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## INTRODUCTION

**HeadStart Primary** English Reading Comprehension has been produced to make the teacher's formative assessment of reading as straightforward as possible. At the same time, its aim is to develop children's reading skills and encourage their engagement with literature in all its forms.

With this in mind, sections have been organised to follow closely the National Curriculum and the different reading skills (content domains) highlighted in the KS2 English Reading Test Framework 2016 (available to download at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)), with an emphasis on **comprehension, making inferences, language for effect** and **themes and conventions**.

The tasks presented here increase in difficulty as you work through a section. This allows for:

- easier access for the child still acquiring and developing basic skills
- a challenge for the child whose skills are more secure
- a further challenge and consolidation for the child who is in the process of exceeding year group expectations.

This will enable the teacher to monitor the progress a child is making in each particular skill area, thereby easing the process of formative assessment and subsequent planning. An individual child, for instance, may have a wide vocabulary but lack inferential skills. The organisation of tasks will make this apparent so that the child's learning can be moved forward.

A range of fiction and non-fiction underpins the reading tasks as well as the range of texts in the TESTS section. Since the removal of national curriculum levels, schools are now free to choose their own methods of monitoring progress in reading. The tests here have been provided to help the process of formative assessment, but they could be used simply to give children experience of the test format. This is for the professional judgement of the class teacher. It is worth noting that, where a school is using the tests to monitor progress year by year, the tests provided here do, in fact, offer coverage of the different reading skills comparable to the SATs tests. This means the highest percentage of questions relate to domains 2b (retrieving information) and 2d (making and justifying inferences), followed by 2a (words in context), 2c (summarising main ideas), followed by the other domains.

For complete flexibility, the accompanying CD-ROM includes not only a copy of the book in colour for use on the interactive whiteboard, but also an answer book.

Finally, the texts have been chosen in relation to Year 5 subject areas, their age-appropriate spelling lists and with the enjoyment of reading in mind.

## Words in context

**Strand:** Comprehension

**National Curriculum reference:**

- checking that the text makes sense to them

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b

## MARKING HOMEWORK

You are the teacher. Someone has handed in their homework about a birthday party. Their spelling is good. The main problem is they've chosen the wrong words for the context. Correct them by finding the wrong words and writing the correct one above. The words that need correcting are in **bold**.



### My Birthday Surprise

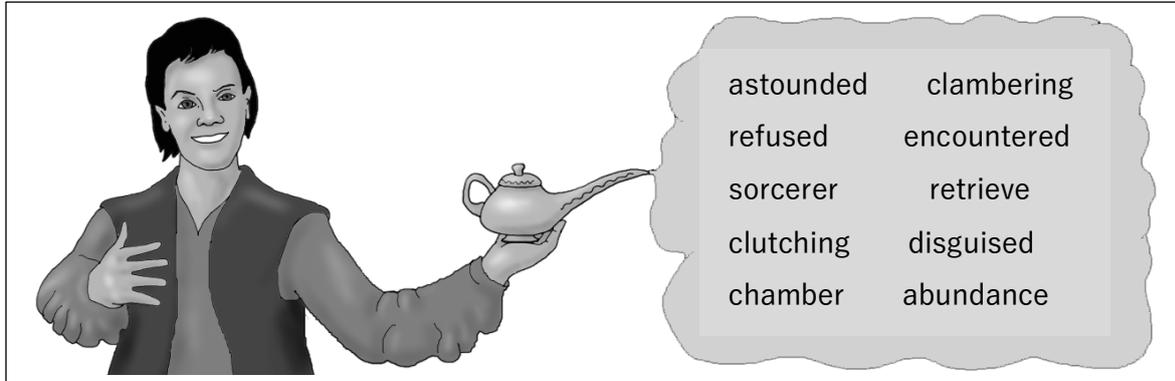
I must have been thinking **allowed** when I walked  
thorough the front door, because there was silence **threw** out  
the house. I **gwest** the family was up to something. It was my  
birthday, after all. What I didn't know was **weather** everyone  
was in the living room or hiding in the kitchen.

"Oh! I wonder **were** they can all be!" I shouted very  
dramatically. Nobody I know likes **particle** jokes more than **are**  
dad.

As I **past** the kitchen door, I **fought** I heard my baby  
brother making a gurgling sound. But when I peered round  
the door, all I could see was the cat licking the dripping tap  
and a note that said: 'All gone out for a **piazza**. See you later.'

## ALADDIN IS INGENIOUS

There are many versions of Aladdin – a Middle Eastern folktale which is part of The Book of One Thousand and One Nights. Here is one. Use the list of words to fill in the gaps and make sense of the story.



Once, in a distant land, there lived a poor widow who had an only son called Aladdin. Picking figs to earn some money, he \_\_\_\_\_ a \_\_\_\_\_ who was \_\_\_\_\_ as a weary traveller.

“I will give you this silver piece if you help me roll the boulder aside, climb down into that cave and \_\_\_\_\_ something for me.” When he was offered a magic ring for protection, the boy agreed.

\_\_\_\_\_ down into the darkness, Aladdin found himself in a large \_\_\_\_\_ filled with an \_\_\_\_\_ of glittering jewels. Aladdin was about to fill his pockets with the wonderful, sparkling gems when a voice from above called: “Leave those and bring me the old oil lamp!”

When Aladdin reached the mouth of the cave, the old man wouldn’t let him out until he handed over the lamp. When Aladdin \_\_\_\_\_, the old man pushed back the boulder. Aladdin was trapped. But when he rubbed the ring accidentally, a genie appeared. Aladdin was \_\_\_\_\_.

The genie granted Aladdin’s wish to be taken home still \_\_\_\_\_ the old lamp so desired by the old, weary traveller.

## NEW WORDS FOR OLD

Aladdin's story continues. After you've read it, find synonyms (words that mean the same as or are similar to) those in the table below.

When Aladdin appeared from nowhere and informed his mother of what had occurred, she was dumbfounded. Then, when she decided to clean the grimy oil lamp, they were both astonished when an even bigger and mightier genie materialised before their eyes.

Immediately, Aladdin wished for great wealth and a palace for he and his mother to live in. Soon, known all around for his generosity, he spoke to the Sultan and requested the hand of his daughter, Halima, in marriage.

The old traveller, however, came to hear about Aladdin's wealth and came to the palace dressed as a trader. On a day that Aladdin was away, the trader wandered through town calling: "New lamps for old!" Imagining her husband would be overjoyed with her action, she exchanged the magic lamp for a new one. The old man laughed pitilessly, rubbed the lamp and commanded the genie to take him, Halima and the palace to a distant land.

But Aladdin still possessed the magic ring. He asked its genie to take him to wherever Halima was kept captive. Together, they gave the old man a sleeping potion, found the lamp and returned home – palace, riches and all.

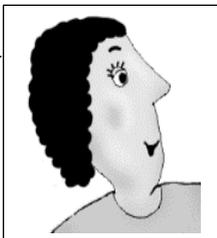


word	synonym	word	synonym
informed		wealth	
dumbfounded		imagining	
grimy		overjoyed	
materialised		exchanged	
astonished		pitilessly	
mightier		commanded	
generosity		possessed	
requested		captive	

## WHO'S GOT IT RIGHT?

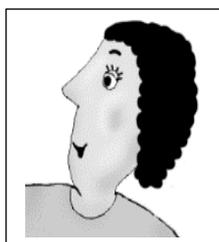
Here are two children talking about some television programmes they've been watching. They don't always use the correct words. Underline any wrong words that have been used and put a tick or a cross in the boxes under their speech bubbles.

Did you watch the one with the burglar climbing up the drainpipe?



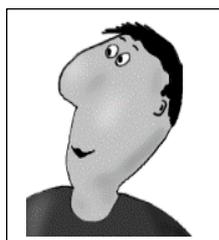
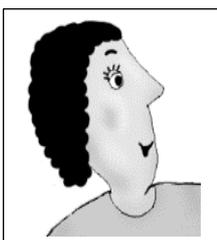
Yes. I thought that bugler was going to fall before he reached the top window?

I saw that programme too. Right from the start, that man looked very spacious.



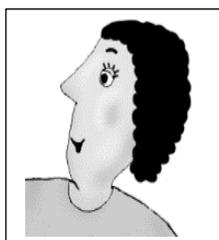
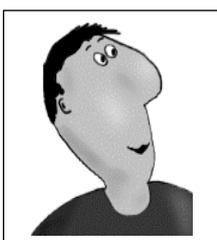
You're right. There was something very strange and suspicious about him.

Do you think he was an armchair burglar or a professional?



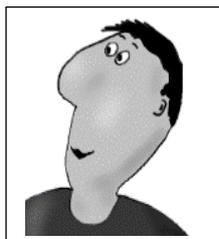
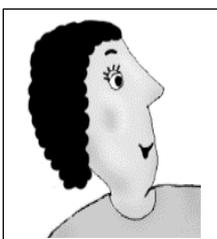
Definitely amateur, considering how easily the police caught him.

Well, the police officer in charge was very sufficient. She found the evidence.



Yes. She was a lot more efficient than her partner with the moustache.

It was funny when the thief said he broke in because there was a cue at the bank.



I don't know what you're laughing at. There was a queue at the bank!

## OUR HOBBIES

Jamila and Sanjeev, like different things. Here they are talking about their hobbies.



Hi. My name is Jamila. I'm very interested in anything to do with geography. All sorts of information easily stays in my memory. The names of capital cities, mountain ranges – I love all that stuff. I'd be very reluctant to stop my studies. In fact, when I'm older I hope to find a solution to some of the world's environmental problems.

1. Which word or phrase tells you how much Jamila likes her chosen hobby? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Which word tells you she likes to study different countries? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which word tells you she has no difficulty in remembering facts about different countries? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which word suggests she would be unwilling to give up her hobby? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Which word tells you she would like to sort out problems in the world? \_\_\_\_\_

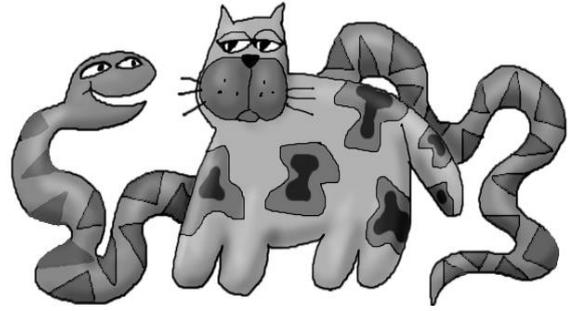
My name is Sanjeev and my friends think I'm a bit eccentric. That's because I get up at dawn with my binoculars to do some bird-watching. It's so peaceful then. No traffic; just birdsong. Getting up at four-thirty may sound mad, but try it once in the summer holidays and you'll realise the experience is irresistible.



1. Which word tells you Sanjeev's friends think he's unusual? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What does he use to get a better view of the birds? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Which word tells you it's quiet at that time in the morning? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Which word means he can't give it up? \_\_\_\_\_

## WORD SWAPPING

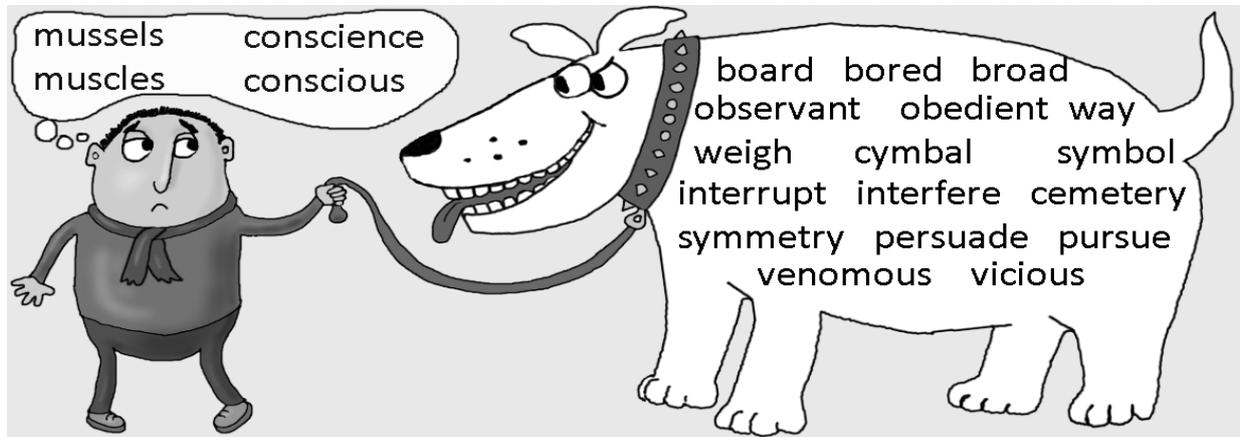
Read these sentences and think of a word or phrase that means the same, or is similar, to the one in **bold**. One has already been done for you.



1. I ran as fast as I could from the **venomous** snake. \_\_\_\_\_
2. I was very **thankful** when my lost cat was returned. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The food I had at the new restaurant was **delicious**. tasty
4. The headteacher told off the boy for being **impolite**. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The reckless driver **disregarded** the No Entry sign. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Even with a map, I was **uncertain** which way to go. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Who replaced Henry VIII as **monarch** when he died? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Is it as hard to **descend** a mountain as it is going up? \_\_\_\_\_
9. I had the **misfortune** of having my car keys stolen. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The twins were **quarrelling** over who owned the ball. \_\_\_\_\_
11. The children **suspended** decorations from the ceiling. \_\_\_\_\_
12. The superhero could **transform** herself into a tiger. \_\_\_\_\_
13. The parents were asked to **donate** money to charity. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Gardeners **prune** roses to encourage growth. \_\_\_\_\_
15. I was happy to **exchange** my old pen for a new one. \_\_\_\_\_

## IN THE DOG HOUSE

Here is Matt's description of his first day working at weekends at the local dogs' home. Use the list of words to fill in the gaps in his account.



My sister said, "Matt, if you call yourself an animal-lover, and you want to earn some money, then you should get a weekend job taking the dogs out for a walk down at Mallory's Motel for Malevolent Mutts."

All week, my \_\_\_\_\_ bothered me. She was right. Not only did I need money to buy a new \_\_\_\_\_ for my drum kit, I spent most weekends totally \_\_\_\_\_.

