Bamboo: reading tasks

1 Read the first paragraph only. What is the main idea?
   • There are lots of different plants and trees. I don’t know all the names.
   • Some trees are tall, some trees are fruit trees. Robert knows all the names of the plants.
   • I’m in a garden. It’s Robert’s garden.

2 Now read the other paragraphs. What is the main idea?
   Paragraph 2
   The gardener’s favourite plant is the bamboo.
   Bamboo is a tall plant with lots of little leaves.
   Anna thinks bamboo is pretty.
   Paragraph 3
   Bamboo is a grass not a tree.
   Bamboo Bob thinks it’s the most important plant in the world because there are hundreds of things you can do with it.
   Paragraph 4
   There’s a little house on an island.
   Bob says “Come and look at my summer house.”
   Paragraph 5
   The bridge is made from bamboo.
   There are fish swimming in the water.
   Paragraph 6
   There is a lot of furniture inside the house.
   It’s dark inside the house.
   Paragraph 7

3 Read the text again more slowly and answer the following questions:
   a What is Anna’s job?
   b Robert’s friends call him ‘Bamboo Bob’. Is this a problem for him?
   c Why is Anna surprised that bamboo is a grass and not a tree?
   d Why is the house only for the summer?
   e Is the bridge wide or narrow?
   f Which room of the summer house are they in?
   g What does Bob say to Anna at the end? “_____________!”
4 Don’t look at the text! What are the missing words? The first one is an example.

“That’s easy,” he says and walks away.

I walk ________ him, he stops in front of a tall plant.

Bamboo Bob walks ________ “Come with me and see”.

We walk ________ his lovely garden together.

We walk ________ the bridge.

On the bridge Bob walks ________ me.

It’s dark inside so he walks ________ the window and opens the blind.

5 Read the text one last time – are there any words you don’t understand? Write the words here:

Before you use a dictionary ask another student for the meaning.

6 Speaking – one of you is Bob and the other is Anna. Underline the conversation they have like this:

“What plant do you like the best?” I ask Robert.

“That’s easy,” he says and walks away. I walk with him and he stops in front of a tall plant. “This is my favourite plant.”

Practice the conversation, try and make it as natural as possible!