



MODULE 1 ANSWERS

Reading for Understanding: Fiction

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10 Feb 2020

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LESSON 1

Reading Narrative Writing

Quiz

1. a
2. c
3. a and c
4. a and b
5. a and c
6. a
7. d
8. a and c
9. b
10. a

PRACTISE

1.

The girl walked into the classroom and launched **her** books onto her table. It wasn't a good day. **She** hadn't had a good day in weeks, not since **she** started at this new school.

2.

It was the 31st December 1999. The day **I** had been working towards for the past eight years. The day that was sure to change **my** life. In fact, if **my** work and predictions were right, the day that would change all **our** lives.

3. **Yellow** = A **Pink** = B **Green** = C **Purple** = D

Following the **outbreak of war**, **Sam** lives at **Aunt Sarah's house in the country** with his **mother and sister, Alice**. His **father hasn't returned from fighting and is presumed dead**, and **Aunt Sarah's house holds mysteries** Sam doesn't yet understand.

4. An example response would be:

They're creating a sense of mystery around the door by making the reader wonder why it needs a guardian.

5. Example:

Yellow = Character **Pink** = Setting **Purple** = Action

Looking up, an image of the window flashed into Sam's mind – the curling paint of the frame, the way the dust formed shapes against the glass if you stared at it long enough – and then it was gone, quick as a swallow. Next to him, the garden breathed summer through the open window, and Sam could hear the faint click of the gardener's spade as he dug a new bed next to the greenhouses. There was a squeal from below, and Sam's eyes shifted to his mother as she chased Alice across the lawn, their voices flashing between sunlight and the long shadow of the house.

When he was as small as Alice, it was Father who chased him around their small garden, hopping up the stepping stone-path, crocodile-infested grass to either side. He remembered his mother calling them in to tea from the house, smaller than this one, and somehow friendlier. His old bedroom had looked out over the back, the next street's roofs opposite and the gardens stretching to either side. Here, there were no neighbours, and the garden disappeared in trees. Sam's mother said they should be grateful to Aunt Sarah for letting them stay, but he had not wanted to move in with the old woman who sat under a blanket on the terrace despite the warmth of the day. He watched her watching Mother and Alice, and pictured the slow blink of her papery eye-lids.

LESSON 2

Interpreting Characters

Quiz

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. True
6. False
7. False
8. True
9. True
10. True

PRACTISE

1.
 - a. Sam
 - b. Mother, Alice, the gardener and Father
 - c. Minor
 - d. Sam

2. She enjoys playing with Alice.

3. He enjoyed playing with Sam when he was younger.

4. Aside from the words 'old woman', the phrase 'slow blink of her papery eyelids' also makes us think of a slowing, elderly woman with thin, wrinkled eyelids.

5. She knows what's behind the attic door and why Sam can't go in there.

LESSON 3

Interpreting Atmospheric Description

Quiz

1. c
2. True
3. a
4. b
5. True
6. False. The weather is a good tool for setting the atmosphere of the text!
7. d
8. d
9. b
10. b

PRACTISE

1. Examples: A mysterious atmosphere; a tense atmosphere.

2. A

3.

Setting	Atmosphere
a) A retirement home	1. Relaxed and happy
b) The beach in summer time	2. Scary and tense
c) A dark forest at night	3. Dull and slow-moving
d) A birthday party	4. Excited and energetic

4. Example: the calm relaxed atmosphere of summer.

5. Example: an atmosphere of mystery and suspense.

APPLY

Annotating is very personal, and you may not have highlighted the same chunks of text. However, the following is a good example and many of the highlights here contain key information that you should have spotted.

Key

Yellow = Character Pink = Setting Green = Action

Text B

Lisa turned off the engine and wished she'd worn a better top, one that didn't stick to her back like cling-film.

Ahead of her, the cars stretched out in thin metal ribbons, their colours hot and shining, like beetle-shells: midnight blue, volcanic red, tar black. In the rear-view mirror, cars and lorries snaked back behind her, windscreens blinding in the sun. She imagined touching the shimmering bonnets, and how her fingers would draw back with the pain. Somewhere, a car horn sounded, continuously, and Lisa scabbled for her phone for some music, before realising that she'd left it at home in her rush to leave.

