

C Appendices

1 Practice activity extracts

Some of the practice activities in this book require children to read an extract before completing their task. Details of each extract are given below.

● Extract A

This extract relates to the text continuation practice activity for question prompt 8 (see page 20).

The Silver Unicorn

Once upon a time there existed the wild woods that covered the country with tall, towering trees. In those days there were not that many people, and those who existed lived in small settlements. They needed the forests for their survival. They would hunt for animals and birds and pick fruit and berries from the trees.

Sylvac and his sister Vishnie lived in the Northern settlement and would often play in the woods trying to find animal footprints or birds' nests high up in the trees. They had heard that a beautiful unicorn lived in the woods, but they had never seen it. They had seen deer, wild boar, bears and wolves, but no unicorns.

One frosty winter morning, Sylvac and Vishnie set off into the woods as usual when they heard an eerie sound. A woodpecker often made tapping noises on the tree trunks and stags could be heard ripping the velvet from their fierce antlers, but this was a very different noise. This was tip-tap-tip; far deeper than a woodpecker and duller than a stag. What on earth was it? Sylvac and Vishnie moved quietly through the undergrowth, taking care to avoid standing on the newly fallen, rustling leaves and dry branches. Suddenly Vishnie stopped. Putting her finger up to her lips she signalled Sylvac to stand still and look ahead.

Just ahead of them the two children could see a body unlike anything else they had ever seen. A bent neck hid the head of the beast but then up it snapped, and Sylvac and Vishnie saw a most astonishing sight. Upon its horse's head glowed a silver horn. Like some ghostly phantom, the creature was a pale, lunar white. The silver unicorn! The creature had not heard the two children and continued as before making the strangest of noises. Putting its head down, the creature began headbutting a tree, trying hard to splinter off strips of bark. What was it trying to do?

Sylvac moved forward slowly with Vishnie tentatively following. Eventually they could see that the creature was feeding. By tearing the bark, it was exposing the sticky, yellow tree sap which it lapped up slowly. Every time the creature licked the tree the children heard it whimper a little; Vishnie could tell that something was wrong. At that moment, Sylvac edged closer. Crack! He had stood on a dry branch that went off like a gun shot.

● Extract B

This extract relates to the given text practice activity for question prompt 15 (see page 27).

Bridestone Castle
Bridestone
Pembrokeshire
Wales

5

1 October 1872

Dearest Sister,

10 I must first assure you that I am in good health, despite the news that I am about to convey. Today, as you know, I was to visit our dearest brother John. I spent the morning collecting the letters, money bonds and property deeds he had requested and, shortly after luncheon, the coach came for me. I settled myself down for the journey and, as is typical of me, soon fell asleep.

15 I do not know for how long I had dozed, when I was awakened by a loud noise. The coach then came to a sudden halt and I was thrown forwards. Somewhat stunned, I looked out of the window and found that a person, whom I thought to be a man, had appeared on horseback and was blocking the path of the coach. This mysterious figure was all dressed in black; his face hidden behind a mask. I took in little else of the scene that greeted me, however, as my attention was drawn to the large smoking pistol that was visible under his cloak. I cannot tell you, Louisa, how afraid I was; on seeing this, I
20 withdrew quickly into the coach and clutched my talisman.

Almost immediately, the door flung open. Still brandishing his pistol, the masked highwayman – for at this point I thought this must certainly be what he was – demanded all of my jewellery, including my treasured golden ring that I have worn each day for this last twelvemonth, the fur from
25 around my neck and all of the documents that I was bringing to dearest John. All of my efforts to scream and protest were met with peals of deep, but what appeared to me to be almost forced, laughter.

Having deprived me of everything of value, he then closed the door and told the driver to go on his way. As it seemed that I was not under the threat of
30 physical harm at this point, I dared to look out of the window once more. It was at this point that I thought I detected a hint of sadness and desperation in the thief's voice as I heard him mutter what sounded like, "Now that I have secured these prized documents, as well as such luxury spoils, he will perchance release her to me." This comment occasioned two separate thoughts
35 to arrive in my head almost simultaneously!

