

Grade 9 English Worksheet

Reading a novel - "A Deadly Presence"

Read the extract from the novel called *A Deadly Presence* by Hjalmar Thesen.

For the second time in his life the black leopard had known fear, and when the two-legged creatures came so close, his anger had changed swiftly to an adrenalin-triggered survival instinct that obliterated even the pain of his wounded paw. In his plunge to safety he would certainly have mauled these creatures who stalked him, for they were large and he was wary of them. Now in the cool forest he moved slowly on three legs in an unnaturally ungainly manner.

From time to time he stopped to lick the steadily bleeding stump and after each period of licking he sat still, his injured back leg held up and away from the forest floor, listening for alien sounds. Very faintly they came to him, small false notes above the midday medley of the forest, and his ears moved and swivelled as though each sound carried its own tiny physical impact. The black leopard was hungry and thirsty and weak from loss of blood but the sounds were retreating and he was not conscious of any immediate danger beyond the pain and stiffness in his shoulder when he moved and the dull ache in his lower leg. Against the dark green of the forest undergrowth, and the checkering of grey-black shadows, his camouflage was perfect, but in the shaft of sunlight that flooded over him as he moved, lighting the jet-black hide to a gloss that was silver-tipped with shine, there was also a flash of deepest red; shoulder and back the wound was long and deep and still oozing blood. It was also dangerously out of reach of his tongue and flies hovered about him, skipping in and out of the sun shaft, small specks of green, like the cold emerald green of his eyes.

Answer the questions.

Part A: Plot

- 1 Who is the black leopard running away from? (1)
 - 2 Why do you think the leopard is running away? (1)
 - 3 The extract mentions that the black leopard has known fear twice. The second time is described in the extract. What do you think happened the first time that the leopard experienced fear? (2)
 - 4 Why is the leopard's wound described as "dangerously out of reach of his tongue"? (2)
- (6)

Grade 9 English Worksheet

Part B: Characterisation

- 5 What word in the first paragraph describes the dangerous way in which the leopard would attack his victim? (1)
- 6 What word in the first paragraph describes the cautiousness of the black leopard? (1)
- 7 What is mentioned as being unusual about the leopard's movement in the first paragraph? (1)
- 8 What word in the first paragraph describes the threatening manner of the pursuers of the black leopard? (1)
- 9 Describe the leopard's wounds. (2)
- (6)

Part C: Setting

- 10 Where is the black leopard walking? (1)
- 11 Why do you think that some sounds are described as "alien"? (2)
- 12 Describe how the leopard fits into the environment. (3)
- (6)

Part D: Language

- 13 Describe the "midday medley" of a forest. (2)
- 14 What is the effect of the repetition of "and" in "The black leopard was hungry and thirsty and weak from loss of blood but the sounds were retreating and he was not conscious of any immediate danger beyond the pain and stiffness in his shoulder when he moved and the dull ache in his lower leg." (2)
- (4)

Part E: Literary devices

- 15 Explain the metaphor in "the checkering of grey-black shadows". (2)

Grade 9 English Worksheet

- 16 What is the sun compared with in “shaft of sunlight”? (1)
- 17 Explain the simile in “flies hovered about him, skipping in and out of the sun shaft, small specks of green, like the cold emerald green of his eyes”. (2)
- 18 Explain the figure of speech used in “silver-tipped with shine”. (1)
- (6)

Part F: Personal response

- 19 The book *A Deadly presence* is an animal story. In about half a page, describe the kind of stories you enjoy, for example thrillers, adventure stories, graphic novels, fantasy, historical fiction etc. Justify your preference. In other words, give reasons why you like a particular kind of story. If possible, give some examples of this type of story. (10)

Part G: Parts of speech

- 20 Underline the nouns in the following sentence: (10)
The black leopard was hungry and thirsty and weak from loss of blood but the sounds were retreating and he was not conscious of any immediate danger beyond the pain and stiffness in his shoulder when he moved and the dull ache in his lower leg.
- 21 Underline the adjectives in the following sentence: (8)
The black leopard was hungry and thirsty and weak from loss of blood but the sounds were retreating and he was not conscious of any immediate danger beyond the pain and stiffness in his shoulder when he moved and the dull ache in his lower leg.
- 22 Underline the verbs in the following sentence: (4)
The black leopard was hungry and thirsty and weak from loss of blood but the sounds were retreating and he was not conscious of any immediate danger beyond the pain and stiffness in his shoulder when he moved and the dull ache in his lower leg.
- 23 Underline the adverbs in the following sentence: (2)
Now in the cool forest he moved slowly on three legs in an unnaturally ungainly manner.