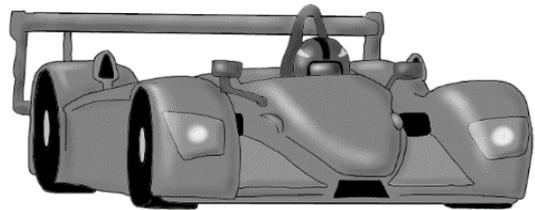
When I phoned up, I didn't need to \_\_\_\_\_ Mr Mallory to take me on. He was delighted. He did say that some of the dogs, especially one called Killer did have a bit of a reputation for being rather \_\_\_\_\_, but not to worry.

My knees were shaking as I walked down there... right next door to the \_\_\_\_\_ - not a good sign. When I saw Killer, I just wondered what he must \_\_\_\_\_. He was huge. A pile of \_\_\_\_\_ and teeth. Then he took a step towards me and licked my face. Phew! Such an \_\_\_\_\_ dog.

## WORD CHOICES

Read these sentences and **draw a circle** round the word that makes sense in the context, i.e. that fits in with the meaning of the sentence. A dictionary might be useful if you're stuck.

1. When you've been working hard on your homework, do you feel **exhausted** or **exorbitant**?
2. If someone pulled up the daffodils in your front garden, would it be a **suspicious** or a **malicious** thing to do?
3. If a racing driver was going at great speed, would spectators be impressed by his **velocity** or his **veracity**?
4. When a doctor wears gloves to do an examination, is it because he thinks the germs might be **infectious** or **fictitious**?
5. If a child said she liked chocolate more than toffee, would she be expressing her **reference** or her **preference**?
6. When a group of children are able to work together in class without falling out, are they showing how well they can **co-operate** or how well they can **correspond**?
7. Sometimes, a TV ad can make you rush out and buy some new product. Is the ad being **pervasive** or **persuasive**?
8. When you had that terrible meal in the restaurant, would you say it was **indelible** or **inedible**?
9. If you were the new kid at school and everybody in your class wanted to be your friend, would you feel **accepted**, **excepted** or **expected**?





## **Explaining words in context**

**Strand:** Comprehension

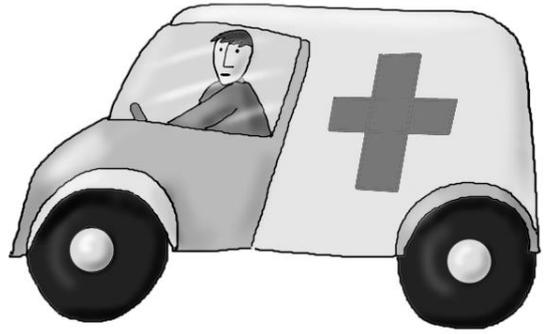
**National Curriculum reference:**

- [checking that the text makes sense to them], discussing their understanding, and explaining the meaning of words in context

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2f

## MISSING WORDS

Complete these sentences, using the context to help you choose the correct word from the list. In each sentence, particular key words or phrase will give you a clue. **Underline** the words or phrases that help you make the right choice.



1. In a medical \_\_\_\_\_, I'd call an ambulance.
2. I need to buy some \_\_\_\_\_ batteries for my torch that's stopped working.
3. My socks must be very \_\_\_\_\_, because they soak up lots of water.
4. Because I love science and I'm very \_\_\_\_\_ I'll pass the exam.
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ in the cost of cinema tickets resulted in more people going.
6. An \_\_\_\_\_ of the rugby player's injured leg showed that no bones were broken.
7. There seems to be \_\_\_\_\_ over who the pencil case belongs to, as Jan and Rula both have the same design.
8. Finally, I've gathered together all the \_\_\_\_\_ I'll need for my camping holiday.
9. Trout are very cunning, so it takes a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ to sit on the riverbank all day, hoping to catch one.
10. My dog was very \_\_\_\_\_ to try the cheaper dogfood I bought.

examination

confident

reluctant

confusion

replacement

emergency

absorbent

reduction

patience

equipment

## IF I MET A SNAKE

This poem plays with words. Read the first two lines to see how it works. Then, using the word list provided, fill in the blanks. (There are extra words you might not need.) When you've finished, explain why you chose those particular words.

### If I Met a Snake

If I met a slithering snake, I would recoil in horror.  
If the potatoes were overdone, I'd surely boil with rage.  
If the lemonade was flat, I'd quietly \_\_\_\_\_ with anger.  
If I met my favourite film star, I'd hope to \_\_\_\_\_ my age.

If I had a cuddly piglet, I'd easily \_\_\_\_\_ with delight.  
If I lost my old dog, Henry, I'd \_\_\_\_\_ up the wrong tree.  
If a tiger told a silly joke, I might \_\_\_\_\_ with laughter.  
If I felt the Earth rumble, I would \_\_\_\_\_ nervously.

If I missed the ball at cricket, I'd \_\_\_\_\_ the nearest bus.  
If our rugby team was losing, I'd \_\_\_\_\_ to hide my fears.  
If I dropped My auntie's china, I'd \_\_\_\_\_ into a sweat.  
If I saw my bungalow fall down, I'd \_\_\_\_\_ into tears.

If I were a terrible goalkeeper, I'd \_\_\_\_\_ my energy.  
If I couldn't join the orchestra, I'd surely \_\_\_\_\_ the fool.  
If your nose dribbles in my direction, I would \_\_\_\_\_ a mile.  
If an Olympic athlete visited, I'd \_\_\_\_\_ for joy at school.

quake  
roar  
jump  
shout  
fizz  
break  
squeal  
slide  
catch  
bark  
act  
save  
play  
dive  
try  
run  
collapse

This is why I chose those words:

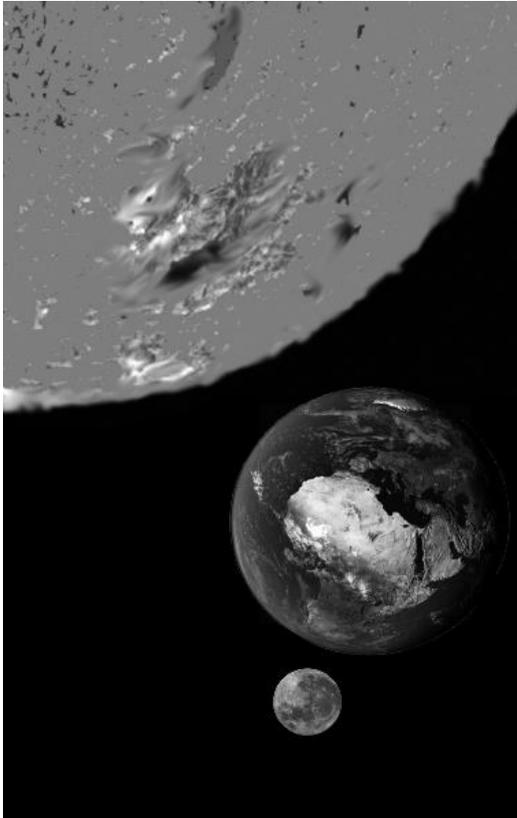
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## SUN, EARTH AND MOON

Read this information about the Sun, Earth and Moon. Then look at the meanings given in the table below. Find the relevant words in the text.



At the centre of our solar system is our nearest star, the Sun. It is composed mainly of two gases: hydrogen and helium. Approximately one million Earths would fit inside the Sun. It takes 365 days for our planet to orbit the Sun.

The Earth has its own satellite: the Moon. Its orbit of the Earth takes 27.3 days. It is not a source of light. Instead it reflects light from the Sun. Recent discoveries have shown that the Moon has some atmosphere, but no air we could breathe. Scientists believe that its craters were caused by the impact of meteorites hitting its surface.

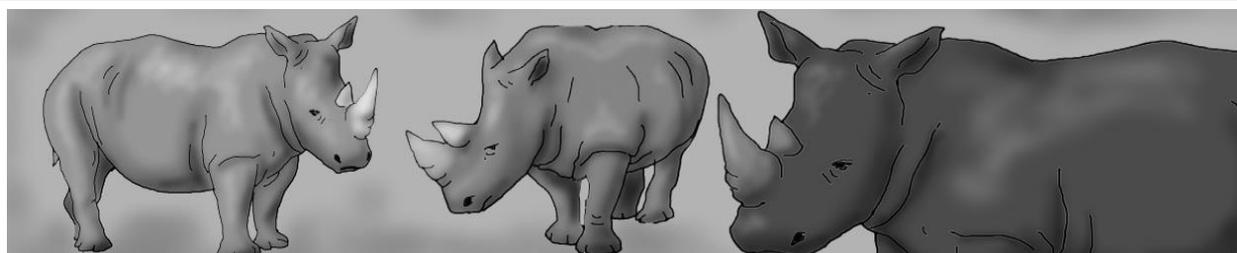
The Earth is one of eight planets orbiting the Sun. (Pluto was once classified as a planet until recently.) One significant feature of the Earth is that about 71% of its surface is covered with water. Water is an essential requirement for life.

Now find words that have the meanings shown in the table:

meaning	word
be made of	
almost exactly	
take a path round an object in space	
an object in space that revolves round a planet	
the gases surrounding a planet or moon	
the striking of one thing against another	
identified as part of a group	
important	
absolutely necessary	

## RHINOS

Read this information about rhinoceroses, then complete the table below, explaining what the words mean. If you're unsure, read the relevant sentence again.



You can identify members of the rhinoceros family by their large dimensions, their diet of plants, and thick, protective hide. Although the skin may resemble armour-plating, it is very sensitive to sunburn and insect bites. This is the reason they wallow around in mud, which acts as extra protection.

The name *rhinoceros* comes from two Greek words: *rhino* (nose) and *ceros* (horn). Rhino horns are not bone and continue to grow throughout their lifetime. Horns are composed of a protein called keratin, which is the same substance that hair and fingernails are made from.

Rhinos have well-developed senses of hearing and smell, but poor eyesight. If you were to stand motionless, even as close as thirty metres away, you might not be detected (unless you smelled awful). If you were to make a sound, however, you would immediately be in danger. In that situation, finding a tree to climb is a better strategy than trying to outrun them. They can run at between 30 and 40 mph!

word	meaning
identify	
dimensions	
protective	
hide	
diet	
resemble	
wallow	
composed	
substance	
continue	
detected	
strategy	



## Retrieving and recording information

**Strand:** Comprehension

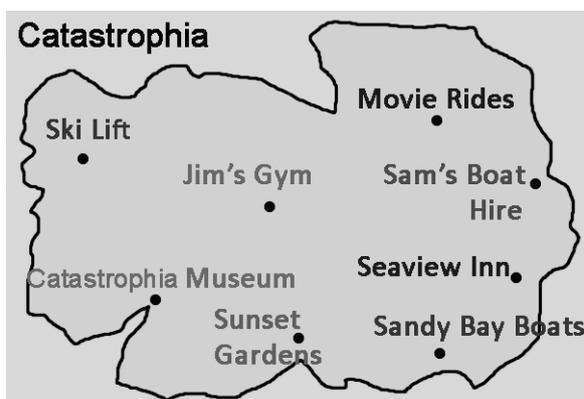
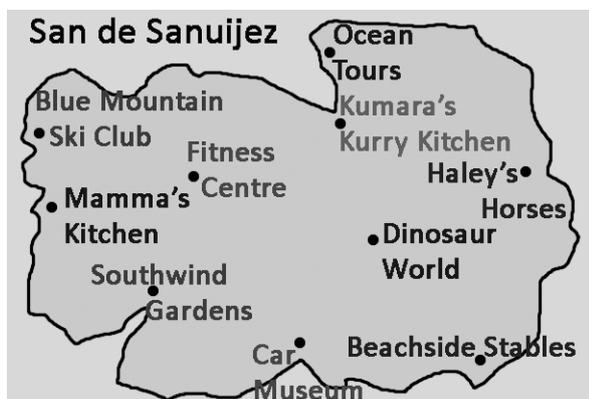
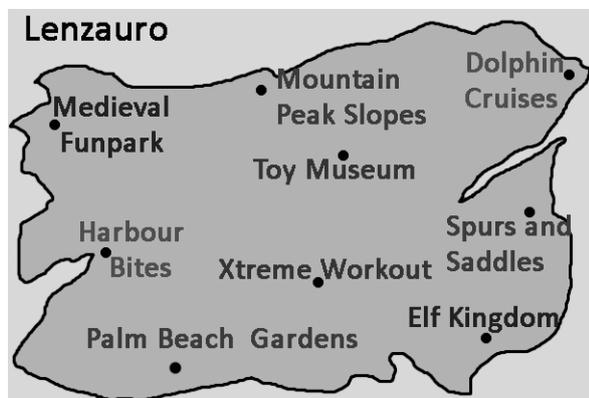
**National Curriculum reference:**

- retrieving and recording information / identifying key details from fiction and non-fiction

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b

## ISLAND RETREATS

Look at the holiday centres on these islands and, if they can offer what is shown in the table below, give it a tick.



activity	Lenzauro	Marjarina	San de Sanuijez	Catastrophia
museums				
tropical gardens				
theme parks				
boat trips				
sports centres				
restaurants				
ski slopes				
riding clubs				

## PLANETARY FACTS

Here are some facts about the planets nearest to the Earth.

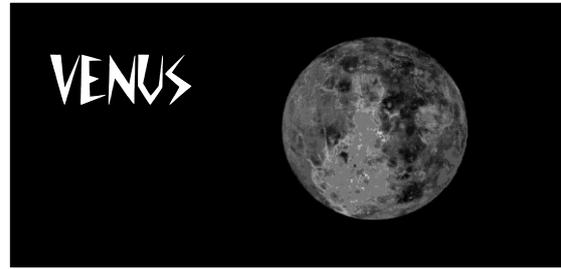


Named after the Roman messenger to the gods, Mercury is the smallest planet and the closest to the Sun. Thirteen times a century, it passes in front of the Sun. This is called a *transit*. The next time is 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016.

**Moons:** none.

**Orbit period:** 1 Mercury year = 88 Earth days.

**Surface temperature:** 427° C facing the Sun and -173° C away from the Sun, due to the planet having very little atmosphere.



Named after the Roman goddess of love, Venus is the second planet from the Sun, can be seen as a bright object in the sky, and is similar in size to the Earth.

**Moons:** none.

**Orbit period:** 1 Venus year = 224.7 Earth days.

**Surface temperature:** 462° C. Its covering of cloud layers creates a greenhouse effect, trapping the heat. It is thought that Venus once had oceans but as the planet's temperature increased, they evaporated.



Named after the Roman god of war, Mars is the fourth planet from the Sun. Reddish in appearance, it is called the Red Planet. Recently, signs of water have been found.

