

These extra credit activities consist of two parts: an online part and a handwritten one, which must be handed over to the teacher in due date.

ACTIVITY 1. LISTENING: CONTRACEPTIVE ISSUES

You will hear a radio report about a ruling on contraception that generated intense opposition in the USA. For gaps 1- 8 complete the sentences with a word or short phrase. There is an example at the beginning. Listen to the recording twice or three times.

Example: The White House is offering (0) an accommodation to the Catholic Church and other critics on the ruling on contraception.

- A. According to the report, the exception to the new policy will not apply to institutions (1) _____ a church (2 words)
- B. Offering free contraceptive coverage on the part of insurance companies will take the Catholic organization out of the (2) _____. (1 word)
- C. Objections raised by Catholic bishops have made Republican candidates continue with the political (3) _____. (1 word)
- D. From a political point of view, the White House wants to avoid the image of the government (4) _____ churches.(2 words)
- E. Before this new ruling on contraception, the so-called "war on faith" was something Republican candidates were able to (5) _____ into." (3 words)
- F. Polling shows that not only Catholic women are in favour of this type of coverage, but also young (6) _____ women.(1 word)
- G. The president's old policy had (7) _____ from Catholics, although there was a real division between men and women.(2 words)
- H. As the day goes on, administration officials will be trying to (8) _____. (3 words)

Handwritten activity 01

Give a synonym or a clear definition for the expressions you used to complete the following sentences:

Sentence B
Sentence E
Sentence H

ACTIVITY 2. READING: A WRITER'S JOURNAL

Six months ago I made a rash promise. The leader of the youth club in our village had rung me in March saying, "We're thinking of running a children's playscheme for a day in October half-term. Would you be prepared to help?" My response was "Sure, why not?" In truth I was a little **flattered** to be asked, even though working as a care assistant with old people hardly qualified me for the role. Still, I duly put the date in my diary and of course I forgot all about it. I don't know if you've noticed this but time has a habit of speeding along faster than a police car chasing a robber and, before I knew it, the **dreaded** day was dawning.

I arrived at the youth centre that morning feeling full of trepidation. There was a gang of 12 helpers including me, split into pairs, and each pair had been allocated a particular age group. Mine was the 10 to 11 year olds. Even with the planning meeting I had attended the week before, I worried about whether I was up to the task. Why hadn't I read through the copious lesson plans we were given beforehand? And wasn't the average 10-year-old more interested in the latest electronic game than making things with paper and glue?

All too quickly the children began arriving. The look of relief on parents' faces as they handed their **offspring** over to us was almost comical. A handful of the children were already members of the club but the other forty-five or so were from the local primary schools. One or two looked tearful but the rest were in high spirits. Again I asked myself why I had elected to spend a day with all these 'little monsters' especially when I have two all of my own to contend with! I needn't have worried of course as it turned out to be a marvellous day. We watched entertaining dvd clips, learned 'action' songs, made clay pyramids, kneaded bread, decorated biscuits, played memory games and spent some time in quiet reflection. I say 'we' because I rediscovered my inner child and joined in all the activities with **glee**.

The particular highlight for me was a rousing rendition of "He's got the whole world in his hands" in the closing part of the day. The children already knew the words and actions off by heart and sang so loudly it was almost enough to bring the roof down. It's difficult to explain those moments; only that the body tingles with the pleasure of having witnessed something so magical.

Of course there were also moments of great **poignancy**. I found it difficult to stop thinking of one little girl, who mentioned oh-so-casually that her mum was in hospital and would be there for a long time. It's easy for us adults to idealise childhood and forget that some children have their own **burden** of anxieties and concerns. When I got home utterly exhausted, still with modelling clay under my fingernails, I reflected on what a privilege it had been.

There was one disappointment for the children and that was that the playscheme was only running for a day, and not the whole week. As I said farewell to my group, one of the children turned and said, "Can we do it again in the next holiday, Miss?" My response was, "Sure, why not?"

Choose the best answer.

1. When the first day of the job arrived the writer was surprised
A. that the day had come round so quickly. B. because she'd forgotten to write down the date.
C. because she witnessed a car chase on the way. D. that she woke up at dawn.

2. When the writer arrived to start her job she
A. put the children into pairs. B. realised she should have done more preparation.
C. felt confident she could deal with 10 and 11 year olds.
D. saw the children had brought their own electronic games to play with.

3. According to the writer, the parents were
A. happy to stay with their children all day. B. worried about children from the other schools.
C. nervous that their children might not behave themselves. D. glad to leave their children.

4. The writer's best moment
A. occurred in the middle of the day. B. took her by surprise.
C. was hard to put into words. D. was when the day was over.

5. According to the writer, adults
A. think that being a child is a burden. B. sometimes forget that children have worries too.
C. are usually exhausted by bringing up their children. D. don't have a stressful life.

6. What is the writer's attitude by the end of the day?

- A. She could imagine doing the job again next time.
- B. She was sad to say good bye to the children.
- C. She was disappointed with the experience.
- D. She hopes the playscheme will be longer in future.

Handwritten activity 02

Give a synonym or a clear definition for the words which are in bold in the text.

Handwritten activity 03

Write a summary of the text 'A Writer's journal' using about 60 words. Remember the content must have the essentials of the story and examples are only mentioned if they are part of the description. Also take into account that in summaries, personal opinions and facts not mentioned are never expressed.