

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.

The Lookout

This is an extract from a story which takes place during World War Two. Stalker is watching for planes from a hide-out on the top of a cliff. He's alone - but not for long.

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.

* * *

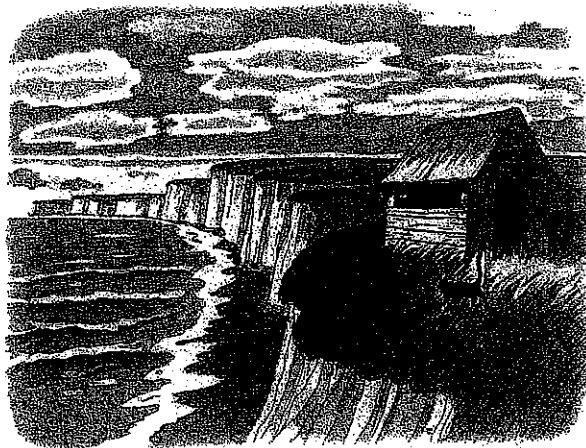
No company. When he'd reached the little hut, it was empty. It had been empty a long time. The notices on the notice-board were bleached into invisibility. The floor was covered with last season's dead leaves. The phone had cobwebs.

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 sallied 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.



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 recruiting sergeant's view	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jones' view	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stalker's view of himself	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4

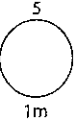
1m

please turn over

5

In many ways, Stalker and the cat were alike. Put ticks to show whether the descriptions below describe **Stalker** or the **cat** or **both**. The first one has been done for you.

	Stalker	Cat	Both
nervous		✓	
unfit			
bored			
hungry			



6

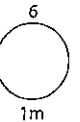
She looked thin, beaten, furtive and her fur was staring.

What does this tell the reader about the behaviour of the cat?

Tick **one**.

She was ...

- lazy. aggressive.
 observant. uneasy.



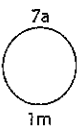
7

Look at the text in the box below.

a) **Underline two** words or phrases that show that the cat was happy.

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.

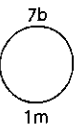
He felt elated at doing a fellow-creature good. In all this terrifying world, here was someone to whom he could make a difference.



b) **Find and copy two** words or phrases that show how happy Stalker was.

1. _____

2. _____

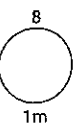


8

The writer describes Stalker's success in feeding the cat as *sudden*. What might be another good word to describe his success?

Tick **one**.

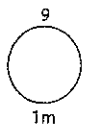
- unwanted undeserved
 unhurried unexpected





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

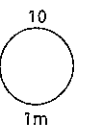


1m



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



1m



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

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.

* * *

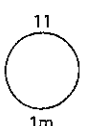
No company. When he'd reached the little hut, it was empty. It had been empty a long time. The notices on the notice-board were bleached into invisibility. The floor was covered with last season's dead leaves. The phone had cobwebs.

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 monotonous 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.



1m

please turn over



TOTAL

8m

"The Lookout"

Answers

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.

Award 1 mark for each correct answer.

- a) name (1 mark)
b) join the army (1 mark)

2 What task was Stalker asked to do?

Tick one.

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

Award 1 mark for watch for planes.

(1 mark)

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

Tick one.

- unattractive.
hopeless.
not intelligent.
physically weak.

Award 1 mark for physically weak.

(1 mark)

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 recruiting sergeant's view	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jones' view	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stalker's view of himself	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Award 1 mark for all three rows completed correctly.

(1 mark)

5 In many ways, Stalker and the cat were alike. Put ticks to show whether the descriptions below describe Stalker or the cat or both. The first one has been done for you.

	Stalker	Cat	Both
nervous	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
unfit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
bored	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
hungry	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Award 1 mark for all three rows completed correctly.

(1 mark)

6 She looked thin, beaten, furtive and her fur was staring.

What does this tell the reader about the behaviour of the cat?

Tick one.

- She was ...
lazy. aggressive.
observant. uneasy.

Award 1 mark for uneasy.

(1 mark)

Look at the text in the box below.

a) Underline two words or phrases that show that the cat was happy.

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.

b) Find and copy two words or phrases that show how happy Stalker was.

1. _____

2. _____

a) Award 1 mark for identifying both of the following purring (wildly)

(rubbing herself in) ecstasy (against the hand)

(1 mark)

b) Award 1 mark for identifying both of the following (he) laughed (at his sudden success)

(He felt) elated (at doing a fellow-creature good)

(1 mark)

8 The writer describes Stalker's success in feeding the cat as sudden. What might be another good word to describe his success?

Tick one.

- unwanted undeserved
unhurried unexpected

Award 1 mark for unexpected.

(1 mark)

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

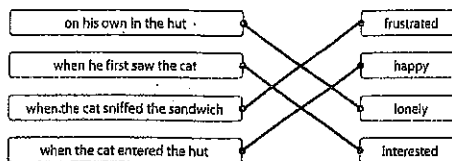
- Stalker went back inside hut 4
cat approached hut 1
Stalker left food for cat 3
cat entered hut 5
Stalker went out to meet cat 2

Award 1 mark for

- 4
1 (given)
3
5
2

(1 mark)

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



Award 1 mark for all four pairs matched correctly.

(1 mark)

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

That evening

A → [Text block]

C → [Text block]

D → [Text block]

B → [Text block]

Award 1 mark for all four parts of text labelled correctly.

(1 mark)