Grade 9 English Worksheet

- 24 Underline the prepositions in the following sentence: (3)
Now in the cool forest he moved slowly on three legs in an unnaturally ungainly manner.
- 25 Underline the pronouns in the following sentence: (3)
From time to time he stopped to lick the steadily bleeding stump and after each period of licking he sat still, his injured back leg held up and away from the forest floor, listening for alien sounds.
- (30)

Part H: Sentences

- 26 Underline the verbs in the following sentence: (4)
For the second time in his life the black leopard had known fear, and when the two-legged creatures came so close, his anger had changed swiftly to an adrenalin-triggered survival instinct that obliterated even the pain of his wounded paw.
- 27 Underline the verbs in the following sentence: (4)
In his plunge to safety he would certainly have mauled these creatures who stalked him, for they were large and he was wary of them.
- 28 Underline the words that separate the clauses in the following sentence: (3)
In his plunge to safety he would certainly have mauled these creatures who stalked him, for they were large and he was wary of them.
- 29 Divide the following sentence into its main and subordinate clauses. (4)
The black leopard was hungry and thirsty and weak from loss of blood but the sounds were retreating and he was not conscious of any immediate danger beyond the pain and stiffness in his shoulder when he moved and the dull ache in his lower leg.
- (15)

Part I: Punctuation

- 30 Explain the use of the commas in the following sentence: (2)
From time to time he stopped to lick the steadily bleeding stump and after each period of licking he sat still, his injured back leg held up and away from the forest floor, listening for alien sounds.

Grade 9 English Worksheet

- 31 Explain the use of the hyphen in the following sentence: (3)
Against the dark green of the forest undergrowth, and the checkering of grey-black shadows, his camouflage was perfect, but in the shaft of sunlight that flooded over him as he moved, lighting the jet-black hide to a gloss that was silver-tipped with shine, there was also a flash of deepest red ...

(5)

Part J: Connotation

Give the connotation of the underlined words.

- 32 Very faintly they came to him, small false notes above the midday medley of the forest, and his ears moved and swivelled as though each sound carried its own tiny physical impact. (3)

- 33 It was also dangerously out of reach of his tongue and flies hovered about him, skipping in and out of the sun shaft, small specks of green, like the cold emerald green of his eyes. (3)

(6)

Part K: Vocabulary

- 34 Look at how “triggered” is used as an adjective in the following sentence. (3)
For the second time in his life the black leopard had known fear, and when the two-legged creatures came so close, his anger had changed swiftly to an adrenalin-triggered survival instinct that obliterated even the pain of his wounded paw.

Use the word “trigger” in three different sentences as a noun, a verb and an adjective. You can use different forms of the word if necessary.

- 35 Look at how “wounded” is used as an adjective in the following sentence. (3)
For the second time in his life the black leopard had known fear, and when the two-legged creatures came so close, his anger had changed swiftly to an adrenalin-triggered survival instinct that obliterated even the pain of his wounded paw.

Use the word “wound” in three different sentences as a noun, a verb and an adjective. You can use different forms of the word if necessary.

(6)

Grade 9 English Worksheet

Part L: Counter-argument

- 36 Read the following opinion on wild leopards in South Africa. Write a counter-argument and provide alternative solutions to the problem of wild leopards.

Leopards are dangerous animals. They can kill humans and animals. They should be exterminated in the wild. Any surviving leopards should be trapped and moved to game reserves which have been created for wild animals. There they should be caged in by strong fences so that they do not pose a threat to humans or animals. They can provide a tourist attraction in the parks.

