



MODULE 6 ANSWERS

Reading for Understanding: 19th Century Texts and Non-Fiction

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LESSON 1

An Overview of 19th Century Non-Fiction

Quiz

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

PRACTISE

1.

a.

This is an extract from a **travel journal** written in 1860. The writer describes a **recent train journey** to **Scotland**.

Form	Who	What	Where
Travel journal	The journal writer	A train journey	Scotland

b.

In this extract from *The **Diary** of **Lady Emma***, the writer is at a **ball in Northumberland**. She describes **meeting Queen Victoria** for the first time.

Form	Who	What	Where
Diary	Lady Emma	Meeting Queen Victoria	A ball in Northumberland

c.

This is an extract from a **Victorian newspaper**. The writer describes a **crime** that was recently committed in **Rochester**.

Form	Who	What	Where
Newspaper article	The article writer	A crime	Rochester

- 2.
- a. b and c
 - b. a and d
 - c. a and c
 - d. a and d
 - e. b and c
 - f. b and c
3. The writer is a person who works with numbers but he has had enough for the day, so he pesters his boss about leaving work early.

4.

a.

Barnaby and I descended the stairs of the offices from our **eyrie** on the fourth storey and, so dark is the wood panelling, by the time we reached the bottom of the stairwell, we were quite convinced it was night already.

Eyrie: It's on the fourth storey of the building so it must be up quite high. They take a long time to get to the bottom of the stairs which supports this. We can logically guess that an eyrie is a place high up in the sky.

b.

Imagine our surprise upon discovering the sun still in the sky, and the bells of St Paul's nearby **proclaiming** it only 5 o' clock!

Proclaiming: It's a surprise to the narrator that it's the time it is. St Paul's is a church, and the church bells ringing make a noise. The word 'proclaiming' probably means something relating to 'letting them know' or 'making noise' about something - in this case, the time.

c.

We crossed the courtyard with light steps indeed, Mother, to be free for the evening, and young in London, wandering the gardens of the **Inns of Court**, until we discovered that, having missed our chance of **luncheon**, we were starved.

Inns of Court: Even if you don't recognise the Inns of Court, we know they're a place because they have gardens. They're also somewhere in London.

Luncheon: Luncheon is similar to the word lunch, and we know they are hungry now at 5pm. We can probably safely guess that luncheon is a midday meal they have missed.

APPLY

Key

Yellow = Setting

Pink = Character

Green = Action

A Visit to the Seaside.

Extract from the diary of a fifteen-year-old girl, Emily Marwain, describing a family holiday at the seaside in the 1890s.

The boarding-house that Father has chosen is two streets behind the seafront, thus shielding us from the worst of the sea's gusting winds. Mother is relieved, it being far easier to retain one's bonnet out of the wind, but Letty and I cannot help feeling that it might have been fun to be chased halfway down the street by a breeze.

I should not complain, however, as the landlady – Mrs Hansom, a widow – keeps the place very clean and the food is good. Mrs Hansom puts together a small picnic collation for us each day so that, once breakfasted, we collect together our belongings and are at the beach in only a few minutes. There, we make our way to the bathing hut we have hired for the week, and the attendant sets out chairs for Father and Mother beneath a large umbrella, while Letty and I lay out our blanket. Father promptly removes his shoes and settles himself into the deckchair with his book; Mother sits beside him, her face swathed in a veil beneath the enormous sun bonnet, and takes out her sewing.

Gives us a setting.

Setting: the sea is rough, so they aren't anywhere tropical!

Character: Mother is well-presented and concerned about her appearance.

Character: Letty and Emily are not as worried about dressing properly as their mother.

Character: Mrs Hansom, through her actions, is portrayed as a nice lady.

Action: This seems like a well-rehearsed routine; it seems like they do this a lot.

The beach is mostly sand, lined with bathing huts, and further along, there are some large rocks with fine pools that little Rupert loves to explore, armed with his fishing net, Nurse following behind him with a bucket.

