

Grade 8 English Home Language Worksheet

Analysis of information text

Read the article below, which was taken from
http://www.amk.ca/books/h/Toms_Midnight_Garden, and then answer the questions on it.

Tom's Midnight Garden
Pearce, Philippa
HarperCollins 1958
ISBN 978-0-397-30477-6
229pp
Date finished: 2009-05-19

Last of the three books I'm reading from a *Guardian* list of children's books, and this is by far the best one I've read from the list. When Tom is sent to stay with his aunt and uncle while his brother Peter is recovering from the measles, Tom is reluctant and unhappy; he expects to be bored in their poky little flat, and is derisive of the malfunctioning grandfather clock that never strikes the right hour. But then he discovers that when the clock strikes thirteen, the back door leads to a beautiful garden that isn't there during the day. Is the garden ever real? Tom learns that in the garden he's insubstantial, seemingly invisible to people and able to walk through doors with some effort, and meets Hatty, a young girl who can see and hear him, and they become friends. Is Hatty a ghost? Why is her age changing from visit to visit? It's a really charming book, gently nostalgic for the late Victorian era -- the book was written in 1958, when grandparents could have grown up under a Victorian household. I really enjoyed the novel's highlight scene, in which Tom and Hatty go on a cross-country skate along a river, and the ending is wistful and affectionate.

Questions

1. What type of text is this? (2)
2. How is this text structured? (2)
3. Divide the text into separate paragraphs where you think it is appropriate. (4)
4. Are all the necessary details for this kind of text included both in the list at the beginning and in the paragraph itself? Explain your answer. Give at least FOUR suggestions of what else could be included in a text of this kind. (5)
5. Evaluate this text on a scale of 1-7, as below. Justify your choice of a mark. (2)

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Rubric to assess text analysis

7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Outstanding	Meritorious	Substantial	Adequate	Moderate	Elementary	Not achieved

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Suggested Solutions

There are a number of problems with this text, which your learners should be able to detect.

1. This is a book✓ review✓. (2)
2. There is a list of factual details at the beginning and then one long paragraph. (2)
3. Suggested re-structuring:

Last of the three books I'm reading from a *Guardian* list of children's books, and this is by far the best one I've read from the list.

When Tom is sent to stay with his aunt and uncle while his brother Peter is recovering from the measles, Tom is reluctant and unhappy; he expects to be bored in their poky little flat, and is derisive of the malfunctioning grandfather clock that never strikes the right hour.

But then he discovers that when the clock strikes thirteen, the back door leads to a beautiful garden that isn't there during the day. Is the garden ever real? Tom learns that in the garden he's insubstantial, seemingly invisible to people and able to walk through doors with some effort, and meets Hatty, a young girl who can see and hear him, and they become friends. Is Hatty a ghost? Why is her age changing from visit to visit?

It's a really charming book, gently nostalgic for the late Victorian era - the book was written in 1958, when grandparents could have grown up under a Victorian household. I really enjoyed the novel's highlight scene, in which Tom and Hatty go on a cross-country skate along a river, and the ending is wistful and affectionate. (4)

4. Most of the required details for a book review are present. (1)

The learners should make at least FOUR suggestions about what might be required for a book review, such as the following:

The learners might want one or two more details, such as: hardcover or paperback✓; genre (children's fiction) ✓; a statement of fiction/non-fiction✓.

In the paragraph, the writer could outline setting (date and time) more clearly✓, and could analyse character✓, theme✓, and language usage✓. The writer could also recommend an age group or interest group that would enjoy the novel most✓. Any FOUR (5)

5. This is a Code 4: It is merely adequate. 50%.✓ The review cannot get 60% without being paragraphed – that is the most basic structural form for a piece of prose✓. The

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first sentence needs revising, both grammatically and as a lead in to what follows.
Get the class to suggest improvements to the opening. (2)

[15]

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