

Grade 7 English Worksheet

Assessment Task: Comprehension, "Adrian Mole"

Reading and Comprehension – *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾* by Sue Townsend

- The educator will read the introduction given in order to place the story in context.
- Quietly **skim** the story by reading the opening sentence in each paragraph.
- Read the question and underline the key words in each question.
- Now read the story and answer the questions posed.
- Make use of a dictionary / thesaurus.
- Use the mark allocation as a guide to the length of your answer.
- Answer in full, complete sentences.
- Use the assessment criteria in your editing process.

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE AGED 13 ¾

Friday September 18th

2am Just got back from London. Coach driver suffered from motorway madness on the motorway. I am too shaken by the experience to be able to give a lucid or intelligent account of the day.

Saturday September 19th

The school may well want a clear account by an unprejudiced observer of what happened on the way to, during and coming back from our trip to London. I am the only person qualified. Pandora, for all her qualities, does not possess my nerves of steel.

Class Four-D's Trip to the British Museum

- 7am Boarded coach.
- 7.05 Ate packed lunch, drank low-calorie drink.
- 7.10 Coach stopped for Barry Kent to be sick.
- 7.20 Coach stopped for Claire Neilson to go to the Ladies.
- 7.30 Coach left school drive.
- 7.35 Coach returned to school for Ms Fossington-Gore's handbag.
- 7.40 Coach driver observed to be behaving oddly.
- 7.45 Coach stopped for Barry Kent to be sick again.
- 7.55 Approached motorway.
- 8.00 Coach driver stopped coach and asked everyone to stop giving "V" signs to lorry drivers.
- 8.10 Coach driver loses temper, refuses to drive on motorway until "teachers control kids".
- 8.20 Ms Fossington-Gore gets everyone sitting down.
- 8.25 Drive on to motorway.
- 8.30 Everyone singing "Ten Green Bottles".
- 8.35 Everyone singing "Ten Green Snot-rags".
- 8.45 Coach driver stops singing by shouting very loudly.
- 9.15 Coach driver pulls in at the service station and is observed to drink heavily from hip-flask.

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- 9.30 Barry Kent hands round bars of chocolate stolen from self-service shop at service station. Ms Fossington-Gore chooses Bounty Bar.
- 9.40 Barry Kent sick in coach.
- 9.50 Two girls sitting near Barry Kent are sick.
- 9.51 Coach driver refuses to stop on motorway.
- 9.55 Ms Fossington-Gore covers sick in sand.
- 9.56 Ms Fossington-Gore sick as a dog.
- 10.30 Coach crawls along on hard shoulder, all other lanes closed for repairs.
- 11.45 Fight ends. Ms Fossington-Gore finds first aid kit and sees to wounds. Barry Kent is punished by sitting next to driver.
- 11.50 Coach breaks down at Swiss Cottage.
- 11.55 Coach driver breaks down in front of AA man.
- 12.30 Class Four-D catch London bus to St Pancras.
- 1pm Class Four-D walk from St Pancras through Bloomsbury.
- 1.15 Ms Fossington-Gore knocks on door of Tavistock House, asks if Dr Laing will give Barry Kent a quick going-over. Dr Lacing in America on lecture tour.
- 1.30 Enter British Museum. Adrian Mole and Pandora Braithwaite awestruck by evidence of heritage of World Culture. Rest of class Four-D run berserk, laughing at nude statues and dodging curators.
- 2.15 Ms Fossington-Gore in state of collapse. Adrian Mole makes reverse charge phone call to headmaster. Headmaster in dinner, lady strike-meeting, can't be disturbed.
- 3pm Curators round up class Four-D and make them sit on steps of museum.
- 3.05 American tourists photograph Adrian Mole saying he is a "cute English schoolboy."
- 3.15 Ms Fossington-Gore recovers and leads class Four-D on sightseeing tour of London.
- 4pm Barry Kent jumps in fountain at Trafalgar Square, as predicted by Adrian Mole.
- 4.30 Barry Kent disappears, last seen heading towards Soho.
- 4.35 Police arrive, take Four-D to mobile police unit, arrange coach back. Phone parents about new arrival time. Phone headmaster at home. Claire Neilson has hysterical fit. Pandora Braithwaite tells Ms Fossington-Gore she is a disgrace to teaching profession. Ms Fossington-Gore agrees to resign.
- 7pm Coach leaves police station with police escort.
- 7.30 Police escort waves goodbye.
- 7.35 Coach driver begs Pandora Braithwaite to keep order.
- 7.36 Pandora Braithwaite keeps order.
- 8pm Ms Fossington-Gore drafts resignation.
- 8.30 Coach driver afflicted by motorway madness.
- 8.40 Arrive back. Tyres burning. Class Four-D struck dumb with terror. Ms Fossington-Gore led off by Mr Scruton. Parents up in arms. Coach driver charged by police.