First, who could be so determined to obtain those documents that they should employ the services of such a rogue to acquire them? What possible value could they hold for another? I cannot think of anyone who would wish

- us harm in any way, can you? Further, only John, his footman Davies, you, and my servant, Rose, knew that I would be travelling after luncheon today, so how did he know where to attack the coach or what I was carrying? I would have thought him little more than an opportunist had he not subsequently alluded to a nameless 'he'.
- which brings me to my second thought – who is this 'she' that the masked bandit mentioned and why has she been separated from him? I am quite certain that I heard his comment correctly and I now cannot get the thought out of my head that this dreadful fiend is actually somehow in strife himself! A silly notion, I'm sure, but you know how my mind does wander, dear sister.
- Anyway, I am indeed much relieved that no harm was done to myself or to the driver during the whole affair. I arrived one hour delayed at our brother's and after having had a light supper I do now feel much refreshed. We intend to give further thought to the loss of the documents first thing in the morning and I shall of course send any more news shortly.
- I do hope and pray, dear sister, that you are well. Give my fondest love and affection to Father.
- Your loving sister,
Alice

● Extract C

This extract relates to the given text practice activity for question prompt 16 (see page 27).

- Stood there in his faded corduroy trousers, polo neck shirt and shabby winter coat, Connor Hodge let his mind drift onto the topic of lunch. He wasn't sure what he fancied but he knew that he was hungry. He looked at his watch. Nearly half past twelve; that explained the queue. There was little Connor hated more than queuing but he had no choice; he had to pay in a cheque and he also needed to check his balance to make sure that he had enough to see him through to his next pension cheque.
- He looked casually at the woman in front. Despite the cool breeze outside, she was only wearing a t-shirt, cropped trousers and flat open-toed sandals. From her profile, she looked quite young and her expression seemed to be one of agitation – probably as a result of the fact that the toddler she had with her was crying constantly and kept throwing her shoes and toys out of the pushchair. The more the child cried, the more the young mother looked uncomfortable. Finally, someone moved away from the counter and the young mother manoeuvred the pushchair in front of cashier number two.
- Connor was next in line so he took the cheque out of his frayed coat pocket and waited until the pretty girl behind window number one became free. He noticed

20 that she was wearing a trainee badge, which explained why she was taking longer with customers than some of the other cashiers. When his turn came, he pushed the cheque through the window slot to her and then glanced down at the small child who was now staring straight up at him from her pushchair.

At that moment, the front door to the bank flew open and crashed against the wall. Two men, dressed in black from head to foot, rushed up to the counter and, shoving Connor sideways, pointed a gun at the now petrified-looking trainee. The larger of the two masked men spoke in a gruff, muffled voice, "Open 25 the window or I'll shoot the lock off."

The girl complied and he then thrust a large backpack towards her. "Now give us all the cash in twenties – and don't try any funny business or the old man gets it!" It took Connor several seconds to realise that *he* was the 'old man' to whom they were referring. A cold shiver suddenly went through him and his 30 sense of fear rocketed when the gun turned towards his face.

The cashier looked momentarily stunned before she began stuffing the bag with notes. Connor could see her hands shaking violently as she tried to transfer the money quickly. But it wasn't quick enough. The second hand on the wall clock 35 crept forward painfully slowly; it almost felt to Connor that time was standing still. Why was she taking so long?

Still staring down the barrel of the pistol, he felt the whirl of panic welling up inside him. The young mother was wide-eyed and rooted to the spot, the rest of the queue was silent and even the child had stopped crying. All eyes were on 40 Connor and the masked men ...

● Extract D

This extract relates to the formal and informal writing practice activity (see page 38).

5 186 Baker's Lane
Bobbington
South Staffordshire
DY1 9HP
chhou@net3.co.uk
04/10/09

South Staffordshire District Council
Codsall
WV8 1PX

10 Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in reference to the new speed limit signs that have been assembled along Baker's Lane.

