



Hunter River High School

Literacy Resource

Year 7

Name _____

ADJECTIVES - Descriptive

Adjectives are words that tell the reader about nouns or pronouns. The most common adjectives you have met are probably *describing adjectives* which you probably call 'describing words'. These describe the person or thing in a sentence.

For example in the sentence:

Delicate spider-webs were etched across the eaves.

The adjective is *delicate* as it describes the noun, *spider-webs*. This is a descriptive adjective. Descriptive adjectives can also be *colours* or *numbers*. There are other types of adjectives that you will meet later.

Activities

1. Write **three** adjectives that you could use to describe the nouns below.

- | | | | |
|----------------|-------|-------|-------|
| a) photograph | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| b) flower | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| c) coffee | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| d) elephant | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| e) evening | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| f) sunset | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| g) handbag | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| h) phone ring | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| i) socks | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| j) Santa Claus | _____ | _____ | _____ |

2. Circle the adjectives in the sentences below.

- White blossoms fell softly to the brown earth below.
- Rich aromas wafted through the crowded room.
- The chips were not only soggy but too salty and cold.
- Without a care he stomped on the fragile, glass ball.
- Minute after minute was marked by the heavy iron hands on the crumbling clock.

3. Underline the verbs in the following passage.

On a humid afternoon Hamish grabbed his board. He raced out the door, on his way to the skate park on the corner. He and his friends met there every afternoon. They worked to impress the girls who also went. Hamish saw Fatima. He really liked her a lot. Today she carried a skateboard. It looked battered and well used. Hamish couldn't believe it when he saw her jump on. Fatima went this way and that. She crouched and she spun. She rode brilliantly. Hamish's smile faded. He realised she was better than him!

4. To make your writing more effective it is important to use interesting verbs. Choose a better verb from those in the box below that you could use instead of that given.

emphasise	approximate	intimidate	erupt
shudder	gulp	sabotage	establish
crammed	cajoled	extruded	resume
regret	assists	fortify	meddle

- a) interfere _____
- b) be sorry _____
- c) encouraged _____
- d) start again _____
- e) guess _____
- f) helps _____
- g) ruin or wreck _____
- h) shiver in fear _____
- i) to set up _____
- j) swallow noisily _____
- k) squashed in _____
- l) to make stronger _____
- m) squeezed out _____
- n) threaten _____
- o) explode out _____
- p) draw attention to _____

Words Instead of 'Said' (Vocabulary)

entreated instructed recalled sympathised pledged
thundered charged admonished insisted prophesied

- (1) 'You must never do that again,' the teacher.
- (2) 'Oh you poor child! I do hope you are better soon,' Mother.
- (3) 'On Monday night I saw the thief steal a car,' the policeman.
- (4) 'I promise never to touch another drink,' the old man.
- (5) 'During the war I heard an enemy plane over Sydney,' my old aunt.
- (6) 'You will marry a tall dark man,' the gypsy.
- (7) 'Please do not twist my arm,' the boy.
- (8) 'Turn left and you will come to the garage,' the postman.
- (9) 'I definitely saw him enter the store,' the witness.
- (10) 'Out of my way, you yellow scum,' the pirate captain.

recollected quipped conceded warned suggested
implored estimated maintained proposed declined

- (11) 'No, I won't be able to come to the party,' Susan.
- (12) 'We should have called him, Tortoise, as he taught us,' John.
- (13) 'I suppose you are quite right,' Dad.
- (14) 'Please do not go out on a night like this,' Mother.
- (15) 'The first car I saw was in 1907,' Grandfather.
- (16) 'Let's all go for a swim,' Martin.
- (17) 'I was at home during the robbery,' the accused.
- (18) 'You will need about two hundred dollars in cash,' the agent.
- (19) 'I nominate Helen to be class captain,' Irene.
- (20) 'You had better work less or your heart will suffer,' the doctor.

Using Better Words (Vocabulary)

puny attractive blissful enlisted earned evil vast won
merry migrated manufactured accepted delicate vicious
meagre honest constructed received enormous reliable

- (1) Herds of antelope wander on the **big** plains in Africa.
- (2) The dwarf looked **little** next to the giant.
- (3) Before stealing the watch, he had been a **good** man.
- (4) The king was **bad** because he never told the truth.
- (5) Sally is a very **nice-looking** girl.
- (6) We had a **happy** week's rest at the Gold Coast.
- (7) James **got** a letter in the post this morning.
- (8) Diana **got** a silver cup for the long jump.
- (9) Many Vietnamese **went** to Australia.
- (10) The video was **made** in Japan.
- (11) We saw an elephant with two **big** tusks.
- (12) The man on the raft lived for two weeks on a **small** diet.
- (13) The butcher was looking for a **good** lad to deliver meat.
- (14) A criminal who is **bad** will often resort to violence.
- (15) For a wedding present we bought a **nice** porcelain figure.
- (16) The guests at the party were all feeling **good**
- (17) My father **got** six hundred dollars for that job.
- (18) The man **took** an offer of a thousand dollars.
- (19) His brother **went** in the Australian Navy.
- (20) Their house was **made** of concrete blocks.

Synonyms and antonyms

Grammar explained

A **synonym** is the name given to a word that has the same or a very similar meaning to another word. Synonyms are used to avoid repetition and to add interest to writing. A synonym must be the same part of speech as the word it is replacing.

She was **nimble** in her movement as she **rushed** around the office.

can become: Adjectives are replaced with adjectives, and verbs with verbs.

Her movement was **agile** as she **hastened** about the office.

Note that while the words are revised, the message remains unchanged.

An **antonym** is a word that has the opposite meaning to another.

Do you prefer the **grainy** or the **smooth** mustard?

Feeding time at the zoo: the monkeys are **agitated** while the sloths remain **restful**.

Language in use

1 Find at least four synonyms for these overused words.

- a said _____
- b angry _____
- c got _____
- d beautiful _____
- e interesting _____
- f suddenly _____
- g nice _____

2 Circle the antonym for each word.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| Word | Which is the antonym? |
| a cunning | slly, guileless, crafty, sneaky |
| b bright | gleaming, luminous, dull, shimmering |
| c shrill | high-pitched, piercing, harsh, low |
| d meek | timid, humble, submissive, forceful |
| e amazement | shock, incredulity, composure, surprise |
| f prolonged | extended, lengthy, short, protracted |
| g suddenly | expectedly, abruptly, quickly, swiftly |

The simple past is the verb form used for something that happened at a definite time in the past e.g. Yesterday I went to the shops. WENT is the simple past form of GO.

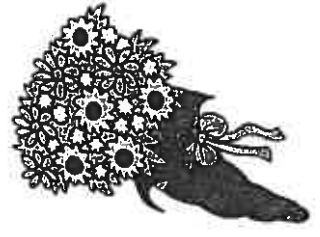
In the puzzle below, circle the simple past form of the verbs listed.

