

HOME LEARNING

Year 11 – English – Home Learning 9

Spoken Language

Have a discussion with a friend or family member using the questions below to guide your conversation.

Do you have siblings (brothers or sisters?)

If not, do you have any close friends or cousins you have known for a long time?

Are they older or younger than yourself?

Have they ever done anything you didn't like and you have had to put up with, because they were a loved one?

How would you feel if they were in danger?

How far would you go to protect them?

How likely would you be to put yourself in harm's way in order to keep them safe?

Reading

Read the extract below from 'The Hunger Games' written by Suzanne Collins and answer the questions below in full sentences. The narrator Katniss Everdeen, the story's protagonist, discusses her attitude towards the world she lives in and her family dynamic.

When I was younger, I scared my mother to death, the things I would blurt out about District 12, about the people who rule our country, Panem, from the far-off city called the Capitol. Eventually I understood this would only lead us to more trouble. So, I learned to hold my tongue and to turn my features into an indifferent mask so that no one could ever read my thoughts. Do my work quietly in school. Make only polite small talk in the public market. Discuss little more than trades in the Hob, which is the black market where I make most of my money. Even at home, where I am less pleasant, I avoid discussing tricky topics. Like the reaping, or food shortages, or the Hunger Games. Prim might begin to repeat my words, and then where would we be?

I prop myself up on one elbow. There's enough light in the bedroom to see them. My little sister, Prim, curled up on her side, cocooned in my mother's body, their cheeks pressed together. In sleep, my mother looks younger, still worn but not so beaten down. Prim's face is as fresh as a raindrop, as lovely as the primrose for which she was named. My mother was very beautiful once, too. Or so they tell me.

Sitting at Prim's knees, guarding her, is the world's ugliest cat. Mashed-in nose, half of one ear missing, eyes the colour of rotting squash. Prim named him Buttercup, insisting that his muddy yellow coat matched the bright flower. He hates me. Or at least distrusts me. Even though it was years ago, I think he still remembers how I tried to drown him in a bucket when Prim brought him home. Scrawny kitten, belly swollen with worms, crawling with fleas. The last thing I needed was another mouth to feed. But Prim begged so hard, cried even, I had to let him stay. It turned out OK. My mother got rid of the vermin and he's a born mouser. Even catches the occasional rat. Sometimes, when I clean a kill, I feed Buttercup the entrails. He has stopped hissing at me.

Questions:

1. Which district does Katniss live in?
2. What are the names of the country and its capital city?
3. What does it mean to 'hold your tongue' and why does Katniss do it?
4. Where does Katniss make most of her money?
5. What does she describe as 'tricky' subjects?
6. What is Katniss' opinion of Buttercup, the cat?
7. What happened between Katniss and Buttercup previously for the cat to mistrust her?
8. How does Katniss feel about her sister Prim? Use a quotation to justify your answer.

Writing

Create a plan for a short story based on the following picture. Make notes on:

Why the town looks the way it does. (Is it war-torn? Has there been a natural disaster?)

Characters you will include and their motivation. (Who are they? What do they look like? Why are they there? What is their goal/what are they hoping to achieve?)

The intended effect on the reader. (What genre will your story be? How do you hope the audience will feel?)

