

Step 1:

Look at the picture and identify the issue at stake.

Step 2:

Read the beginning of this article published in *The Guardian Weekly*.

Why study for a future we might not have?

In August, a Swedish teenager refused to go to school and sat outside her parliament to protest climate change inaction. Six months later, her strike has spread around the world.

By Matthew Taylor, Sandra Laville

Every day for nearly three weeks in August last year, instead of going to school, the then-15-year-old schoolgirl Greta Thunberg sat quietly on the cobblestones outside parliament in Central Stockholm, handing out leaflets that declared: 'I am doing this because you adults are shitting on my future.'

Over six months, Thunberg's strike against a lack of urgent climate action has spread. From four teens in The Hague in September, to thousands in Brussels, Canberra and London. Now, up to 70,000 schoolchildren each week are taking part in 270 towns and cities worldwide.

This Friday, thousands of pupils will walk out of lessons at schools and colleges across Britain to express their own growing concern about the escalating climate crisis. On 15 March teens around the world will strike to demand action from adults in power.

Individual protests have already been held in the UK, but this week's coordinated day of action is expected to result in walkouts in more than 30 towns and cities – from Truro in Cornwall to Ullapool in the Scottish Highlands.

Jake Woodier, of the UK Youth Climate Coalition, which is helping to coordinate the strikes, said Greta's message about the need for radical, urgent change had struck a chord with hundreds of thousands of young people in the UK.

'The images of what Greta did and then the huge strikes by schoolchildren in other countries have been widely shared by young people on social media and have already inspired people.'

He said young people were becoming increasingly radicalized by the environmental crisis and understand the need for urgent political action.

'Young people see what is happening – especially since the **IPCC** report last year, which spelled out that we only have 12 years left to avoid catastrophic climate change...they realize that politicians are nowhere near where they need to be on this and want to do something to change that.'

15 February 2019

1) Read the introduction and paragraph 1. Find some key information.

Who?	
Where?	
When?	
What?	
Why?	

2) Spot some of the places where the strike has already spread:



3) How many young people take part in the protest? Where?

4) What do the underlined words/phrases mean? Tick the correct answer:

Greta Thunberg sat quietly (...) handing out leaflets (...)

- ☐ Porter des pancartes
- ☐ Distribuer des dépliants
- ☐ Distribuer des questionnaires

Thunberg's strike against a lack of urgent climate action has spread.

- ☐ A été médiatisé
- ☐ A gagné le reste du monde
- ☐ A fait long feu

This week's coordinated day of action is expected to result in walkouts in more than 30 towns and cities.

- ☐ Des manifestations
- ☐ Des promenades
- ☐ Des grèves

Jake Woodier (...) said Greta's message about the need for radical, urgent change had struck a chord with hundreds of thousands of young people in the UK.

- ☐ A été écouté par
- ☐ A été transmis à
- ☐ A attiré l'attention de

5) Now sum up the article in a few sentences, using your own words.

step 3

1) What is a speech? Read the definition and fill in the blanks, using the words:

AUDIENCE – SPEAKER – DELIVERS – MEETING - OPINIONS - MESSAGE

A speech is when someone a to an gathered in a or conference. The presents his and thoughts.

2) According to you, what makes a good speech? Scan the list of items below. Tick the ones you think are essential features and get ready to say why:

Speak your mind and show your emotions	
Use body language (e.g. gesturing, smiling...)	
Interact with the audience. Ask questions.	
Grab the audience's attention right from the beginning	
Be very formal	
Never say 'I'	
Avoid speaking for too long	
Be clear	
Give a well-structured speech	
Be confident	

3) Now listen to a speech and answer the following questions :

a) Who is the speaker? What do you know about her or what can you find out?

b) On what occasion was the speech made?

c) What is the speech about?

Detailed comprehension:

d) How does she stress that the situation is urgent? Fill in the blanks. Then, answer the question, using your own words:

'According to the IPCC (*Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*), we are less than years away from not being able to undo our'

e) Fill in the blanks. Then, answer the questions:

'(...) At places like Davos, people like to tell But their financial success has come with an unthinkable price tag. And on climate change, we have to acknowledge we have failed. All in their present form have done so, and the has failed to create broad public awareness.

But have not yet failed.

Yes, we are failing, but there is still time to everything
We can still this. We still have everything in our hands '

- Who is she blaming?

- What is the word that is repeated several times? Why?

- Is there still hope?

- What is the pronoun she uses most?

f) Focus on the second part of the speech.

'Now is the time to speak clearly. (...)

And either we do that or we don't. You say nothing in life is black or white. But that is a lie. A very dangerous lie. Either we prevent 1.5C of warming or we don't. Either we avoid setting off that irreversible chain reaction beyond human control or we don't. Either we choose to go on as a civilisation or we don't. That is as black or white as it gets. (...)

We must change almost everything in our current societies. The bigger your carbon footprint is, the bigger your duty. The bigger your platform, the bigger your responsibility.

Adults keep saying: 'We owe it to the young people to give them hope.'

But I don't want your hope. I don't want you to be hopeful. I want you to panic. I want you to feel the fear I feel every day. And then I want you to act.

I want you to act as you would in a crisis. I want you to act as if our house is on fire. Because it is.'

- Are the sentences long or short?
- Are they linked together? If so, what connecting words are used?
- What are the different pronouns used? Who are they referring to?
- Are any words or ideas repeated?
- Are there any images used?
- What is the message conveyed thanks to all these devices?