Whilst I fully support the Council's need to erect these signs, one of them has been placed directly to the left of our back gate. Although this new signpost 15 does not restrict car access to the garage, it does restrict caravan access to our hard-standing area. We have always parked our caravan at the bottom of our

garden; there are no other storage areas close by. Even if there were, we could not afford the storage and management fees that these places demand.

20 We are now in the very disagreeable position of being unable to move or to use our caravan. I would therefore be most grateful if one of your road and transport employees could return to our property and reposition this particular sign as soon as possible.

25 For your information, we have pre-paid for a two-week caravan holiday that starts next weekend. The sign must therefore have been removed by 9am on Saturday morning.

I look forward to hearing further from you.

Yours faithfully,

CH Hou

Mr Chin Hen Hou

● Extract E

This extract relates to the formal and informal writing practice activity (see page 38).

186 Baker's Lane
Bobbington
South Staffordshire
DY1 9HP

4 October 2009

5

Dear All,

Hope you're all okay. We're fine, although somewhat annoyed as we're currently unsure whether we'll be able to meet up next week after all.

10 The Council has – very helpfully – placed a new speed limit sign next to our back gate, which means that we can't get the caravan out! I've written to the Council today, politely requesting that they come and sort it asap, so that we can go on our hols. I've also told them that we've pre-paid to make it clear that we'll lose the cash if they don't act quickly. Mei-Li has started packing the caravan already and the boys are getting really excited, so fingers crossed
15 we can get out of the driveway on Saturday!

Mei-Li mentioned that Harry has broken his arm. Is he okay? Wasn't it this time last year when Jack broke his leg and our Lin twisted her ankle? I seem to remember it coinciding with our trip to Evesham and neither of them could play cricket. You certainly need eyes in the back of your head with kids!

20 *Anyway – must dash. We're working tonight, although it's fairly quiet at the moment so shouldn't be too stressful!*

We'll update you as soon as we hear from the Council.

Lots of love,

Chín Hen, Mei-Lí and Lín

25 *xxx*

P.S. Lín has passed her Piano Grade 5 and she's playing in the school concert on Friday. I can't believe she'll be choosing her GCSE options at the end of this term. How time flies!

● Extract F

This extract relates to the objective and subjective writing practice activity (see page 38).

The Baltic Cities Cruise begins with Copenhagen and ends at St Petersburg. The trip also includes visits to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland and Sweden.

The first of these tours takes place in May and the last one in September to avoid the worst weather conditions that can disrupt the itinerary.

- 5 The price for each tour varies according to the start date and cabin grade, but each cruise starts at £1079 per person, which includes all meals, entertainment, full cabin service and access to all facilities.

10 Please note: the holiday club for the under 16 age group is only available for cruises that take place during the school holidays. A baby-sitting service for the under 5s is available on all cruises.

To reserve your cabin, please complete the booking form and enclose it with a cheque for your 20% deposit. All remaining monies should be paid in full 56 days before the start of your cruise.

● Extract G

This extract relates to the objective and subjective writing practice activity (see page 38).

Fancy the holiday of a lifetime?

Then why not try a Baltic Cities Cruise?

5 We had a taste of so many countries in fourteen days that we felt like ancient explorers by the end of it! I loved Riga, the capital of Latvia – what an unexpected gem. We wandered around the huge market before taking a boat trip – it was fantastic. My husband, however, preferred Helsinki, where the buildings were indeed spectacular.

15 You can't mention the Baltic Tour, though, without talking about Russia. The Hermitage might be one of the most popular tourist attractions in St Petersburg, but the Summer Palace and its Gardens were just stunning.

20 The cruise liner made our holiday really special; from the great food and entertainment through to the star quality cabin service and facilities. We loved the two outdoor pools and conservatory-top café. Dressing for the formal dinner evenings was also a real highlight for us. (Make sure you smile for the roaming photographers on formal nights!)