D	E	N	I	E	D	A	S	F	J	L	T	Y	G	B	F	N	O	R	
E	Q	W	E	R	T	Y	R	A	R	A	S	P	O	K	E	C	M	P	A
C	M	B	F	O	U	N	D	Y	I	L	W	J	O	A	G	D	A	J	N
I	A	S	D	F	G	H	J	H	F	A	A	D	S	U	N	Z	U	L	
D	Z	X	C	V	B	N	M	S	H	O	N	E	L	G	N	R	A	J	D
E	A	T	E	N	Z	D	R	A	I	T	W	E	J	S	E	N	T	E	H
D	Q	W	E	C	R	T	Y	W	E	N	T	S	C	O	G	J	L	B	L
A	S	D	H	A	D	F	Y	U	J	G	H	S	D	L	J	T	O	O	K
P	O	L	I	M	U	Y	T	R	E	W	O	U	N	D	W	E	R	U	T
D	R	O	V	E	L	K	J	U	I	O	U	L	M	H	G	O	D	G	S
R	A	O	S	D	C	H	O	S	E	D	G	G	J	K	L	H	O	H	A
A	Q	K	W	E	S	D	R	T	Y	A	H	F	H	S	L	E	P	T	J
N	A	E	E	R	T	Y	U	I	S	A	T	O	P	I	U	A	H	G	H
K	M	D	J	H	B	H	Y	U	A	O	P	L	K	G	R	R	T	W	
P	O	I	U	Y	L	T	R	E	I	W	Q	A	S	D	F	D	G	H	J
A	H	I	D	E	N	Y	H	D	B	V	X	C	V	B	N	M			
M	J	Y	G	F	W	D	B	E	L	I	E	V	E	D	S	R	T	H	N
L	H	G	W	O	R	T	S	D	A	D	Z	H	T	I	R	E	W	Q	F
K	M	S	I	A	X	R	S	D	F	G	V	K	N	E	W	H	J	U	I
C	B	H	L	W	Q	L	P	N	F	I	E	A	D	D	G	U	O	Y	T

- | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---------|-------|-------|-------|------|--------|--------|
| GO | SEE | WIND | SELL | DRIVE | SEND | COME | THINK |
| DRINK | BELIEVE | DIE | SIT | KNOW | DO | SHINE | DECIDE |
| HAVE | DENY | SPEAK | BEGIN | SAY | EAT | HIDE | BLOW |
| FIND | LOOK | SLEEP | BUY | HEAR | TAKE | CHOOSE | RUN |

Example: I WENT to see a great film yesterday.

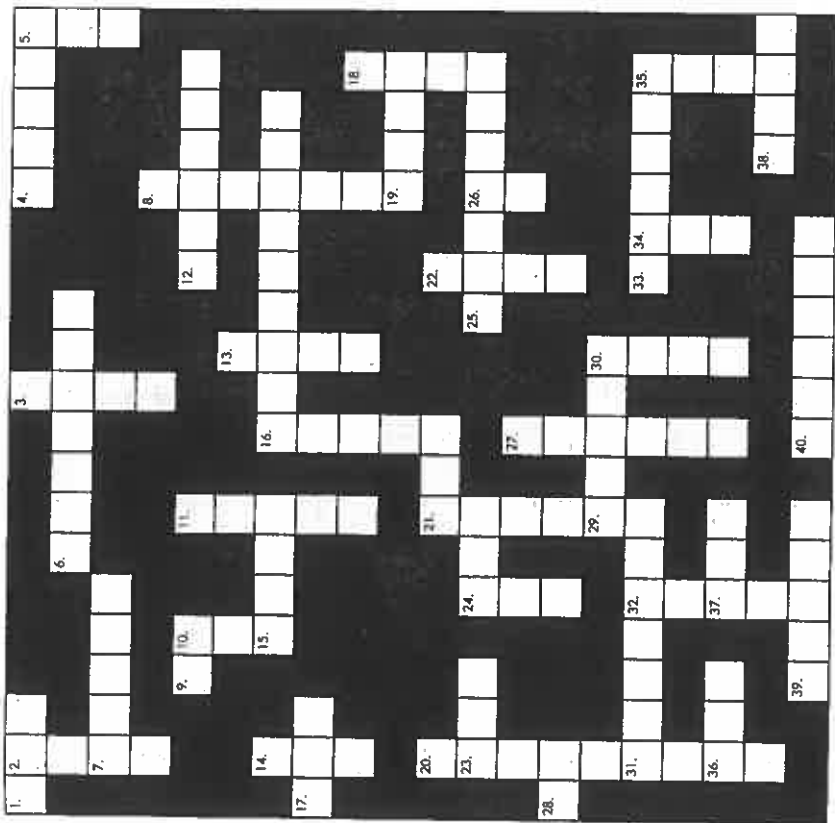
1. He _____ her some beautiful flowers yesterday.
2. I _____ too much for dinner last night.
3. The boy _____ behind the tree so no-one could see him.
4. She _____ three glasses of water as she was so thirsty.
5. I _____ her home after the movie.
6. The woman _____ in and was late for her appointment.



Synonyms and Antonyms Crossword

Synonyms are words that are similar in meaning. Antonyms are words of the opposite meaning.

Complete the crossword using the clues below.



ACROSS

1. antonym of *laugh*
4. synonym for *cut*
6. antonym of *comedy*
7. antonym of *dirty*
9. antonym of *not at*
12. antonym of *useless*
15. synonym for *close*
16. antonym of *ugly*
17. antonym of *girl*
19. antonym of *short*
21. synonym for *miserable*
23. synonym for *question*
24. antonym of *lean*
25. antonym of *doubt*
28. antonym of *not at*
29. antonym of *weak*
31. synonym for *excess*
33. antonym of *dark*
36. synonym for *sick*
37. antonym of *on*
38. synonym for *petrol*

DOWN

2. synonym for *wealthy*
3. synonym for *disobey*
5. synonym for *decay*
8. synonym for *pamphlet*
10. synonym for *light brown*
11. synonym for *world*
13. antonym of *pass*
14. synonym for *plaything*
16. antonym of *wreck*
18. synonym for *hint*
20. synonym for *wonderful*
21. antonym of *finishes*
22. antonym of *discard*
24. antonym of *break*
26. antonym of *out*
27. synonym for *twice*
30. synonym for *elevated*
32. antonym of *tight*
34. synonym for *sprint*
35. antonym of *false*
39. synonym for *odour*
40. antonym of *help*

King Midas and the Golden Touch

A myth is an old story (narrative) which tells of gods, imaginary men and women from the past and magical things. Many myths come from ancient Greece.

Before you read.

1. Hercules was a hero from Greek myths. What was one thing you know about him?

2. Jason was another Greek hero. Finish these sentences.

a. Jason and his men went to look for the Golden _____

b. Their ship was the Argo. They were called Argo _____

Read *King Midas and the Golden Touch*.

KING MIDAS AND THE GOLDEN TOUCH

There once lived a king called Midas. He was very greedy and believed that the most important thing in the world was gold.

'If only,' he said to himself, 'if only I could turn things into gold, I would be the happiest man in the world.'

At that moment, standing in a beam of sunlight, there appeared a young man who said to the king, 'Tell me what you wish.'

'I wish,' said King Midas, 'that everything I touched would turn to gold.'

'Your wish is granted,' said the young man.

Next morning King Midas woke with the golden touch. The chair beside his bed turned to gold when he touched it, the cover on the bed turned to gold, the curtains, a book on the table . . .

Midas was full of joy. At last he could have all the gold he wanted.

Just then his breakfast arrived and Midas decided to eat it right away. Imagine his surprise when the hot cakes on the tray turned to gold when he touched them, the brook trout on the plate turned to gold, the egg in the egg cup turned to gold.

'However will I eat?' Midas asked his beautiful young daughter, Marigold. 'I will starve to death.'

Marigold ran to Midas and threw her arms around him. He bent down to kiss her. Alas! Her rosy cheeks were suddenly cold, hard and yellow. His daughter had turned to gold.

