

Name: _____

HEROES TUITION

October Homework
English
Platinum

Please return this booklet to your English teacher by the end of the month. All answers will be sent to your parents or guardians, so please ensure it is marked before handing it in.





Spelling and Punctuation

Using a coloured pen, find the error and make corrections in the passage below.

There are 21 spelling errors.

There are 15 punctuation errors.

Can you find them all?

At Home with a Killer

Journalist and mother Elizabeth Church gives her view on computer games and their effects on children

If I told you there was something toxic and potentially deadly in your home, something that could harm your children and affect their future chances in life, you'd be anxious to throw it out wouldn't you.

Why then do so many of us harbor computer games consoles in the heart of our home. Computer game playing is at best harmful and at worst life threatening both consoles and games should be banned for under 18's.

You may think I exaggerate but no. Student Chris Staniforth aged just 20 died from a blood clot in his lung. The reason? Regular 12 hour sessions of computer gaming had caused DVT Deep Vein Thrombosis. A clot formed in his leg and then moved up to his lungs. This tragic waste of life illustrates the dangers of letting children grow up with the habit of gaming for hours at a time once they are beyond the control of parents, it gets out of control and the young person can become addicted to their console. So how come it is seen as acceptable for parents to allow these things in the home. You would not buy your child cigarettes or vodka, this is no different.

Of course, not all gamers suffer these extreme consequences. But even relatively short periods of time playing games such as Angry Birds or The Sims can affect a child's ability to concentrate for extended periods. This is backed up by research, such as that published in 2012 in the journal 'Psychology of Popular Media Culture.' The study which looked at over 3,000 children over three years states

'...those who spend more time playing video games subsequently have more attention problems'

You can imagine the results of attention problems – struggling at school, inability to listen to and take in instructions, incapable of long periods of study the list could go on. This does not just affect a young person when there at school, this will have a lasting and irreparable impact on the rest of their life in employment in relationships and as a parent themselves

Section A: Reading (40 marks)

Answer **all** of the following questions.

1. Look at Source **1** and answer the questions below.
 - A. Give **one** example of a job that the writer did. [1]
 - B. What was the circumstance that made the writer think more about equality? [1]
 - C. Give **one** example of a restriction imposed on Saudi women. [1]

2. Look at Source **1** for this question.

How does the author show her anger and frustration about the change to her teaching career? [10]

You need to look at:

 - Language
 - Structure
 - Tone

3. Now look at Source **2**.
 - A. How did the newspapers describe the women's actions at the meeting of protest? [1]
 - B. Give two details that suggest some men were vehemently opposed to women getting the vote. [2]

4. Look at Source **2**.

What do you think about the author's view on the rights of women?
And what do you think about how she expresses this view in the extract? [10]

Include:

 - The ideas in the extract
 - How Pankhurst talks about her ideas

Remember to use evidence from the text to support your ideas.

5. Now look at both sources **1** and **2**.

Looking at both authors, what positive results have come from their negative experiences? [4]

6. Both of the sources are about women encountering inequality.

Compare: [10]

 - What the authors say about inequality.
 - How the writers talk about inequality.

Don't forget to use quotations from the text to support your points.

**Section B: Writing (40 marks)**

Answer Question 1 **and** Question 2.

In this section you will be assessed for the quality of your writing skills.

For each question, 12 marks are awarded for communication and organisation; 8 marks are awarded for vocabulary, sentence structure, punctuation and spelling.

Think about the purpose and audience for your writing.

You should aim to write about 300-400 words for each task.

- Write a plan before you start your answer.
- Leave 5 minutes at the end of your writing to check through your piece of work.

1. Many 11 year olds are very worried about the transition to high school – they have heard stories about bullying from older pupils and think that they may be a victim of this hurtful behaviour.

You have been asked to write a magazine article to reassure year 6 pupils about the transition to high school and help them to deal with bullying.

You need to include at least one of the following:

- Types of bullying
- What to do if bullied
- How school can help
- Positive school experiences

[20]

2. 'Gender stereotypes have no part to play in the 21st century. Men and women should be treated in exactly the same way in the workplace, at home and in society at large. There should be nothing a woman can do that a man can't do and vice versa. It's only an accident of biology that we are different at all and these days, that can be overcome.'