**Moons:** two – Phobos and Deimos.

**Orbit period:** 1 Mars year = 687 Earth days.

**Surface temperature:** -5° C to -87° C.

Mars has been volcanic in the past. It has the biggest dust storms in the solar system, sometimes lasting for months and covering the entire surface of the planet.



Named after the king of the Roman gods, Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun, and two-and-a-half times more massive than all the other planets in the solar system combined. Its Great Red Spot is a storm that has raged for at least 350 years.

**Moons:** 67, including Io, Calisto, Europa and Ganymede. (It is thought that Europa has water under a frozen surface.)

**Orbit period:** 1 Jupiter year = 11.86 Earth years.

**Surface temperature:** -108° C.

1. Which of these four planets is the smallest?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Which planet is similar to the Earth in size?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Which planets have moons?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Which planet has the hottest surface temperature?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Keeping in mind that Earth takes 365 days to orbit the Sun, which of these planets take longer to orbit the Sun than the Earth?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. **Two** of the planets experience different kinds of storms. Which planets?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Name the **two** places where astronomers have discovered evidence of water.

\_\_\_\_\_

8. How often does Mercury pass between us and the Sun?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. Draw lines to match up the planets with what they meant in Roman times.

Jupiter

Mars

Venus

Mercury

Goddess of love

Messenger of the gods

King of the gods

God of war

## BOUDICCA – WHO’S WHO?

Here is some information about events and the people in the life of Boudicca. Underlining the key characters will help you answer the questions that follow.

### Boudicca



Before the Romans arrived in Britain, different parts of the country were controlled by different Celtic tribes: the Iceni, for instance, in what is now known as East Anglia, and the Trinovantes in an area north of the Thames estuary. Often they traded; sometimes they fought against each other.

The ruler of the Iceni was Prasutagus, the husband of Boudicca. When the Romans conquered the south of England in AD 43, Prasutagus was permitted to carry on ruling. When he died, however, the Romans took direct control, plundering Iceni lands and property. The tribes began to resent the Romans.

At first, the Celtic tribes had great success, defeating the Roman Ninth Legion and destroying the Roman capital of Camulodunum (Colchester). This was followed by victories at Londinium (London) and Verulamium (St Albans). The Roman Governor of Britain at the time, Gaius Suetonius Paulinus, was forced to retreat.

The Roman historian, Tacitus, has provided us with an account of a battle that took place around AD 61.

It has been said that Boudicca prayed to Andrasta, the Celtic goddess of war, before facing the reinforcements that Governor Paulinus put together. Yet, even heavily outnumbering the Romans, the Iceni and the other tribes were no match for the Romans' discipline, weaponry and cavalry. It was a massacre. What happened to Boudicca, no one can be certain. Was she killed in battle or taken prisoner? Some say she took her own life.

Her determination and bravery live on. In 1902, a bronze statue of the Warrior Queen riding in her chariot, designed by Thomas Thornycroft, was erected near the Houses of Parliament in London.

Now complete the table below, saying who each person was.

name	who or what were they?
<b>Iceni</b>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Prasutagus</b>	<hr/>
<b>Trinovantes</b>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Camulodunum</b>	<hr/>
<b>Londinium</b>	<hr/>
<b>Verulamium</b>	<hr/>
<b>Gaius Suetonius Paulinus</b>	<hr/>
<b>Tacitus</b>	<hr/>
<b>Andrasta</b>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Thomas Thornycroft</b>	<hr/> <hr/>
<b>Warrior Queen</b>	<hr/>

## DRUMS AND DRUMMING

Here is some information about drums and how widely they have been used.



### HISTORY

Drums are among the oldest of musical instruments, dating approximately from 5000 BC in the Middle East, China and India. Drums have been used not just for music, but also in religious ceremonies and to communicate over long distances. A good example of this is the African **talking drum**, which imitates the sounds of the human voice.



### MILITARY USES

The Chinese used drums to motivate their soldiers, set a marching pace and to transmit orders. Aztecs in battle were known to communicate to their warriors by means of drumming. The same is true of British forces in the past, when the sound of a drum could be heard over the noise of battle.



### DRUM DESIGN

The design of drums hasn't changed much over the years, consisting of at least one drum skin, or membrane, stretched over a cylinder made of wood, metal or plant gourd. The sound – percussion – is created by striking with the hand or by using a stick or sticks. A set of different drums together plus cymbals form the modern drum kit.



### ANIMAL DRUMMERS

Some apes send out a message of their dominance by beating their chest or clapping. Rodents, such as Kangaroo Rats, perform a similar action – sometimes when danger is near – by drumming their paws on the ground.

1. Where has evidence of the earliest drums been found?

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2. What is distinctive about the talking drum?

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3. Describe **three** ways in which drums have been used in battle.

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4. What is a **membrane**?

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5. What materials might be used in the making of a drum?

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6. What is the word that means the striking of a drum to produce a sound?

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7. How does the modern drum kit differ from single drums?

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8. Which animals use drumming to communicate?

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9. Explain why animals make drumming sounds.

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## THE HORSE TRAINER

Here are some tips on how to train a horse. Follow the instructions and answer the questions that follow.

### **SAFETY GUIDELINES**

Always remember that you are dealing with a big, powerful animal. It is extremely important that you stand where your horse can see you. The first thing that any experienced horse trainers will tell you is: never walk behind your horse. Walk around in front of it. If it's absolutely necessary to be close to it but out of its sight, remember to keep talking so that it knows where you are.

Another method is to run your hand down its side to signal where you're going. If you are working with its head, stand on its left (known as the *nearside*), in line with its ear and at an angle. It can see you best there. Should your horse be suddenly startled, you are in a good position to get out of its way.

Above all, never kneel or sit on the floor near it. That will most likely lead to an accident, and the fault will be yours, not your horse's.



### **PATIENCE AND PERSISTENCE**

If you wish to teach your horse a new skill or change its behaviour, take it slowly one step at a time. Never raise your voice or get angry, not if you want a calm, confident animal. Respond to your horse when it does what you want by immediately rewarding it so that the behaviour will be repeated next time you ask. This is called *reinforcement*.

There are two kinds of reinforcement: *positive* and *negative*. (These don't necessarily mean *good* and *bad*.) Positive reinforcers include treats, speaking softly or stroking. It should be given the instant your horse does what you want. Negative reinforcers are things like a gentle push with the fingers, a light tap of the whip, or rein or leg pressure. They are never abrupt and never frightening or painful for the horse. Negative reinforcement should continue until the horse gives the right response. Remember: be patient but persistent.

1. What important advice are you likely to receive from an experienced horse trainer?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Describe two ways of letting your horse know where you are, if it can't see you.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When dealing with a horse, what is meant by the *nearside*?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why is it important to remain standing while looking after a horse?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What would be the result if you were to get angry with your horse and shout?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. How does rewarding your horse for the behaviour you want lead to success in training?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Describe three examples of positive reinforcement.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Describe three examples of negative reinforcement.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Positive and negative reinforcements are used differently. Explain how they should be used.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## THE TOWER OF LONDON

After a school trip to the Tower of London, these children gave a short presentation in assembly. They each chose a topic that interested them.



After William the Conqueror defeated King Harold at the Battle of Hastings, he needed castles and towers to protect himself and keep control of England. The Tower of London was one of those buildings.

The first person to be imprisoned in the White Tower was Ranulf Flambard. He was the Bishop of Durham and the chief tax collector. He had made himself very rich and King Henry I accused him of extortion (forcing people to hand over more money to him than they needed to).

One night, while a feast was going, he had friends smuggle in a rope inside a gallon of wine. Inviting his guards to join him, he soon got them drunk. Then he used the rope to let himself down from a window. Outside, his friends were waiting with horses; and so he also became the first person to escape from the tower.



Many years ago, according to a legend, an enormous, ghostly bear appeared beside the Martin Tower. It frightened a guard to death! Literally! He dropped down dead on the spot. Now you might think: "What would a bear be doing there?" Well, in 1251, King Henry III received a present from the King of Norway. It was a polar bear and a long chain was attached to a collar, so that it could hunt for fish in the River Thames. Maybe the guard was scared by the real bear: it was white and he wouldn't have seen one before. The ghost hasn't been seen since.

The Tower of London had been standing for 400 years when Henry VIII was born. He used it for all sorts of things, such as a fortress and a prison. He also used it as a storehouse for his own precious possessions. In fact, he and Anne Boleyn lived there for a while. He had coins minted there and even kept a menagerie of wild animals there.



1. Why did William the Conqueror order the construction of the Tower of London?

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2. Ranulf Flambard held two important positions. What were they?

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3. What does **extortion** mean?

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4. Sanjeev suggests that Ranulf Flambard has two 'firsts' – two records. What are they?

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5. What phrase suggests that Hannah doubts the story of the ghostly bear ?

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6. What is Hannah's explanation for the guard being scared to death ?

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7. Seth says the Tower of London has had many uses. Tick the ones he mentions.

storage of vegetables

prison

minting coins

games room

fortress

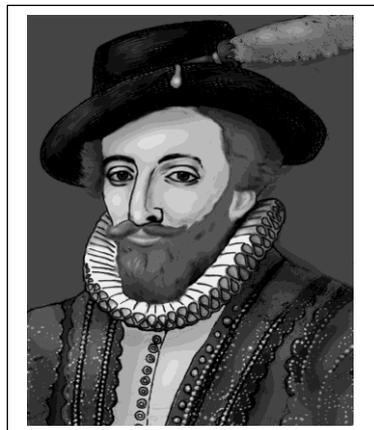
menagerie

storehouse for possessions

living accommodation

## WALTER RALEIGH

Walter Raleigh is known for introducing the potato and tobacco to Britain. It seems he would have preferred to have found gold in South America. Read these details of his life, then answer the questions that follow.



*Walter Raleigh*



*Queen Elizabeth I*



*King James I*

### Walter Raleigh and El Dorado

Born in Devon around 1552, Walter Raleigh had a lifelong interest in America, or the New World as it was known. He was well-educated and a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I, especially after he quelled an uprising in Ireland in 1580. As a result, he was knighted and promoted to Captain of the Queen's Guard.

He had already sailed to America to establish a colony, but failed; and tried again a few years later without success.

He is credited with bringing back potatoes and tobacco to Europe, although the Spanish had already introduced them here. In fact, the Spanish, at the time, in conflict with England had a strong grip on parts of South America.

When the first Spanish explorers reached the continent, they heard many legends about tribes in the high Andes and their use of gold in their ceremonies. Stories varied, but it was claimed that gold played a part in the rituals of leadership. It was said that a new leader was covered in gold dust. Then gold and other precious jewels were thrown into Lake Guatavita to please the underwater goddess. The Spanish called this chief *El Dorado* – the Golden One. Soon, it became the name of a mysterious city of gold.

Meanwhile, Raleigh fell into disfavour with Elizabeth when he married one of her maids of honour without asking the Queen's permission. In a rage, Elizabeth imprisoned them both in the Tower of London – not in a dungeon, but in some comfortable rooms.

When he was released, Raleigh hoped to regain the Queen's favour by setting off to find the fabled city of El Dorado. Raleigh sailed to the River Orinoco and beyond, but failed to find any gold.

James I, who succeeded Elizabeth I, did not trust Raleigh, who was accused (probably falsely) of plotting against the King. Once more, he was thrown into prison in the Tower. This time, he spent 12 years locked up. In 1616, James, in need of money, agreed to let Raleigh, now an old man, try again to find El Dorado. The one condition was that there should be no conflict with the Spanish.

The expedition was a total disaster. Raleigh's son was killed in a battle with the Spanish. Raleigh, having defied the King, returned in October 1618 without any gold, to face a death sentence. As his executioner hesitated, Raleigh said: "This is sharp medicine; but it is a sure cure for all diseases..."

1. Why does the writer say that Walter Raleigh was born **around** 1552?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How did Queen Elizabeth I reward Raleigh for dealing with the uprising in Ireland?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Raleigh was rewarded for his successes. He also experienced some major failures. What were they?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What other word in the text is similar in meaning to **ceremonies**?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. The stories and legends of tribal chiefs in the Andes might not have been true. What are the **two** phrases that are used to suggest they might not be true?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Describe the tribal leadership ceremony.

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7. Today, El Dorado is thought of as a lost city of gold. What did it mean originally?

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8. Why did Elizabeth I imprison Raleigh in the Tower of London?

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9. Why did James I imprison Raleigh in the Tower of London?

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10. What words suggest that Raleigh might have been innocent?

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11. The text describes **three** ways in which 'The expedition was a total disaster'. What were they?

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12. What was the 'sharp medicine' that Raleigh referred to on the day of his execution?

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13. Why do you think it was a 'sure cure for all diseases'?

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## **Fact and opinion**

**Strand:** Comprehension

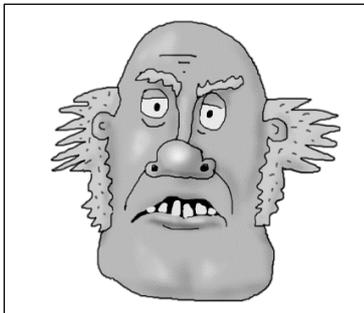
**National Curriculum reference:**

- retrieving and recording information from non-fiction
- distinguishing between statements of fact and opinion

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2g

## WANTED

Here are wanted posters of some odd characters. Their descriptions contain a few opinions as well as facts. Can you separate the opinions from the facts?



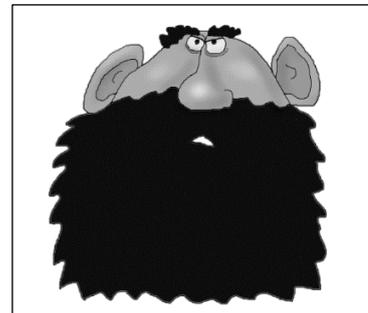
### WANTED: TROLL

**Height:** 4 feet 9¼ inches.  
**Appearance:** quite ugly – should visit a dentist soon.  
**Crime:** being a menace to people crossing his bridge, especially Billy Goats.  
**Note:** probably needs a few friends. Any volunteers?



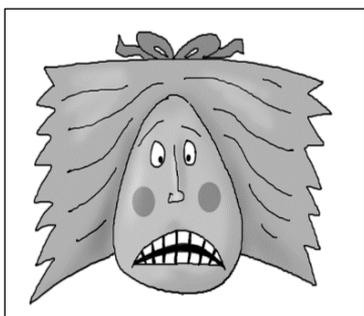
### WANTED: STEP-MOTHER (WICKED)

**Height:** 5 feet 6 inches (in high heels).  
**Appearance:** I'd say not as gorgeous as she thinks she is. (Ask her mirror!)  
**Crime:** not nice to her step-daughter.  
**Note:** should try knitting.