King Midas was overcome with grief. What had he done!

Just at that moment the young man appeared again in a beam of sunlight.

'Have you learnt anything, Midas?' he asked.

'Oh, yes,' replied the unhappy king. 'Gold does not bring true happiness. Take away the golden touch.'

narrative (Greek myth)

The young man granted his wish, the golden touch left Midas and Marigold came back to life. 'Ah,' said Midas to his daughter. 'The only true gold is the gold of your beautiful hair. I have learnt my lesson.'

Re-read the story or any part of it so you can answer the following questions.

1. a. What was the king's name? _____
b. What was his daughter's name? _____
2. What was the first wish he was granted? What was the second?

3. What was the first problem the golden touch brought to Midas?

4. What do you think was the worst thing that happened to him?

5. Midas was not very clever and didn't think ahead. How do you know that?

6. What makes you think that this story might be a myth?

7. What do you think this story teaches us?

8. There are many speeches in this story. Finish these.

'However will I _____?'

'Have you learnt _____, _____?'

'Gold does not _____, _____.'

9. If you were granted a wish, what would you like most?

More things to do

Read about Hercules and Jason. Write what you would say if you were granted the 'golden touch'. Write why you would say this.

A Little Bit Wild

There is something special about a cat. It is its own boss. It takes no orders from anyone. A cat will only do something if it *wants* to do it. No matter how tame it might be, a cat still *seems* to be a little bit wild.

Cats were first tamed in Egypt about 3 500 years ago. They were very special animals to the Egyptians. We have even found old, old statues with the head of a cat and a person's body.

When a cat died, it was sometimes buried in a special 'grave'—with mice for food while going to 'heaven'.

Cats finally spread to Europe. But things were not so good for them there! They were thought to be the pets of witches and a sign of the devil. Thousands of cats were hunted down and killed. It was to take hundreds of years before cats would again be popular as pets.

Today, cats are as popular as dogs for pets. But there is a problem. When cats 'run away' into the wild, they become deadly killers. They destroy many native animals and birds. Cats make great pets, but they are very dangerous if they go wild.



Some unthinking people have kittens because they are fun to play with. But once the kitten grows up, they don't want it any more and just dump it. That poor cat then has to become a hunter to live. That's unfair to the cat and to the animals it hunts.

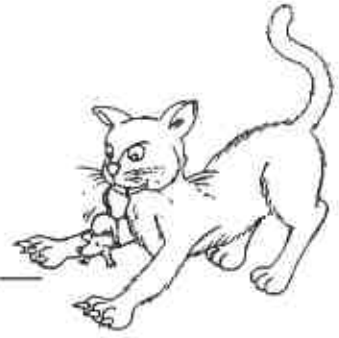
If you have a kitten, remember it is a pet for life, not just until it grows up!



A Little Bit Wild

Level A

1. How long have cats been tamed?



2. Why were mice put in a cat's tomb after it died?

3. What do some people do with cats they don't want?

4. What is so 'special' about cats?

Level B

1. What did the ancient Egyptians think of cats?

2. Why is it unfair to dump kittens or cats?

3. Why were thousands of cats killed in Europe?

4. How can cats be a danger to the environment?

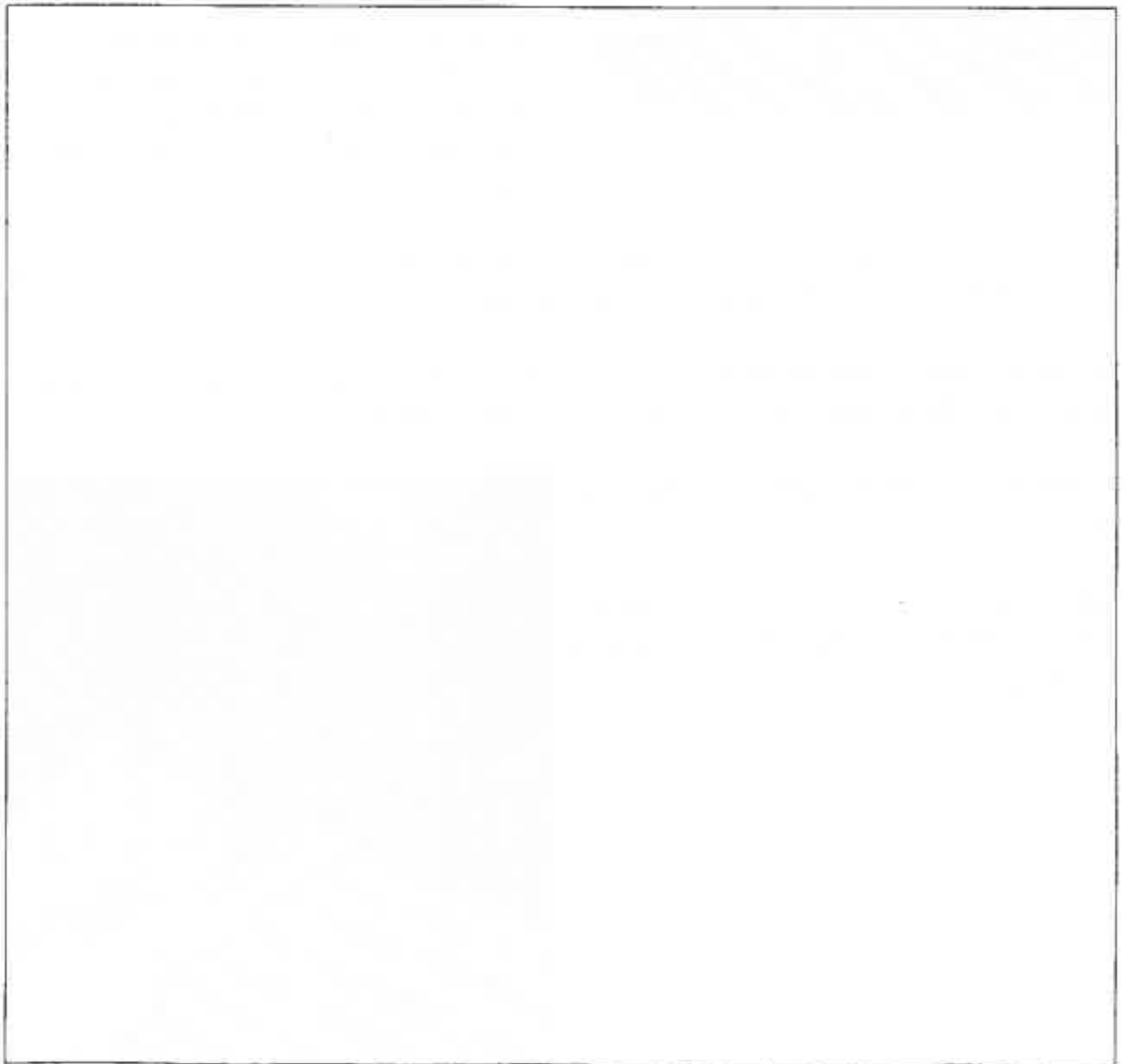
A Little Bit Wild

Level C

1. Why does a cat always seem to be 'a little bit wild'?

2. What does the writer mean by saying a cat 'is a pet for life'?

3. Draw a picture of what you think the Egyptian statue with a cat's head and a human body might look like.



Eyes in the Night



When Harry woke up, he didn't know where he was. Everything was strange. Then he remembered—he was at Nanna's house. His family was having a holiday at her house by the sea.

