

Darland High School

National Literacy

Tests

Year 8



Home Learning

Papers

# National Literacy Tests

The National Literacy Tests are used by the school and the Welsh Assembly Government to track your child's progress across Key Stage 3.

It is essential that young people are confident readers and are encouraged to read regularly both at home and in school, as this is the foundation upon which all learning is built. For this reason the tests focus on a pupil's ability to read and understand the material with which they are presented.

We, at Darland, have taken the liberty to offer you these past papers to enable you to support the school in familiarising your child with the requirements of the test.

We have also noted below some of the guidance notes offered to schools about the administering of the tests.

- Pupils are allowed up to an hour to complete two test papers.
- Pupils are not allowed to have assistance to read the passages, therefore, it is really important that pupils are regular and confident readers.
- Pupils must read both the passages and questions carefully and thoroughly.

We hope you find this material useful.

1 Choose the best word or group of words to fit the passage and tick your choices.

This story took place while the country was at war.  
'Stalker' is the main character's

- a) **name.**       **job.**       **hobby.**       **cat.**

In order to help the war effort, he had tried to

- b) **join a gym.**       **become a pilot.**       **become a spy.**       **join the army.**

1a  
  
1m

1b  
  
1m

2 What task was Stalker asked to do?

Tick **one**.

- join the army   
bird-watching   
watch for planes   
rescue animals

2  
  
1m

3 The first paragraph, starting *Stalker rested*, tells the reader that Stalker was ...

Tick **one**.

- unattractive.   
hopeless.   
not intelligent.   
physically weak.

3  
  
1m

4 In this extract, we read both good and bad opinions of Stalker.  
Put ticks to show whether the following give a **positive** or **negative** view of him.

	Positive	Negative
the remaining sergeant's view	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
James's view	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stalker's view of himself	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

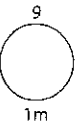
4  
  
1m

*please turn over*

TOTAL  
  
5m

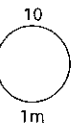
9 Put these events in order by numbering them from 1 to 5.  
One has been done for you.

- Stalker went back inside hut
- cat approached hut
- Stalker left food for cat
- cat entered hut
- Stalker went out to meet cat



10 Stalker's feelings changed throughout the passage.  
Draw **four** lines to show what he was feeling at each point.

on his own in the hut		frustrated
when he first saw the cat		happy
when the cat sniffed the sandwich		lonely
when the cat entered the hut		interested



11 This is a copy of part of page 8. Label each arrow to show these different parts of the passage.

- A – an introduction to the story
- B – a point at which the writer hints that events may take a turn for the better for Stalker
- C – description of Stalker
- D – dialogue

**The Lookout**

[Redacted]

Stalker rested his binoculars and rubbed his neck where the strap cut into it. He was round-shouldered and the weight of the binoculars didn't help. He hated the long thinness of his body, the bandy legs and sunken chest that were the mark of rickets. The body that had kept him out of the army. The recruiting sergeant had said he was good for nothing.

So, it seemed a miracle when Jones from the Bird-Watching Club had rung him up. They needed people to watch for enemy planes from cliff-top observation posts.

Unable to believe his good luck, he blurted out, 'Do you really want me?'

'Nothing wrong with your eyes, Stalker.'

So he'd gone, looking forward to company and talk.

\* \* \*

No company. When he'd reached the little hut, it was empty. It had been empty a long time. The notices on the notice-board were bleached into invisibility. The floor was covered with last season's dead leaves. The phone had cobwebs.

He was sipping tea when he saw the cat limping up towards him. His first thought was that black cats were lucky. But through his binoculars she didn't look very lucky. She looked thin, beaten, furtive and her fur was staring.

He had no feelings about cats, one way or another. But she was an event in the monotony. Company. When she paused, ten yards from the post, he took a beef sandwich from his packet, and called out to meet her. She fled, though he called to her as softly, as gently as he could. He thought bitterly that he couldn't even give a starving cat a beef sandwich properly. He tore up the sandwich and dropped the pieces on the grass and went back inside, watching her from the bird-watcher's hide. He watched with sad satisfaction as she sniffed the sandwich; then turned his attention back to the sea.

Next thing he knew, she was up on the sandbags beside him, purring wildly, rubbing herself in ecstasy against the hand that held the binoculars. He laughed at his sudden success; his popularity. He gave her another sandwich. That, too, vanished instantly.

He felt elated at doing a fellow-creature good. In all this terrifying world, here was someone to whom he could make a difference.



please turn over



"The Lookout"

Answers