Leopards create problems for farmers. They kill their stock and eat it. The stock belongs to the farmers and not the leopards. Farmers lose huge amounts of money each year from leopard killings. This is often hard-earned money. Leopards do not belong in cultivated areas. These areas are for occupation by humans engaged in farming.

The forests that are inhabited by leopards should be chopped down. In this way their habitat will be destroyed. The forest land should be ploughed and replaced with agricultural produce grown for human consumption. Poverty and hunger are serious problems in South Africa. We need to grow as much food as possible and therefore every bit of wild land should be brought under the control of farmers.

Grade 9 English Worksheet

Suggested Solutions

Part A: Plot

1	The black leopard is running away from humans, referred to as two-legged creatures.	(1)
2	He came into close contact with humans and had to leap away or “plunge to safety”.	(1)
3	The first time he experienced fear must have been when he was wounded.	(2)
4	When he licks his wound he cleans it. If he can’t get to the wound with his tongue, then it will get dirty.	(2)
		(6)

Part B: Characterisation

5	mauled	(1)
6	wary	(1)
7	He is walking slowly on three legs and looks “ungainly” or clumsy.	(1)
8	stalked	(1)
9	The leopard’s back or lower leg is injured. He also has a long and deep wound along his shoulder and back.	(2)
		(6)

Part C: Setting

10	He is walking in the cool forest.	(1)
11	The alien sounds would be those of his pursuers, the humans from whom he is running. They are described as being “out of place” and “false” in the forest environment, which is inhabited by animals.	(2)
12	His camouflage is described as being “perfect” in the “checkering of grey-black shadows”. His colouring also blends into the “dark green of the forest undergrowth”. He himself is described as being a black leopard, which is unusual. In the sunshine, his coat is described as “jet-black” and “silver-tipped”.	(3)
		(6)

Part D: Language

13	The midday medley might consist of bird and insect sounds. The birds would be singing and chirping and the insects would be humming and chirruping.	(2)
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Grade 9 English Worksheet

14	The repetition of “and” emphasises the woes of the black leopard. He is wounded, hungry and thirsty – he doesn’t just suffer from one thing but from three things.	(2)
		(4)

Part E: Literary devices

15	The shadows of the forest are being compared with a checker board which is made up of black and white squares. The forest is dappled/spotted in a similar way.	(2)
16	The sun is compared with a pipe or tunnel or pole sticking into the forest.	(1)
17	The flies are compared with the leopard’s emerald green eyes.	(2)
18	The figure of speech is alliteration. The “s” sound is repeated.	(1)
		(6)

Part F: Personal response

- 19 Learners’ responses will vary.
(10)

Part G: Parts of speech

20	The black <u>leopard</u> was hungry and thirsty and weak from <u>loss of blood</u> but the <u>sounds</u> were retreating and he was not conscious of any immediate <u>danger</u> beyond the <u>pain</u> and <u>stiffness</u> in his <u>shoulder</u> when he moved and the dull <u>ache</u> in his lower <u>leg</u> .	(10)
21	The <u>black</u> leopard was <u>hungry</u> and <u>thirsty</u> and <u>weak</u> from loss of blood but the sounds were retreating and he was not <u>conscious</u> of any <u>immediate</u> danger beyond the pain and stiffness in his shoulder when he moved and the <u>dull</u> ache in his <u>lower</u> leg.	(8)
22	The black leopard <u>was</u> hungry and thirsty and weak from loss of blood but the sounds <u>were</u> retreating and he <u>was</u> not conscious of any immediate danger beyond the pain and stiffness in his shoulder when he <u>moved</u> and the dull ache in his lower leg.	(4)
23	Now in the cool forest he moved <u>slowly</u> on three legs in an <u>unnaturally</u> ungainly manner.	(2)
24	Now <u>in</u> the cool forest he moved slowly <u>on</u> three legs <u>in</u> an unnaturally ungainly manner.	(3)