Harry was thirsty. He wanted a glass of water. He was just about to get out of bed when he saw the eyes on the floor!

They were yellow, big and round, with black slits in the middle. They were looking straight at him. They seemed to glow in the moonlight coming through the window.

A monster! It must be a monster! Harry was very scared. He was too scared to call out for Mum or Dad. He pulled the blankets right up to his nose. He watched the monster's eyes. They were coming closer!

The eyes were moving slowly. They rocked gently from side to side, like a — snake! It must be a giant snake. Harry would be eaten up in his own bed! The eyes came closer.

The monster was so close now Harry could hear it. It made a funny, faint sort of *rumbling* sound. Harry opened his mouth to scream—and the monster leaped!

The yellow eyes flew through the air, straight at Harry!

Then Nanna's friendly black cat, Thomas, landed on the bed. It licked Harry's face and purred happily.



Eye's in the Night

Level A

1. Why did Harry want to get out of bed?

2. What did Harry think the eyes belonged to?

3. What colour eyes does Nanna's cat have?



Level B

1. What do you think happened next?

2. What really was the *rumbling* sound Harry could hear?

3. Why would Thomas the cat be happy?

4. Suggest three different things that the 'eyes in the dark' could have seen.

The First Pets

The first wild animals tamed by humans were dogs. This happened in Europe about 10 000 years ago.

These first 'dogs' were not like we have now. They may have been small wolves. Or they may have been a breed of dog like the Australian dingo.



These dogs probably came near humans to steal scraps of food. Some of their puppies were 'adopted' by people and grew up with them. These pups were quite tame as they grew up. They thought the humans were part of their 'pack'!

Humans realised the dogs were a help to them in a number of ways. The dogs helped them to hunt. They could smell and hear danger before people could. They helped keep people warm on cold nights. They were *fun* to have!

Over a long time, people were able to breed the dogs for different jobs. Some were for hunting; some for herding; and some just for pets. These dogs looked quite different from each other. For example, a German Shepherd looks a lot different from a Yorkshire terrier!

Now, of course, there are many different types of dogs. Dog breeders think there are more than 400 different breeds. That number keeps increasing with new breeds.

Since those early days, humans and dogs have always been together. Today, dogs depend on humans for their survival more than any other animal.

The First Pets

Level A

1. The Australian dingo is a type of _____.

2. How many breeds of dogs are there now?

3. How long have dogs been 'tamed' by humans?

4. For what different tasks were dogs bred?



Level B

1. How can a dog keep someone warm on a cold night?

2. Why does the number of dog breeds keep increasing?

3. Explain why most dogs need people to survive.

4. Suggest some reasons why dogs live in 'packs' in the wild.

5. What other animals have a 'pack mentality'?

The First Pets

Level C

1. For what reason do you think people first 'adopted' dogs?

2. How could dogs help humans to hunt?

3. Why is a German Shepherd so different from a Yorkshire terrier?

4. Provide arguments 'for' and 'against' purchasing a dog for your family.

For

Against

Your conclusion

Boats 'n' Things that Float

There is no way we will ever know what the first 'boat' was — or who 'invented' it. Most likely, it was just a tree trunk that someone held onto and floated across or down a river. From there, it would have been just a short step to building a raft by tying a few logs together. A tree hollowed out by lightning or fire may have been the way people found out you could ride *in* a boat as well as *on* it!

These 'boats' would have only been able to drift with the current or tide. Soon, people wanted a way to make boats go where *they* wanted them to go. At first, they probably just pushed their boats through shallow water with long poles. After that came paddles, and then oars.

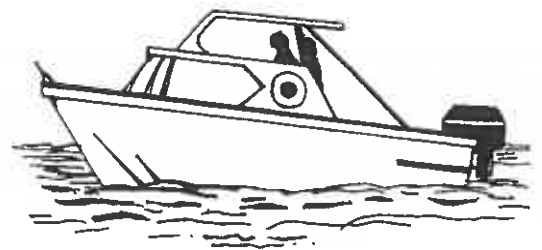
But for deep-water travel, something else was needed. Sails were invented—probably not by any one person, but by many people at about the same time in different countries. By now, the floating log 'boat' had grown into the hull shape we know today—pointed at the bow and with a rudder for steering. Ways to keep the boat stable, such as outriggers or heavy keels, were also added to deep-water boats.



For many hundreds of years, large boats were made from one material — timber. Highly-skilled shipbuilders spent years handcrafting the finest wood into ships to explore the world. But shipbuilding with timber was slow and expensive.

Eventually, steel took over as the main building material. There were a number of reasons for this: steel is easier to work with; it is *much* faster to build with; it is far stronger (meaning ships can be larger) and it can be made easily into many shapes. Its biggest weakness — rust — can be kept under control by careful maintenance.

In recent times, people have been able to afford boats simply for relaxation and leisure. This boat can be made from a variety of materials, but fibreglass and aluminium are by far the most popular. It may be a canoe, a simple open runabout, a cabin cruiser, a ski boat, a fishing boat, a yacht, or a millionaire's luxury 'launch. It can be powered by good old human muscle, the wind, outboard engines, inboard engines or inboard/outboard engines!



Some 'boats', like the sailboard, are about as simple as you can get: one person, the wind on a sail, the sea and a board that floats. Some, like the experimental boats that actually 'fly' above the waves and need computers to help control them, are about as complicated as you can get. But somewhere — way, way back in time — they all owe their existence to those people who realised that something which floated could *carry* something (or someone) else.

Boats 'n' Things that Float

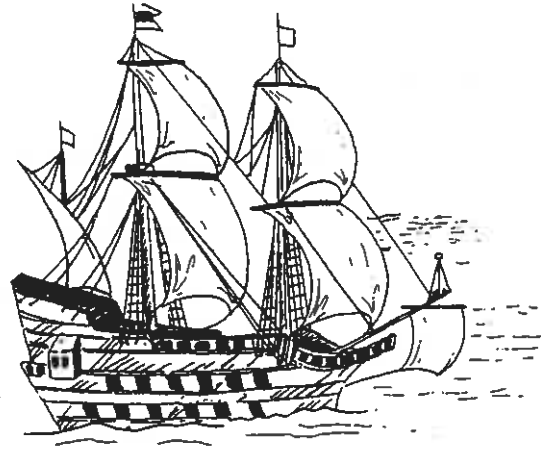
Level A

1. What is said to be the biggest weakness of steel for building ships?

2. What was needed for deep-water travel?

3. Before steel, what were most boats made from?

4. _____ and _____ are the two most popular building materials for 'leisure' boats.



Level B

1. Place these means of propelling a boat in sequence from first discovered to last discovered: sails; outboard engines; oars; drifting; poles

2. In the very first paragraph, explain why the word 'boat' is in quotation marks.

3. Explain why sails were so important.

4. Explain why a boat is pointed at the bow.

5. Describe some different boats used for leisure activities.

The Lions Have Escaped!

In the sleepy little New Zealand town of Lawrence, a big-game hunt occurred in 1978, when two lions escaped from the circus. Lawrence is situated in the lower South Island, and was once a bustling gold town with a population of 11 000. However, by 1978, this number had shrunk to less than 1000.

A small circus arrived in town and set up their tent. The number of acts the circus could put on was limited, and were largely animal ones. They had monkeys, dogs, horses, a tiger and their pride: three lions. The townspeople, 400 of whom rolled up for the show, were delighted by the performance the lions put on.