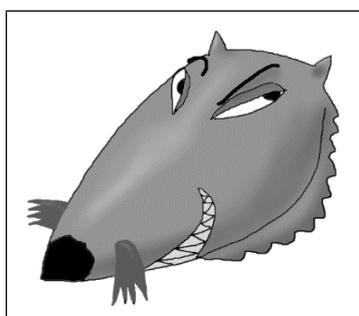
### WANTED: GIANT

**Height:** 19 feet 8 inches (in his socks).  
**Appearance:** he looks far too big for his boots.  
**Crime:** frightening Jack and other Englishmen.  
**Note:** can be reached by beanstalk.



### WANTED: GOLDBLOCKS

**Height:** 6 feet (when standing on a chair).  
**Appearance:** lots of golden hair and a bit prim.  
**Crime:** destroying the furniture of a law-abiding family of bears.  
**Note:** she must hate muesli.



### WANTED: BIG BAD WOLF

**Height:** 3 feet 11 inches.  
**Appearance:** you could say he looks charming but I'm not keen on those teeth.  
**Crime:** the list is too long!  
**Note:** keeps turning up in fairytales despite best efforts of the woodcutter.



### WANTED: WITCH

**Height:** 5 feet 1½ inches (including pointy hat).  
**Appearance:** bad teeth, cackling laugh, occasional wart on the nose.  
**Crime:** horrid to kids, puts people to sleep, etc.  
**Note:** good at spelling.

Now read the statements in this table and put a **tick** under **fact** or **opinion**.

<b>TROLL</b>	<b>fact</b>	<b>opinion</b>
should visit a dentist soon		
being a menace to people crossing his bridge		
probably needs a few friends		

<b>WICKED STEPMOTHER</b>	<b>fact</b>	<b>opinion</b>
5 feet 6 inches (in high heels)		
I'd say not as gorgeous as she thinks she is		
not nice to her step-daughter		

<b>GIANT</b>	<b>fact</b>	<b>opinion</b>
he looks far too big for his boots		
frightening Jack and other Englishmen		
can be reached by beanstalk		

<b>GOLDBLOCKS</b>	<b>fact</b>	<b>opinion</b>
lots of golden hair		
destroying the furniture of a law-abiding family of bears		
she must hate muesli		

<b>BIG BAD WOLF</b>	<b>fact</b>	<b>opinion</b>
you could say he looks charming		
I'm not keen on those teeth		
he keeps turning up in fairytales		

<b>WITCH</b>	<b>fact</b>	<b>opinion</b>
bad teeth, cackling laugh, occasional wart on the nose		
horrid to kids		
puts people to sleep, etc.		

## VULTURES

Vultures are not the cuddliest of creatures. There are some facts and opinions in the following description of them. Look at the list of statements below and write **fact** or **opinion** after them



- Vultures are large, carnivorous birds.
- They are found all around the world except Australia and Antarctica.
- We are very fortunate not to have any in the wild in Britain.
- There are around 30 different species of vulture.
- They scavenge for food rather than killing animals themselves.
- It must be scary for dying animals seeing vultures circling overhead.
- Their eyesight must be amazing if they're able to see their prey three or four miles away.
- New World Vultures (those in N. and S. America) are smaller than those in Africa, Asia and Europe.
- Having no feathers on their heads makes them look very ugly.
- They do an excellent job clearing up dead animals.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## GAME REVIEWS

People have different views about computer games. Read this game review and decide which statements in the table below are **facts** and which are personal **opinions**. Tick the correct boxes.

I have to say, after playing this game for an hour, blowing up the Mercury Men everywhere, I began to feel sorry for the dragon. The dragon, or Draco, as he is known, is surrounded by these Mercury characters who keep changing shape: one minute, a tree, the next minute, a cat. Whatever their disguise, they're a bit weird. They are Draco's guards, but, by the time, you reach Draco's castle, you wonder if they are actually keeping him imprisoned. Reaching the castle is made even trickier by the Gargoyles. I'll leave you to find out for yourself what powers they have. Dracoworld is action-packed, the movement is sharp and the graphics clear. As far as I'm concerned, it's challenging and fun. I recommend it.



statement	fact	opinion
playing this game for an hour		
I began to feel sorry for the dragon		
The dragon is surrounded by these Mercury characters		
one minute, a tree, the next minute a cat		
Whatever their disguise, they're a bit weird		
They are Draco's guards		
you wonder if they're actually keeping him imprisoned		
Dracoworld is action-packed		
it's challenging and fun		

## CHINESE NEW YEAR

Here is Lian describing what happens in her house at New Year.



The evening before the Chinese New Year is great. We all get together for a big, family reunion dinner. Traditionally, we clean the house from top to bottom. I can't say my brother, Chen, does his share. Anyway, it symbolises sweeping away bad luck and preparing to welcome good luck. We decorate the doors and windows with red paper cut-outs. My cutting is not very neat, but I'm getting better. The story goes that there was a mythical creature, called Nian – a bit scary, if you ask me – that appeared on the first day of New Year to eat our farm animals, corn and, especially, children. See what I mean? One of the gods, however, told a villager that Nian hated the colour red and was frightened of firecrackers. So that's what he did and Nian never returned. That's why we have red lanterns and decorations, and light firecrackers at Chinese New Year. Maybe that's why we have to be nice to brothers as well.



Write an **f** for **fact** or an **o** for **opinion** after each statement.

**The evening before Chinese New Year is great**

**We clean the house from top to bottom**

**I can't say my brother, Chen, does his share**

**It symbolises sweeping away bad luck**

**My cutting is not very neat**

**That's why we have red lanterns**

**Maybe that's why we have to be nice to brothers**

## The main idea

**Strand:** Comprehension

**National Curriculum reference:**

- identifying main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2c, 2f

## THE EIFFEL TOWER

Here is an information leaflet about the Eiffel Tower. What is it mainly about?

### The Eiffel Tower

Erected in 1889 and named after its engineer, Alexandre Gustave Eiffel, the Eiffel Tower is the most visited monument in the world. The tower welcomed its 250 millionth visitor in 2010.



The greatest number of visitors (taking on the 300 steps to the first level and another 300 to the second level, before taking a lift to the top of the tallest structure in Paris) are from France. This accounts for around 10% and is closely followed by holidaymakers from Spain, Italy, the USA and Britain.

When it opened, famous visitors included the Prince of Wales, Thomas Edison – known for inventing the world's first practical electric lightbulb, and Buffalo Bill.

What is the leaflet mainly about? Tick the correct one.

**It was named after its engineer**

**Visitors to the Eiffel Tower**

**The tallest structure in Paris**

Write **two** sentences from the leaflet that helped you to make your choice:

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## THE STATUE OF LIBERTY

Here is an information leaflet about the Statue of Liberty. What is it mainly about?



### The Statue of Liberty

Built on Liberty Island in New York Harbour by Gustave Eiffel in 1886, the Statue of Liberty was a gift from the people of France to the USA. Some of the money for it was raised in France.

The sculpture is of a female figure representing Libertas, the Roman goddess of freedom. She wears a long robe and holds a torch as if lighting the way and a tablet of stone symbolising the law. At her feet are broken chains, also suggesting freedom.

Often referred to as *Liberty Enlightening the World*, the statue must have been a welcoming sight to migrants fleeing to the safety of the USA from European tyrants.

What is the leaflet mainly about? Tick the correct one.

The statue is in New York harbour

It was constructed in France

It represents freedom

Write **two** sentences from the leaflet that helped you to make your choice:

---

---

---

## IDEAS ABOUT MUSIC

Read this information about making music. Then, alongside each statement, write down whether it is the **main idea** or a **detail** that supports the main idea.

There are a few ways you can change the pitch of a guitar string. You can tighten it or make it shorter. You can also use a thinner string.

**you can change the pitch of a guitar string** \_\_\_\_\_

**you can tighten it or make it shorter** \_\_\_\_\_

**you can use a thinner string** \_\_\_\_\_

You pluck a guitar string to make it vibrate. When playing a xylophone, you strike the bars. To produce a sound, you have to create a vibration.

**you pluck a guitar string to make it vibrate** \_\_\_\_\_

**when playing a xylophone, you strike the bars** \_\_\_\_\_

**to produce a sound, you have to create a vibration** \_\_\_\_\_

Stringed instruments can be plucked harder. Percussion instruments can be struck harder. This is how we change the volume of a note.

**stringed instruments can be plucked harder** \_\_\_\_\_

**percussion instruments can be struck harder** \_\_\_\_\_

**this is how we change the volume of a note** \_\_\_\_\_

You can make your own instruments. It is important to gather together the right materials. Tins, rubber bands, balloons and seeds are useful.

**you can make your own instruments** \_\_\_\_\_

**gather together the right materials** \_\_\_\_\_

**tins, rubber bands, balloons and seeds are useful** \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHOOL DAYS

Here, children from different countries are describing what school is like. Alongside what each one says, **tick the main idea**.



Food and eating together as a family is a big thing in Spain. My grandparents like to prepare food so we can eat lunch together. So our lunch break lasts from 12 noon till 3pm. Then school finishes at 5pm.

school day fits family life

grandparents prepare food

school finishes at 5pm



You're not forced to wear a school uniform, but most schools in Australia have them. Because it's hot, teacher says "No hat, no play!" So, if we don't bring a hat in the summer, we don't get out at breaktime.

uniform is not compulsory

it's hot in Australia

clothes to wear at school



In Brazil, in the schoolyard, I like to play Queimada. It means 'Burnt.' If you touch the ball when the other team throws it, we say you are burnt and die. When everybody is 'dead', the game is over. It's great!

schools have 'schoolyards'

a popular breaktime game

the game needs two teams



In India, if you have money, you can go to a good school. But some teachers in poor government schools don't always show up, or else they write a problem on the board and then leave. I want to learn.

schools for rich and poor

teachers don't show up

India has good schools

## THE EVOLUTION OF FOOTBALL

For hundreds of years, games involving kicking or running with a ball have taken place in many parts of the world. Read the following paragraphs and tick the phrase that sums up each main idea.



Royal Engineers AFC won the FA Cup in 1875

There were many early versions of ball games, but, in England, something resembling football became so popular in the early 1300s that King Edward II tried to ban it. He was worried that people weren't practising archery enough, at a time when he was at war with Scotland.

early versions of football

football was very popular

war with Scotland

In spite of the attempts of other kings to ban the game, more and more people played. The trouble was, lacking in any rules, football could be very violent – some of it deliberate. Sometimes, as many as 1000 people played at a time. In the chaos, there were many injuries.

more people played

it lacked rules

sometimes, 1000 played

Football was very popular at public schools in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. As a result, in 1848, a meeting was held in Cambridge to agree on a set of rules. These included such things as throw-ins and goal kicks. These rules were added to in later years and set the scene for the creation of new football clubs and regional matches.

a set of rules

throw-ins and goal kicks

new football clubs

Although football was often thought of as a male sport, since the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it has been played by women as well. During the First World War, when women took on a lot of industrial jobs, many female works teams were formed. A women's team from Preston was one of the first to play in an international match against Paris in 1920.

women played as well



women in industrial jobs



Preston beat Paris



One football match is fast becoming legendary. It was played at Christmas in 1914. Some British soldiers in the trenches of the First World War heard some of the German army singing carols. Then both sides walked out into No Man's Land. Some played a game of football; others exchanged gifts and took photos.

a legendary match



Germans sang carols



meeting in No Man's Land



some played football



A special tournament took place in 1930 in Uruguay, who were the Olympic champions. It was here that 13 teams – 7 from South America, 4 from Europe and 2 from North America – took part in the first World Cup. Uruguay were the winners, beating Argentina 4-2 in the final. The only European teams who attended were, Belgium, France, Romania and Yugoslavia. Because of a dispute with FIFA, the ruling body, no British teams played in the first World Cup.

Olympic champions



the first World Cup



Uruguay won



no British team played





## Summarising main ideas

**Strand:** Comprehension

**National Curriculum reference:**

- identifying main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarising these

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2c, 2f

## HENRY VIII

Here is some information about King Henry VIII. He was a big man and didn't like people disagreeing with him. Read about his life and the order in which various events took place.



<b>Personal Profile: Henry Tudor</b>	
<b>Dates</b>	Born in 1491 and died in 1547.
<b>Family</b>	When Henry was 5 years old, he and his mother, Elizabeth of York, had to flee from rebels in London to the safety of the Tower of London. His father was Henry VII and the first monarch of the House of Tudor. He died in 1509. His older brother, Arthur, would have been crowned king, but he died in 1502.
<b>Coronation</b>	Crowned king in 1509.
<b>Character</b>	Henry was a skilful horseman and archer. He enjoyed jousting, music, dancing and having feasts at Hampton Court. Making him cross risked having your head chopped off. (See 'Wives' below.)
<b>Important actions</b>	In 1534, he made himself Head of the Church of England. One of his warships, the Mary Rose, sank in 1545. (It was lifted off the seabed in 1982 and can be visited in Portsmouth.)
<b>Wives</b>	Catherine of Aragon: married in 1509 – divorced in 1533. Anne Boleyn: married in 1533 – beheaded in 1536. Jane Seymour: married in 1536 – died in 1537. Anne of Cleves: married in 1540 – divorced in 1540. Catherine Howard: married in 1540 – beheaded in 1542. Catherine Parr: married in 1543 – outlived Henry VIII, dying about 18 months after him.

Now use Henry VIII's personal profile to number the following facts in the correct order.

- Catherine of Aragon is divorced
- The Mary Rose sinks
- Henry VIII is born
- He marries Catherine Parr
- Henry VII dies
- Anne Boleyn is beheaded
- Henry is crowned king
- Henry and his mother flee to the Tower of London
- Henry VIII dies
- Henry marries Jane Seymour
- The Mary Rose is lifted off the seabed
- Henry's brother, Arthur, dies
- Henry divorces Anne of Cleves
- Catherine Howard is beheaded

## NEWS HEADLINES – ROSA PARKS

Newspaper reports focus on different aspects of events depending on what appeals to their readers. Create a headline for each of these articles about Rosa Parks, whose actions helped the struggle for racial equality in the USA.



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It could be said that Rosa Parks, brought up and educated in a segregated society in Alabama, was destined to become part of the struggle for racial equality. Much of her childhood experience was touched by discrimination. Segregated schools (i.e. separate schools for black and white children) were the rule, with black children missing out on basic equipment, such as desks.