Write a speech for your school assembly to argue for or against this statement. **[20]**

Source 1

Shock Tactics

Catherine Harwood describes the experience that turned her from complacent to campaigner.

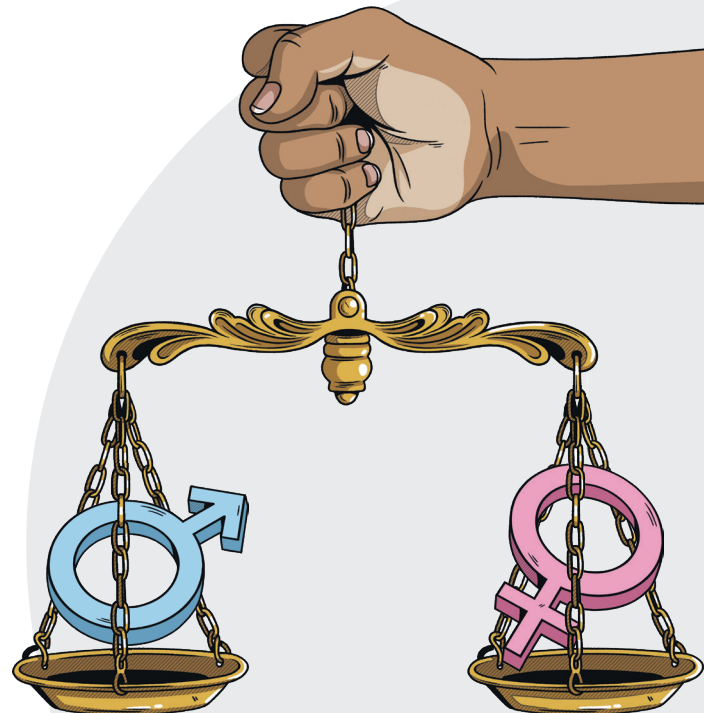
As a child of the eighties, I was brought up to believe that there were no differences between men and women. Well, apart from the obvious. It never occurred to me that there would be opportunities offered to men that weren't available for me. I wanted to be a fighter pilot, and that was fine, I could be. In fact, with my cropped hair and androgynous body shape, I pretty much looked like a boy. Most of my friends were boys and I regarded myself as completely equal and on the same level as them. I had no intention of becoming a housewife and although I wanted to be a mum, I was determined that children would not stand in the way of my career. I could have it all. Oh how wrong I was!

At 28, I decided to train to become a teacher. I'd been a journalist on a local magazine (I never did fly a plane), but this had become stale and I wanted to feel useful. Teaching is very straightforward in terms of equality - everybody is overworked, stressed and is treated like they've sold their soul to the school whether you are male or female. There is a clear pay scale and everyone knows what everyone else earns - it's a matter of public record. Men do not get paid more than women for doing the same job. Not in my experience anyway.

So there I was, safe in the knowledge that all's fair in the land of education and that women don't even have to think about equality anymore because it

just happens now, doesn't it? And then I became pregnant.

You know when you've got your best outfit on and the high heels and the makeup and for once your hair has done what you wanted it to do and you feel like you're hot and confident and ready to take on the world? So you strut into the bar to meet your mates, smiling and waving, sure every man in the place is thinking 'Who's this girl?' and you're so busy beaming over at your friends that you don't see the pillar in the middle of the room and walk 'smack' right into it. As you crumple to the floor in shame and embarrassment, you realise that real life will always come back to give you a kick, no matter how much you feel like you're in a movie.



So that's what happened to me. Well, not the walking into a pillar bit, not then anyway, but real life coming back to pour cold water on all my feelings of equality - and it happened once I had my first child.



The truth is, I was naive. I thought that I would take full advantage of the maternity rights we now have in this country and take a full year off - after all this was my first baby. Oh, what a mistake that was. No-one told me that there was an unwritten rule saying your boss doesn't take kindly to your year off. No-one told me that this year off would result in the end of my career. No-one said. I thought it would be OK. Especially since my boss was a woman.