Grade 9 English Worksheet

25	From time to time <u>he</u> stopped to lick the steadily bleeding stump and after each period of licking <u>he</u> sat still, <u>his</u> injured back leg held up and away from the forest floor, listening for alien sounds.	(3)
		(30)

Part H: Sentences

26	For the second time in his life the black leopard <u>had known</u> fear, and when the two-legged creatures <u>came</u> so close, his anger <u>had changed</u> swiftly to an adrenalin-triggered survival instinct that <u>obliterated</u> even the pain of his wounded paw.	(4)
27	In his plunge to safety he <u>would</u> certainly <u>have mauled</u> these creatures who <u>stalked</u> him, for they <u>were</u> large and he <u>was</u> wary of them.	(4)
28	In his plunge to safety he would certainly have mauled these creatures <u>who</u> stalked him, <u>for</u> they were large <u>and</u> he was wary of them.	(3)
29	The black leopard was hungry and thirsty and weak from loss of blood / but the sounds were retreating / and he was not conscious of any immediate danger beyond the pain and stiffness in his shoulder / when he moved and the dull ache in his lower leg.	(4)
		(15)

Part I: Punctuation

30	The commas separate the clauses in the sentence.	(2)
31	The adjectives grey and black are joined by the hyphen. The leopard's hide is described as being "jet-black", in other words blacker than black. The gloss of his hide is described as "silver-tipped", in other words, not completely silver. In all three cases the common adjectives are hyphenated to create new and more interesting adjectives. In each case the hyphen is used to coin a new word.	(3)
		(5)

Part J: Connotation

Give the connotation of the underlined words.

32	"False" suggests that the sounds do not belong in the forest, they are out of place. Swivelled suggests that his ears have a life of their own, they can move around. Impact suggests that the sound hurt him, they have an impact on him.	(3)
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Grade 9 English Worksheet

33	<p>“Hovered” suggests that the flies won’t leave him alone. They know that they can feast on his wound.</p> <p>“Skipping” suggests the playfulness of the flies. They know that they can fly in and out of the wound without being harmed.</p> <p>“Cold” suggest the wildness of the leopard. Its eyes shut it off from humans by their lack of communication.</p>	(3)
		(6)

Part K: Vocabulary

34	Learners’ answers will vary but should correctly use the word as a noun, verb and adjective. The sentences should also show understanding of the meaning of the word.	(3)
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		(6)