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In the city of Montgomery, for some time, there has existed a bus code, by which a bus driver assigns certain seats to white passengers and to black passengers. In practice, this has taken the form of a line separating white people, at the front, and African-Americans at the back. This has meant that an African-American passenger gets on at the front to pay the driver, then gets off to board again by the back door of the bus.

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On 1<sup>st</sup> December 1955, 42-year-old Rosa Parks boarded the Cleveland Avenue bus for home after a long day at the department store, where she was employed. When she was asked by the bus driver to give up her seat to a white person, she refused. Police were called and she was arrested; subsequently, released on bail.

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Her supporters, including Martin Luther King Jnr called for a boycott of the Montgomery bus company. For many months, buses stood empty. In June 1956, the district court declared the practice of segregation unlawful. Almost a year after Rosa's action, the US Supreme Court upheld the decision.

## THE ENDURANCE OF SHACKLETON

Ernest Shackleton is known for his heroic journey to save the stranded members of his polar expedition. Read the information, then number the events in the correct order.

### Ernest Shackleton (1874 – 1922)

Ernest Henry Shackleton was born in Ireland. At the age of sixteen, he joined the merchant navy. His main ambition was to explore the poles. An opportunity came in 1901, when Captain Scott recruited him as a member of the crew of the Discovery, which set sail for the Antarctic. The aim was to be the first team to reach the South Pole, but, in extremely difficult conditions, the team failed, Shackleton became ill and had to return home.



Another attempt came in 1908 as leader of his own expedition. His came closer to the South Pole than anyone before, and, on his return, he was knighted. Three years later, the Norwegian explorer, Amundsen, was the first man to reach the pole, closely followed by Scott, who died during the homeward journey.

Shackleton made his third trip to Antarctica in 1914 on his ship, the Endurance. Early the following year, the Endurance became trapped in ice,



forcing the crew to abandon ship and seek safety on floating ice. The ship sank ten months later. This forced the team to set off in three small lifeboats for Elephant Island – a small island in the Southern Ocean. With five crew members, Shackleton took the most seaworthy of the lifeboats and set sail for South Georgia – a journey of 1300 km. After almost capsizing, they reached land.

Their mission was not over, however. They then trekked across the mountainous island until they reached a whaling station. There, Shackleton was able to organise the rescue of his men left on Elephant Island. Not one member of the Endurance expedition died, thanks to the determination of Ernest Shackleton.

Now number these events in the correct order:

- The Norwegian explorer, Amundsen, is the first man to reach the South Pole.
- Shackleton is chosen as part of Scott's team and sets sail for Antarctica on board the Discovery.
- Shackleton joins the merchant navy.
- The Endurance gets stuck in the ice and the crew have to live on the ice floe.
- Scott succeeds in reaching the South Pole, but dies on the journey home.
- Shackleton reaches a whaling station and organises the rescue of his crew.
- Shackleton's third trip to the Antarctic is on board the Endurance.
- Shackleton becomes ill during an attempt to reach the South Pole and has to return home.
- Shackleton's team is forced to set off for Elephant Island in three small lifeboats.
- Shackleton and his team have to trek across the mountainous island of South Georgia.
- The Endurance sinks.
- They set sail for South Georgia in the most seaworthy of the lifeboats.

## Details that support the main idea

**Strand:** Comprehension

**National Curriculum reference:**

- identifying main ideas drawn from more than one paragraph and summarising these

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2c, 2f

## SCIENCE HEADLINES

Here are some news headlines describing the work of scientists. Tick the phrase that goes with the headline.

### **MARS ROVER LOOKS FOR SIGNS OF LIFE ON MARS**

Scientists keep their fingers crossed

Liquid water is needed to support life

Mars Rover had no problem landing

### **CREATING ELEPHANT ANCESTOR IS A MAMMOTH TASK**

Mammoths can survive Arctic winters

Mammoths are extinct

Elephants live a long time

### **MOUNTAIN GORILLA NUMBERS DANGEROUSLY LOW**

Around 880 Mountain Gorillas remaining

There are different species of gorilla

A dominant male is called a silverback

### **VULTURES TURN OUT TO BE AS TOUGH AS THEY LOOK**

Vultures have no feathers on their heads

They have sharp claws

They are able to eat rotting flesh

## OUR SCIENCE LESSONS

Class 5 have been doing a number of experiments and research on different science topics. Here, the children are making some statements about the human body. Draw lines to link what they say with one of the details on the right.



Exercise makes your heart beat faster and stay healthy.

Muscles are attached to bones and shorten to make them move.



One job your skeleton does is to enable you to move.

Your heart is well protected by your ribcage.



Being a vertebrate means you have a backbone.

If you run fast, your pulse rate will increase.



Pulse rate measures how fast the heart is beating.

It's very important to make sure you do regular exercise.



Muscles need a supply of oxygen to function.

Many other animals, called invertebrates, have an external shell.



The skeleton protects the organs inside your body.

Oxygen is carried in the blood from the lungs to the muscles.

# PUMPKINS

The left-hand column lists a number of **main** ideas about pumpkins. The right-hand column presents a list of **details**. Draw lines matching up each **main idea** with the appropriate **detail**.



A pumpkin is a member of the squash family of plants with a thick yellow or orange skin.

Lanterns were originally carved from turnips in Ireland and taken to the USA by emigrants.

Pumpkins are a native plant of America. Evidence of the earliest pumpkin seeds comes from Mexico.

Pumpkins, a versatile ingredient in many recipes, are also a very good source of vitamins.

Pumpkins grown for human consumption are very nutritious and high in fibre.

Its thick, protective skin contains edible pulp and the seeds necessary for future pumpkins.

Carving pumpkins into Jack o' Lanterns is a tradition that goes back hundreds of years.

When watering try to keep the leaves and fruit dry as this can lead to rot.

Pumpkin seeds should be planted at the end of May and harvested in October.

Whatever their origin, pumpkins are now grown all over the world apart from Antarctica.

Growing pumpkins are very thirsty plants and need a lot of water especially during dry weather.



Good seed is important. If seeds are stored properly, they can be saved for several years.

## **Inferences**

**Strand:** Making inferences

**National Curriculum reference:**

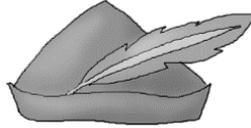
- drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2d, 2f, 2g

## LEGENDARY LIVES

Here are a number of legendary characters. Try to guess who or what they are from their own descriptions.

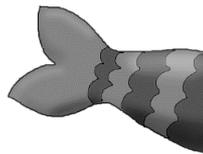
**Occupation:** outlaw  
**Outfit:** Lincoln green  
**Hobbies:** archery, being merry, and robbing the rich to give to the poor.



**Occupation:** magician  
**Residence:** bottles and lamps  
**Hobbies:** granting wishes, doing a few tricks when summoned and appearing in a puff of smoke.



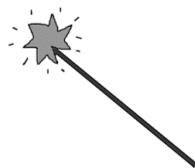
**Occupation:** unemployed  
**Outfit:** tail of a fish  
**Hobbies:** sitting on rocks, combing hair and luring sailors to their deaths now and again.



**Occupation:** cleaner  
**Outfit:** rags and glass slippers  
**Hobbies:** dancing, dreaming of a better life without my horrid sisters and marrying a prince.



**Occupation:** dental assistant  
**Outfit:** frills, wings, wand  
**Hobbies:** collecting teeth from under pillows and leaving cash to help with purchase of toothpaste.



**Occupation:** big brute  
**Outfit:** hairy and usually white  
**Hobbies:** surprising the people who live in the Himalayas, especially visitors who think I don't exist.



## ON THE PHONE

If you overheard someone on their phone, would you be able to guess who they were talking to? They might be speaking to a member of the family, a doctor or a friend. Use the clues available to decide who is on the other end of the phone.



Who else is going? What time? How much is it? Ok. I'll see what Mum and Dad say and let you know tomorrow at school.

WHO?

---



I don't know. We were out for the evening. Between 7pm and 11pm, I suppose. Yes, the doors were locked. Broken glass everywhere.

---



We've tried everything. The picture keeps disappearing or else it says: 'no signal'. Yes, I'll be in on Friday. What time on Friday?

---



Spots all over. He was fine yesterday. I'm taking him to the doctor in an hour. Yes, I'll come and get any homework this afternoon.

---



Oh, probably three months ago. Yes, they're absolutely filthy. Can hardly see out of them. Do you clean inside as well as outside?

---

WHO?



She doesn't look well at all. She hasn't moved from her chair and that's not like her. Eyes are glazed over. Oh... she's not wagging her tail.

---



Can you be here at 6:30am? There are six of us. Yes, 65 East Street. Where to? The airport. Two suitcases and four small bags. Thanks.

---



Andy's going and some of my other friends from class. Yes, I promise, and I'll do the washing-up all week. Really? Great!

---



Do you think it's serious? My next-door neighbour says there's a lot of it about. Two tablets every four hours? I'll do that.

---



Can I collect it on Saturday? Yes, marzipan and icing, but definitely no nuts. Ten candles – that's right. The party's in the afternoon.

---

## GRANDPA AND A CAT CALLED ALICE

Here is a story in which you have to work some things out for yourself.

### SARDINES FOR ALICE



*My grandpa has a cat called Alice. Funny that. My grandma was called Alice. In fact, the cat used to be called Kitty, but now it's Alice.*

*There's a lot of funny things about Grandpa. When I go to see him, the front door is always open. The TV is on. The cat is usually on top of the TV or the kitchen table, eating last week's cake. Grandpa will say it was lovely cake, even though he hasn't eaten any. He never says it was delicious, though I tell Mum that's what he said.*

*I go out into the back garden. Flower scent, deckchair, buzzing bees, and grass that needs cutting. At the far end is the shed where Grandpa will be humming a tune to himself. Knock on the door... and here he is.*

*"Hello, Grandpa. You all right?"*

*"Hello, Tommy. Yes. Looks like I'm still here. Oh, that was a lovely cake you brought last week. A real smasher. Say thanks to your mum."*

*It's cosy in his shed. Some of his drawings are pinned to the wall. Some photographs of him with Grandma. Some of the cat. And loads of tubes of paint everywhere, paintbrushes, empty jam jars and oily rags. I love the smell. Paint is all over his hands or drying on his trousers. He doesn't care. He doesn't care that the front door is open. Not now that he's on his own. He's painting a picture of Alice among the flowers.*

*"Secretive, isn't she? There and not there. Now, she'll always be there waiting for sardines."*

*"Not so secretive when she's sitting on the television."*

*"Hah!" says Grandpa, ruffling my hair and shaking with laughter.*

1. Whose grandma was called Alice?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why does the narrator use the word 'was' when he says: "My grandma **was** called Alice" ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Why do you think Grandpa has changed the cat's name?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Why does Grandpa never say the cake was delicious?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do you think the narrator always tells his mum that Grandpa said the cake was delicious?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. What time of year do you think it is?  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How do you know? Write down one piece of evidence.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What evidence is there to suggest that Grandpa is happy working in his shed?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Write down **three** things that tell you Grandpa is an artist.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. How do you know Grandpa enjoys Tommy's visits?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## GRANDPA AND A CAT CALLED ALICE part 2

Read what happens next and answer the questions. Again, you'll have to use your skills at 'reading between the lines'.

Mum is in the kitchen, staring out of the window. I ask her if she is baking a cake for Grandpa, because he always says how delicious they are.

Holding my face, she says she won't be making a cake. There won't be any more cakes. At first, I don't understand. Then I realise. I stand beside her staring out of the window.



On my way to Grandpa's house, I buy a tin of sardines at the shop at the end of Grandpa's street. The woman who owns the shop smiles and won't take any money from me.

Grandpa's door is closed, but he always kept a spare key under the mat. The TV is switched off. Alice is sitting on the kitchen table and rubs her head against my hands as I scoop sardines into her bowl.

Outside, the grass still needs cutting. The bees buzz around a deckchair, empty apart from an old straw hat.

As I open the shed door, I feel a lump in my throat and an ache in my chest. Inside, it doesn't feel as cosy as it usually does. Brushes and tubes of paint are everywhere. Grandpa has pinned a photograph of himself next to the one of Grandma. On his table, leaning against the wall, is a new painting. The colours are brilliant. It's a painting of the garden and the deckchair, and, sitting in the deckchair, is Grandpa in his straw hat.

There's a note beside it. It says: "This is for you, Tommy. Now, I'll always be there, waiting for delicious cake."

Outside, I pick up the hat and sit in the deckchair. I read the note again and smile at Grandpa's joke.

1. What do you think Mum is doing while staring out of the window? **Circle one.**

looking at the garden

thinking about Grandpa

watching the rain

2. Why do you think she holds Tommy's face?

---

3. Tommy says, "Then I realise." What does he realise?

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4. Why does the shop-owner give Tommy the sardines for free?

---

5. Describe **two** things that are different when Tommy arrives at Grandpa's house this time.

---

---

6. How is Tommy feeling as he stands at the shed door and how do you know?

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7. Why do you think Grandpa has pinned a photograph of himself next to the one of Grandma?

---

8. The note says: 'I'll always be there.' What does Grandpa mean?

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9. Read the last sentence again. What is Grandpa's joke?

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## Justifying inferences with evidence

**Strand:** Making inferences

**National Curriculum reference:**

- drawing inferences such as inferring characters' feelings, thoughts and motives from their actions, and justifying inferences with evidence

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2d, 2f, 2g

## BODY LANGUAGE

Read the following two scenes. If you had been walking by and had seen these events, would you be able to guess at what was going on?



Molly's grandad stood in front of the cash machine, searching his pockets. He scratched his head and smiled at Molly. He searched his pockets again. He looked on the ground at his feet. "Don't worry, Molly," he said, checking his watch. "We're ahead of schedule." Lowering her swimming kit onto the ground, Molly sighed as a bus turned the corner and raced by without stopping.

1. What had Molly's grandad lost?

---

2. How do you know?

---

---

3. Why does he smile at Molly?

---

4. What makes you think that?

---

5. Why does he check his watch?

---

6. Why does Molly sigh?

---

7. Where do you think they were going?

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Mr and Mrs Jeffreys sat in their dressing gowns peering through a gap in the living room curtains. Mr Jeffreys didn't, for a moment, take his eyes off the flower beds in the front garden, as he put his empty cereal bowl on the table. Four empty cups of coffee already sat there.