Letty and I are far more daring, unpacking out bathing dresses and signalling the attendant to pull the beach hut closer to the water. Once he has done so, we enter and change, before braving the steps down and dipping a first, tentative toe into the bracing waters of the English Channel. My goodness, how cold it is at that first dip! But the trick is to be brave and wade out further, even up to our waists if the sun is shining. The bathing dresses really are a marvel, with sleeves to the elbow and skirts all the way up to the knee: daring indeed! But the bloomers and stockings beneath preserve our modesty, so we can enjoy our freedom.

Father's bathing costume is woollen and striped, and he has not donned it since Letty and I stifled a giggle on the first day.

"Minxes!" he pronounced lightly, but we knew he was offended, and were heartily sorry.

Still, one can forget everything sad at the seaside, I am convinced.

After our watery adventure, Letty and I dry in the sun and, sometimes, if we are feeling particularly brave, we wander along the beach a way to see the sights. There are donkey rides at one end for little children, and we took Rupert yesterday. How

Setting: The beach sounds like a wonderful place for children to explore and have fun.

Characters: Letty and Emily are quite daring and brave.

Action: The way they are dressed tells us that this is in the past.

Setting: Again, this seems like a great place for children.

charming he looked in his sailor suit – but he was rather terrified, thinking he might fall off, and so we had to take him back to Nurse to be consoled with a jelly from Mrs Hansom’s basket.

Mother did not think that he would enjoy the Punch and Judy show on the parade, either. A few evenings ago, walking the promenade with Mother and Father while Rupert took his tea with Nurse, we stopped to watch, and it was quite the most brutal entertainment! Mother and Father hold that it would be too much for Rupert’s ‘delicate sensibility’, as they call it, at which Letty and I had to hold in our protestation. As we both agreed later, changing for bed, there is little delicate about Rupert: we have seen the way he pokes those jellied sea-anemones in the rock pools and, only yesterday, I caught him trying to pull the legs off a crab! I should think watching Mr Punch crack poor Judy around the head with his truncheon would be much to his taste.

But I am determined not to moan – it is rare for Father to have a chance to rest, and really, sitting on the steps of a bathing hut, toes paddling the sea, who can be sad?

Character: Rupert does not seem to be as brave as Letty and Emily. He’s young, as he has a Nursemaid.

Character: Perhaps Rupert isn’t as delicate as he pretends to be in front of the Nurse and his parents.

Character: Father is obviously a busy man, perhaps in his work.

Setting: Final image of a lovely, happy place.

LESSON 2

Reading Biographies and Autobiographies

Quiz

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

PRACTISE

1.

a.

Sophia Woodhead was a female spy in India in the late 1800s. In this extract, she experiences the Indian monsoon for the first time.

Purpose	To inform and describe
Audience	People who are interested in travel, specifically India
Form	Autobiography

b.

West Indian-born CC Bloom arrived in Britain on the HMT Empire Windrush in 1948. Stepping off the boat into the British fog at Tilbury Docks, he describes his first impressions of his new home.

Purpose	To describe
Audience	People interested in history, specifically the Windrush
Form	Autobiography

c.

Extract from *The Norwood Factor*, an biography about London-born pop star, Adelaide and her return to her hometown.

Purpose	To inform/describe
Audience	Music fans
Form	Biography

LESSON 3

Reading Articles

Quiz

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

PRACTISE

1.

a.

This article was published in The Times newspaper in 1997. The writer explores how the nation has reacted to the death of Princess Diana.

Purpose	To inform
Audience	British readers/people interested in the Royal Family, specifically Princess Diana

b.

This article was published in Teen Magazine in 2016. The writer shares her experience of studying for GCSEs.

Purpose	To inform
Audience	Teenagers, especially those studying GCSEs

c.

This article was published in The Liverpool Gazette in 1980. The writer, Lilly Haines, talks about her children moving away from home.

Purpose	To describe
Audience	Adults, especially parents/those who have children leaving home

d.

This article was published in The Guardian in 2010. The writer shares his opinion about public transport.

Purpose	To argue/persuade
Audience	Adults/users of public transport

APPLY

Key

Yellow = Setting

Pink = Character

Green = Action

Extract from a broadsheet newspaper column written in 1989. The writer, Ian Slater, explores his experience of a family holiday by the sea in Devon.