After 12 months, I returned to work full of vim and vigour and ready to get back

into the swing of things. This is what I found. All my school files, paperwork, books and so forth had been removed from my office and put in a black bin liner at the back of my classroom. All the systems and schemes I had in place had been abandoned. I came back to an environment I didn't recognise with some new personnel I'd not been introduced to and suddenly I was a fish out of water. As I felt my confidence slipping away, I received a summons to see the headteacher and no-one would tell me what she wanted.

It was the worst thing you could hear as an employee - you are incompetent. 'While you've been away, I've investigated how you were doing your job and you didn't come up to the mark.' I was asked questions about things I said in meetings that had happened over a year ago (and remember, I'd had a baby since then) - I couldn't give any sort of defence because I couldn't recall the exact details of something that far back. I was told 'I would like to demote you, but your job title is protected because you've been on maternity leave, so instead I'm putting someone in above you. Someone who you will now have to report to.' So, there were ways to get round the protection I had from my rights - they could stop me from doing my original job by restructuring the department. And the 'someone' in question was a man.

This was possibly the most bone-crushing, heart-sinking, confidence-ripping meeting of my life and at first, I thought it was my fault. I thought I must just be rubbish at my job - although no-one had mentioned a thing in the years leading up to going on maternity.

In fact, quite the opposite, I'd always been told my work was excellent. So in some confusion, I decided to see a lawyer and told her the whole story. 'I see hundreds of women like you,' she said 'they are doing their job just fine, no-one has any complaints then they go on maternity leave and when they come back they are told they've never done a thing right. Your boss is trying to get rid of you to avoid the inconvenience of another mat leave.'

You mean, this 'right' that I have is actually going to ruin my career? I thought we were finished with all that. Sure, yes, a year out of the workforce means I have to spend time getting back up to speed, but in the long term it should make no difference. Surely?

Apparently not.

This was truly a shock to me. It was like someone jumping out from behind a wall and slapping me with a wet fish. So we *were* treated differently as women? Even by other women. It took a while to get my head around that.

I actually think this 'hidden' prejudice is worse than the explicit stuff. I mean sure, in Saudi Arabia women can't do anything without the permission of their 'wali' (male guardian). They can't make any decisions that we take for granted such as going to college, having medical treatment, getting married or divorced,

or even going shopping. Women are not allowed to associate with men who aren't directly related to them and the public buildings all have a separate entrance for men and women. Males and females are educated separately and, until recently, Saudi women weren't even allowed to drive. But at least they are told this very clearly. At least they know where they stand.

I felt like I'd been duped.

Having said that, I wouldn't want to equate my situation to the plight of Saudi women, which is much, much worse than being told you are bad at your job. These women live in perhaps the most restricted regime of anywhere in the world. Stories are told of emergency, life saving surgery being put on hold until the woman's wali could be found to give permission, or of fathers marrying their daughters to men old enough to be their grandfather in order to have debts paid off. Some Saudi women live lives that are unrecognisable and unthinkable to those of us in the western world and many of them resist and campaign to change the traditions and tribal rules that keep them practically imprisoned.

And do you know what? After my experience, I will do my best to add my voice to theirs to keep the fight for equality alive - because heaven knows, we need it.



SPaG Starters **Continuous Tense**

When we describe something that is still happening, either in the past, present or future, we use the continuous tense. This involves the past, present or future form of 'to be', followed by an -ing word.

e.g.

I sat down. = simple past tense.

I was sitting down. = past continuous tense.

You cannot mix the two tenses. So:

I was sat down. = incorrect.



In each of these sentences, the writer is trying to describe something that was continuing – it was not a completed action. But they have mixed up their continuous and past tenses. Can you spot the mistakes and correct them?

1. I am sang a song to the judges when they interrupt me.

2. I was stood waiting for the bus when the car went past.

3. They are lay on the ground when it happens.

4. Where were you sat when the man came in?

5. We'll be stood in the corridor waiting for the teacher.



SPaG Starters **Practice or Practise**

The word **practise** is a **verb** – it describes the action of practising.

The word **practice** is a **noun** – it describes a thing.



e.g.

*On Saturday morning, she gets up early to go to football **practice**.*

Here *practice* is a **noun** because it is part of the name *football practice*.

