



## THE INDIAN PUBLIC SCHOOL

Grade: IX

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH

Worksheet 8

Dt : 31.03.20

REPORT WRITING

Day: Tuesday

### REPORT WRITING NOTES-

A report usually tells the reader about an event that has taken place. The writer may analyse or observe these events/situations. Reports are always written for a particular audience. They are clear and objective (unbiased), reporting the facts. Your text should be well ordered with a strong sense of beginning and end. Your report should sound convincing and real with an excellent sense of audience.

#### Structure of Report.

Introduction: Be clear about the Main Event-Answers to who, what, when and where may be stated.

**Paragraphs 2-4:** Report details of what happened, facts and statistics, use topic sentences.

**Include :** Eye witness/member of public quote

**Ending:** Finish with some points for improvement or your suggested action for any similar events. This might be things that went well, or recommendations to prevent further problems.

See that all the above points are taken, developed or inferred from the passage provided.

Read **Passage A** carefully, and then answer **Question 1**.

#### Passage A: Stranded

*In 1703, Selkirk, a pirate and buccaneer who was part of a crew sailing the South Seas looking for gold and treasure, was deliberately left marooned on a remote island and forced to remain there as a castaway.*

In October, Stradling gave the orders to sail onwards. Selkirk advised the crew to refuse. In his view, in this ship none of them would go anywhere but to the ocean floor. Worms had infested the bottom of the ship and devoured its oak timbers and there was no point in continuing their voyage. Stradling mocked his caution. Selkirk responded with fists and rage and Stradling accused him of mutiny. He told him he could stay on the island: it was better than he deserved.

Selkirk's concern about the ship was justified, but no one elected to stay with him, nor did the others attempt to overrule Stradling's decision. They had waited long enough and although the ship leaked, it was their one chance of achieving their dream. Stradling ordered Selkirk's sea-chest, clothes and bedding to be put ashore. Selkirk watched from the beach as the men prepared to leave; he had not wanted this. He begged Stradling to forgive him, to let him rejoin the ship. He promised he would comply. Stradling told him he could be food for vultures for all he cared. He hoped his fate would be a lesson to the other men.

Selkirk watched as the small boats prepared to leave the shore. He lumbered over the stones and tried to get on board but was pushed back. He waded into the water pleading. He watched as the anchor was drawn and the ship headed to the open sea. The sound of the oars dipping into the water, the calling of orders, the little silhouettes of men as they unfurled the sails, were all imprinted on his mind. The ship slipped behind the cliff face and from his view.

All courage left him when the ship was gone. The sea stretched out endlessly. The thinly-pencilled line of the horizon was, he knew, only the limit of his sight. The sea that had once beckoned freedom and fortune now locked him in. He stayed by the shore, scanning the ocean. Whatever their fate, he now wanted to be with them. Without them the island was a prison and he was a mariner without a ship, a man without a voice. The day grew cool, the wind ruffled the water and for a moment a rogue wave or cloud looked like a billowing sail. He did not leave the shore. He clambered over the stones to the western edge of the bay, wanting a wider view of the ocean, but he was trapped in the bay by sheer cliffs.

The sun dipped down, the air cooled, the mountain darkened and the moon cut a path across the ocean. All night the seals howled; they were the monsters of the deep. He fired a bullet into the air. For a minute the bay seemed quiet. Then it started again, a croak, a howl. This island was a place of terror; there was fear in the dancing shadows of night. A hostile presence sensed his every move. The wind surged through the valley; the wind, he was to learn, was strongest when the moon was full. It uprooted trees. They swished and crashed. The sound merged with the breaking waves and the calling seals.

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Days turned into weeks and months. Whatever the island had, he could use; whatever it lacked, he must do without. Activity dispelled depression. He kept busy. On a day when the sky was clear and the valley still, his mood lifted. He felt vigorous, reconciled. He grilled a fish in the embers of a fire, ate it with pimentos and watercress and forgot to deplore the lack of salt. Around him humming birds whirled and probed. Mosses, lichens, fungi and tiny fragile ferns covered the trunks of the fallen trees.

He resolved to build a dwelling and gather stores. He chose a glade in the mountains a mile from the bay, reached after a steep climb. Behind it rose wooded mountains. This glade had the shade and fragrance of adjacent woods and a fast, clear stream and overhanging rocks. From it he watched mist fill the valley, then dissipate with the morning sun. White campanulae grew from the rocks and puffins nested by the ferns. A little brown and white bird swooped for insects. Clumps of parsley and watercress grew by the stream.

He was right about the ship. After a month, it sank near a small barren island off the Peruvian coast. Stradling and thirty-one men got onto two rafts. The others drowned.

### **Question 1**

You are a newspaper reporter. Following Selkirk's rescue from the island, you investigate the events surrounding his abandonment and the sinking of the ship. You interview Stradling, Selkirk and other surviving members of the crew, in order to write a newspaper report.

#### **Write your newspaper report.**

In your newspaper report you should:

- describe the events leading to Selkirk being left alone on the island **and** the ship setting sail
- explain how Selkirk managed to survive for so long alone **and** how his feelings changed
- suggest how far those involved in the events could be blamed.

Base your newspaper report on what you have read in Passage A, but be careful to use your own words. Address each of the three bullet points.

Begin your newspaper report with this headline: Castaway found alive!

Write about 250 to 350 words.

**Up to 15 marks are available for the content of your answer, and up to 10 marks for the quality of your writing.**