

Texts for Listening Tasks

F. 1 Two Gentlemen Of Verona

13. Teacher/Student will read out the following excerpt from the diary of a 13 year old girl Zlata Fillipovic who writes about the horrors of war in Sarajevo in her book 'Zlata's Diary'.

14 April. People are leaving Sarajevo. They're crowding the airport, train and bus stations. Families and friends are separating. It's so sad. These people and children aren't guilty of anything. I don't think Mummy and Daddy know whether to stay or go. Neither way is good.

2 May. Today was the worst ever. The shooting started around noon. Mummy, Daddy and I took Cicko, my canary, and we all ran to the cellar. It's ugly, dark, smelly. We listened to the pounding shells, the thundering noise overhead. Then I realized that this awful cellar was the only place that could save our lives. We heard glass shattering in our street. I put my fingers in my ears to block out the terrible sounds. This has been the worst day in my 11-year-old life.

5 May. We've rearranged the apartment. Our bedrooms are too dangerous. They face the hills, which is where they're shooting from. We sleep on mattresses on the floor on the sitting room. It's awful, but it's safer. Although once the shooting starts, no place is safe but the cellar.

7 May. Today a shell fell in front of our house in the park where I used to play with my girl-friends. A lot of people were hurt, and my friend Nina was killed. A piece of shrapnel lodged in her brain. She was such a nice girl -the victim of a stupid war. I cry and wonder why. She didn't do anything. Nina, I'll always remember you.

27 May. Two shells exploded in the street and one in the market. Mummy was nearby at the time, and Daddy and I were worried because she hadn't come home. We kept going to the window hoping to see her. Is she alive?

F.2 Mrs Packletide's Tiger

- 10. Listen to your teacher read out the passage on lion hunting and answer the questions given below:**

The Maasai tribe in Africa look at lion hunting experience as a sign of bravery and personal achievement. Earlier, the community encouraged solo lion hunting but over the last ten years, due to the decline of the lion population, the community has adopted a new rule that encourages warriors to hunt in groups. Group hunting gives the lion population a chance to grow.

The Maasai prohibit hunting a lioness since females are the bearers of life in every species. The Maasai also understand that lions are important to the savanna's ecology and culture. For that reason, they take extra caution when it comes to a lion hunt.

The lions are abundant throughout Maasailand. Their typical hideouts are grassy plains, deep forests, behind termite mounds, under the acacia trees, and other wild cozy places. The lion search ranges from 20 minutes to 10 hours. The Maasai warriors must chase a lion with rattle bells and make him upset. This chasing method forces a lion to develop anger and face the hunter. Another successful hunting method is to force a lion to move away from the kill. Any of these methods would provoke a fight with a lion. The game between warriors and lions is similar to that of a cat and a mouse.

The Maasai use three parts of the lion: the mane, tail and claws. The mane is beautifully beaded by women of the community, and given back to the hunter. The mane is worn over the head, only during special occasions. The mane helps warriors from far communities to identify the toughest warrior.

The lion tail is the most valuable product in the practice of lion hunting. The tail goes to the strongest warrior.

F.3 The Letter

8. **Listen to your teacher read out the following article about the break-up of the Joint Family system in India and complete the boxes in (8)**

In India, incidents of the elderly being abused, harassed and abandoned are increasing by the day. Reports of such neglect have come in from every state in the country and it takes place in both rural and urban settings.

Joint families have been a strong support network for the elderly. But more children are now leaving their parental homes to set up their own. Sociologists say the pressures of modern life and the more individualistic aspirations of the young are among reasons why the elderly are being abandoned or, in some cases, abused. Poverty and search for work are the two main reasons why rural elders are being left behind. So, many of them have to rely on charities for food and medical help.

Research suggests nearly 40% of senior citizens living with their families are facing emotional or physical abuse. But only one in six cases comes to light, the study showed. This is because people feel these cases are "internal" or "domestic" matters that need to be sorted out by the concerned individuals and they should not be addressed publicly.

F.4 A Shady Plot

- 13. Listen to your teacher read out the following extract from *The Canterville Ghost* by Oscar Wilde and complete the following tasks as directed.**

Towards evening, there was a storm and it started to rain heavily. The wind was so strong that all the windows and doors in the old house shook and rattled. In fact, it was exactly the sort of weather that the ghost loved. This is what he planned to do. He would first go quietly to Washington Otis's room, gibber at him from the foot of the bed. Then the ghost would stab himself three times in the throat to the sound of soft music. He was particularly angry with Washington, because he knew that it was Washington who kept on removing the famous Canterville blood-stain by using his Pinkerton's Paragon Detergent.

Having thoroughly terrified the reckless and foolhardy young man, the ghost planned to proceed to the room of Mr Otis and his wife. While he was there the ghost was going to put a clammy hand on Mrs. Otis's forehead. At the same time he was going to hiss into her trembling husband's ear the awful secrets of the grave. He was not sure what he was going to do about little Virginia. She had never insulted him in any way, and was pretty and gentle. A few groans from the wardrobe, he thought, would be quite enough for her, or, if that didn't wake her up, he might pull at the counterpane with palsy-twitching fingers. But the ghost was very determined to teach the twins a lesson they would never forget.

