6 Viewpoints

READING

1 **Complete the movie review with these words.**

blur exploits miniature narrative sequence

Attack of the No-bots

★★★★½

You don't often get science fiction and comedy in one movie, but *Attack of the No-bots* offers just that. It's about the [1] ..... of an army of [2] ..... robots sent to attack Earth. The problem is they have been badly programmed and do the exact opposite of what they are supposed to! The film starts with the population of a town trying to make out what the [3] ..... of activity in the skies is. They realise thousands of bots are descending and expect an attack with killer lasers, but instead they get a shower of flowers! The [4] ..... of the rest of the film is just as silly, but great fun. It's basically a [5] ..... of events in which the bots do all they can to make friends and live like humans.

2 **Read the article about dyslexia quickly. Tick (✓) the sentences that best describe the article.**

A The writer talks about dyslexia from a personal point of view. ☐

B The article is written for a general, non-scientific reader. ☐

C The article offers hints and tips for people experiencing reading difficulties. ☐

D The writer's aim is to help the reader understand problems faced by dyslexics. ☐

E The style used is mainly factual and neutral. ☐

F The writer suggests ways that the reader could find out more about the topic. ☐

3 **e** **Read the article again and choose which sentence (A–G) fits each gap (1–6). You do not need one of the sentences.**

A In this way, it's possible to get an insight into the time and effort required for a dyslexic to process text.

B Sensing movement in completely static text is a common in many dyslexics.

C And because no two dyslexics experience the condition in the same way, understanding an individual's frustration with reading is even more challenging.

D Instead, they often have high levels of creativity and develop strong problem-solving skills in many areas.

E However, it isn't a perfect experiment as dyslexia takes many forms.

F This amounts to about 700 million children and adults, although the figure could be higher as it is often undiagnosed.

G Equally important is education of the general public to improve the understanding of people with reading difficulties.

Extend

4 **Read the definitions. Find words in the article to complete the phrases.**

1 be common to people who are related (para 1): .... families

2 understand more fully (para 2): get a .... of something

3 decreases the speed or rate (para 3): ..... down

4 in the incorrect position / order (para 4): the ..... way .....

5 begin again (para 5): .... to the .....

6 not appreciate fully (para 5): ..... for .....

7 succeed in dealing with problems (para 6): ..... their challenges

8 people who are very successful (para 6): high-.....

5 **Complete the sentences with the correct forms of some of the words or phrases from Ex 4.**

1 We started the race well, but then we took the wrong route and had to ..... . We weren't last, but that mistake really ..... us ..... .

2 Never ..... people ..... . Always say thank you when they help you ..... a ..... or a difficulty.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Try being me for a day: dyslexia

In the next in our series of articles on viewpoints and understanding how others live, we look at what it's like to be dyslexic. Although a very common condition, dyslexia is not easily understood. It is generally defined as a permanent learning difficulty that affects reading and spelling despite normal intelligence levels and eyesight.

It is estimated that at least one in ten people worldwide has the condition. [1]..... . Dyslexia runs in families and it can affect co-ordination, short-term memory and the ability to recall names, as well as the problems of understanding written language. Lack of fluency in reading not only has a negative effect on progress at school, but it also lowers confidence and self-esteem.

For those of us with no experience of dyslexia, it's hard to imagine being unable to work out letters on a screen or page easily and quickly. [2]..... . That's why a graphic designer, himself dyslexic, has created a typeface that aims to help people get a better appreciation of the condition.

Daniel Britton broke down the alphabet in the Helvetica typeface, taking away forty percent of the lines to produce a skeleton of each letter. Although this doesn't necessarily imitate what a dyslexic person sees, it slows down a non-dyslexic's reading. [3]..... . In Daniel's own words, 'I need the viewer to have to work to read something so simple as a poster.'

In today's world where we read so much on screen, how does a dyslexic deal with the internet? A Swedish developer and blogger called Victor Widell was inspired by a dyslexic friend to find out just that. He took her words and turned them into a simulation that shows non-dyslexics how unstable the text is on screen. Part of his friend's original words were, 'A friend who has dyslexia described to me how she experiences reading. She can read, but it takes a lot of concentration and the letters seem to 'jump around''. [4]..... . A further characteristic is seeing the letters d, and b, and p and q the wrong way round, which makes it impossible to distinguish one from another.

As a result of the coding used for the simulation, Widell was able to make the letters constantly change position so that they appear to bounce on the screen. When you think you've worked out a word, the letters become mixed up again and you have to go back to the start. Widell's clever use of coding gives us a clear example of the challenges of dyslexia with something that we all take for granted. [5]..... . Some people with the condition said the simulation represented what they experienced while others said it was easier or just different.

What is clear is the need for further research into the condition so it is diagnosed early. Improved teacher training is also necessary to help dyslexics overcome their challenges. [6]..... . In recent times, a number of high-achievers in different fields have revealed that they are dyslexic, not least the billionaire entrepreneurs Bill Gates and Richard Branson. A surprisingly large number of actors have also overcome dyslexia to follow their chosen career, including Tom Cruise, Orlando Bloom and Keira Knightley.

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