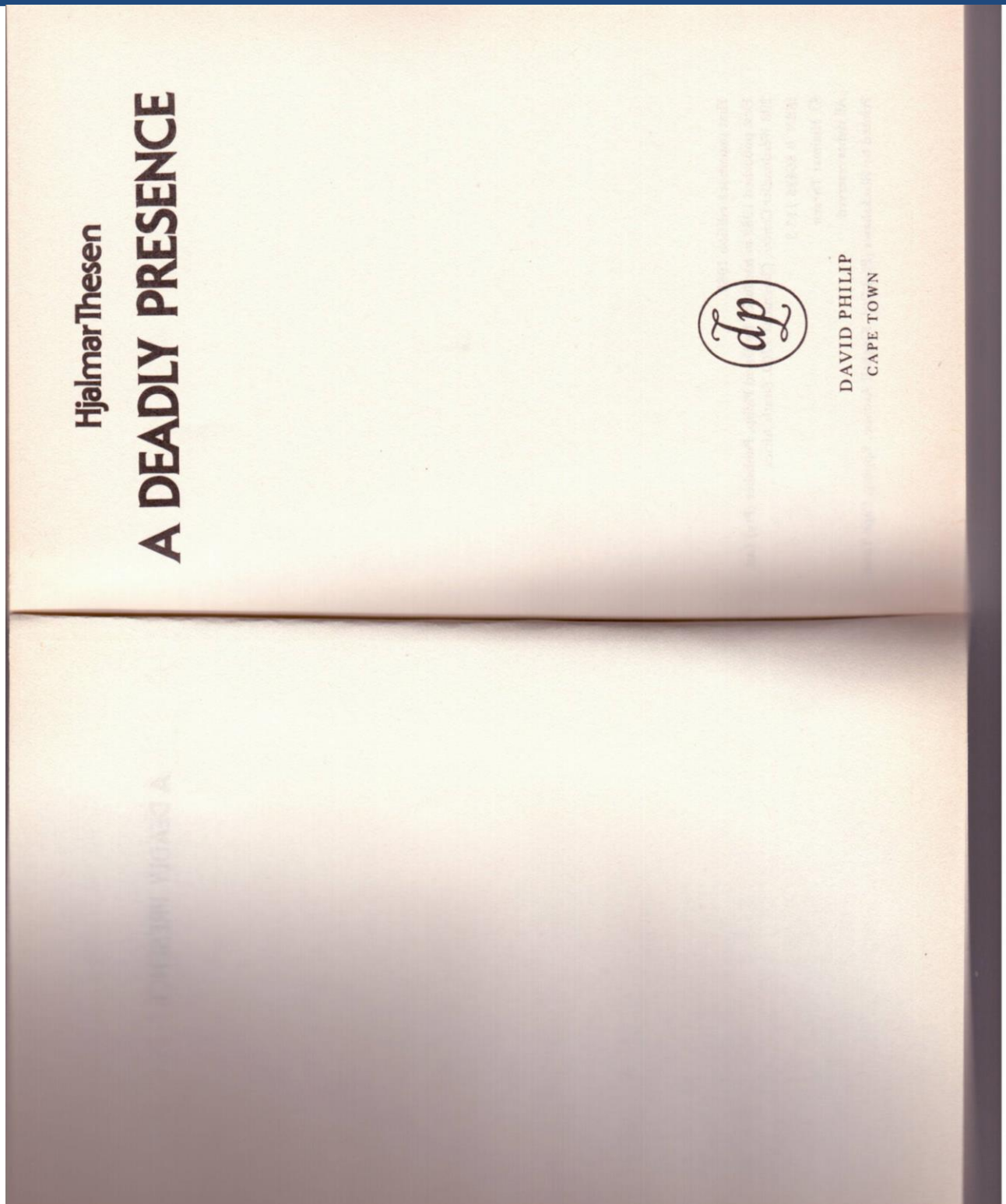
Part L: Counter-argument

- 36 Use the assessment checklist in the Appendix of Assessment Tools to assess the counter-arguments.