"Not long now," whispered Mrs Jeffreys as the sun came up. "I suppose I could have rung the neighbour's doorbell." Mr Jeffreys scowled.

The living room clock chimed seven when Champ jumped over the wall. Immediately, Mr Jeffreys ran out, waving his arms and hollering, causing it to panic and drop its bone as it ran off.



1. What time of day is it?

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2. How do you know?

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3. Have Mr and Mrs Jeffreys been sitting there for some time?

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4. How do you know?

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5. How does Mrs Jeffreys feel about being there?

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6. Who is Champ?

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7. Why does Mr Jeffreys rush out of the house waving his arms and hollering?

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## FIRST WOMAN IN SPACE

Read this short biography of how Valentina Tereshkova came to be the first woman in space, then answer the questions that follow.

Valentina Tereshkova was born in 1937 in a small village in central Russia, where her father was a tractor driver and her mother worked in a textile factory.

She started school in 1945 at the age of eight and left in 1953 to do textile work like her mother. During her teenage years, however, she became very interested in skydiving. She trained at the local flying club and, when she was 22 years-old, she did her first parachute jump. This experience would lead eventually to a place in the history books.

Her enthusiasm for skydiving brought her to the attention of the country's Space Programme. Russia had already put the first man into space in 1961, when Yuri Gagarin orbited the Earth. The government was very eager to achieve another Russian 'first' in what was known as the *space race* against the USA.

In fact, a Russian newspaper at the time reported that Tereshkova had 'dreamt of going into space' as soon as she heard about Gagarin's space mission.

Her dream and her skydiving abilities made her a likely candidate for the intensive training necessary to become an astronaut. Her training included weightless flights at high altitudes, isolation tests and spacecraft engineering. Skill in handling a parachute was an essential part of re-entry. Whoever was chosen would have to be ejected from the space capsule at 20,000 feet and land safely. She was selected in February 1962.

On the morning of 16<sup>th</sup> June 1963, Tereshkova was bussed to the launch pad. After routine communication and life support checks, she was sealed inside the rocket, Vostok 6. There followed a two-hour countdown and a successful launch.

She completed 48 orbits of the Earth in 71 hours – more time in space than all the American astronauts combined.

Back on Earth she was highly honoured, not only in her own country, where she received the Hero of the Soviet Union medal, but also around the world.

She never went into space again, but perhaps her spirit of adventure did not leave her. In 2013, she said she'd be happy to go on a one-way trip to Mars.



Now use evidence from the text to answer the following questions.

1. Do you think Valentina's parents expected her to grow up to be a famous astronaut? Why do you think this?

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2. Why were her skydiving skills so important?

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3. How do we know that Yuri Gagarin's space flight was a factor in Tereshkova's desire to be part of the Space Programme?

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4. During her training for space travel, she had to have 'isolation tests'. Why do you think this would be part of the training?

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5. Re-entry involved being 'ejected at 20,000 feet'. What does **ejected** mean?

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6. It might be fair to say that, at this point in history, Russia was winning the *space race* against the USA. Give **two** reasons why it is fair to say this.

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7. From what is said in the text, how do we know she became world-famous?

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8. Did she ever lose her spirit of adventure? How do you know?

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## Predicting what might happen

**Strand:** Making inferences

**National Curriculum reference:**

- predicting what might happen from details stated and implied

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2e

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Read these incomplete sentences. Write down what you think happened next.

1. I had always thought that holidays were exciting, until \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Although I knew the castle wasn't haunted, when I opened the door, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Aunt Jemima drove off into the mist in her battered, old car and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. As the sun came up, I stuck my head out of the tent  
and saw \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



5. When Uncle Rashid said he had a mythical creature in his shed, we \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Unwrapping the present from my cousin, Marty the Magician, I found \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

7. A terrifying roar told us the lions had escaped, so we \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

8. The detective, with all the evidence he needed, looked round the room and  
pointed at \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

9. In the middle of the night, my cat wandered into my bedroom and \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## HOW DO THINGS TURN OUT?

Here are some short descriptions of events. Decide what happens in the end.

The snow had stayed for a whole week without any sign of it melting. Kim and Sanjay spent every breaktime at school working on their snowman. Kim had even brought in an old scarf and hat. They were just adding the final touches: an upturned arc for a smile, when...

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Dad said the south coast was a great place to look for fossils. So we all piled into the car, including our dog, Suzi. My bag was bursting with fossil books, my fossil-hunter's hammer, sketch book, pencils and magnifying glass. So it was a pity we spent all day finding absolutely nothing. At dusk, dejected, we trailed back to the car. That's when Suzi came over wagging her tail.

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Class 5 organised a cake sale for charity. We must have made hundreds of cakes. I don't think anybody counted them all. Our headteacher let us sell them at breaktime and after lunch. When we finished, we had nearly £60 for Save The Children and we still had quite a lot of cakes left over, so this is what we did.

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## PETS AND PESTS

Here are some scenes involving pets. Using the clues provided, write down what you think might happen next.

Aditya was so pleased with the amazing cake he baked at school that he couldn't wait to see his mum's face. To avoid spoiling the cherries decorating the top and getting dollops of cream all over his shirt, he pushed the door open with his elbow.

At that moment, Sparky, his lively Beagle, its tongue dangling and ears flapping as if he were about to take flight, came racing towards him.

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Every weekend, it was Maggie's job to feed the cat. She'd become so used to cleaning Mitzi's water dish and filling up her food bowl with cat food, she could almost do it with her eyes closed.

This particular weekend, it looked as if Dad had brought some fish home for Mitzi as a special treat. The cat certainly scoffed it all pretty quickly. When Dad went in the kitchen to cook some home-made fish and chips, he came out looking a bit puzzled.

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Charlie loved snakes. All snakes. Well, not those with deadly poison, or the ones that squeezed you to bits. The trouble was keeping an eye on them. They were very sneaky – all seven of them.

Unfortunately, his Aunt Betty and Uncle Maynard, who had just arrived for tea, weren't so keen on reptiles of any sort. Charlie counted his snakes: "... and that makes six..."

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## WHAT IF?

What would happen if fairytales didn't go according to plan? Here are some reminders of some well-known fairytale scenes, but with an unexpected twist. Write down what you think might happen next.

Cinderella wished she could go to the ball too, like her ugly sisters. Suddenly, there was a whoosh! Her fairy godmother fell out of a tree and bent her wand. When she tried to use it to magically transform four white mice into four magnificent horses to pull Cinderella's golden carriage,...

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The seven dwarves were so happy to have Snow White stay in their cottage in the heart of the forest. Their rooms were always an untidy mess. The next day, they went off to work whistling and returned in the evening with a spring in their step, expecting to find the place spotless and sparkling. The trouble was Snow White wasn't any use at domestic chores. As soon as they opened the door...

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The three bears were about to have their porridge, when Mummy Bear suggested they go for a walk first to let it cool down. Daddy Bear agreed. Baby Bear loved to go for walks, so off they went. Meanwhile, Goldilocks, smelling the delicious porridge, sneaked into the house and was delighted to find no one there. No one, that is, apart from grumpy, old Grandpa Bear, who...

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Jack raced across the landscape of clouds where the giant lived. Even with the hen that laid golden eggs under his arm, he knew he could reach the top of the beanstalk before the lumbering giant caught him. Clambering down to the bottom, he immediately grabbed his axe and began hacking away at the beanstalk. If only he had sharpened the axe, he might have...

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Little Red Riding Hood was skipping through the dark woods when Mr Wolf stepped out of the shadows. He was a cunning character, not to be trusted for a minute. Unfortunately, Little Red Riding Hood was a very helpful, chatty girl. Not only did she mention she was on her way to her grandma's house, she gave Mr Wolf directions how to get there. He gave a wicked snarl, showing his sharp teeth and raced off ahead of her. The trouble was Red Riding Hood had a very poor sense of direction. By mistake, she sent him to the woodcutter's cottage, where...

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As the three pigs began to build their house, the Big Bad Wolf watched from his hiding place at the edge of the woods. One of the pigs already had a barrow-load of bricks. Another had piled up some heavy wooden beams. The third pig, however, had made do with some straw. As night approached, the Big Bad Wolf stood outside the house of straw and huffed and puffed till he blew the house down. This particular pig had no building skills whatsoever, except that he'd been training at the gym recently – mainly body-building. So when the Big Bad Wolf...

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## Features of texts

**Strand:** Comprehension / Themes and Conventions

**National Curriculum reference:**

- identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning
- identifying themes and conventions in a wide range of books

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2f, 2g

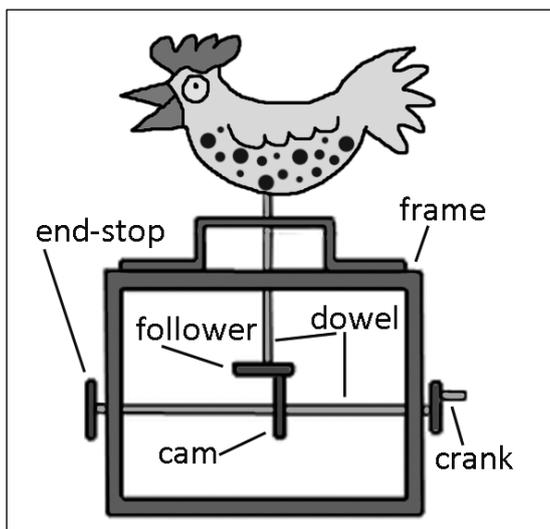
## A MOVING TOY

This text about a moving toy is missing a title and subheadings. Many of the features that are there, however, should help you to decide what kind of text it is. Answer the questions that follow.

**TITLE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A** \_\_\_\_\_

cardboard box  
about the size of  
a packet of tea  
coloured card  
dowel  
cardboard discs



**B** \_\_\_\_\_

scissors, craft  
knife, cutting  
board and hole  
punch, saw, glue  
  
coloured pens or  
paint and brushes

**C** \_\_\_\_\_

1. Glue together 3 cardboard discs for the cam, 3 discs for the follower, 2 discs for the crank and 2 discs for the end-stop.
2. Find the centre of the top of the box and punch a hole just big enough for the dowel. Do the same on 2 sides of the box.
3. Glue an extra, folded piece of card to the top of the box with a central hole. Align its hole with hole in top of box.
4. Push piece of dowel through side of box, fit and glue cam in the middle before pushing dowel through other side. Fit end-stop.
5. Repeat same procedure with vertical dowel and follower.
6. Glue on crank and add creature of choice.
7. When glue is dry, turn handle.

**D** \_\_\_\_\_

Never walk around with sharp tools. Be aware of other children working.

**E** \_\_\_\_\_

**cam** – disc that creates movement.  
**dowel** – thin wooden rod.  
**follower** – part that is moved by a cam.  
**frame** – structure that contains moving parts.  
**crank** – handle that turns the cam.  
**end-stop** – keeps dowel in position.

1. Think of a title and write it here.

---

2. Think up appropriate sub-headings for the following sections:

A \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_

C \_\_\_\_\_

D \_\_\_\_\_

E \_\_\_\_\_

3. Write down **three** examples of imperative verbs.

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4. In section **B**, why do you think some items have been kept separate from the others?

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5. Why does section **C** contain numbers?

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6. Looking at the diagram, which part doesn't move?

---

7. What kind of text is this?

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## FEATURES OF FABLES

Here is one of Aesop’s fables – The Ant and the Dove. Check it for the usual features of fables, then complete the table below.



### **The Ant and the Dove**

One day, when the sun was fiercely hot, an ant trudged his way to the stream to quench his thirst. Being small and quite exhausted by the heat, he tumbled into the water. Pushed this way and pulled that way by the strong current, he was on the point of drowning. A dove, nesting on a branch overhanging the stream, witnessed the ant’s predicament.

Quickly, she plucked a nearby leaf and let it float down close to the ant, who, with a final exertion, was able to scramble onto it and float to safety. “I won’t forget your kindness,” said the ant.

Some days later, a bird-catcher, impressed by the song of the dove, arrived to set a trap of lime twigs for the bird. He knew which berries it found irresistible.

The ant, realising his intention, stung him in the foot. Limping in pain, the bird-catcher made such a howling noise, the dove took flight.

[The moral of this story is that one good turn deserves another.]



<b>feature</b>	<b>evidence</b>
opening lacks detail	
animal characters	
example of animal speaking	
unrealistic plot	
simple setting	
limited sketch of a character	
a lesson about life	

## THE TEAMS

Here are two accounts of the same event. As you read them, notice how they describe the same experience in different ways.

### LAST GIRL STANDING

SCENE: School playing field. Nineteen girls are standing in front of the supply teacher, who has a box of hockey sticks beside her. It's a dull day.

---

CAST: Mrs Reid - a supply teacher.  
Ruth, Lucy and Mara – Year 5 pupils.

---

**Mrs Reid:** *(looking at the sky)* Come on, girls, let's get on with it before the rain starts. Lucy, you and Mara pick the teams.

**Ruth:** *(head drooping)* Not again.

**Mrs Reid:** What was that, Ruth?

**Ruth:** Nothing, Miss.

**Lucy:** *(smiling at her best friend, Carla)* I pick Carla.

**Mara:** *(pointing at Leila who is jumping up and down)*  
I'll have Leila.

**Ruth:** *(mimicking Mara)* I'll have Leila.

**Mrs Reid:** Ruth, please be quiet.

*(Ruth stands staring at the ground as the teams are chosen. The teams have equal numbers and Ruth has not been picked.)*

**Mrs Reid:** *(feeling sorry for Ruth)* Don't worry, Ruth, you can join Lucy's team.

**Mara:** *(frowning)* But that would be unfair, Miss!

**Lucy:** Well, I don't mind if Mara has her.

**Mara:** I didn't say I wanted her.

**Mrs Reid:** Thank you, girls, but I'll sort this out. Come and choose your hockey sticks. We'll start the match in a minute.

**Ruth:** *(shakes her head and wanders back to her class)*  
Don't worry, Miss. It's always like this. Every Tuesday. They never pick me.