As the applause faded, the lions were shepherded back to their cage by their trainer and the job of locking them up was left to a young man who had only recently commenced work in the circus. He did not secure the lock properly, with the result that at the first bump from the lions, the bolt could fall out. This was just what happened, and two of the lions, Sultan and Sonya, quietly emerged. (The third lion, Suzy was still performing in the ring.)

The lions padded over to the adjoining oval where rugby training was in progress. At first, the players thought that some wonderful practical joke was being played, but it only took a few seconds for the truth to dawn on them, and for them make record breaking dashes for their vehicles, some 100 metres distant.

Meanwhile, in the Big Top, the escape of the lions had been discovered, and the Ringmaster ordered everyone to leave. Although he did not reveal the reason for this, word soon spread and panic ensued. Some people, unwilling to walk any distance to their cars, took refuge in the local school.

How did the story end? If you visit Otago Museum, you can see the stuffed bodies of the lions, who were eventually shot by the local policeman and a ranger. They did not harm anyone during their brief taste of freedom, so that was a very sad outcome, wasn't it?

1. In the second paragraph, 'pride' is
 - a. exaggeration
 - b. colloquial language
 - c. a pun
 - d. incorrect grammar
2. The 'Big Top' is another name for
 - a. the ring
 - b. the tent
 - c. the field
 - d. the circus

3. Why did the circus put on only a small number of acts?
- Few people ever attended the performances.
 - They preferred to present only animal acts.
 - The small size of the circus limited what they could offer.
 - Most of their other acts had quit.
4. The young man's failure to secure the door was a result of –
- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| (i) inattention | (iii) indifference |
| (ii) arrogance | (iv) haste |
- (i) and (ii)
 - (i) and (iii)
 - (ii) and (iv)
 - (i) and (iv)
5. The best meaning for 'the truth to dawn' is –
- for the lions to begin stalking them
 - for the reality of the situation to take hold
 - for the players to begin running
 - for the players to get the joke
6. The 'record breaking dashes' are proof that
- the players were extremely fit
 - the lions were chasing the players
 - the players feared the lions would attack
 - training was over for the night
7. Why did the ringmaster not reveal that the lions had escaped?
- He did not wish to alarm the people.
 - He did not know that the lions had escaped.
 - He thought the lions had been captured.
 - The performance was over.
8. What does 'sleepy' mean?
- lazy
 - tired
 - quiet
 - decrepit
9. What is the author's tone at the end?
- sarcastic
 - regretful
 - resigned
 - indifferent

Why Are Raindrops Round?

Why are raindrops a spherical shape? The reason is surface tension. In the middle of the drop, the molecules are attracted equally in all directions by the molecules around them. However, on the surface of the drop there are no molecules above to pull outwards. There is only inwards attraction. This force pulls the surface into a curved shape. Hence, the sphere.

Surface tension is the reason that insects, such as pond skaters and water spiders can walk on water. They stretch out their legs, thus distributing their weight over a large area. The 'skin' on the water, caused by the inward pull on molecules at the surface, stretches a little, but holds their weight.

Surface tension is also the reason why fabric tents do not become sodden in rain. The holes between the threads in the material fill with water and the surface tension of this prevents more water from penetrating. For this reason, we must not touch the walls of a tent when it rains because we will interfere with the surface tension and the result will be saturated sleeping bags!

Sometimes, liquids contained in test tubes are seen to have a curved surface which is called a meniscus. Water in a tube will have a meniscus that curves upwards in a 'u' shape because the water molecules are more attracted to the glass molecules than to the other water molecules. By contrast, mercury will have a convex meniscus. The mercury molecules will attract each other more than they will be attracted to the glass molecules. This is known as cohesion. When we place a narrow tube in some liquids, the liquid will 'climb' up the tube. In this case, the molecules in the liquid are more attracted to the molecules in the test tube than they are to each other. This is known as capillary action.

1. The exterior molecules are pulled inwards because
 - a. they are attracted equally in all directions
 - b. the raindrop has a curved surface
 - c. there are no molecules above them to attract them
 - d. their temperature is lower

2. 'Distributing their weight over a large area' means
 - a. bringing less pressure to bear on the water surface
 - b. moving as slowly as possible
 - c. moving rapidly over the surface
 - d. bringing more pressure to bear on the water surface

3. In the second paragraph, 'skin' is in inverted commas

- a. to signify that this is a scientific name
- b. to show that it is exactly like our skin
- c. because the author is making a joke
- d. to show that it is, in most ways, unlike our skin

4. The writer's main purpose in the third paragraph is

- a. to warn us not to touch tent walls in the rain
- b. to explain how surface tension keeps tents dry
- c. to show how water penetrates material
- d. to give an example of cohesion

5. When molecules clump together it is known as

- a. capillary action
- b. meniscus
- c. surface tension
- d. cohesion

6. An antonym for 'penetrating' is

- a. permeating
- b. resisting
- c. absorbing
- d. leaking

7. Water in a test tube

- a. will have a convex meniscus
- b. will move down by capillary action
- c. will have a concave meniscus
- d. will have a skin which stretches

8. 'Climb' has inverted commas

- a. because it doesn't move
- b. because it doesn't have legs
- c. because it is the wrong word
- d. because it is an illusion

9. The best antonym for 'sodden' is

- a. saturated
- b. immaculate
- c. soggy
- d. dehydrated

10. An antonym for 'attract' is

- a. engage
- b. scatter
- c. repulse
- d. loathe

11. This text might be found in a

- a. biography
- b. science book
- c. atlas
- d. history book

12. The language could be described as

- a. precise
- b. obscure
- c. conversational
- d. concerned

Flying Cows

The hoatzin, the national bird of Guyana in South America, has full-sized wings but flies awkwardly. Young hoatzins have claws on their wings and they scramble through vegetation like quadrupeds. If a predator threatens, this bird may dive into a river and swim underwater to escape. Sometimes the bird exudes an unpleasant odour as a protective measure and local hunters will not eat it.

A striking looking bird, about the size of a large chicken, the hoatzin has reddish brown and olive green floppy plumage streaked in places with black and white. It has bright red eyes and the bare skin around its eyes is electric blue. On its head are long crest plumes of red. Its trailing tail is black. The hoatzin is about 60-65 cm long and weighs about 800 grams. Its habitat is the waterway system of the Amazon and Orinoco basins.

The food of the hoatzin is strictly vegetarian: leaves, buds and pulpy seeds. This diet, and the need for its thorough digestion through fermentation, probably explains one of the hoatzin's peculiarities which is an enormous, heavily muscled crop which takes up the front third of its body. The food undergoes its primary digestion here, before moving into the stomach.

The hoatzin's awkward flight is related to the uniquely shaped keel of its breastbone. It is this keel which anchors the wing muscles and provides leverage for flight in a bird. The hoatzin's keel is very small. As well, its feathers are loosely attached. Both of these factors help to account for the hoatzin's inability to fly very far. It averages about a hundred metres in a flight. At the end of the flight, the bird invariably crash-lands in the trees, falling through the foliage and grasping at every branch as it falls. It is not surprising that it is often referred to as the 'Flying Cow'.

Hoatzins have proved difficult to keep in captivity. In early attempts, the birds appeared to thrive on a vegetarian diet of lettuce and other greens, but then all sickened and died. Subsequently, it was discovered that the bird's preferred diet in the wild was very rich in aluminium salts, an element lacking in the zoo diet.

