

Year 8 – English 1


Spoken Language – Task One

Complete the role-play activities below.

2 Some people say that children watch too much television. How do you feel about that? Imagine that you have to give a speech in assembly about this.

- Do you think TV is a bad thing?
- Do you think some programmes are a good thing?
- Can you learn things from TV?
- Is television just something that fills your time?

Make up your own mind, once you have thought about these questions. Can you see both sides of the argument?



Reading – Task Two

Reading – Comprehension

Finding Meaning

Challenge 1

1 Read this passage and answer the questions.

The boy trudged down the street, dragging his feet. He couldn't be bothered to go. It had been fine yesterday, before they'd laughed at him. Now he would rather stay at home.

- a) How is the boy feeling?

- b) What words describing his movements give you a clue to his feelings?


- c) Why do you think the boy would rather stay at home?

Marks...../3

Challenge 2

1 Read this piece of writing and answer the questions below.

The sky was its usual grey but it was colder. Huge white flakes, like feathers, began to fall. The girl held her hand up in amazement. She had never seen anything like it before. What were these lumps of cold fluff falling from the sky?



- a) What are the white things falling from the sky?

- b) Why do you think the girl is so surprised at the weather?

c) What time of year do you think it is?



Marks...../3

Challenge 3

1 Read this paragraph and answer the questions.

I couldn't eat my tea. I felt a bit sick and excited at the same time. I couldn't wait. I couldn't believe we were going after all this time. I had begun to believe that we just wouldn't go, despite all of my dreaming and begging. I wanted to go on the rides, and to see the characters walking around. I couldn't wait!

a) Where do you think the child wants to go?

b) How do you know that they have wanted to go for a long time?

c) How is the child feeling? Explain in your own words.



Marks...../3

Writing – Task Three

Use the ideas below to write an adventure story:

What next?

Imagine you find a dusty old notebook. You flip through the pages and find that someone has started to write a story in it. But then, the story stops... It's up to you to finish it.

Questions to ask yourself before you start

- Who is Billy?
- How old is he?
- Why is Billy on the ship?
- What kind of ship is it – a cargo vessel, a pleasure cruiser, a pirate ship?
- Who else is on board?
- Where is the ship going? Is it going to get there?
- What has Billy just seen?
- What danger has there?
- How does Billy try to overcome the danger?
- Does anyone help him?
- Does anyone or anything get in his way?
- Do they find land?
- Will Billy make it home?
- Does he want to?

(With your story title here.)

Billy clung onto the rail of the ship as the vessel tipped this way and that. It was the worst storm he'd ever seen. With one powerful lurch, he felt himself being thrown across the deck. Winded and terrified, he looked up as a flash of lightning lit up the ocean. He gasped. Just ahead of the ship's bow, he saw...

Speaking parts
Including dialogue (speaking parts) will help bring your readers right into the action.

This is usually shown in quotation marks like this:
"Get caught up with us," said Nathan.

Words: rigging, hurricane, cliffs, ghostly, lightning, island, powder, distress, looming, overboard, tumbling, fearome.

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stowaway
ship's cat
hostage
treasure
tidal wave



suspense
surprise
sea monster
daydream
escape

running away
survivor
danger
captain
trouble

all of a sudden



