

Holiday Challenge: Reading

'5 Challenges for 5 Days'

This booklet is designed to keep your brains 'ticking over' during the half term break. Just a few short activities will mean that you return to school ready to learn and raring to go! Try to really impress your teacher by completing one challenge for each day of the holidays. Circle any questions that you'd like some more help with when term starts again.



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Day One – Reading

As far as Pavel was concerned, it had been a disastrous morning. His intention had been to confront Mr Bradwell about the effect the new road was going to have on the environment – not in an aggressive manner, but hopefully in a way that would prick his conscience. The reality, however, had been very different. After Pavel had poured out his carefully rehearsed argument, there had been an awkward silence. Then, with a mischievous smile, Mr Bradwell had pulled out a detailed plan of the road; there in the corner was an official stamp declaring ‘Approved’ ... by Pavel’s dad.

Challenges for Day 1

Challenge 1:

Set a timer. Read the extract. How many seconds did it take you?

Challenge 2:

Write down any words you didn’t understand.

Discuss them with an adult and look them up in a dictionary.

5 for 5 Reading Questions

Challenge 3:

a) Find and copy the word which means ‘terrible’.

b) Find and copy the group of words which suggest that Pavel had prepared what he wanted to say to Mr Bradwell.

Challenge 4:

Why did Pavel want to meet Mr Bradwell?

Challenge 5:

What evidence is there that Pavel cares deeply about the environment?

Day Two – Reading

She had only recently retreated to the corner to rest. The battle to paralyse and wrap up the moth had been epic and, even though she had already taken her first feed, she was too tired to stay in such a vulnerable position in the middle of her web. The last thing she needed was to have to defend her catch, yet almost immediately she felt the signature vibrations of a rival trying to steal her precious meal. Quick as lightning, she dashed out to confront the intruder: a wasp, which came with the added threat of a dangerous sting.

Challenges for Day 2

Challenge 1:

Set a timer. Read the extract. How many seconds did it take you?

Challenge 2:

Write down any words you didn't understand.

Discuss them with an adult and look them up in a dictionary.

Challenge 3:

What sort of creature is the poem about? Give evidence to support your answer.

Challenge 4:

How was the wasp dangerous to the creature? Write down two ways.

1. _____

2. _____

Challenge 5:

How was the behaviour of the creature different at the beginning of the extract to the end? Give evidence from the text.

Day Three – Reading

‘You know I hate to criticise,’ said Alex who was, in fact, enjoying every syllable of his rant. ‘You are supposed to be an expert gardener, even if you are technically just an amateur. But just look at these carrots; they’re purple!’

‘They’re supposed to be purple,’ protested Prisha. ‘Apparently, almost all carrots were originally that colour, but growers noticed that some were orange, so they bred them that way.’

‘You call that an explanation! What did they do, cross-breed them with satsumas? Carrots are orange and always have been. You’ll be telling me that tomatoes aren’t really vegetables next!’

Challenge 1:

Set a timer. Read the extract. How many seconds did it take you?

Challenge 2:

Write down any words you didn’t understand.

Discuss them with an adult and look them up in a dictionary.

Challenge 3:

Find and copy the word closest in meaning to:

- a) talented _____
 b) complained _____

Challenge 4:

Why did Alex think the carrots had been cross-bred with satsumas?

Challenge 5:

What does this extract tell us about Alex’s attitude towards Prisha? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

Day Four – Reading

According to some experts, children should not be allowed online for more than two hours per day. However, mobile technology is moving ahead so quickly that those ideas might have to be rethought. After all, devices these days are so advanced that users have unrestricted access to the internet whenever they want. Therefore, a more relevant question might be this: at what age should we let youngsters have smartphones? Getting them too young might mean that they are tempted to seek inappropriate content far too early. Yet leaving it too late could make children feel excluded from their friendship groups.

Challenges for Day 4

Challenge 1:

Set a timer. Read the extract. How many seconds did it take you?

Challenge 2:

Write down any words you didn't understand.

