the river.

**Setting** – Two friends Romi and Teju are on their way back home. It was a hot and dusty

afternoon of May. Fire spreads in the forest behind them.

**Characters –** Romi, Prem and Teju

**Climax –** Romi padalled fast through the forest with Teju on the cross bar, a burning

branch falls off a tree in front of them and they have to stop. They reach the bridge only

to find it is on fire. Ultimately, they cross the river and breathe a sigh of relief.

2. a. It was a hot and dusty afternoon in the middle of May. It had not rained for several weeks.The grass had turned completely brown and the leaves of the trees were covered with dust. The wind was strong and it worsened the fire; forest fires spread fast if there is a strong wind blowing.

b. Romi was in a hurry to get home because his father was not well. The doctor had given him some medicines which he had to take to his father. Even after knowing that there was forest fire spreading he decided to go home padalling through the forest.

c. The forest fire had scared the animals living in the forest too. They were trying to escape from the fire just like Romi and Teju. Wild animals were fleeing from the forest fire, hares were leaping across the road, a band of monkeys ran across the path chattering excitedly. Romi had to paddle slower because birds and animals kept coming out of the bushes. Smaller birds were also rushing across following the road-parrots, jungle crows, magpies, owls and the air filled with their cries.

**Reading 2**

c. The four traits that define Romi best are – he was a risk-taker, caring, smart and cautious. He was a risk-taker and also caring because he took the risk of going home to his ailing father though he had the chance of staying back at his friend’s place. He took Teju on board whom he did not know very well; he was caring and could not leave someone in danger. He was smart because he told Teju to beat his milk cans because it would give a signal to the other animals that they were coming. We can call him cautious because while crossing the river both Romi and Teju kicked off their shoes and gripped the smooth stones of the river bed with their toes.