**Mrs Reid:** Ruth! Ruth!

### Monday night –

*Supply teacher again tomorrow. Fingers crossed, she sorts out the teams herself, or else it rains. Don't want to be last one standing again.*

*Embarrassing!!! Not so bad when Gabby's with me, but she's got a cold or something. Lucky her.*

### Tuesday evening –

*Well, that's it for another week. Just as I expected. Mrs Reid's all right. I thought she was going to choose the teams herself, but changed her mind. Maybe I'll catch Gabby's cold in time for games next week, if I try hard enough.*

1. What sort of text is **Last Girl Standing**?

---

2. In **Last Girl Standing**, what do the first three sentences describe?

---

3. What does **CAST** refer to?

---

4. Write down an example of stage directions.

---

5. One set of stage directions describes Leila jumping up and down. Why do you think she was doing that?

---

6. Do you think Lucy and Mara are picking the best teams or their best friends?

---

7. What kind of text is the one that begins **Monday night**?

---

8. How do you know it's this kind of text?

---

9. Why might Ruth want the supply teacher to sort out the teams?

---

11. Which text is better at showing you what Ruth is thinking? Why do you think this?

\_\_\_\_\_ because \_\_\_\_\_

---

## Features of texts and meaning

**Strand:** Comprehension / Themes and Conventions

**National Curriculum reference:**

- identifying how language, structure and presentation contribute to meaning
- recognising some different forms of poetry
- identifying themes and conventions in a wide range of books

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2f, 2g

## LOCAL NEWS REPORT

Here is a report in a local newspaper. Think about the features you expect in a news item and answer the questions.

### CATWOMAN CAUSES CHAOS



Known locally as the Catwoman, 89-year-old Kitty Parker of Albee Avenue, received a visit today from PC D. Zaster, following a complaint from neighbours.

Kitty, a kindly woman and a frequent sight at the Church bingo sessions, is the proud owner of thirty-nine cats. For many years, she has been giving a home to any stray cat that turns up on her doorstep. This generosity of spirit isn't normally a problem for her neighbours, except when there is a full moon.

"Once a month," stated Evan Knowes, who lives opposite Mrs Parker, "the cats all line up along the garden wall and wail their heads off. I've had enough. I have to get up early to go to work and this is unacceptable."

Another neighbour, who didn't want to give her name, told our reporter that the caterwauling had put her dog off its biscuits. She said that when the howling starts up, Squiffy her Pekinese

goes flying into its basket as if it were catapulted there.

A spokesman from the RSPCA confirmed that an officer from their organisation had recently inspected the house and was reassured to find that all the cats were well looked after and in good health. The RSPCA spokeswoman was not prepared to say how tunefully they sang.

Mrs Parker told us that she never hears them, possibly because she is a little deaf and doesn't always hear the numbers being called at bingo. She also insisted that, despite a number of claims on social media, at no time has she joined her cats in singing the chorus.

PC Zaster pointed out that the cat-calling falls into a very minor category of public nuisance. No further actions will be taken against Mrs Parker. He has also assured local residents that everything is now under control. Once a month, when the moon is full, he will stand guard by the cat flap to prevent a repeat of this incident.

#### Breaking news

*Late last night, we heard from Kitty Parker that several of her cats have had kittens. This brings the total number of her feline companions to ninety-six. Anyone who might like to own a kitten should contact her in Albee Avenue.*

1. How does the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph answer the following questions?

Who? \_\_\_\_\_

What has happened? \_\_\_\_\_

Where? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What does the article tell us about Kitty Parker?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Describe the incident that neighbours have complained about.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Four other people are mentioned in this report. Who are they?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. Write down an example of direct speech.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Write down an example of indirect speech.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. The newspaper article has two concluding statements. What are they?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## PLASTIC BAGS

Plastic carrier bags are a common sight when you're out shopping. Here are some facts about how they are produced and then used.

### Introduction: The Life Cycle of the Plastic Bag

Ever since their invention in the 1930s, every year, trillions of plastic carrier bags have been produced and given to shoppers. They are used, on average, for 20 minutes before being thrown away and left to pollute our planet for hundreds of years.

#### Production

The raw ingredient of your plastic bag is oil. This is heated to produce a gas, which is then converted into granules. These are heated, stretched and cooled to make bags. The main manufacturing countries are China, India and Thailand.

#### Transport

After coloured inks are added and they are printed with supermarket logos, they are shipped to Britain. The distance they travel by ship and by truck, from where they are made to our local shops and stores, can be as much as 8000 miles.

#### Advantages

They are strong (most can hold 10 kg or more of shopping), compact and cheap: one plastic bag costs as little as 0.5p to make and deliver.

#### Use

A third of shoppers re-use them for bin-liners, and another third re-use them for shopping, but, in the end, 98% end up in landfill, whereas about 200 million litter the countryside.

#### Decay

Plastic bags haven't been around long enough for us to know how long they can last. Scientists estimate it may take more than 400 years for them to disintegrate. Chemicals in the printing inks can pollute the land, including farmland. Plastic bags in the sea can survive unchanged for a very long time. Every year, plastic bags floating in the oceans contribute to the deaths of a million seabirds and 100,000 whales, seals and turtles every year. Unfortunately, once the creature's body has decayed, the plastic will remain to kill again.

1. Write down **three** important phrases in the **Introduction** that tell the reader what this is all about.

---

---

---

2. Write down **two** technical phrases used in the description of how bags are produced.

---

---

3. What links the information in the two arrow-shaped boxes?

---

4. The **Advantages** box tries to answer the question **Why**. How does it do that?

---

---

5. Give **two** examples of numbers or statistics being used to describe the size of the problem.

---

---

6. How might farmland be affected?

---

7. How does the **Introduction** relate to the last section called **Decay**?

---

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---

## ROBOTS: A BALANCED VIEW

Harry is presenting a balanced argument to his class about the pros and cons of robots and artificial intelligence.

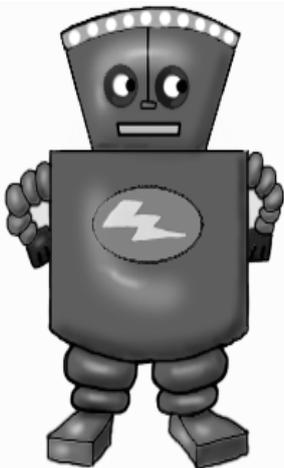
My group has put together this talk. I'm going to argue that new stuff happening in what's called artificial intelligence is the most amazing, exciting thing going on right now. We're all used to the idea of robotic arms working in car assembly lines, but the next step is to go beyond this and create intelligent machines.

There are different points of view. Scientists don't agree about whether robots can ever really be intelligent or not. Whereas some say that we're on the brink of producing artificially intelligent machines; others argue that we don't properly understand how human intelligence works. It's not the same as programming a computer.

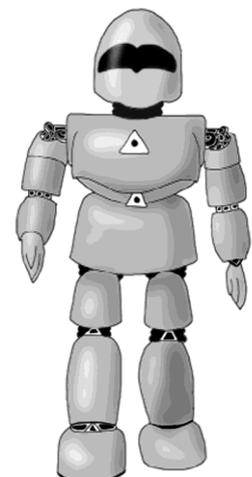
Sometime in the future, I, personally, believe we will have smart machines that can learn new things, solve problems and work things out for themselves without having to be programmed by a human being. We've had chess-playing computers for a long time now. But new robots will be able to learn new games and chat while you're playing.



In my opinion, one day, robots will do lots of the boring jobs, so that people don't have to do them. You must agree that this is a good thing. Isn't it also better to have clever machines doing some of the dangerous work that people risk their lives doing? They will work accurately and never get tired or ill.



Finally, some people worry that we'll be dominated by mad, terminator machines. What, I believe, scientists will never be able to do is create a thinking robot that feels things like anger, sadness or happiness. Machines are machines and we will be in charge. This isn't the movies.



1. Write down the sentence that Harry uses to introduce his topic.

---

2. Give **three** examples of the kinds of words and phrases you commonly find in balanced arguments.

---

---

3. Harry expresses his personal opinion now and again in order to be persuasive. Write down **two** examples.

---

---

4. Harry argues that intelligent robots will be smarter than any machine invented so far. What does he compare them to?

---

5. He does admit that scientists still have a long way to go. What is the main problem they face?

---

6. Harry suggests that there are advantages in having robots doing jobs that human beings do at the moment. What are these advantages?

---

---

7. Harry believes that we shouldn't be frightened of the idea of intelligent robots. What does he say in his conclusion to reassure us?

---

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## Words that capture the reader's imagination

**Strand:** Language for effect

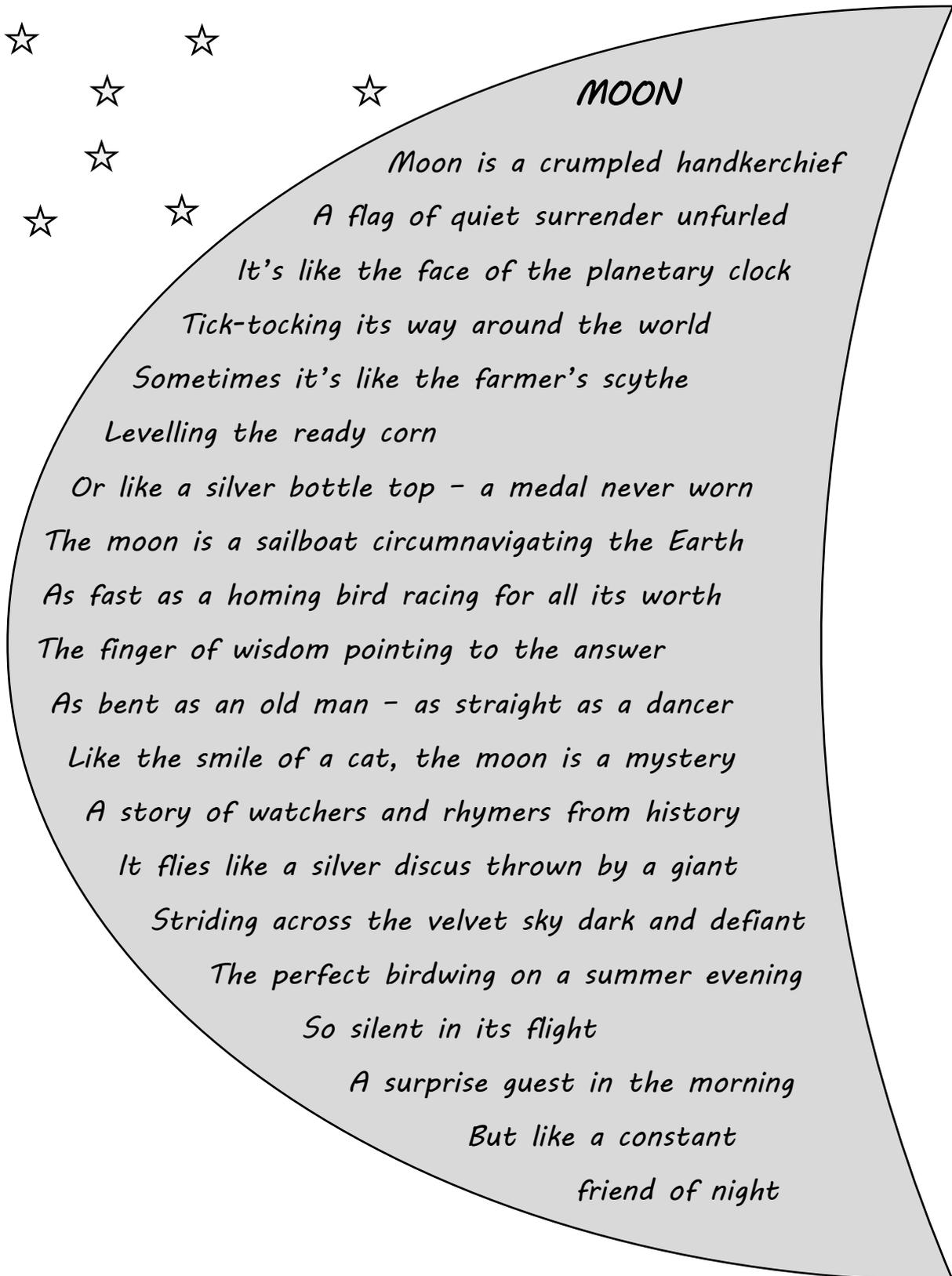
**National Curriculum reference:**

- discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2g

## LOOK AT THE MOON

Here is a poem about the moon comparing it to different things, using a mixture of metaphors and similes. After you've read it, decide whether the things it's compared to are metaphors or similes. Then **tick** the correct boxes.



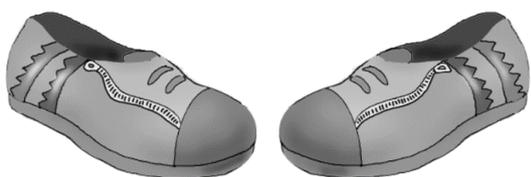
Now decide whether the words and phrases in the table are part of a metaphor or a simile and put a **tick** in the correct box. Do you remember the difference between a simile and metaphor?

<b>word or phrase</b>	<b>metaphor</b>	<b>simile</b>
crumpled handkerchief		
flag of quiet surrender		
face of the planetary clock		
farmer's scythe		
silver bottle top		
medal		
sailboat		
homing bird		
finger of wisdom		
old man		
dancer		
smile of a cat		
mystery		
story of watchers and rhymers		
silver discus		
perfect birdwing		
surprise guest		
constant companion		

## WHERE DO SUPERHEROES SHOP?

Here is a window display of items a superhero might need or be persuaded to buy. Look out for the persuasive techniques being used.

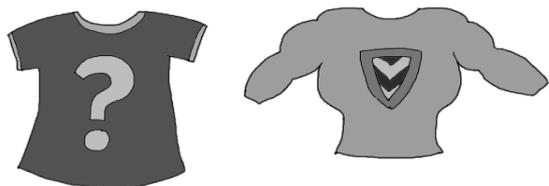
### SUPERSTUFF



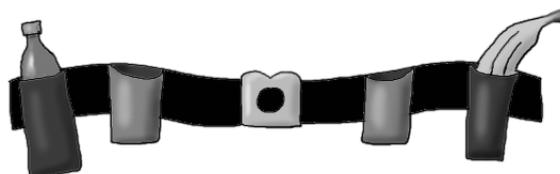
Toe-tingling trainers to make eyes turn and set tongues wagging. Luminous side strips to avoid putting a foot wrong in the dark. Remote-control zippers essential for fast getaways. Totally water- and zap-proof. Buy one, get the other one free!



We call it the Visibility Cloak, because you'll want people in the street to see you strut around in this all-weather, flight-guaranteed, one-size-fits-all superhero requirement. Thought-activated speed control comes as standard.



