

Complementary Programme for grade 12 (Grade 11B)

Theme 2 - Unit 5: Great stories

CB P. 26-27 Acts. 1 & 3

1

In groups, discuss questions a and b below.

- a. What types of stories are there? (adventure, science fiction etc)
- b. What kind of stories do you enjoy? Give your reasons.

2

Read the review of the classic novel, *Moby Dick*. As you read, look for the answer to the following question – Did the writer of the review enjoy *Moby Dick*? Which part(s) of the review tell you this?

Moby Dick

Moby Dick is one of the world's great adventure stories. It was written by the American author, Herman Melville, in 1851. It is the story of a mad sea captain, Captain Ahab, and his hunt for the great white whale, Moby Dick.

The story is told by one of the crew members, Ishmael, on Captain Ahab's ship, the *Pequod*. Ishmael tells us that Captain Ahab has a false leg. We learn he lost his real leg on a previous whale hunting trip, when Moby Dick bit it off. Now Captain Ahab has only one desire – revenge on Moby Dick.

The *Pequod* is a whaling ship with a crew from many different countries.

The men joined the ship to kill as many whales as possible and make lots of money from whale oil. But Captain Ahab tells them they are only going to hunt one whale – Moby Dick. The crew are very unhappy, but there is nothing they can do.

Finally, the *Pequod* finds Moby Dick. Captain Ahab orders his men to attack the whale and kill it. But instead, Moby Dick attacks the *Pequod* and sinks it. Ahab and all his crew are drowned. The only person to survive is Ishmael, the storyteller, who is saved by a passing ship.

Moby Dick is a very exciting and powerful story. It is also very interesting, because you learn a lot about whales, and life at sea on a whaling ship. The character of Captain Ahab is especially complex. We feel sorry for him, but at the same time he makes us angry. In the end, his crew die just because of his mad desire for revenge. I would definitely recommend *Moby Dick* to anyone who enjoys adventure stories and tales of the sea.



- Title and author
- Type of book
- Characters
- Events in the story
- The writer's opinion of the book



Suggested Answers:

- Title and author = *Moby Dick* by Herman Melville
- Type of book = adventure story
- Characters = Ishmael (storyteller); Captain Ahab, Moby Dick
- Events in the story = the hunt for Moby Dick. The eventual finding of Moby Dick, and the attack on him. Sinking of the *Pequod*.
- The writer's opinion of the book = he liked it because it is a very exciting and powerful story which is also very interesting.

- 1 Read the review below of the short story *Key Item*. After reading, match each of the four paragraph summaries under the review to one of the paragraphs. Write the number of the paragraph in the box beside each summary.

KEY ITEM

- ① *Key Item* is a science fiction story. It was written by Isaac Asimov, one of the greatest science fiction writers of the twentieth century. It is about a supercomputer called Multivac which helps to rule the world, but which suddenly stops working.

- ② Multivac is no longer willing to answer people's questions, or answers them in the wrong way. This is a serious problem for mankind, because many decisions are made according to the computer's answers, and even governments depend on it.



- ③ A team of scientists are brought in to find out why Multivac has stopped working. At last, one of the scientists figures out the problem. The computer wants the scientists to include the word 'please' in their commands. Once this is done, it starts working again.
- ④ *Key Item* is a story with interesting ideas. Isaac Asimov is asking us to imagine a situation where a machine has developed further from just being a tool. The story also reminds us of a valuable lesson – that sometimes we forget to show appreciation for the people who are serving us or working for us. This is a good story for anyone who likes science fiction. The humour in the story is also very enjoyable.

a. the writer's opinion

☐

b. problem described in the story

☐

c. solution to problem

☐

d. title and type of story

☐

2

Work with a partner. Ask and answer questions about the story *Key Item*. Refer to the information in the review in Activity 1.

What kind of story is it?

Who's the author?

What happens?

Who are the main characters?