

3.4

READING

Matching

I can understand the main points in simple descriptive text on a familiar topic.

- 1 1.52 Translate these types of books. Use a dictionary if necessary.

- 1 autobiography = _____
- 2 biography = _____
- 3 classic novel = _____
- 4 comic book = _____
- 5 crime novel = _____
- 6 fairy tale = _____
- 7 fantasy novel = _____
- 8 historical fiction = _____
- 9 horror fiction = _____
- 10 poem = _____
- 11 science fiction = _____
- 12 short story = _____
- 13 thriller = _____

- 2 **SPEAKING** Discuss your taste in books. Use the phrases and the words in Exercise 1.

- I love ... • I'm into ... • I quite like ...
- I'm not into ... • I can't stand ...

- 3 **SPEAKING** Read the list of comic book and film superheroes and their special superpowers. Discuss the questions.

- 1 Which superheroes have you read about/seen in films?
- 2 Which superpower would you most like to have?

SUPERHEROES AND THEIR SUPERPOWERS

Captain America never gets tired.

Batman is super intelligent.

Hulk is super strong.

X-men can mutate (change shape), control the weather or read minds.

Wonder Woman can fly and is super fast.

Spiderman can shoot spider webs from his wrists.

Iron Man is super strong, can fly and become invisible.

Superman is super strong, can fly and has X-ray vision.

Hulk

- 4 Read the article about superhero films and choose the best title.

- 1 It's a hard life being a superhero
- 2 Why we love superheroes
- 3 The psychology of a superhero fan

EXAM FOCUS Matching

- 5 Read the article again. Match questions 1–6 with paragraphs A–E that answer the questions. There is one extra question.

- 1 How do we know that superhero movies are popular?
- 2 Why are superhero movies and westerns different?
- 3 Why are superhero movies so popular?
- 4 Which superheroes had problems before becoming stronger?
- 5 What are typical storylines for superhero movies?
- 6 Which superheroes show that they are weak?

- 6 **SPEAKING** Discuss questions 1–6 in Exercise 5.

- 7 1.54 Match the words in blue in the article with the definitions. Then listen, check and repeat.

- 1 all the most popular or famous film stars, musicians, etc. = A-list
- 2 a book or film that is very good or successful = _____
- 3 the place in a theatre, cinema, etc. where tickets are sold = _____
- 4 images made using computer programs = _____
- 5 a particular type of art, writing, music, etc. = _____
- 6 an advertisement for a new film or television show = _____

- 8 Complete the sentences with the words in blue in the article.

- 1 One of my favourite film _____ is romantic comedy.
- 2 I don't like Hollywood _____. I prefer small-budget films.
- 3 I think the best _____ actor is Leonardo DiCaprio.
- 4 I don't think amazing special effects with _____ are as important as good acting.
- 5 I don't watch film _____ because they show all the best scenes.
- 6 The last film I saw wasn't very successful at the _____, but I thought it was good.

- 9 **SPEAKING** Change the sentences in Exercise 8 to make them true for you. Then compare your sentences with a partner.

WORD STORE 3E Phrasal verbs

- 10 1.55 Complete WORD STORE 3E with the base forms of the underlined phrasal verbs in the article. Then listen, check and repeat.



A ☐

One of the most popular cinema **genres** of the twenty-first century so far is the superhero movie. Some people say that superhero movies are the new westerns. Both genres have similar themes: the good guys fighting the bad guys, protecting the innocent and **giving up** their life for the good of others. 5

B ☐

When a new superhero movie **comes out**, it dominates the **box office** for weeks. The **trailer** for *Captain America: Civil War* was one of the most downloaded trailers ever and **A-list** actors are keen to **take on** 10 superhero roles.

Many superhero films have had Oscar nominations, and fan events like Comic-Con* keep fans excited about the latest **blockbusters**.

C ☐

First of all, there's the adventure, the action and the 15 costumes, the great soundtracks, the special effects and **computer-generated images**. They're fun and entertaining, and we love the escapism. But is that enough?

You have to look deeper to find out why people love 20 them. Superheroes have feelings. They **cope with** human experiences that we can **relate to**. In other words, they are not so different from regular people. Psychologist Mary Tavost has written books about the psychology of superheroes, and she thinks that they 25 inspire their fans because their goals in life are similar to human goals.

They want peace, justice and love, just as we do. The lives of superheroes reflect real life as we know it.

D ☐

Batman **dedicates himself to** fighting crime after 30 somebody murders his parents in front of him. In real life, people who experience a trauma often decide to help others. But he also shows a very human side because love is his motivation. In *The Dark Knight*, his love for Rachel makes him weak. As a result, he often 35 makes bad decisions. When Hulk is angry, he causes terrible destruction. He finds it difficult to control his angry feelings, and then he feels guilty when he loses control. This is easy to understand – extreme anger is a very human emotion. 40

E ☐

Superheroes cope with problems and find meaning in loss and trauma. When they discover their powers they use them for a good purpose. X-Men are 'mutants' – people reject them because they are different and 'weird' – but they use their powers 45 to **stand up for** the innocent. They inspire us to accept ourselves and be proud of who we are. Before Spiderman had superpowers, his classmates bullied him at school. Later, he uses his abilities to protect people who can't protect themselves. These 50 superheroes may be larger than life, but we have no problems identifying with their human side.

*Comic-Con – a conference for comic book and film character fans