1. 'Exudes' means

- a. detects
- b. fathoms
- c. bestows
- d. emits

2. 'Striking' in paragraph two is

- a. a participle
- b. a present tense verb
- c. an adjective
- d. spelled incorrectly

3. The hoatzin
- is prized by hunters for its crop
 - is becoming extinct
 - is a protected species
 - is shunned by hunters
4. The hoatzin chick
- is carnivorous
 - moves like an animal
 - is covered in black fuzz
 - has four legs
5. The purpose of the young hoatzin's claws is
- to aid mobility
 - to protect against predators
 - to help it swim underwater
 - to cling to its mother's back
6. The hoatzin's digests its food by
- primary digestion
 - a crop
 - fermentation
 - sleeping
7. The hoatzin's digestive system
- causes it great trouble
 - is a very simple process
 - is necessitated by its diet
 - causes bloating in the stomach
8. 'Crop' in the text means
- a season's product
 - a pouch in a bird's gullet
 - to cut very short
 - the bird's stomach
9. The bird's awkward flight is due to
- its loosely attached feathers
 - its large weight
 - its small tail
 - its small keel
- (i) and (ii)
 - (ii) and (iii)
 - (i) and (iv)
 - (ii) and (iv)
10. 'Flying Cow' is in inverted commas
- to show that this is spoken language
 - to show that this is not a fitting name
 - to show that this a humorous name
 - to show that folk do not like this name
11. A synonym for 'invariably'
- sometimes
 - always
 - rarely
 - painfully

12. Which sentence could be added to the end of the fourth paragraph?

- a. The bird sometimes lands successfully on a branch.
- b. The hoatzin is neither graceful in flight nor in landing.
- d. Many years ago, hoatzins were more skilled at flying.
- e. No other birds have such a small keel.

13. What action do you think may have been followed after the discovery of the importance of aluminium salts in the birds' diet?

- a. The attempts were abandoned.
- b. The birds were released back to the wild.
- c. Fewer birds were kept in captivity.
- d. The birds' diet in zoos was modified.

14. Which of these statements is false?

- a. Hoatzins will only eat vegetation from their native area.
- b. Hoatzins are incapable of flying half a kilometre.
- c. The hoatzin is smaller than a turkey.
- d. Hoatzins are found near the Amazon River.

15. Which words could replace the missing words in this sentence?

Hoatzins appear to be more at _____ with _____
than they do with _____.

- | | |
|---------------|---------------|
| (i) ease | (iv) swimming |
| (ii) water | (v) flying |
| (iii) comfort | (vi) landing |

- a. (iii), (iv) and (v)
- b. (i), (iv) and (vi)
- c. (i), (ii) and (vi)
- d. (i), (iv) and (v)

16. The hoatzin could be described as

- a. awkward and stupid
- b. clumsy but unique
- c. striking and graceful
- d. massive and cumbersome

17. The purpose of the text is

- a. to entertain
- b. to persuade
- c. to inform
- d. to explain

A **sentence** is a unit of language that is complete in itself. It always has a subject and a predicate.

A sentence can be a statement, a question, an exclamation or a command.

Statement: Kate is walking by the riverbank.

Question: Is Kate walking by the riverbank?

Exclamation: Kate is walking by the riverbank!

Command: Kate, walk by the riverbank.

A sentence contains two basic sections: the subject and the predicate.

The subject is the person or thing to whom or which the sentence refers.

The predicate tells us what is said or written about the subject. It must contain a verb.

Subject	Predicate
Cricket	is my favourite sport.
The boy next door	behaves badly.
Hundreds of people	perished in the earthquake.
A policewoman	ran to arrest him.
Fish	swim.

A **simple sentence** has only one principal clause.

Example: Jack travelled by train.

A **compound sentence** contains two or more principal clauses.

Example: He travelled by train, but he did not arrive on time.
principal clause principal clause

A **complex sentence** contains a principal clause and one or more subordinate clauses.

Example: Jack returned to the town where he was raised as a boy.
principal clause subordinate clause

A **compound-complex sentence** has at least two principal clauses and at least one subordinate clause.

Example: Jack travelled by train but he did not arrive on time because the line had been
blocked by a fallen tree.
principal clause principal clause
subordinate clause

 **Have a go**

1 Underline the subject in each sentence.

- a Behind the couch the toddler hid.
- b James is waiting for the CD to finish.
- c She waxed the surface of her surfboard.
- d Georgie arranged the items carefully in her backpack.
- e This film has been shown on pay television.
- f The interest increased greatly after half time.
- g This is one of the more attractive PCs in the range.
- h The future has never looked so bright for young tennis players.
- i (You) Take that contraption out of here!
- j Massachusetts dentist William Morton was the first to use anaesthetics in tooth extraction.

2 Identify the types of sentences as simple, compound, complex or compound-complex.

- a The children played.

- b He came to dinner.

- c The sun shone although it was raining.

- d Have you met the student who worked with me on the project?

- e I was told that the bus would be late arriving.

- f The roof was removed, but the building could not be saved.

- g An education kit on water use is being prepared for schools.

- h A special meeting was convened and the local council thanked the fire fighters who defended the area during the bushfires.



Take it further

1 Using conjunctions or relative pronouns, combine the following sentences in the most sensible way.

a The police gave the reward to Wei. He had given them vital information.

b The power went off. Marco was cooking dinner.

c Addie picked her way carefully along the path. There was broken glass everywhere.

d Marion was dedicated to her work. She was well liked by her colleagues.

e The postman came to the door. He had a parcel to deliver.

f Rob and Lorenzo were brothers. They were completely different personalities.

g Sergio was a highly respected lawyer in Cairns. He was a very modest man.

2 Underline the predicate in each sentence.

a Millions of people on small incomes around the world are facing hunger because of rising food prices.

b A major factor in the cause of world hunger is the switch from food crops to biofuels.

c Manufacturers of genetically modified foods have claimed to have the answer to world hunger.

d Greater crop yields could come at a high price.

e More sustainable farming practices may be part of the solution.

f Sustainable farming practices can help farmers as well as consumers.

g The market for organically-grown products is growing.

Get it right

1 You know the 'i before e' rule. Sort the list below into three groups:

- Group 1: Words that follow the 'i before e' rule
- Group 2: Words that do not follow the 'i before e' rule because the sound is not ee
- Group 3: The exceptions – words that have the ee sound but are spelt ei. (There are four exceptions in the list.)

achieve	leisure	receive	shriek
belief	neighbour	rein	vein
deceit	niece	relief	weight
eighty	priest	retrieve	weir
height	protein	seize	weird

Group 1:

Group 2:

Group 3:

2 Another example of English spelling that can sometimes be confusing is the use of 'f' and 'gh', which sound the same.

Examples: He was a *tough* man.

The baby had a *tuft* of hair on the top of her head.

Find alternative spellings for the following words and use each version in a separate sentence.

a rough _____

b draft _____

c cougher _____

d prophet _____

Quotation marks are used to:

- enclose quoted statements such as excerpts from texts, proverbs and everyday sayings

Example: 'Too many cooks spoil the broth.'

- enclose the actual words, sounds or exclamations (speech) of a speaker.

When punctuating speech or conversation, observe the following conventions:

- enclose all of the spoken words in quotation marks
- start the first word spoken with a capital letter
- enclose all punctuation marks inside the quotation marks when they are part of the speaker's words
- start a new line for each individual speaker.

