

Practice Text: All Summer in a Day

Cracking the questions

Question	Answer	CD/Mark	Useful strategies
1. What information does the word "concussion" give you in the following sentence? "and the concussion of storms so heavy they were tidal waves come over the islands."	The word "concussion" emphasises the weight and endlessness of the storms – heavy enough to knock you out, with a noise that gives you a terrible headache.	2g 1 mark	Question focus: explain how meaning is enhanced by choice of words. Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully read the question, marking key words. Consider where in the text you will find the information. Carefully read that part of the story.
2. Do you think "the endless shaking down of clear bead necklaces" (paragraph 6) is a good description? Yes/No Explain your answer.	Yes, the description is effective because the sound is endless; it makes an irregular drumming sound just as beads would make and raindrops resemble clear beads. No, the description is not effective because clear bead necklaces sound attractive whereas the people in this story are fed up with the rain.	2g 1 mark	Question focus: evaluate the author's use of language for impact. Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully read the question, marking key words. Consider where in the text you will find the information. Scan that part of the text for the words given. Carefully read a few sentences either side of the words to confirm the meaning.
3. Why are these children living on Venus?	They are the children of the scientists or "rocket men and women" (line 15) who had come to Venus to "set up a civilisation and live out their lives" (line 16).	2b 1 mark	Question focus: retrieve and record information. Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully read the question, marking key words. Consider where in the text you will find the information. Scan that part of the text, looking for the information.
4. Tick the statements that we know are true in the story. <input type="checkbox"/> The children are excited. <input type="checkbox"/> The children remember seeing the sun before. <input type="checkbox"/> Margot is older than the children. <input type="checkbox"/> The children think the sun is like a coin.	The children are excited. Margot is older than the children.	2c 2 marks	Question focus: summarise information from more than one paragraph. Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully read the question, marking key words. Consider where in the text each statement might be found. Scan the text, looking for information about each of these statements. Award 1 mark for each statement correctly identified, up to a total of 2 marks.
5. Find and copy two different types of rainfall from the paragraph beginning "It had been raining for seven years" (paragraph 4).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A "sweet crystal fall of showers" (line 12). "concussion of storms so heavy they were tidal waves come over the islands" (lines 12–13). 	2d 2 marks	Question focus: making inferences from details stated and implied. Strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carefully read the question, marking key words. Scan the text for descriptions of rainfall. Note down descriptions. Award 1 mark for each type of rainfall identified.

<p>6. Find and copy a metaphor for the sun and one for the rain in the final paragraph.</p>	<p>The sun is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "gold" (line 23) • "a coin large enough to buy the world" (lines 23–24). <p>The rain is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a "tattoo drum" (line 26) • "the endless shaking down of clear bead necklaces" (line 26). 	<p>2g 2 marks</p>	<p><i>Question focus: how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.</i></p> <p><i>Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Scan the text for metaphors for the sun and rain. • Carefully read a few sentences either side of the words to confirm the meaning. <p>Award 1 mark each for a metaphor for the rain and the sun in this text.</p>
<p>7. Explain why the children's dreams were always destroyed.</p>	<p>They dreamed of seeing the sun and feeling its warmth but they always woke up to rain.</p>	<p>2d 1 mark</p>	<p><i>Question focus: explaining inference using ideas from the text.</i></p> <p><i>Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Consider where in the text this information is most likely to be. • Carefully read that part of the text, looking for the answer to the question.
<p>8. The final paragraph refers to "the stunned world". What does this mean?</p>	<p>Everything and everyone on the planet was surprised when the rain stopped and the sun came out.</p>	<p>2a 1 mark</p>	<p><i>Question focus: discuss the meaning of a word in its context.</i></p> <p><i>Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Scan the final paragraph looking for the phrase. • Carefully read that part of the text, looking for the answer to the question.
<p>9. Tick the four statements that are most useful in summarising this extract from a story.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> All of the children are nine years old.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Margot is older than the children.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> They live on Venus with their parents who are scientists.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> They have a schoolroom.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> They have come to Venus to rebuild a civilisation.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It rains endlessly on Venus.</p>	<p>All of the children are nine years old.</p> <p>They live on Venus with their parents who are Scientists.</p> <p>They have come to Venus to rebuild a civilisation.</p> <p>It rains endlessly on Venus.</p>	<p>2c 1 mark</p>	<p><i>Question focus: summarise information from more than one paragraph.</i></p> <p><i>Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Consider where in the text you will find the information. • Scan that part of the text, looking for the information.