She banged her head on the steering wheel in frustration.

Looking up, she caught the middle-

Protagonist, or main character, of this extract

Setting: this description of setting creates a tense atmosphere. The cars are described like insects with 'beetle-shells', making us think of them as packed together, scuttling and gross. Adjectives like 'volcanic red' and 'tar black' add to the unbearable atmosphere, which is as hot as a volcano and sticky and unappealing as tar.

aged woman in the neighbouring car looking quickly away. They were probably talking about her in that car, the woman and the driver. She imagined their conversation: "Honestly, some people – you'd think they could get a grip on themselves. I mean, it's only a traffic jam."

"Road rage, darling. People just haven't got the patience to wait these days."

Lisa pictured them, smug in their air-conditioned isolation. They probably didn't have to be in work fifteen minutes ago, probably didn't have a manager who would look at the clock, pointedly, as she rushed in, sweating and dishevelled, hovering nearby while Lisa tried to engage a busy stranger in unwanted conversation about insurance. This couple had all their insurance – car, home, life – sorted. This couple, she thought, didn't have children or, if they did, they were grown-up and gone, not lying impossibly deeply asleep when they should be dressed, breakfasted and out the door to school. This couple had probably had a pot of tea and home-made marmalade for breakfast – maybe with a half-grapefruit each – rather than a gulp of instant coffee.

Lisa's stomach grumbled.

The car horn was still going, irritating as the whine of a mosquito on a hot night.

You don't know these people, she said to herself. They might be perfectly nice: stop moaning. You sound like that car horn. The thought of a day at the call-centre, heat trapped beneath the low ceiling and bouncing down the lines, pressed down on her, making her head ache.

She hadn't slept well last night. Jim, supposedly sitting his first GCSE in three days, had arrived home long after midnight, waking her up where she'd fallen asleep on the torn couch in front of some romcom. If he hadn't made such a noise trying to lock the door behind him, she'd have thought he was a

Action: this tells us that she was in such a hurry she didn't have time for breakfast.

Setting: the noise of the cars adds to the tension of the situation – it shows people are impatient and it is an annoying sound, like a mosquito.

Setting: the writer creates a horrible, oppressive atmosphere in the call centre she works in.

Character: Jim seems quite irresponsible because of staying out so late before his exams and making a noise when he got in so late.

burglar – or worse, Pete, trying his luck with his old keys. Once she'd said her piece to Jim, and turned off all the lights, she lay in bed, cooking in the tiny bedroom where the day's oily heat always seemed to collect and congeal.

She hadn't had time to wake him properly this morning, yelling up the stairs before she slammed the door behind her.

Lisa rubbed her eyes fretfully, and rolled down the window on the passenger side, hoping for a breath of green air from the fields that bordered the motorway.

To her left, an oak tree stood on a ridge, the crop running carefully around its huge base: it must have been standing there for several hundred years, judging by its size, Lisa thought. When she was little, they'd had an old oak in their garden; her mother had always complained it took the light from the back windows, but Lisa had loved to climb among its broad branches and, at night, she would listen to the quietening sounds of the birds it sheltered, settling for the night.

The oak tree caught the sun across the fields now, like a beacon.

The sudden blare of a horn close by shook Lisa's gaze, and she turned back to the road: the cars in front were gone, moving away, gaps

Character: someone Lisa no longer wants in her life so has taken measures to keep him locked out – perhaps an old boyfriend?

Setting: creates an unpleasant image of her bedroom, the opposite of the calm and relaxing place a bedroom should be.

Action: suggests Lisa is annoyed and frustrated.

Action: here the writer suggests Lisa is both tired and anxious.

Setting: the green fields are a contrast to her tiny bedroom and oppressive workplace.

Setting and action: her memory is another contrast with her difficult present – when she was young and free.

Setting: another contrast with the bedroom, workplace and traffic jam.

Action: the noise of the car horn brings the character back to the unpleasant atmosphere of her current situation.

opening between them, and the cars behind her were pulling out to pass her. The couple in the car next to her would be long gone, she realised, into the rest of their pleasant day, while she sat stuck, in the middle of a road, past behind her, future ahead, with no exits, and everyone passing her.

Slowly, she switched on the engine.

Action and character: the adverb “slowly” implies her reluctance to go to her job.