There are several common patterns when punctuating speech – note the placement of punctuation marks:

- ' _____,' said the speaker.
- The speaker said, ' _____.'
- ' _____!' exclaimed the speaker.
- The speaker exclaimed, ' _____!'
- ' _____?' asked the speaker.
- The speaker asked, ' _____?'
- ' _____,' said the speaker. ' _____.'



1 Use the correct patterns for punctuating speech by filling in the spaces below with appropriate speech. Note the placement of the punctuation marks.

a ' _____,' said the football coach.

b My mother said, ' _____
_____.'

c ' _____!' exclaimed
the shocked viewer.

d The excited student exclaimed, ' _____
_____!'

e ' _____ ?' asked his parents.

f The lady at the station asked, ' _____ ?'

g ' _____ ' said
my music teacher. ' _____ '

- 2 Place quotation marks and other punctuation marks where required in the opening passage from Victor Kelleher's *Del-Del*.

Spring. The wrong time of year again.

Don't forget to wrap the flowers, Beth Mum called, and I could tell from the tight sound in her voice how she was feeling.

It was how I felt, too, waiting by the front door, the flowers cradled in both arms.

I've wrapped them, I called back.

Outside the Sydney morning was full of light and wind. Sort of carefree. Different entirely from the atmosphere inside the house. Different from Dad who was stomping up and down the passage, jangling his keys.

'Come on, you lot he shouted. At this rate we'll never get there
Coming Mum answered.

And then: Who says we have to go

It was Sam, standing at the top of the stairs, not even half-ready to leave, his face oddly blank. He'd been told to put on his school clothes, but he was barefoot, his hair uncombed, and he was wearing a T-shirt and the oldest pair of shorts he could find.

What Dad said, more surprised than angry, because Sam wasn't the type of kid who made trouble.

Why can't we go to the beach instead

Mum hurried from the living room. Sam she murmured warningly.

But it was as if he hadn't heard her. There's no one out there he said dully. Just some old dirt and grass. Why bother going

He answered his own question by walking back along the passage to his room.

That's when I realised something was seriously wrong.

Did you hear him Dad shouted. Did you hear what he said

He's upset, Des, that's all

Upset How does he think the rest of us feel

But he's a child

Sam. A child. Try telling that to his computer

Mum frowned and stepped up to him. This isn't the way to handle things, Des she said calmly. Today especially

Dad's face had gone all red, so I guessed what was coming next.

What Mum calls one of his little boy tantrums.

Victor Kelleher, *Del-Del*, Red Fox, Random House, 1992, p. 3



Take it further

- 1 There are many different words that can be used to describe the way someone says something. Using a thesaurus, add words to each column.

Statement	Exclamation	Question
remarked	shrieked	interrogated
explained	screamed	requested
complained	roared	asked
preached	declared	enquired

- 2 Use the punctuation patterns that were explained above to write your own sentences. Remember to incorporate direct speech.

- 3 The following is a section of dialogue set out as a play script. Geoff and Lydia are teachers at a high school. The school is about to break up for the holidays. Rewrite their dialogue in prose form, punctuating the speech correctly. You might like to include descriptions about how Geoff and Lydia speak and how they act. Try out different speech punctuation patterns for variety.

GEOFF: We've only got to last until three o'clock tomorrow.

LYDIA: I can't wait. It's been such an exhausting term.

GEOFF: No more marking for six weeks!

LYDIA: Didn't you say that you were spending a couple of weeks of the holidays on a course?

GEOFF: Yes, but that will be fun.

LYDIA: Fun! It sounds like hard work to me. I'm going to spend a lot of time just lying on the beach.

Comprehension

Read the reviews and answer the questions.

Film review 1

A distant angle on small-town bitterness

To Kill a Mockingbird
8.30pm, ABC2

My first brush with *To Kill a Mockingbird* was as a barefoot primary school student and even then it left an impression.

But it wasn't until I revisited the film in high school that I began to see how screenwriter Horton Foote had woven together the main elements of Harper Lee's prize-winning novel to illustrate the themes of prejudice and injustice. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a film of its time in that it was made in 1962, as the push for civil rights in the US gathered momentum.

Almost half a century later, the way it conveys its underlying themes may appear muted and circumspect compared with the blunt, meat-cleaver message of many modern films. Yet in many ways it is just as relevant as it was then.

It tells the story of Atticus Finch, a small-town lawyer and widower



in Depression-era Alabama who defends an African-American client against accusations of rape. The story is related through the eyes of Atticus's six-year-old daughter Scout, with small-town values juxtaposed against the ugliness of southern racial prejudices. Atticus (Gregory Peck) is the good man determined not to let evil triumph. But his decision comes at a cost, as some in the town turn against him for defending a black man against a white accuser.

In classic courtroom scenes, Atticus presents an impassioned defence as he tries to convince an all-white jury that the allegations against his client are untrue. This is despite the social pressure brought to bear in the community for him to dump the case.

There is a parallel subplot involving Scout, her brother Jem and friend Dill (supposedly based on Lee's neighbour Truman Capote) as they grapple with prejudice on another level and reconcile

reality with small-town tattle that their reclusive neighbour Arthur 'Boo' Radley (Robert Duvall in his screen debut) is a vicious madman.

The children also feel the racist backlash as they are caught up in the tension between their father and the townspeople.

This rich and resonant story is aptly shot in black and white and accompanied by a haunting and evocative score from Elmer Bernstein. Foote's screenplay justly won an Oscar, as did the art direction and Peck's memorable performance as Finch. The earnest and gentlemanly actor fitted the

role perfectly and his performance produced one of the most popular and respected screen heroes.

If you haven't seen this in a while, it's well worth watching again. If you haven't seen it at all, it's time to catch up on one of the classics.

STEVE CREEDY

■ Reading for understanding

- 1 Which phrase indicates that the reviewer was quite young when he first watched *To Kill a Mockingbird*?
.....
- 2 What are the two major themes of the film identified by the reviewer?
.....
- 3 Why is *To Kill a Mockingbird* regarded as 'a film of its time'?
.....
.....
- 4 The reviewer refers to the presentation of the themes as 'muted and circumspect'. What point is he making?
.....
- 5 What words of the reviewer show that he is critical of the way the themes of some modern films are presented?
.....
- 6 What is the time and place of the action of the film?
.....
- 7 Why does Atticus's decision not to let evil triumph over goodness 'come at a cost'?
.....
.....
- 8 In what way is Harper Lee's character, Dill, autobiographical?
.....
- 9 How is Arthur 'Boo' Radley viewed by some of the townspeople?
.....
- 10 How do we know that the reviewer approves of the musical score?
.....

- 11 Why does the reviewer feel that Gregory Peck fits the role of Atticus perfectly?
.....
.....
- 12 What is the reviewer's final message to the reader?
.....
.....

Film review 2

Romeo + Juliet

Showtime greats (Pay TV), 2.15pm

Of all the attempts to film Shakespeare in a contemporary setting, Baz Luhrmann's *Romeo + Juliet* succeeds where most failed. The secret seems to lie in a script where the dialogue equates more comfortably with modern-day surroundings.

For once, you feel this is not a 400-year-old play with strange costumes and props. The mood is upbeat, with an energetic rock accompaniment to lure young viewers into the Shakespeare fold. Verona becomes Verona Beach, where the two young lovers (played by Claire Danes and Leonardo DiCaprio, pictured)



face opposition from their rival families in crime, the Montagues and Capulets. Guns replace the swords and daggers of old Verona as enmity grows.