Discuss them with an adult and look them up in a dictionary.

5 for 5 Reading Questions

Challenge 3:

In line 5 it says: 'users have *unrestricted access to the internet*'.

Which of the following is the best definition of the word 'unrestricted'? **Tick one.**

limited blocked not controlled

Challenge 4:

Why does the author think that the ideas on **how long** children spend on the internet need to be rethought?

Challenge 5:

The author gives a balanced view of the issue. **True or false?**
Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

Day Five – Reading

Dear Miss Strangewart,

I am writing to offer my sincere apologies for my behaviour in your class. The awkward atmosphere made it very apparent to me just how sad and cross I had made you. Had I known that you were teaching Ghastly Rudeness, I would naturally have come crashing in through the door, scraped my chair and whistled loudly while you were talking. Unfortunately, I had it down as an Aggressive Silence lesson on my timetable. I know you expect better from the students of Hag Academy. I promise it won't happen again, you old witch.

Yours insolently,
Griselda

Challenge 1:

Set a timer. Read the extract. How many seconds did it take you?

Challenge 2:

Write down any words you didn't understand. Discuss them with an adult and look them up in a dictionary.

5 for 5 Reading Questions

Challenge 3:

Write down **two unusual things** which were expected of the students in the lesson.

1. _____

2. _____

Challenge 4:

Find and copy the group of words which explain how Griselda knew that she had annoyed Miss Strangewart.

Challenge 5:

How is this letter of apology unusual for one written from a pupil to a teacher? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

Day 3	Answer	Challenge 3	a) expert b) protested	Challenge 4	Because they were orange.	Challenge 5	He seems to have a low opinion of Prisha. For instance, his comment about 'supposed to be an expert' suggests that he doesn't respect her knowledge or opinion. In addition, he is sarcastic towards her, making a joke about cross-breeding with the satsumas. This implies he thinks he knows better than her.
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Day 2	Answer	Challenge 3	A spider. Evidence: it mentions being in the middle of a web.	Challenge 4	It could steal the meal (the moth). It could sting the spider.	Challenge 5	At the beginning, the narrator was tired and lacked energy (after catching the moth). The text stated that 'she was too tired to stay in such a vulnerable position'. However, at the end she was energetic and moved 'Quick as lightning' in response to the wasp.
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Day 1	Answer	Challenge 3	a) disastrous b) carefully rehearsed (his argument)	Challenge 4	To discuss the effect of the new road on the environment.	Challenge 5	He was concerned enough about the effect of the road on the environment to arrange the meeting. Furthermore, he had made the effort to rehearse his arguments. Finally, the fact that he was so upset when he realised the road had been approved, suggests that he cared deeply about it.
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Holiday Challenge: Reading '5 Challenges for 5 Days' Answers

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Day 1	Answer	Challenge 3 a) disastrous b) carefully rehearsed (his argument)	Challenge 4 To discuss the effect of the new road on the environment.	Challenge 5 He was concerned enough about the effect of the road on the environment to arrange the meeting. Furthermore, he had made the effort to rehearse his arguments. Finally, the fact that he was so upset when he realised the road had been approved, suggests that he cared deeply about it.
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Day 5	Answer	Challenge 3	Two from the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • crashing through the door • scraping chairs • whistling while the teacher is talking 	Challenge 4	'The awkward atmosphere' (made it very apparent)	Challenge 5	Usually a letter of apology to a teacher would be polite and formal. However, Griselda calls the teacher an 'old witch' which appears very disrespectful. Furthermore, she finishes the letter 'Yours insolently' rather than the standard way of 'Yours sincerely' which also appears rude.
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Day 4	Answer	Challenge 3	not controlled	Challenge 4	Because mobile technology has moved on so quickly it is very difficult to restrict the length of time children are on a device (because smartphones provide easy internet access).	Challenge 5	True. The author argues that getting a smartphone too young could mean they can access inappropriate content too early. However, he balances this with the view that leaving it too late can exclude children from their friendship groups. So, he presents both points of view.
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