30 All in all, you can't go wrong with a Baltic Cruise; for an 'all-in' holiday, at the reasonable price of £1,079 per person (in May), we certainly feel that it offers the explorer in all of us a fabulous travel experience and excellent value.

Marianne, Swindon

● Extract H

This extract relates to the functional and imaginative writing practice activity (see page 39).

Date: 27/09/09 **Time:** 12.15pm

Incident reported by: Mrs C Hughes

Contact details: 51 Sandringham Avenue, Brimstage, CH64 3PQ (0151 123 4567)

5 **Subject of incident:** Theft of motor vehicle

Responding officer: PC Suffield

Incident summary: Theft of vehicle belonging to Mrs C Hughes – last seen in The Pyramids car park at 9.15am.

10 **Incident details:** Mrs C Hughes arrived at The Pyramids car park at 9.10am. She parked on Level 1, locked and alarmed the vehicle and then exited the car park by the North stairwell. On leaving the car park, Mrs C Hughes observed no one except for a newspaper vendor at the foot of the stairwell from whom she purchased a paper. She then proceeded into the shopping precinct.

15 Mrs C Hughes re-entered The Pyramids car park at 11.30am, reaching Level 1 via the lift area. On approaching her parking space, she saw that the vehicle was missing. She noticed broken glass on the ground, below where the vehicle's offside front window had been. She reported the incident to the police via her mobile phone immediately.

20 **Additional notes:** Vehicle description – Volvo S40 1.6D; Reg: DK01 LKU; metallic silver exterior with black leather interior; alarm and immobiliser fitted; large 'Windsor Castle' sticker visible in top right corner of rear windscreen.

Signed: P C Suffield

● Extract I

This extract relates to the functional and imaginative writing practice activity (see page 39).

Vanishing vehicle!

The Pyramids car park is grim and grey,
I know, I'll park the car here today.
5 It's usually quite busy with plenty of folk,
You normally can't park and that is no joke.
I buy a paper at the foot of the stairs, 30
10 From the little old man who sells his wares.
His scarf is as stripy as my old luggage strap –
He always seems such a cheerful chap!
15 Off shopping I go, for books and food,
I get what I want, so am in a good mood.
20 Back to the car park, I still feel quite jolly

As I push my bags in the shopping trolley.

25 "I'll soon be back home for tea and iced bun!"
Say I in the lift, as I reach Level One.
From the lift to the car it isn't too far,
I find the space, but where is my car?

Some broken shards of glass on the ground
Are the only evidence that I have found.

35 I want to cry – well you would too,
I feel so confused, what can I do?

I call the police, then sit and wait,
I know now that I will be home late.
The police come quickly, the station's not far,
40 To take down the details of my poor stolen car.

● Extract J

This extract relates to the literal and figurative writing practice activity (see page 40).

The Arvid 1392 Computer

Package: £549

The Arvid 1392 Computer Package consists of the following:

- 5 PC Unit
- Flat Screen Monitor
- Samsung Colour Laser Printer
- Ergonomic Flexi-Move Keyboard
- All-in-one Flatbed Scanner/Fax
- 10 Machine
- Ergonomic Wireless Mouse
- Microsoft Package

The software package includes:

- Accounts program
- 15 ● Word processing
- Database spreadsheets
- Art and Drawing program
- Compilation of games
- Clip art

● Extract K

This extract relates to the literal and figurative writing practice activity (see page 40).

Pushing the switch, the computer whirrs into life. As if by magic, the screen appears – amid the noise of buzzing and beeping. Like a factory in miniature, jobs are allocated, noises are syncopated and the results are produced with myself as commander over it all.

- 5 I am in control of this computer, and with just one push of a button, I can make this robot obey my every command. “Print!” and the paper is devoured into the hungry mouth before being spat out completed, collated and ready to go. “Scan!” and duplicate pictures appear on the screen.

- 10 Flicking my mouse through the software menu, I mull over my options. Should I create an address book of all my friends and family? Should I design a poster for my bedroom wall? Should I write a best-selling novel that everyone will read?

I settle for playing solitaire as I wait for inspiration ...