

Key Stage 3

English



For the next four weeks, select different challenges to complete. You do not need to do all of them – but we expect a minimum of two writing tasks and the reading task to be completed. There are two reading tasks, the second is slightly harder than the first: set the challenge that is suitable to you. You can do both! You are also expected to keep up with your reading, so keep reading all of your wonderful books!

You can submit your work back to your teacher via the envelope or send a copy to them via Show My Homework or their school email address.

If you have any feedback, please email at: m.gladen@passmoresacademy.com

English Matrix – Developing our writing

Create a book cover and synopsis (summary) for a book entitled 'Awakening'	Select 12 songs that reflect a book that you have read	Write a 500-word story about an object you find in your house	Create a poem with the theme of Spring	Create a quiz for your family members on a topic of your choice
Write a letter arguing your point of view on a topic that you are passionate about	Create a news story based on an event in your home-town (fictional or non-fictional)	Create a leaflet on sustainability: what sustainability means and what people can do to be sustainable	Write a letter to an NHS worker thanking them for their hard work	Using any book, reflect upon how the writer uses language to make the reader think or feel something
Plan your perfect day – what would happen?	Watch a film: How does the film open to engage the audience?	Read a recipe and cook something with an adult present	Make a treasure hunt for your family. Include a map, clues and a final destination	Create a leaflet on self-care. How should people look after themselves?
Read a book and create a book review	Keep a journal-decorate it to represent your personality	Explain your point of view on the use of technology in schools. Should it be used?	Write a speech where you persuade people to visit your favourite area in the town	Write a film review
Create an interview with a character from a novel/play you have studied at school	Write a descriptive piece of writing where you describe somewhere that you have never been	Design your own character- explain why you have chosen certain characteristics. Why have you chosen that outfit?	Write a radio script and perform it with your family	Pick a character. What can you infer from their appearance? Link your ideas to physiognomy



Let's develop our skills further – we can also improve upon our best!

- Have you included capital letter and full stops in the correct place?
- Do you have a variety of punctuation?
- Have you chosen the best word choices?
- Are your spellings correct?
- Have you used paragraphs?
- Have you attempted to use different sentence types and different lengths?
- Are you proud of what you have written?
- Could you make some changes to make it even better?

Developing our Comprehension

Chapter 1

A Perfectly Normal Family

THIS IS THE story of Barnaby Brocket, and to understand Barnaby, first you have to understand his parents; two people who were so afraid of anyone who was different that they did a terrible thing that would have the most appalling consequences for everyone they loved.

We begin with Barnaby's father, Alistair, who considered himself to be a completely normal man. He led a normal life in a normal house, lived in a normal neighbourhood where he did normal things in a normal way. His wife was normal, as were his two children.

Alistair had no time for people who were unusual or who made a show of themselves in public. When he was sitting on a Metro train and a group of teenagers were talking loudly nearby, he would wait until the next stop, jump off and move to a different carriage before the doors could close again. When he was eating in a restaurant – not one of those fancy new restaurants with difficult menus and confusing food; a normal one – he grew irritated if his evening was spoiled by waiters singing 'Happy Birthday' to some attention-seeking diner.

He worked as a solicitor at the firm of Bother & Blastit in the most magnificent city in the world – Sydney, Australia – where he specialized in last wills and testaments, a rather grim employment that suited him down to the ground. It was a perfectly normal thing, after all, to prepare a will. Nothing unusual in that. When clients came to see him in his office, they often found themselves a little nervous, for drawing up a will can be a difficult or distressing matter.

'Please don't upset yourself,' Alistair would say on such occasions. 'It's perfectly normal to die. We all have to do it one day. Imagine how awful it would be if we lived for ever! The planet would collapse under all that excess weight.'

Which is not to say that Alistair cared very much about the planet's welfare; he didn't. Only hippies and new age types worried about things like that.

There is a belief held by some, particularly by those who live in the Far East, that each of us – you included – comprises one half of a couple separated before birth in the vast and complex universe, and that we spend our lives searching for that detached soul who can make us feel whole again. Until that day comes, we all feel a little out of sorts. Sometimes completeness is found through meeting someone who, on first appearances, seems to be the opposite of who we are. A man who likes art and poetry, for example, might end up falling in love with a woman who spends her afternoons up to her elbows in engine grease. A healthy-eating lady with an interest in outdoor sports might find herself drawn to a fellow who enjoys nothing more than watching them from the comfort of his living-room armchair with a beer in one hand and a sandwich in the other. It takes all sorts, after all. But Alistair Brocket always knew that he could never share his life with someone who wasn't as normal as he was, even though that in itself would have been a perfectly normal thing to do.

Comprehension questions

The Terrible Thing That Happened to Barnaby Rickett written by John Boyne

Question One:

To understand Barnaby what is the first thing you need to understand?

Question Two:

What is Barnaby's father called?

