

# Prepare Yourself

## How to deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

### What does this mean?

- You can understand what is implied by a writer, and comment on the impression created of people and places
- You can 'read between the lines' and deduce the meaning of a text from the clues given
- You can give evidence to show how or where the writer suggests/ implies things rather than stating them directly.

### **ACTIVITY ONE**

Here is an extract from "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" in which Harry is learning about his new school, Hogwarts. As you read it, think about the impression created of the place by the things the writer describes.

There were a hundred and forty-two staircases at Hogwarts: wide, sweeping ones; narrow rickety ones; some that led somewhere different on a Friday; some with a vanishing step half-way up that you had to remember to jump. Then there were doors that wouldn't open unless you asked politely, or tickled them in exactly the right place, and doors that weren't really doors at all, but solid walls just pretending. It was also very hard to remember where anything was, because it all seemed to move around a lot. The people in the portraits kept going to visit each other and Harry was sure the coats of armour could walk.

### What impression of the place is created? Do you think it is:

- **Friendly or unfriendly**
- **Safe or dull**
- **Lively or dull?**

**Give TWO reasons for your answer.**

## ACTIVITY TWO

**Read this extract from *The Fellowship of the Ring* by J. R. R. Tolkien and answer the questions that follow.**

The gathering was large and mixed, as Frodo discovered, when his eyes got used to the light. This came chiefly from the blazing log fire, for the three lamps hanging from the beams were dim, and half veiled in smoke. Barliman Butterbar was standing near the fire, talking to a couple of dwarves and one or two strange-looking men. On the benches were various folk: men of Bree, a collection of local hobbits (sitting chattering together), a few more dwarves, and other vague figures difficult to make out in the shadows and corners...

Suddenly Frodo noticed that a strange-looking weather-beaten man, sitting in the shadows near the wall, was also listening intently to the hobbit-talk. He had a tall tankard in front of him, and was smoking a long-stemmed pipe curiously carved. His legs were stretched out before him, showing high boots of supple leather that fitted him well, but had seen much wear and were now caked with mud. A travel-stained cloak of heavy dark-green was drawn close about him, and in spite of the heat of the room he wore a hood that overshadowed his face; but the gleam of his eyes could be seen as he watched the hobbits.

- 1. What impression does the writer create of this place? Refer closely to the text to support your answer.**
- 2. What details create a sense of mystery about the character in paragraph 2?**

# Test Yourself (a)

**How to** deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Read the following text from 'Danny, the champion of the World' by Roald Dahl. Danny and his dad are secretly poaching pheasants from a nearby wood when they encounter a game keeper.

Now answer the following question.

**What impression do you get of the gamekeeper? Think about:**

- **The way the writer describes him**
- **What he says**
- **What he does**

# Test Yourself (b)

**How to** deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Read the following text from 'Danny, the champion of the World' by Roald Dahl. Danny and his dad are secretly poaching pheasants from a nearby wood when they encounter a game keeper.

**What impression do the following quotes give of the gamekeeper?**

<b>Quotation</b>	<b>What it suggests/ implies</b>
'The keeper shifted his gun from his left arm to the right'	<i>This makes the gamekeeper seem threatening and potentially dangerous because he has a shotgun</i>
He was 'a tall bony man with a hard eye and a hard cheek and hard dangerous hands'	
'his lips were thin and dry with a sort of brownish crust over them'	
'his upper lip lifted over the gum and I could see a row of small discoloured teeth. One of them was black. The others were brownish-yellow'	
"Beat it,' the man said. 'Go on. Get out" ... "You're loiterin", he said, "with intent to commit a nuisance. I could run you in for that."	

**Remember, you must try and achieve 80% to successfully move on from this assessment focus.**

The man had appeared suddenly and silently out of the dusk and was quite close before my father saw him. "It's another keeper," he whispered. "Just sit tight and don't say a word."

We both watched the keeper as he came down the track towards us. He had a shotgun under his arm and there was a black Labrador walking at his heel. He stopped when he was a few paces away and the dog stopped with him and stayed behind him, watching us through the keeper's legs.

"Good evening," my father said, nice and friendly.

This one was a tall bony man with a hard eye and a hard cheek and hard dangerous hands.

"I know you," he said, coming closer, "I know the both of you."

My father didn't answer this.

"You're from the fillin'-station. Right?"

His lips were thin and dry with some sort of a brownish crust over them.

"You're from the fillin'-station and that's your boy and you live in that filthy old caravan. Right?"

"What are we playing?" my father said. "Twenty Questions?"

The keeper spat out a big gob of spit and I saw it go sailing through the air and land with a plop on a patch of dry dust six inches from my father's plaster foot. It looked like a little baby oyster lying there.

"Beat it," the man said. "Go on. Get out."

When he spoke, his upper lip lifted above the gum and I could see a row of small discoloured teeth. One of them was black. The others were brownish-yellow,

like the seeds of a pomegranate.

"This happens to be a public footpath," my father said. "Kindly do not molest us."

The keeper shifted the gun from his left arm to his right.

"You're loiterin'," he said "with intent to commit a nuisance. I could run you in for that."

"No you couldn't," my father said.

All this made me rather nervous.

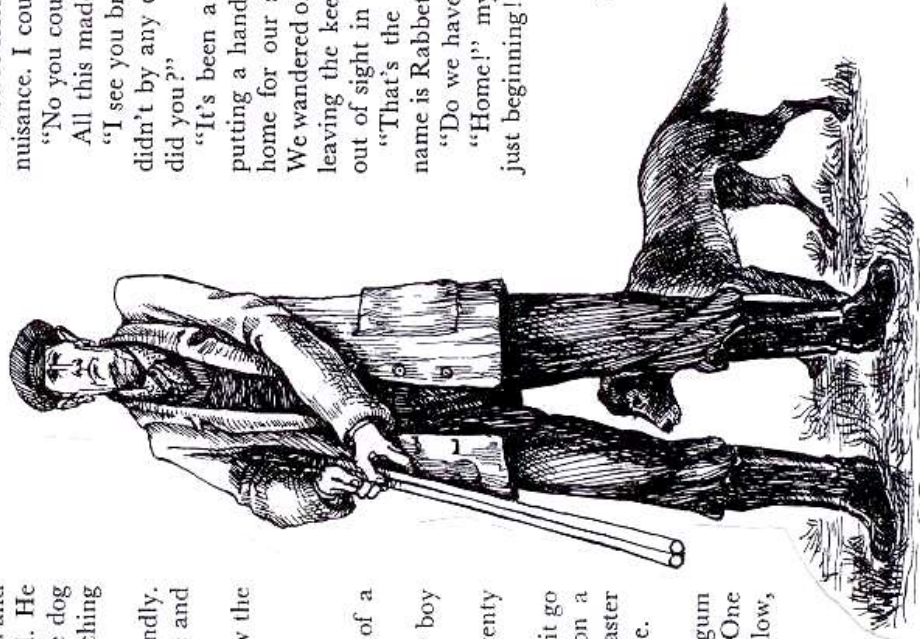
"I see you broke your foot," the keeper said. "You didn't by any chance fall into a hole in the ground, did you?"

"It's been a nice walk, Danny," my father said, putting a hand on my knee, "but it's time we went home for our supper." He stood up and so did I. We wandered off down the track the way we had come, leaving the keeper standing there, and soon he was out of sight in the half-darkness behind us.

"That's the head keeper," my father said. "His name is Rabbetts."

"Do we have to go home, Dad?"

"Home!" my father cried. "My dear boy, we're just beginning! Come in here."



from "Danny, The Champion of  
the World"

by Roald Dahl.