JOHN SPENCE

■ Reading for understanding

- 1 Explain the meaning of 'a contemporary setting'.
.....
.....
- 2 Why does the reviewer feel Luhrmann's script is important for the success of the film?
.....
.....
- 3 What problems of presenting Shakespeare does the reviewer identify?
.....
.....
- 4 Explain the meaning of 'lure young viewers into the Shakespeare fold'.
.....
.....
- 5 What conflict in the story does the reviewer remind the reader of?
.....
.....
- 6 What important message of the story is emphasised by the above film shot?
.....
.....
- 7 How has Baz Luhrmann modernised medieval Verona and the weapons used by its inhabitants?
.....
.....

Book review

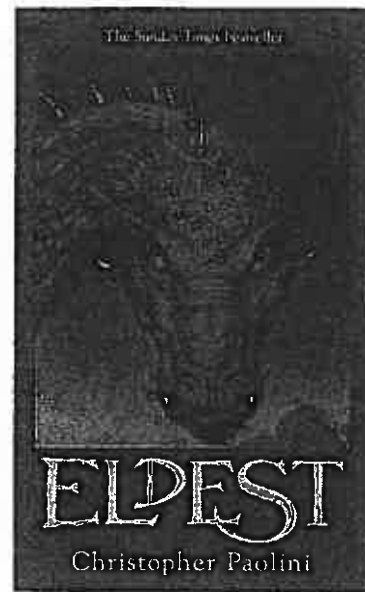
The Inheritance Trilogy: Eldest

Christopher Paolini
\$19.95, Random House

Fantasy books feature prominently in the most popular children's reads and this is another standout.

Eldest is the second of *The Inheritance Trilogy* and like the first, *Eragon*, it is set in the land of Alagaesia. The central character Eragon continues his dragon training and ultimately finds himself in the middle of a battle between good and evil. This is true fantasy—there are

dragons, magic, sorcerers, spells and curses galore in the series. The subject matter is reminiscent of the *Lord of the Rings* saga, where the heroes embark on a long journey, facing grave danger in order to save the world. At 23, author Christopher Paolini is still a youngster himself; he started writing *Eragon* when he was 15. It took three years to finish and was self-published before it was picked up by Random House in the US in 2002. The series is aimed at readers aged 13 and older.



■ Reading for understanding

- 1 A book reviewer normally sets out the title, author, price and publisher of a book.
Why does the reviewer provide the name of the publisher?
.....
.....
- 2 What words at the beginning of the review show that the reviewer highly recommends the novel?
.....
.....
- 3 Where is the action of the novel taking place?
.....
.....
- 4 What is the role of the hero Eragon in the novel?
.....
.....
- 5 What features of the novel enable the reviewer to label it 'true fantasy'?
.....
.....
- 6 In what way is the plot of *Eldest* similar to that of the *Lord of the Rings* saga?
.....
.....
- 7 The final section of the review focuses on the author Christopher Paolini. What amazing feat did he achieve?
.....
.....

Spelling and vocabulary



A critical eye

paragraph	publication	attention	organise	praise
criticism	recommend	condemned	expression	argument
summary	surpass	identify	guide	authority
fiction	preferred	challenge	noticeable	perception
style	excessive	associate	assume	supersede
approve	accuracy	peculiar	structure	talented

Word skills

1 Complete each of the following phrases by adding a word from the spelling list. The first letters have been given.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| a A <i>p</i> _____ habit | e A persuasive <i>a</i> _____ |
| b A work of <i>f</i> _____ | f A <i>n</i> _____ difference |
| c Overwhelming <i>p</i> _____ | g An <i>e</i> _____ workload |
| d A <i>g</i> _____ to writing | h A <i>t</i> _____ writer |

8 marks

2 Change each of the following words into nouns.

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| a peculiar _____ | e identify _____ |
| b preferred _____ | f condemned _____ |
| c approve _____ | g assume _____ |
| d recommend _____ | h organise _____ |

8 marks

3 Change each of the following words into verbs.

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| a summary _____ | e argument _____ |
| b criticism _____ | f authority _____ |
| c attention _____ | g perception _____ |
| d publication _____ | h excessive _____ |

8 marks

A word for a phrase

Find words in the spelling list that match the meanings of the phrases below. The first letter of each word has been given.

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1 a quarrel or disagreement | <i>a</i> _____ |
| 2 a group of sentences dealing with a particular topic | <i>p</i> _____ |
| 3 stories that tell of imagined people and events | <i>f</i> _____ |

- 4 freedom from error; correctness
- 5 to replace one thing or person with another
- 6 to think or speak favourably of
- 7 to express approval or admiration
- 8 to recognise as being a particular person or thing
- 9 strongly disapproved of
- 10 to exceed

a _____
 s _____
 r _____
 p _____
 i _____
 c _____
 s _____

Back-of-the-book dictionary

The word 'structure' comes from the Latin word *struo/structus*, meaning 'I build'. The following are a few of the many English words that are derived from *struo*. Use the back-of-the-book dictionary to write their meanings.

reconstruct: _____

construe: _____

deconstruct: _____

obstructive: _____



Language

More confusing word pairs

As shown in Unit 10, there are many pairs of words in the English language that are often confused and misused because their sound or spelling is similar.

■ Matching the meaning

Look at the pairs of words on the left. Select the one that matches the meaning on the right.

Confusing pairs	Meaning	Word
1 assent / ascent	agreement	_____
2 credible / creditable	believable	_____
3 sole / soul	one and only	_____
4 ingenious / ingenuous	clever	_____
5 vain / vein	conceited	_____
6 moral / morale	confidence	_____
7 liable / libel	defamation	_____
8 descent / decent	respectable	_____
9 break / brake	stop	_____
10 illicit / elicit	illegal	_____
11 veracious / voracious	truthful	_____

■ Identifying the correct word

From each pair of words in brackets, select the correct word to complete the sentence.

- 1 The factory owner had to _____ (accede/exceed) to the plan to prevent _____ (industrious/industrial) strikes in the factories.
- 2 The millionaire had bought a _____ (luxurious/luxuriant) yacht and was preparing to _____ (sale/sail) around the world.
- 3 The tour director gave the holiday makers an _____ (insight/incite) into the highlights awaiting them on their _____ (vocation/vacation).
- 4 The refugees tried in _____ (vein/vain) to cross the _____ (border/boarder).
- 5 The coat _____ (you're/your) wearing is made of very _____ (course/coarse) cloth.
- 6 The _____ (sole/soul) survivor was _____ (aloud/allowed) to return to his homeland.

12 marks

Writing

Writing book reviews

Book reviews appear regularly in newspapers, magazines and on the internet. The reviewer aims to give readers some idea of what the book is about and whether it is worth reading. If you want to learn how to write a good book review, it is a good idea to examine what other reviewers have written. The following review appeared in a large metropolitan newspaper. It was aimed at teenagers.

Eco-Warrior

Skye Bortoli (ABC Books, \$19.95)

This is a great story for teenagers, about a brilliant role model by the name of Skye Bortoli who, at the age of 15, is a seasoned global campaigner in the fight to save the whales. At the age of 14, the North Coast schoolgirl gathered 40 000 signatures on a petition and raised funds for herself and two friends to travel to Alaska to speak up against whaling. This year she did the same, in Japan—taking a petition with more than 130 000 signatures. In this very bright, teen-friendly presentation she writes her story, including her own childhood touched by tragedy, the discovery of her indigenous roots, but mainly her passion for trying to make a difference in the world. It's inspirational stuff.