F. 5 Patol Babu, Film Star

10. Listen to the teacher/student read out the passage on character actors and complete the exercise as directed.

A character actor is one who largely plays a particular type of role rather than leading ones. Character actor roles can range from bit parts to secondary leads. However, character actors often play supporting roles for characters not subject to a major change or revelation in the course of the plot, and whose role is less prominent.

There are many reasons why people might become character actors. Actors may also simply seem better suited to character roles than to leading roles. Another fact worth noting is that while any film has a handful of leading roles, it may also require dozens of smaller supporting roles, and that there are arguably more opportunities for professional success as a character actor than as a movie star. Some actors become character actors by choice. Others may find character work because they are seen as typecast (strongly identified with, or only suitable for certain types of roles), often due to an early success with a particular role or genre. Also, some actors may become character actors because casting agents believe they lack some of the admittedly subjective physical attributes associated with movie stars: they may be regarded as too tall, too short, unattractive, overweight, or somehow lacking an ephemeral "star quality".

Actors may be deemed too old or too young for leading roles; being "too old" is more of a problem for women, who may find that their range of acting jobs drops suddenly after the age of forty.

Some character actors have distinctive voices or accents which limit their roles. Some of them have been able to turn this to their advantage, often in voice-over work. Sometimes character actors have developed careers because they have specific talents that are required in genre films, such as dancing, horsemanship or swimming ability. The stars of a movie that fails badly at the box office are often considered part of the reason it failed, and they may have trouble finding work later. Character actors are almost never blamed for these failures, and can continue to find work relatively easily.

F.6 Virtually True

Tour of Body

By Alex Crees

It revolutionized the way we watch movies, and now, it's revolutionizing the way doctors treat illnesses. Three-dimension is the new frontier of medicine, according to physicians at the Weill Cornell Medical College in New York City. The new technology called CAVE, which is short for 'Cave Automatic Virtual Environment', is essentially a three-dimensional virtual reality room. It projects images on four walls to allow researchers to voyage inside the molecular structure of cells and parts of the human body. This way, physicians can interact with the data and actually see the cells in their true, 3-D state, which was not possible before.

Physicians believe that using CAVE will help them better understand how to study and treat a variety of diseases located in places that they cannot physically penetrate, like the brain. "You can see which proteins are next to each other, which proteins come together under different conditions at different times in different parts of the cell," said Dr. Harel Weinstein. "You are inside the cell."

The CAVE works by using a mathematical algorithm to rearrange normal two-dimensional MRI data segments to create a 3-D object. The result is a room where researchers can actually stand inside a representation of the anatomical structures they are studying.

Weinstein said. "We can go into cells, into organs, into the brain, and anywhere else." Once inside, physicians can 'move' through the 3-D object and peel away its layers with the use of the remote.

"It allows us to understand how certain structures interact, what might be going on in certain diseases," said Dr. Szilard May. He uses the CAVE technology to better understand disease processes in the eye.

"When we look at an X-ray or an MRI, we're looking at one flat picture," Kiss said. "It doesn't really tell the whole story. It's much easier to appreciate the anatomy if we go into three-dimensionality." May likens the CAVE technology to "shrinking yourself down and going inside the eye." "But it's not only going inside the eye," he added. "It's going inside the layers of the retina." In patients who had poor vision because of scar tissue growing over retina, the CAVE technology was able to help May isolate where the ridge of the scar tissue was located. "The ridge was not obvious from two-dimensional images," May said. "When we brought it up into this three-dimensional cave is really where I had an 'a-ha!' moment." The location of the ridge was crucial because, to treat the patient's symptoms, it was necessary to go in with very small instruments, grab the ridge and peel it off the retina.

"[He] really benefitted from the three-dimensionality that's offered by this technology," May said. Dr. Barry Kosofsky, Chief of the Division of Pediatric Neurology at Weill Cornell Medical College, also has high expectations for the new technology. Currently, he is studying cocaine usage during pregnancy and what effect it has on a child's brain.

"What this technology lets us do is get a better sense of how those brains are structurally different," Kosofsky said.

"It not only applies to anatomical pictures," he said, "but organs, physiology of cells and genes. So we can go inside any of those structures and begin to reconstruct something that can be applied to a laboratory setting, and then hopefully to a clinical setting for patient care."

P.1 The Frog And The Nightingale

15. Listen to the teacher recite the poem *The Spider and the Fly* by Mary Howitt and compare the 'Fly' to Vikram Seth's 'Nightingale.'

The Spider and the Fly

"Will you walk into my parlour?" said the spider to the fly.

"The prettiest little parlour that ever you did spy.

The way into my parlour is up a winding stair,

And I've many curious things to show when you are there."

"Oh no, no," said the little fly, "to ask me is in vain,

For who goes up your winding stair, can ne'er come down again."

"I'm sure you must be weary, dear, with soaring up so high.

Will you rest upon my little bed?" said the spider to the fly.

"There are pretty curtains drawn around, the sheets are fine and thin,

And if you like to rest awhile, I'll snugly tuck you in!"

"Oh no, no!" Said the little Fly, "for I've often heard it said,

They never, never wake again, who sleep upon your bed!"

Mary Howitt