“When I were a nipper,” my dad would begin, and the family would roll its eyes as one and settle in for a long journey, as he continued, “we didn’t ‘ave summer ‘olidays. We were lucky to get a day out in the park from me da.”

Well, we knew we’d be lucky to get a day of sun in Skegness.

As a child in 50s Lincolnshire, seaside holidays for us meant at least three days huddled on the beach, shivering beneath the blankets we’d brought to sit on, the wind blowing grit in our eyes and sandwiches, a thermos of cooling tea the only comfort. And Auntie Ethel would drink most of that.

But, beyond those grey clouds of misery, there always lurked a day or two of sunshine: out came the shorts, while Mum and Auntie Ethel smeared Shiphams meat paste on a growing pile of sandwiches and reached for – oh joy – a packet of Garibaldi biscuits to add to the feast, then a race to the seafront, past the stalls from which

Character: The father likes to tell stories of the past and does so a lot because the family seem quite bored of them.

Setting: Suggests uncomfortable childhood holidays.

Character: Auntie Ethel doesn’t seem very thoughtful.

Setting: Despite the misery depicted in the previous paragraph, there are some happy memories of simple pleasures.

clattered plastic buckets and spades, onto that glorious golden sand, and hours of sandcastle-building and paddling.

So it wasn't all bad.

Now it's me starting with the "When I was a kid" stories, while my teenagers roll their eyes in the back. Because I've got a lot of convincing to do: guilt-ridden with all the flights (and, let's face it, short of cash), after years of the Costa, we're taking our first British holiday and heading for Devon. And Ben, 10, Sarah, 13, and Amber, 15, are not happy bunnies.

Time for a round of "We're All Going on a Summer Holiday", I think to myself.

You'd have thought it would all have gone downhill from there, wouldn't you?

But the funny thing is, it didn't. In fact, we had one of the best holidays of our family life so far. OK, so the sun wasn't scorching hot. But, to be honest, with a family like mine, that's no bad thing – we usually spend the first part of the week red as lobsters and the second half peeling, with one day of glorious tan in between to make us feel vaguely Continental. Still, there was sun. And it was warm.

And so, far from huddling in cagoules, we were out there every day – all five of us – in our shorts and bikinis (OK, not me). Ben and I made epic sandcastles, and the girls, after a bit of shrugging, joined in and remembered what fun it can be. We played beach volley-ball. We bought a couple of nets and went rock-pooling. I defy anyone not to find wonders in the bottom of a

Character: Now the writer, Ian Slater, has become like his father with telling his childhood stories.

Character: The children expect holidays abroad.

Setting: The sun represents positivity.

Action: This description creates an image of happy childhood memories being created.

rock pool: scabbling hermit crabs, the wave of sea-anemones, seaweed tangling underfoot, the dart of a translucent shrimp. Sarah and Amber hired bodyboards with their mum and found that, actually, a day spent away from their music can be fun.

Not everything was perfect, of course. We had the inevitable arguments about how skimpy a bikini was permissible (honestly, sometimes I wish we lived in the days when girls wore full-length dresses to swim), and I had to tell Ben off for torturing sea-anemones on the first day, and it wasn't quite warm enough to lie in the sun and read without some kind of warm clothing. And the sandwiches still ended up with sand in them ("But Dad, that's why they're called sandwiches," explained Amber, sarcastically).

But for me, there was something wonderful in the way things haven't changed that much: there are still donkey-rides and bucket-and-spade stalls and people shrieking in the sea because it's a lot colder than it looks.

And I think the reason is that, put someone on a patch of sand, and they can't help digging and building and patting it into shape. The seaside turns us all into inquisitive kids again.

And when, in the car on the way home, my wife turned to me and said ruefully, "Better start saving for Spain next year, then," the wail of protest from the back seat was deafening.

It's amazing what kids can hear through their headphones.

Action: The arguments add realism to the situation. They have a good time but still have the inevitable family squabbles.

Character: The writer is nostalgic about the past and pleased that he can have these experiences with his children.

Setting: The seaside bringing the child out in all of us is a common thing.

Character: The wail of protest reveals how much the children enjoyed their time.