



Plan for Week

For the remaining few weeks of term we are going to be putting all the skills we have been practicing together.

You will have two reading comprehensions which have questions which are similar to the type you would get in reading comprehension tests. They will have all sorts of different questions but they will include you having to:

Predict

Infer

Skim and scan

Give reasons for your answers – always remember that with these questions it is best to use the format I think because.



Monday

The Butterfly Lion

Bertie was born in South Africa, in a remote farmhouse near a place called Timbavati. It was shortly after Bertie first started to walk that his mother and father decided a fence must be put around the farmhouse to make a compound where Bertie could play in safety. It wouldn't keep the snakes out – nothing could do that – but at least Bertie would be safe now from the leopards, and the lions and the spotted hyenas. Enclosed within the compound were the lawn and gardens at the front of the house, and the stables and barns at the back – all the room a child would need or want, you might think. But not Bertie.

The farm stretched as far as the eye could see in all directions, twenty thousand acres of veld. Bertie's father farmed cattle, but times were hard. The rains had failed too often, and many of the rivers and waterholes had all but dried up. With fewer wildebeest and impala to prey on, the lions and leopards would sneak up on the cattle whenever they could. So Bertie's father was more often than not away from home with his men, guarding the cattle. Every time he left, he'd say the same thing: "Don't you ever open that gate, Bertie, you hear me? There's lions out there, leopards, elephants, hyenas. You stay put, you hear?" Bertie would stand at the fence and watch him ride out, and he would be left behind with his mother, who was also his teacher. There were no schools for a hundred miles. And his mother too was always warning him to stay inside the fence. "Look what happened in *Peter and the Wolf*," she would say.

His mother was often sick with malaria, and even when she wasn't sick she would be listless and sad. There were good days, days when she would play the piano for him and play hide-and-seek around the compound. Or he'd sit on her lap on the sofa out on the veranda and she'd just talk and talk, all about her home in England, about how much she hated the wildness and the loneliness of Africa, and about how Bertie was everything to her. But they were rare days. Every morning he'd climb into her bed and snuggle up to her, hoping against hope that today she'd be well and happy; but so often she wasn't, and Bertie would be left on his own again, to his own devices.



There was a waterhole downhill from the farmhouse, and some distance away. That waterhole, when there was water in it, became Bertie's whole world. He would spend hours in the dusty compound, his hands gripping the fence, looking out at the wonders of the veld, at the giraffes drinking, spread-legged, at the waterhole; at the browsing impala, tails twitching, alert; at the warthogs snorting and snuffling under the shade of the shingayi trees; at the baboons, the zebras, the wildebeests, and the elephants bathing in the mud. But the moment Bertie always longed for was when a pride of lions came padding out of the veld. The impala were the first to spring away, then the zebra would panic and gallop off. Within seconds the lions would have the waterhole to themselves, and they would crouch to drink.

The Butterfly Lion by Michael Morpurgo



Questions

- 1 Which of these words has a similar meaning to *'listless'*?

bouncy wide-awake lifeless energetic [1 mark]

- 2 How far away was the nearest school?

[1 mark]

- 3 Decide whether each statement about the extract is true or false.

[1 mark]

	True	False
Bertie's mother was sick with malaria.		
The fence was built to protect the family from burglars.		
When the lions came to the waterhole, the other animals left.		
Bertie spent hours holding the fence and looking at the animals.		

- 4 *'It wouldn't keep the snakes out – nothing could do that...'*

Why do you think the fence couldn't stop snakes from getting into the compound?

[1 mark]

- 5 *'...all the room a child would need or want, you might think. But not Bertie.'*

Why do you think the author chose to write 'But not Bertie' as a short sentence?

[2 marks]

- 6 *'The impala were the first to spring away...'*

What does 'spring' tell you about how the impala moved?

[1 mark]

- 7 Describe what it was like at the waterhole before and after the pride of lions arrived.

[1 mark]



Answers

Teaching assessment

1 lifeless

1 mark (Content Domain 2a)

2 100 miles

1 mark (Content Domain 2b)

3

	True	False
Bertie's mother was sick with malaria.	✓	
The fence was built to protect the family from burglars.		✓
When the lions came to the waterhole, the other animals left.	✓	
Bertie spent hours holding the fence and looking at the animals.	✓	

1 mark for all four correct (Content Domain 2c)

4

Expected standard: Pupils should infer that the fence couldn't keep snakes out as snakes are small and agile and so would be able to slither under it or through any small gaps.

1 mark (Content Domain 2d)

5

Expected standard: Pupils should explain that by writing a short sentence, the author has made the sentence stand out. He has drawn our attention to the words '*But not Bertie*'.

1 mark (Content Domain 2g)

Extension: Some pupils may be able to further explain that by drawing our attention to these words, the author has hinted that Bertie may leave the compound.

1 additional mark (Content Domain 2g)

6

Expected standard: Pupils should explain that the word '*spring*' implies that the impala moved quickly and that they were jumpy.

1 mark (Content Domain 2g)

7

Expected standard: Pupils should explain that the waterhole was busy and being used by lots of different types of animals before the lions arrived, and afterwards it was quieter with just the lions there because the other animals had run away.

1 mark (Content Domain 2h)

8

Expected standard: Pupils should write any **two** from:

- play the piano for him;
- play hide-and-seek around the compound;
- let him sit on her lap on the sofa and talk about England.

1 mark (Content Domain 2b)

9

Expected standard: Pupils should infer that Bertie's father needed to guard the cattle to prevent the lions and leopards from killing them.

1 mark (Content Domain 2d)



8 Write **two** things Bertie's mother did when she was feeling well.

[1 mark]

9 Why did Bertie's father need to guard the cattle?

_____ [1 mark]

10 Match the words to the definitions:

[1 mark]

veld

an outdoor seating area

veranda

open grassy country in Africa

compound

an enclosed area of land



Answers

10

veld

an outdoor seating area

veranda

open grassy country in Africa

compound

an enclosed area of land