

Grade 8 English First Additional Language Worksheet

Reading comprehension - "Stop that noise"

Read the following extract from a story and then answer the questions:

Themba took off his jersey, and rolled up his shirt sleeves. He stuffed his jersey into his bag next to "Classroom Mathematics".

As he walked past the iron railings, he thought what a good noise he could make. He looked around him for a stick. He found something better. He picked it up and banged it against one of the iron bars of the railings. It made a suitable ringing noise, like that of a bell. Satisfied, he walked along slowly. The sounds echoed around him.

In the distance, behind the railings, he could see people standing in a circle. Nearby was a heap of soil. The man at the top of the circle held a book, and everyone bowed their heads. Some of the men patted their foreheads and one of the women fanned herself with her hat.

Someone from the group came over to Themba.

"You are selfish and inconsiderate! Stop that noise!" she ordered.

Questions

- 1.1 Describe the weather. (1)
- 1.2 Find four details that support your answer. (4)
2. Where has Themba come from? Give a reason for your answer. (2)
3. What did Themba find that was "better"? Give a reason for your answer. (2)
- 4.1 What place is Themba passing? (1)
- 4.2 Give two details that support your answer. (2)
- 5.1 How does the woman speak to Themba? How do you know? (2)
- 5.2 Do you think she was right to speak to Themba? Give a reason for your answer. (1)

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Suggested Solutions

- 1.1 It is hot. (1)
- 1.2 Themba takes off his jersey and rolls up his sleeves. Some of the men are mopping sweat off their foreheads; one woman fans herself with her hat. (4)
2. Themba has come from school. He has his bag with him and in it is a Maths book. (2)
3. He found a metal bar ✓. It makes a ringing noise against the iron railings, so it, too, must be made of metal. It clangs like a bell. ✓ (2)
- 4.1 Themba is passing a cemetery/graveyard. (1)
- 4.2 There is a group of people drawn into a circle with a man at the top of the circle with a book (prayer book/Bible). There is a mound of soil. The people bow their heads in prayer or sorrow. Any TWO (2)
- 5.1 The woman is cross. She uses words like “selfish” and “inconsiderate”. She speaks harshly. There are exclamation marks. Any TWO (2)
- 5.2 Own opinion. The mark is given for the reason, not yes/no. (1)

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