

### 3 Strange islands

#### 1.1 The mystery of Oak Island

1 Answers should form useful notes of key points:

1799: Daniel McGinnis – found stones / evidence of tools / dug 9 metres / stopped due to strange feeling

1909: Gold Salvage Group – dug 34 metres / found nothing

1969: Triton Alliance – dug 72 metres / claimed camera recorded chests and tools / hole collapsed and project stopped

2006: Lagina brothers – findings include coin and sword but no treasure

2 They have spent a great deal of money but found very little so it was not worth it.

3

| Example  | Technique       | Comment  |
|--|-----------------|--|
| <i>an open secret in the world of treasure-hunting</i>                     | oxymoron        | This explores the idea that everyone knew about Oak Island's supposed treasure, but also that treasure hunting is full of mysteries and secrets. It makes it seem a challenge that everyone wants to overcome. |
| <i>Like a magnet, it has drawn many people to it</i>                       | simile          | This shows that the lure of finding treasure is very powerful indeed.  |
| <i>The island first captured people's imagination almost 400 years ago</i> | personification | This could be interpreted in two ways. Either the island is an attractive place, or it is a dangerous place that causes problems for treasure hunters – it traps them.   |
| <i>the whole world has been intrigued by the island</i>                    | hyperbole       | This exaggerates the sense of excitement generated by Oak Island, but also reflects the fact that finding treasure is a very attractive idea for most people.  |

4 Learners' answers may include: *Michigan's main men and coolest kids; local heroes; successful businessmen; if anyone can do it, the Lagina brothers can!*

5 • Non-standard English includes: *findin' treasure!; unearthin' the secrets of Oak Island; gettin' their paws on Cap'n Kidd's buried treasure; cool!; searchin'; Go get 'em, boys!*

- Explanations will vary, but should focus on the effects of the informality, acknowledging that the text is aimed at young readers.

6 Comparisons should mention the following.

- In the first article there is little emphasis on the brothers' themselves, other than their names, whereas in the second, they are presented as *local heroes*.
- The first article suggests that their progress has been disappointing and they have not achieved anything, whereas the second article calls their discoveries *startling* and thinks they are *cool*.
- The first article suggests that they have wasted their money whereas the second describes them as *successful businessmen* and *hunters* instead.
- The first article is saying they should give up whereas the second encourages them to continue with the treasure hunt.
- The first article uses rather plain language describing their findings as 'items, including a coin and a sword' with phrases such as *nothing like the huge hoard of treasure* conveying the writer is unimpressed. In contrast, the second article uses more effusive language such as *local heroes* and *Cool!* to show that their actions are admirable and being celebrated.

### 3.2 Strange islands

1 Learners make notes from the audio.

2

| Island / country            | Key features  | Subsidiary features  | Strange feature |
|-----------------------------|---|--|-----------------|
| Skorpios, Greece            | Sandy beaches<br>Forests with 200 types of trees<br>Large luxury resort built in 2018                           | Aristotle Onassis bought it in 1963<br>In 2011, only 5 people were living there<br>Celebrity parties used to be held there<br>It has a helipad           | None            |
| Okunoshima, Japan           | Full of tame rabbits but uninhabited by humans<br>Used to be a chemical testing site<br>Museum of poisonous gas | There's a museum dedicated to poison gas on the island   | Rabbits         |
| Snake Island, Brazil        | The largest number of snakes in such a small place<br>Uninhabited<br>Illegal to land boats                      | Most snakes are golden lancehead vipers<br>The island used to be inhabited by humans<br>There was a lighthouse there until 1920<br>Poaching is a problem | Snakes          |
| Island of the Dolls, Mexico | Situated in the Xochimilco canals<br>There are hundreds of dolls placed on the island                           | Don Julian Santana Barrera is thought to have put the doll collection there over a 50-year period until 2000   | Dolls           |

3 Short sentences and ellipsis (*that's right . . . dolls*) creates a sense of disbelief.

Exclamation mark (*or at least parts of dolls!*) adds drama / a sense of horror.

Question (*creepy, eh?*) invites reader to share sense of horror.

Dashes (– *or parts of dolls* –) adds gruesome detail for shock effect.

4 Learners' answers will vary, but should be modelled on the original text. Example answer:

**Sable Island**

**Where?** Canada

**What's there?** On Sable Island, near Halifax, you'll be lucky not to be blown off your feet! Literally! The winds are so strong there that they

change the landscape constantly. There's only one solitary tree because the wind blows them all over! The island is known as 'the graveyard of the Atlantic' because so many ships have been wrecked there. You will not find many people who want to live in such a desolate place but there are lots of wild horses galloping around.

**Strangeness rating:** 2/5 – Too windy and lonely for us!

5 Learners' answers will vary.

### 3.3 *Treasure Island: Meeting Ben Gunn*

1 tint: colour

out-topping: taller

singly: on their own

clumps: grouped close together

vegetation: foliage (leaves, trees, shrubs)

configuration: shape

sheer: steep

pedestal: platform

**2** Learners' answers will vary, but the maps should show details from the extract and from learners' own imagination.

**3** **a** three years

**b** Ben is very darkly sunburnt but has light eyes.

**c** Marooned means left behind on an island with no way to escape.

**d** Ben was left on the island after his ship landed there to find Flint's treasure. After 12 days of looking for it, they went back to the ship and left him on the island alone.