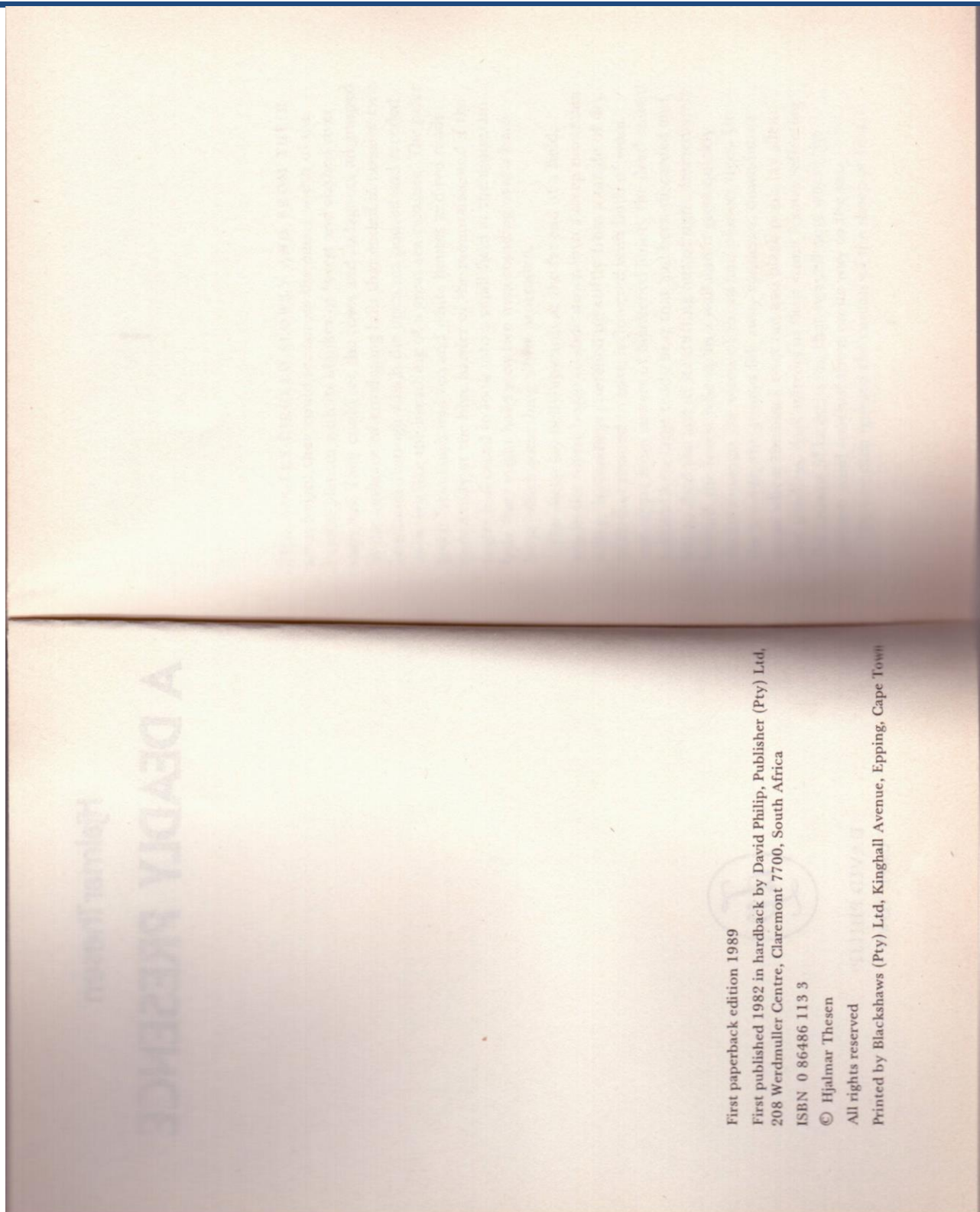
Assessment Checklist: Counter-argument

	The learner has:	Yes	No
1	• presented a counter-argument.		
2	• addressed each of the issues raised in the text.		
3	• provided alternative ways of dealing with leopards.		
4	• written persuasively.		
5	• used language to think and reason.		
6	• used correct grammar.		
7	• used correct spelling.		

Grade 9 English Worksheet



Grade 9 English Worksheet





Grade 9 English Worksheet

She said, 'But I must get back.'
'I wish you wouldn't go. We could have supper somewhere.'
'I'd like that, Cliff. Really. Sometime, but not tonight.'
He was searching for a way to keep her as she collected her bag and scarf, but knowing that he was helpless. 'I do wish you'd stay.'

She smiled, looking at him appraisingly.

'All right, a moment longer, I may as well finish the wine,' she had been aware of the sudden tension in his face, almost sadness, a seriousness. She had no reason or desire to tease him. She guessed at the well-meaning, jocular gestures she had half seen through the window — they had been mistimed, belittling something that was important to him, threatening to tip the delicate balance of her trusting but wary presence, and he was annoyed. Now suddenly relieved and pleased he poured from the small bottle too eagerly, spilling the wine on her arm and then standing, looming over her protectively, blotting with his handkerchief, holding her hand. A small party of visitors came filing through the door, exclaiming about the setting sun which was washing the white-painted surfaces all around them with glowing flamingo pink.

42

5

FOR THE SECOND TIME IN HIS LIFE THE BLACK leopard had known fear, and when the two-legged creatures came so close, his anger had changed swiftly to an adrenaline-triggered survival instinct that obliterated even the pain of his wounded paw. In his plunge to safety he would certainly have mauled these creatures who stalked him, for they were large and he was wary of them. Now in the cool forest he moved slowly on three legs in an unnaturally ungainly manner.

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43