



## Unit 1: ANIMALS

### READING 1: PRACTICE

#### Task 1. Skimming Practice

Skim the text below. Read it quickly. Don't use a dictionary. Then, answer the question.

I really don't know why this book is so popular. I mean, I suppose it is going to appeal to young girls who want danger and romance, but I found this book really tedious. For a start, the characters were really unconvincing. The author went out of her way to add lots of details about the characters, but I found these details really pointless. I thought that some of the facts she presented about the main characters would become significant in some way later in the novel, but they didn't. They were just worthless bits of information. I also was disappointed that, although this book is meant to be about kids at high school, the writer seems to have no recollection at all about what it's like to be 17. The main character thought and acted like a 32-year old. It just wasn't believable. I'm not saying Teresa Wilson is a bad writer. She can obviously string words together and come up with a story that is appealing to a large number of people, but she lacks anything original. There is no flair. It just uses the same sort of language as you can see in many other mediocre novels.

**Question: How did Kerry feel about the book?**

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#### Task 2. Scanning Practice

Scan the text below for the answers to the questions. Try to use keywords in the questions to help you look for specific information.

I really don't know why this book is so popular. I mean, I suppose it is going to appeal to young girls who want danger and romance, but I found this book really tedious. For a start, the characters were really unconvincing. The author went out of her way to add lots of details about the characters, but I found these details really pointless. I thought that some of the facts she presented about the main characters would become significant in some way later in the novel, but they didn't. They were just worthless bits of information. I also was disappointed that, although this book is meant to be about kids at high school, the writer seems to have no recollection at all about what it's like to be 17. The main character thought and acted like a 32-year old. It just wasn't believable. I'm not saying Teresa Wilson is a bad writer. She can obviously string words together and come up with a story that is appealing to a large number of people, but she lacks anything original. There is no flair. It just uses the same sort of language as you can see in many other mediocre novels.

Question 1: Which age group will like this book?

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Question 2: Who is Teresa Wilson?

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Question 3: What does “mediocre” mean in the last line?

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**Task 3. This exercise practises skimming — that means reading very fast to find only the main ideas of a text. You have a very short time to read the text and identify the main ideas.**

(1) Every second, one hectare of the world's rainforest is destroyed. That's equivalent to two football fields. An area the size of New York City is lost every day. In a year, that adds up to 31 million hectares -- more than the land area of Poland. This alarming rate of destruction has serious consequences for the environment; scientists estimate, for example, that 137 species of plant, insect or animal become extinct every day due to logging. In British Columbia, where, since 1990, thirteen rainforest valleys have been clearcut, 142 species of salmon have already become extinct, and the habitats of grizzly bears, wolves and many other creatures are threatened. Logging, however, provides jobs, profits, taxes for the government and cheap products of all kinds for consumers, so the government is reluctant to restrict or control it.

**The main idea of paragraph one is:**

- A. Scientists are worried about New York City.
- B. Logging is destroying the rainforests.
- C. Governments make money from logging.
- D. Salmon are an endangered species.

(2) Much of Canada's forestry production goes towards making pulp and paper. According to the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, Canada supplies 34% of the world's wood pulp and 49% of its newsprint paper. If these paper products could be produced in some other way, Canadian forests could be preserved. Recently, a possible alternative way of producing paper has been suggested by agriculturalists and environmentalists: a plant called hemp.

**The main idea of paragraph two is:**

- A. Canadian forests are especially under threat.
- B. Hemp is a kind of plant.
- C. Canada is a major supplier of paper and pulp.
- D. Canada produces a lot of hemp.

(3) Hemp has been cultivated by many cultures for thousands of years. It produces fibre which can be made into paper, fuel, oils, textiles, food, and rope. For centuries, it was essential to the economies of many countries because it was used to make the ropes and cables used on sailing ships; colonial expansion and the establishment of a world-wide trading network would not have been feasible without hemp. Nowadays, ships' cables are usually made from wire or synthetic fibres, but scientists are now suggesting that the cultivation of hemp should be revived for the production of paper and pulp. According to its proponents, four times as much paper can be produced from land using hemp rather than trees, and many environmentalists believe that the large-scale cultivation of hemp could reduce the pressure on Canada's forests.

**The main idea of paragraph three is:**

- A. Paper could be made from hemp instead of trees.
- B. Hemp is useful for fuel.
- C. Hemp has been cultivated throughout history.
- D. Hemp is essential for building large ships.

(4) However, there is a problem: hemp is illegal in many countries of the world. This plant, so useful for fibre, rope, oil, fuel and textiles, is a species of cannabis, related to the plant from which marijuana is produced. In the late 1930s, a movement to ban the drug marijuana began to gather force, resulting in the eventual banning of the cultivation not only of the plant used to produce the drug, but also of the commercial fibre-producing hemp plant. Although both George Washington and Thomas Jefferson grew hemp in large quantities on their own land, any American growing the plant today would soon find himself in prison -- despite the fact that marijuana cannot be produced from the hemp plant, since it contains almost no THC (the active ingredient in the drug).

**The main idea of paragraph four is:**

- A. Hemp is used to produce drugs.
- B. Many famous people used to grow hemp.
- C. It is illegal to grow hemp.
- D. Hemp is useful for producing many things.

Task 4. Scanning a job advertisement

## SKILLWISE DELIVERY SERVICES

### CHRISTMAS JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Aged between 16 and 65 years? Need extra cash for Christmas?

Are you available to work at short notice?

Can you work early, late or night shifts?

We are looking for enthusiastic and reliable people to work on an occasional basis, helping to sort and deliver parcels in the Reading area from late November until the end of December.

Pay rates for weekdays, including Saturdays, will be:-

Ages 16 to 17 - £4.80 per hour.

Age 18 and over - £6.10 per hour.

So if you have good communication skills and are able to work as part of a team, we would like to hear from you.

To obtain an application form please write to:

**Elaine Grey, Personnel Officer,  
Skillswise Delivery Services, Windsor Road,  
Reading, RG5 4BR  
Tel: 0118 932 814 (24 hr. answer phone)**

Closing date: 10th November.

#### Questions

1. When do these jobs start? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The work will last for about a month. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What type of work is on offer? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What kind of people is Skillswise Delivery Services looking for? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What shift patterns are available? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Where is the job based? \_\_\_\_\_
7. The work involves travel around the UK. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_
8. How much will you earn per hour if you are aged 18? \_\_\_\_\_
9. True or false? You will be paid extra for working on Saturday. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Whom should you contact at Skillswise Delivery Services to get an application form? \_\_\_\_\_
  
11. You can leave a message on an answering machine. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_

12. You need to be able to work at short notice. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_

13. It is 1 November. Is there still time to apply for a job? \_\_\_\_\_

14. The minimum age for this job is 18. True or false? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Do you need a driving licence to apply for a job with Skillswise Delivery Services?  
\_\_\_\_\_