**4** • The way he refers to himself: 'poor Ben Gunn' shows he feels he has had a terrible deal. He always uses his full name – perhaps it has helped him remember his identity before being marooned.

• Non-standard English: he uses words like 'mate', 'these three years', 'so much I'll tell you' etc. Makes his dialect 'apparent' as it is not standard English. He also sounds uneducated and the language is very old fashioned such as 'nigh on'.

• The use of contractions: 'I'm', 'haven't', 'you're', 'here's', 'let's' all informal and suitable for direct speech.

**5** Monologues will vary, but should explore Ben's feelings about being marooned by the other men. Details about the island should be used to support the ideas about food and shelter, as well as what he thought may happen.

**6** Learners' answers will vary.

### 3.4 Treasure Island: The play

**1** Learners perform the script.

**2** Learners' answers will vary.

**3** Learners' answers will vary, but should be modelled on the original text. Sample answer:

**BEN:** Just you mention tell this to your squire, Jim. You say this: Gunn is a good man, and he puts a precious sight more confidence in

a gen'leman born than in these gen'leman of fortune.

**JIM:** (*confused*) Well, I don't understand one word that you've been saying. How am I to get on board?

**BEN:** If the worst come to the worst, we might try that after dark.

(*A noise in the distance*)

**BEN:** Hi! What's that?

(*loud cannon fire erupts*)

**JIM:** They have begun to fight! Follow me.

**BEN:** We need to keep left, left . . . keep to your left hand, mate . . . Jim! Under the trees! I'm coming with you!

**4** Learners' answers will vary.

### 3.5 Singing sand

**1** Predictions will vary, but should use the information provided.

**2** pitch-black: extremely dark

palms: a type of tree with a tall vertical trunk and fern-like leaves on the top

delicate crystal chimes: hanging glass pieces chinking together musically

particles: small grains

lulled: soothed

nestled: snuggled

hillocks: small mounds

tide pools: large puddles of sea water left on the sand

**3** **a** Simon is missing his mother: *I wish Mami were here.*

Maya is also missing her mother: *Her heart ached.*

She is also missing her father: *Tears welled up in her eyes at the thought of her father.*

They both get happier: *suddenly Maya and Simon both felt more cheerful.*

**b** There is a jungle behind them and the sea before them.

There are palm trees moving in the breeze at the edge of the beach.

The sand seems to sing as it moves.

There are pools of water on the beach.  
There is a bright moon.

**c** Answers may include some of the following ideas:

- Simile – *like thousands of delicate crystal chimes* – adds a magical feeling as though the island is enchanted.
- Metaphor – *tears welled up* – exaggerates the amount of tears and stresses her strong emotions.
- Personification – *muggy breath of the jungle* – shows how hot and humid it is but also makes the jungle seem alive and mysterious.
- Metaphor – *little hillocks of moonlight* – describing how the shapes of the sand look almost moonlike. Gives it a feeling of a dreamy otherworld.

**4** Answers should give a clear example of each sentence type with an appropriate explanation of its effectiveness.

- Simple: *Maya knelt down ... pools*. This simple sentence describes her movement concisely.
- Compound: *The pools stretched out down the beach, and ... moon*. This compound sentence gives an overview of the scene.
- Complex: *As she watched ... jagged pieces*. This complex sentence slows the writing down and allows the writer to develop a mysterious atmosphere through describing what is happening in detail.

**5** Answers should use the example as a guide.

**6** Learners predict how the story might develop.

### 3.6 Helix

**1** Learners' answers will vary.

**2** **a** desperately/loudly/angrily/petulantly  
**b** quietly/hopelessly/nervously  
**c** sincerely/sadly/wistfully

**3** Answers may include some of the following ideas:

- Helix appears to be thoughtful as he moves away with Maya but reassures her that they will keep her brother and sister in view.

• Helix seems to be warning Maya that she might not find help on Tamarind.

• Helix seems to be very wary about what he says and is holding things back.

**4** Answers may explore some of the following ideas:

- Suggestions about why Helix is alone.
- Why Helix has told Maya things are different on the island than where she comes from.
- Why he seems to doubt that they will find their parents.
- Why he is interested in the logbook and what he read in it.

### Check your progress

**1** Hyperbole is exaggeration. Example: 'The whole world has heard about ...'

**2** Writers use informal language with contractions, or deliberate misspelling to show how a word is pronounced. They also use dashes and exclamation marks.

**3** He was left on the island three years earlier by the rest of the crew after they failed to find the treasure.

He was scared as he watched the ship sail away and disappear.

He made a shelter in a clump of bushes.

He made a fire and drank seawater.

He survived on berries and fruit.

**4** Scripts are written and laid out as dialogue.

Scripts have stage directions containing guidance for the actors on how to move or speak.

Scripts may contain sound effect details.

**5** Genre clues help the reader to anticipate what a story may be about and what kinds of things will happen, for example, fantasy, Science fiction.

**6** Sound out the word by reading aloud each letter or syllable using phonetic knowledge.

Use knowledge of word patterns, for example knowing that *y* on the end of a word becomes *ies* when pluralised.