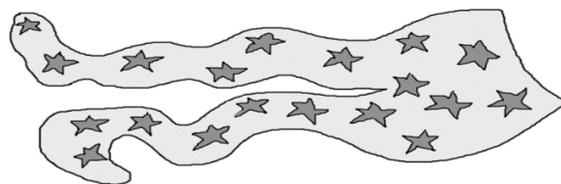
Our unique range of superhero, bullet-proof t-shirts come in a variety of outrageous colours, with extra padding for clients who still need to visit the gym. A range of heroic logos available.



A miracle of technology, the Big League Bad-Guy Beater is a belt for all those necessary gizmos no self-respecting superhero can be without. Pockets for lasers, thought-readers and snacks.



Secret Identity Masks. Do you want to be caught out being Mr or Mrs Ordinary? Do you want to be spotted at the check-out? Instead, why don't you check out our extraordinary visors and veils? Wearing one is like pulling on pure greatness.



Superstuff's Supertights are a must for those interplanetary trips to the colder corners of the universe, or even a quick hop to the dark side of the moon. These chill-breakers come with spangles, stars or lightning flashes.

1. Write down **two** examples of alliteration.

---

---

2. What word is used to suggest that the t-shirts are like no others?

---

3. Write down **two** examples of words or phrases that are meant to sound scientific.

---

---

4. Find **two** examples of questions designed to engage the reader.

---

---

5. Write down an example of a simile.

---

6. **Two** phrases are used which claim the trainers and the belt are absolutely necessary if you want to look like a superhero. What are they?

---

---

7. If you wanted to impress people which **two** items do they suggest you buy?

---

8. What superhero activities might the Supertights help with?

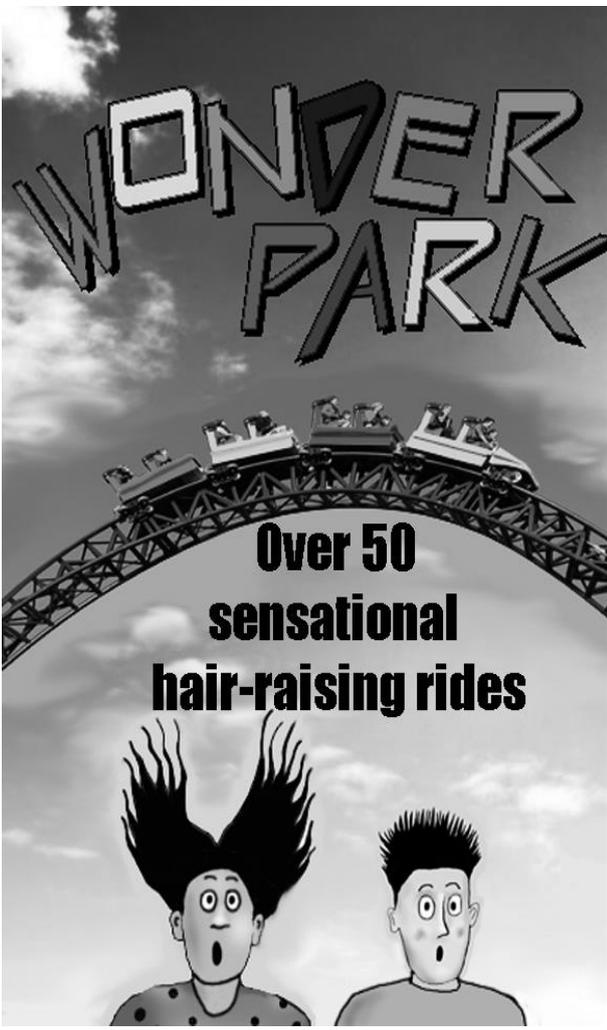
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## A ROLLERCOASTER OF PERSUASION

Here is an ad for a theme park. Look at the persuasive language being used and answer the questions that follow.

 <p><b>WONDER PARK</b></p> <p><b>Over 50 sensational hair-raising rides</b></p>	<p><b>A warm welcome awaits you at WONDERPARK!</b></p> <p>Are you ready for a day of action-filled adventure – a day like no other?</p> <p>If you've bought a discounted family ticket (including free car parking), then you are already half-way to a journey through the raging, rollicking rapids of Pirateland. Check out the once-in-a-lifetime thrill of the Dinosaur Jungle. (Don't forget your running shoes!) Or, if you are bold enough, you might prefer the waking nightmare that is the Intergalactic Death Cruise. Our dreamilicious, magical Fantasy Zone is like all your birthdays happening at once.</p> <p>If rollercoasters are not your thing, come and get splat-happy in one of our games arcades.</p> <p>(With 10 restaurants and cafes, we can cater to all your needs. A meal for a family of four is included in your ticket.)</p> <p><b>IT'S WEIRD... IT'S WACKY... IT'S WONDERPARK!</b></p>
---	---

1. Find **two** examples of alliteration.

---

---

2. Twice, the ad points out what good value a ticket is. Write down **both** examples.

---

---

3. Sometimes questions are used to engage the reader. Write down an example.

---

4. Find the writer's attempt to include a joke.

---

5. Write down the phrase that sounds like a dare or a challenge.

---

6. Write down an example of a metaphor being used.

---

7. Write down an example of a simile.

---

8. The writer uses **two** phrases that suggest your day at Wonderpark will be unique. What are they?

---

---

9. Write down **two** made-up words.

---

---

10. Write down an example of a slogan.

---

11. What pronoun does the writer use throughout the text to give the impression he is speaking personally to the reader?

---

12. Write down a word or phrase that would persuade you to buy a ticket.

---

## Explaining how words and phrases enhance meaning

**Strand:** Language for effect

**National Curriculum reference:**

- discussing words and phrases that capture the reader's interest and imagination

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2g

## WHAT IS THE AUTHOR UP TO?

Choosing the right words is very important. You might be trying to give clear information, make people stop and think, persuade the reader to do something or entertain them. In the next four pages, what are the authors trying to do?



You've spent two heart-sinking hours crammed in an overcrowded train. The bus sneered as it passed you by. You trudged like a wet shadow through the torrential rain. You arrived home soaked to the skin and looking like a sad, soggy toy koala abandoned in the street.

NOW – drop your bags in the hall, kick off your shoes, leave the world of worries behind, and sink slowly into the silky-smooth, soothing waters of paradise that only Prima's Pamper Potion can provide. Add one drop. That's all it takes. So remember:

Prima washes away  
All the cares of the day

1. Write down the **three** words in the first sentence that makes the journey home sound miserable.  

---
2. Buses don't sneer. Why do you think the author has described the bus in that way?  

---
3. Which word is used instead of **walked**?  

---
4. The 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph begins like a set of commands. Write down the imperative verbs.  

---
5. Alliteration catches your eye when you're reading. Write down an example.  

---

Now here is another style of writing. The author has a different intention.

Blood-red flares exploded from Wizard Malgor's horn-toad fingers and blazed through the swirling darkness, striking the ancient oak that had accompanied us along the lost paths of the forest known as Nabrog. Our uncommon guide crumbled to the ground with a gnarled sigh.

As the moon shouldered its way through the racing clouds, we could see that Malgor had been joined by his hideous friends: the loathsome Mountain Ogres and the vile Terrawitches. All our hopes of reaching the Fountain of Life before our enemies were fading as quickly as hope reflected in the eye of a wolf.

There was one chance: Seraphina Orwendyn and her army of archers. I raised the elk-horn to my lips and blew.

1. What is the effect of using strange, made-up names, such as **Malgor** and **Nabrog**?

---

---

2. The ancient oak is not like normal trees. Write down **three** words or phrases that make it seem human-like.

---

---

---

3. Find **two** examples of how the author has created a particular atmosphere by describing the setting.

---

---

4. 'Fading as quickly as hope reflected in the eye of a wolf.' In this simile, whose hope is being referred to?

---

Again, here is another style of writing.

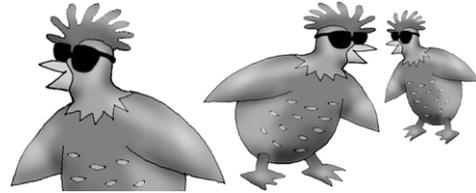
### SHEEP

Sheep are not athletic,  
They're never energetic,  
But if they were magnetic,  
You could stick one on the fridge.



### CHICKENS

If chickens were invisible,  
You'd get a huge surprise  
If an egg appeared from nowhere,  
Right before your eyes.



### RABBIT

Rabbit looks sad in the corner of its hutch.  
You never hear it complaining much.  
It's too busy thinking of fields it once saw  
And the escape route it's tunnelling under the straw.



### NEWT

Nora Newt plays the flute -  
Her Auntie Vivian says, "Clever amphibian!"



1. Which **two** poems try to entertain the reader by using unexpected rhymes?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. In different ways, all the poems end with some sort of surprise. Choose one and describe how it surprises the reader.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Even without the illustrations, the writer is trying to create a picture in your head. Which poem creates the funniest picture?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Which poem is your favourite? Explain why.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Finally, here are some sentences that might be found in poems or different kinds of stories. Each one is followed by a question.

**The wind twisted down the narrow street, whistling a lonely tune.**

Are there people in the street? How do you know?

---

**Take care crossing the road, for the cars hunt like night wolves in a pack.**

Which phrase is the simile, emphasising the importance of taking care?

---

**Grandma's house creaks like her knees.**

Does Grandma live in an old house or a new house?

---

**Like a crow on a windowsill, the spy stood, listening.**

What colour are the spy's clothes?

---

**The owls and bats pulled a curtain across the sky.**

What is the 'curtain'?

---

**Our autumn walk in the woods took us across carpets of gold.**

What are the 'carpets of gold'?

---



## Themes and conventions

**Strand:** Themes and conventions

**National Curriculum reference:**

- identifying themes and conventions in a wide range of books

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2c, 2f, 2g

## **FIRE!**

Here are some short extracts from a range of texts about fire. **Draw** lines connecting each piece of writing to the correct genre.

Last night, Sutton Fire Crew were called out to the derelict barn at Highfield Farm.

**diary**

I remember my first Guy Fawkes night way back in 1952. I was only four years old at the time.

**myth**

I don't think I'll bother speaking to Jan anymore. She said she'd bring her Dad and meet me in town to buy fireworks. It isn't the first time she's been hours late.

**explanation**

A sickening crack overhead. A shower of sparks. A beam burst into flames and crashed down in front of us, barring our only way out.

**biography**

Prometheus was the Greek god who created mankind, stealing fire from Mount Olympus and bringing it into the world of humans.

**newspaper**

Fire – producing light and heat – can be different colours depending on what is burning.

**adventure**

# COMPLETE THE PICTURE

Here are a number of characters, settings and other elements that you find in different types of story. Put them into the correct frames.



A wizard with a long, dark beard and a pointed hat stands on the left. A robot with a rectangular head and a lightning bolt on its chest stands on the right. Between them is a large rectangular sign with a list of story elements.

fierce dragon	strange planet	a puzzle to solve	
unlikely detective	good friends	wizard with a beard	
an ordinary family	castle in swirling mist	clues	
secrets	time machine	aliens	everyday problems
old witch	futuristic vehicles	suspense	local shops
school playground	magic potions	intelligent robot	

*science fiction*

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*Realistic Story*

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*fantasy*

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*mystery*

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## **Making comparisons**

**Strand:** Make comparisons within the text

**National Curriculum reference:**

- making comparisons within and across books

**Reading Test / Content Domain links:** 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2f, 2g, 2h

## THE CAROL SERVICE

Here, a few different people – a pupil, a teacher, a parent and a local newspaper reporter – express their own views about how well the school carol service went.



I thought things went quite well last night. I noticed Jason arrived at the last minute, but, otherwise, I think everybody was there. Marlena as the angel was great, though I think she added a few things not in the script. We all sang well, and I've never played the recorder as well as that. Brilliant!

Three children trooped in late and two others didn't appear at all! No excuse! The children sang well enough, though they sang better during rehearsals. I've no idea what our angel was talking about on stage. I had to tell some boys off for not paying attention. They could have all looked a bit smarter too. Thank goodness the musicians played better than ever.



Weren't the children wonderful last night? A bit chatty but looked great in school uniform. One of the best Christmas services I've been to. I'm sure their teachers must be very proud of them. Marlena had a very important part. She'll surely be an actor when she grows up. The music was not bad, though I must say I'm not a big fan of the recorder.

### CLASSIC CAROLS AT ST CUTHBERT'S

Local schoolchildren surpassed themselves last night at St Cuthbert's Christmas Carol Service, attended by a record number of parents and grandparents. The singing was note-perfect even if the recorders were occasionally a little flat. The whole school turned out well and the nativity play, although a few children forgot their lines, was, nonetheless, quite charming. Those pupils who had come down with a cold missed a night to remember.



Now, having compared these different points of view, how do you think each person would rate aspects of the children's performance. Put a tick in the appropriate box.



aspect	disappointing	good	excellent	don't know
attendance				
tidy appearance				
singing / music				
acting skills				
listening skills				



aspect	disappointing	good	excellent	don't know
attendance				
tidy appearance				
singing / music				
acting skills				
listening skills				



aspect	disappointing	good	excellent	don't know
attendance				
tidy appearance				
singing / music				
acting skills				
listening skills				



aspect	disappointing	good	excellent	don't know
attendance				
tidy appearance				
singing / music				
acting skills				
listening skills				

## RAVEN REVIEWS

Read these two poems about a raven and compare their different use of words and descriptive phrases.

### **Raven,**

**in the unhappy funeral suit you stole,  
you eclipsed the sun and left a black hole,  
a gloomy day and a shadowy night.  
Your rising wings bring darkness in flight,  
like an oily rag thrown in the air.  
You're a bad scallywag with a wicked stare.  
Bleak, black beak tapping the tree.  
You look like a dangerous gangster to me.**



### **Black Looks**

**Look at me strut.  
Look at me stroll.  
Black as liquorice,  
shiny as coal.  
In this place they call  
London Tower, who  
comes and goes? Who has the power?  
Forty-one kings and queens walked across,  
but this is my patch – guess who's the boss.  
So when you plan a day  
draw me, snap me, feed  
remember I saw it all –  
courtiers and crooks.  
Say that you saw me  
and the raven's  
black  
looks.**



1. In the two poems, there are a number of ways in which the writer describes the bird's black feathers. Make a list of them.

**RAVEN**

**BLACK LOOKS**

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2. Write down a simile used in the first poem, 'Raven'.

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3. The poems are told from different points of view. How are they different?

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4. The second poem ends with the same words as its title – 'black looks'. Write down a similar phrase that is used in 'Raven'.

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5. Find examples of phrases from both poems that suggest the raven is in charge.

**RAVEN**

**BLACK LOOKS**

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