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Sunday September 20th

FOURTEENTH AFTER TRINITY. MOON'S LAST QUARTER

Keep having anxiety attacks every time I think about London, culture or the M1. Pandora's parents are lodging an official complaint to everyone they can think of.

Monday September 21st

Mr Scruton complimented Pandora and me on our leadership qualities. Ms Fossington-Gore is on sick leave. All future school trips have been cancelled.

*From The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13¾
By Sue Townsend*

Comprehension Questions

1. Who is the author of the diary entry presented in the story? [1]
2. Who is the author of the book from where this extract comes? [1]
3. On what day of the week did Class 4 go on the outing mentioned? [1]
4. In which country do the events of this diary entry take place? [1]
5. Why does it take so long for the bus or coach to depart from the school? [3]
6. Where did the class go on their outing? [1]
7. This story is written in a diary format. Rewrite the events from 8.00 to 8.25 in the past tense, in paragraph form, using complete sentences and the correct punctuation. [7]
8. The coach driver asked everyone to stop giving "V" signs to lorry drivers. Predict what would have happened had he not intervened. [2]
9. Why did the driver stop the kids from singing? [2]
10. Why do you think the driver needs to drink from a flask at 9.15? [1]
11. How did the children come to be in possession of the chocolate? [1]
12. Name one of the students involved in the fight at 11.30. Give reasons for your answer by providing two facts which support your answer. [3]
13. Compare the behaviour of Adrian and Pandora on entering the museum to that of their fellow classmates. [2]

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14. In your opinion, was Mrs Fossington Gore's resignation justified? Give reasons for your answer. [2]
15. Why was it predictable that Barry Kent would disappear towards Soho? [2]
16. List two benefits of going on a school outing. [2]
17. It would seem that Adrian Mole isn't very sociable. How can you deduce this? [2]
18. This outing took place over a day. How many days did Adrian Mole devote to writing about the group's excursion? Provide a reason for your answer. [2]
19. Refer to the actions of Pandora and Adrian. How are their leadership qualities apparent? [2]
20. What emotion does this story invoke in you? Give a reason for your answer. [2]
- [40 Marks]

Use the following checklist to assess your own answers.

Self-assessment checklist

Criteria	Yes	No
Responses are supported with evidence from text when needed.		
Writing is neat and legible.		
Answers are in full sentences.		
Punctuation and spelling are correct.		

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Suggested Solutions

Question Number	Possible Marks	Solution
1	1	Sue Townsend is the author.
2	1	The author of the book entitled "The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole aged 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ ".
3	1	Friday.
4	1	England.
5	3	Barry Kent got sick twice. Claire Nielsen went to the toilet/ladies. The teacher left her handbag at the school.
6	1	The class went to the British Museum.
7	7	The coach driver <u>stopped</u> the coach and <u>asked</u> everyone to stop giving "V" signs to lorry drivers. The coach driver <u>lost</u> his temper and <u>refused</u> to drive on to the motorway until the teachers <u>controlled</u> the kids. Ms Fossington Gore <u>got</u> everyone to sit down. They <u>drove</u> on to the motorway.
8	2	Open-ended answer – example: The lorry drivers could have been verbally abusive to the driver.
9	2	The driver was tense/irritated/inebriated/tipsy. His nerves were on edge.
10	1	Open-ended. Accept any answer referring to alcohol usage, e.g.: He may believe that drinking alcohol calms his nerves.
11	1	The children had stolen it from the self-service station.
12	3	Barry Kent. He was punished, and they saw to his wounds.
13	2	Pandora and Adrian were awestruck by the sights in the museum. The rest of the class misbehaved by laughing at nude statues and dodging curators.
14	2	Open answer – opinion. Yes – she could not control the situation. No – the children lacked self-discipline.
15	2	Yes – he was the child who misbehaved constantly.
16	2	It provides a varied activity from the confines of a classroom/Learners experience new things/enjoyable/informative/interesting. He can account for the behaviour of many children.
17	2	He can account for the behaviour of many children. It would seem that he is scrutinising them constantly instead of socialising.
18	2	Four days. He was affected by anxiety attacks when thinking about the trip.
19	2	Adrian phoned headmaster and parents about new arrival time.
20	2	Open-ended – humour/empathy for teacher/driver.
	40 Marks	

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Appendix of Assessment Tools

Deduct a recommended $\frac{1}{2}$ mark per question for grammar, punctuation and spelling errors.

Learners use the following checklist to assess their own answers.

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Answers are in full sentences.		
Punctuation and spelling are correct.		