Question Three:

What sort of life did Barnaby's father lead?

Question Four:

How many siblings (brothers or sisters) does Barnaby have?

Question Five:

What would make Alistair get off a Metro train?

Question Six:

What country does Barnaby live in?

Question Seven:

Why does the writer describe Alistair's job as 'rather grim employment'?

Question Eight:

Who does Alistair think are the only people that care about the planet's welfare?

Question Nine:

Who might a man that likes art and poetry fall in love with?

Developing our Comprehension – the super challenge!

Clash of Cultures: Two Worlds Collide By UShistory.org 2017

The Aztec empire was an advanced civilization that ruled in Mexico before Spanish explorers arrived. This informational text discusses the events that lead to the fall of this great civilization. As you read, think about how the Spanish were able to defeat the Aztecs.

The Aztec empire was large and powerful. It stretched across central Mexico and had a population of 5 million people. Montezuma was the king of the Aztec empire from 1502 to 1520 CE. During this same time, explorers from Spain came to the Americas. Christopher Columbus was the first Spanish explorer to come to the Americas. He and the other explorers were looking for gold. They also wanted to convert Native Americans to Christianity. Another Spanish explorer to come was Hernán Cortés. He arrived in the Aztec empire in 1519. By 1520 he had killed Montezuma, and in 1521 he conquered the Aztec empire. How was he able to take control of the Aztec empire so fast?

Cannons vs. Clubs

The Spanish army was the best on earth during this time. It had not lost a single battle for 150 years. The Spaniards had cannons and arquebus (simple guns). These weapons scared the Aztecs because they had never seen them before. The Spanish also had horses. This allowed them to travel easily. The Aztecs didn't have horses. The Spanish also had strong and deadly swords. The Aztecs' main weapons were only wooden clubs. Aztec warriors had several opportunities to kill Cortés. However, it was their custom to capture their enemies alive. Each time they tried to capture Cortés alive he escaped. The Spaniards, on the other hand, killed their enemies as quickly as they could. When an Aztec leader was killed, the other Aztec soldiers lost hope and ran away.

Conflict

Many Aztecs disliked Montezuma because of the taxes he forced them to pay. These Aztecs supported Cortés. When Cortés attacked and conquered the Aztec capital, he had only 900 Spanish soldiers, but he was joined by 150,000 native Aztecs.

Disease

The Europeans also brought with them diseases such as measles and smallpox. The American tribes immediately became sick. The diseases spread quickly and killed many Aztec leaders and millions of other people.

Superstition

Montezuma was also superstitious. When Cortés landed in the Aztec empire, Montezuma thought he might be the feathered snake god, Quetzalcoatl. This god was thought to have vanished into the eastern ocean long before. Montezuma half-believed that Cortés was this god returning from the sea. This made Montezuma afraid and respectful of Cortés. Battle When Cortés and his army of 500 Spanish soldiers faced off with Montezuma, they had actually been invited into the city. This was a big mistake because Cortés kidnapped Montezuma. Montezuma was killed a couple of months later, although it's not clear who killed him. Cortés then left the city, but came back several months later with a larger army and conquered the city on August 13, 1521. The combination of good weapons, internal conflict, disease, and superstition helped Cortés conquer the Aztec empire.

Text-Dependent Questions

Directions: For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. PART A: Which sentence best describes the central idea of the text?

- A. The Spanish had several advantages over the Aztec that led to their defeat.
- B. Cortés was considered a savior by Aztecs, as he freed them from Montezuma's rule.
- C. The Aztecs would have likely kept their empire, if they hadn't trusted Cortés. D. Cortés believed he was helping the Aztecs when he took over their empire.

PART B: Which detail from the text best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. "He and the other explorers were looking for gold. They also wanted to convert Native Americans to Christianity." (Paragraph 2)
- B. "Many Aztecs disliked Montezuma because of the taxes he forced them to pay. These Aztecs supported Cortés." (Paragraph 6)
- C. "When Cortés and his army of 500 Spanish soldiers faced off with Montezuma, they had actually been invited into the city." (Paragraph 9)
- D. "The combination of good weapons, internal conflict, disease, and superstition helped Cortés conquer the Aztec empire." (Paragraph 10)

2. Why did Spanish explorers come to the Americas?

- A. There was no more land available in their home countries.
- B. They were looking for ways to make themselves rich and spread their religion.
- C. They wanted to educate native populations in the Americas.
- D. They wanted to learn about the customs in the Americas.

3. How does the author organize the information in "Clash of Cultures: Two Worlds Collide"?

- A. The author discusses Columbus' conquests, and then Cortés' defeat of the Aztecs.
- B. The author describes the fall of the Aztec empire in the order that it happened.
- C. The author states that Cortés conquered the Aztec empire, and then describes how.
- D. The author discusses the Aztec's culture, and then compares it to the Spanish's culture.

Describe the relationship between the Aztecs and their leaders: