



Week 1
Primary 5/6

The Write Tribe

ENGLISH PAPER 2
BOOKLET A + COMPRE (OPEN)



Read this passage and answer questions 71 – 81.

The river was dry. Clara could not remember the last time water had flowed along it. It had not rained for a long time and the tanks were almost dry. She would have to order water in again and that cost money, something she did not have a lot of. How much longer could they hang on? Ever since her brother, Scott, decided he wanted nothing more to do with the farm and left, she had been struggling. Her parents were too old for farm work and it was difficult to hire help. People were leaving the countryside as jobs in the city paid more. Clara had no solution.

The following week, Clara drove to a town to run some errands. On the way back, she saw a sign on the side of the road advertising a bed and breakfast. She knew that was the answer. She had read many stories about people living in the city wanting a countryside experience. Her family could offer accommodation and meals at their farm at a reasonable price. "Maybe I can also charge an additional fee if guests are keen to experience farming activities," she wondered. Now all she had to do was to convince her parents.

"No," Dad objected. "This is a working farm, not a farm stay for people who can't differentiate a horse from a cow."

"Considering we don't have any cows on the farm, that shouldn't be a problem," Clara said. "I really don't think we have a choice, Dad. Half the sheep are dead and the ones left aren't that far behind. If we get paying guests, we can buy more feed and get more water brought in."

"But it won't feel like a home with strangers around the house," Dad said.

"Yes, it will. This will still be our house and the rooms you built will still be here," Clara assured him.

"If we don't do this, John, we may not be able to keep this place running for much longer," Anna, Clara's mum said.

"And it will only be during the weekends," Clara pleaded.

John nodded. "Just one condition – if the guests mess up my farm, this will have to stop immediately."

Hence, the three of them prepared the house for guests. Clara got all the approvals and placed the first advertisement. The day the advertisement appeared, they

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received three reservations. Then, Clara began worrying about their decision. What if the guests were unreasonable and demanding and the food was not good enough? Clara had prepared as much as she could. She just hoped the first guests would be nice.

Soon, the first group of guests from the city arrived. They had never stayed in a farm house before. All it took was for a kangaroo to hop across the paddock in front of the house to make their weekend unforgettable. The guests were captivated by the animal and went home happy.

The next guests were a different story. Nothing was good enough. The scenery was not beautiful enough. They did not see enough animals. The bed was too hard. The meal portions were not enough and they had no interest in seeing how the farm worked. However in the end, they still paid their money and that was what Clara needed.

By the end of the third month, the bank balance was starting to look better – not good enough that they could stop worrying but a lot better than it was. Clara's dad was more comfortable with what they were doing. The minute things started to improve, Scott returned. He wanted everything for nothing. Clara was furious but her dad was thrilled to have him home.

"You know what he's like," Mum said. "**Scott can do no wrong in his eyes.**"

After lazing around the farm for a few months, Scott finally decided to go back to the city to work. That morning when he left, Clara was in high spirits. It was not until her bank card was rejected because of insufficient funds when buying food for their next guests that she discovered Scott's incorrigible act. She recalled that Scott had access to the farm account and her parents would never take money out without telling her. All their hard work was for nothing.

"He is not welcome in this house ever again," Dad said in a disheartened manner.

Thankfully, their business picked up with the help of the guests they had accommodated in the first few months. Word-of-mouth brought them more business than any of their advertisements. It took them a year before they could stop worrying about the farm.

Adapted from Bright Light Multimedia - Bed and Breakfast by Shelley Banks

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71. Which word in the first paragraph tells us that Clara was facing difficulties? [1m]

72. What was the "answer" (line 10) to Clara's financial problem? [2m]

73. Based on the passage, state whether each statement in the table below is true or false, then give one reason why you think so. [3m]

Statement	True / False	Reason
The countryside was experiencing a drought.		
Clara decided to start a bed and breakfast business after hearing stories about city people wanting a countryside experience.		
Clara was not confident that the family would succeed in their business at first.	True	



74. With reference to Line 15 – 23, give two reasons why John was not in favour of Clara's idea at first. [2m]

1.

2.

75. What did Clara mean when she said "the ones left aren't that far behind" (line 18 -19)? [1m]

76. Tick one quality that best describes Clara. [1m]

inquisitive

nonchalant

organised

rigid

Support your answer with information from the passage. [1m]

77. Write 1, 2 and 3 in the blanks below to indicate the order in which the events occurred in the story. [1m]

	Clara's business improved as a result of word-of-mouth.
	Clara put up an advertisement offering bed and breakfast.
	Clara convinced her parents to accept paying guests at their farm house.



78. Based on the passage, state the corresponding **cause and effect** listed in the table below. [4m]

Cause	Effect
People were leaving the countryside as jobs in the city paid more.	
	The first group of guests went home happy.
	Scott returned to the farm.
Scott stole money from the farm account.	

79. Which two words from lines 45–55 show John's feelings towards Scott? The two words are separate. (2m)

When John saw that Scott had returned home

When John found out that Scott had taken money from the farm account



80. Explain what Clara's mom meant when she said "Scott can do no wrong in his eyes."
(line 48) [2m]