*He had a music exam on Monday, so over the weekend he was going to **practise** his guitar.*

Here *practise* is a **verb** because he will be carrying out the action of practising his guitar.

Insert practise or practice into the following sentences:

1. I think you need _____ to more before you make the team.
2. It's good _____ to visit other venues before making a decision.
3. Are you coming to footie _____?
4. The doctors' _____ was full so he had to go elsewhere.
5. She didn't want to _____ her piano scales.

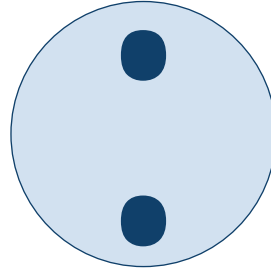
Now write two sentences of your own, each using a different version of **practice/practise**.



SPaG Starters Colons

We use colons to:

- link two bold, connected statements;
- introduce direct speech;
- introduce an explanation or example;
- introduce a question;
- introduce a list.



Colons are always followed by lower-case letters, unless the word is a proper noun or 'I'.

Look at the following sentences. Is the colon correct here? Give them a tick or a cross and write an explanation of your decision.

1. The classroom had everything: books, desks, chairs, a whiteboard, a bookcase and many posters.

2. Shay wanted to go to bed: he was exhausted from the journey.

3. The teacher looked at the class and began her speech: "You need to understand the rules..."

4. Connor had only one question in his mind: could he get away with not doing his homework?

5. Love hurts: hate kills.



Martin Luther King Jr Extraordinary Lives

'Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.'

On January 15 1929, Alberta King gave birth to her second child, Martin Luther King Jr in Atlanta, Georgia. Originally named Michael King, his Baptist father, following an experience visiting Germany, changed both his own and his son's names to Martin Luther. Their namesake was the 16th century Protestant theologian whose courage and beliefs led to him being excommunicated from the Catholic Church and going down in history as one of the most significant Christian figures of all time. Martin Luther King Jr, born across the Atlantic four centuries later, would go on to carve out his own place in history as one of the most significant figures of the Black Civil Rights Movement.

Childhood

MLK's childhood was one of strong morals, family love and the brutality of segregation. King would recall how, at six years old, one of his white friends told him that they could no longer play together. This was one of many formative experiences for King. His father,

Segregation in the South

This was the enforced separation of whites and people of colour. Everything from parks, schools, swimming pools and buses were segregated.

a pastor, also had a significant impact on him, publicly denouncing segregation and leading a voting rights protest march. He also educated King on the history of slavery and discrimination and encouraged his son to rise above the hate he felt towards white people and demonstrate Christian love to all. This non-violent philosophy would be developed and championed by King later in life.



Segregated water fountains in 1939.

A Precocious Talent

Even as a child, King was known for being an exceptional student. Despite a strong disregard for grammar, he was a voracious reader with a vast vocabulary. He was known for being an excellent orator and when his grandfather and father's alma mater, Morehouse College, began accepting younger students, King, only 15, enrolled there too.

King's time at college enabled him to study for his degree in Sociology, which he graduated with at only 19. Moreover, the experience of living in the integrated north of the USA had a profound effect on him. Writing home to his parents, he told them, "The white people here are very nice. We go to any place we want to and sit any where we want to." He spent his free time socialising and going to the theatre, eating at restaurants and attending a church that welcomed all, regardless of skin colour.

King went on to study at Crozer Theological Seminary, during which time he fell in love with a white woman whom he wished to marry. The prospective marriage was criticised by his friends, who claimed an inter-racial marriage would destroy King's career as he would end up being despised by both Black and white people. King did find another love though, Coretta Scott, who he married in 1953 and shared four children with.

Activism, Civil Rights, Buses and Boycotts

King and his family moved to Montgomery, Alabama, a hotbed of racial inequity where the Jim Crow Laws impacted the lives of everyday people. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) had been campaigning against discrimination since 1909 and, in 1952, filed a lawsuit that would lead to a landmark court case: *Brown vs Board of Education*. In 1954 Chief Justice Earl Warren of the Supreme Court ruled, 'in the field of public education the doctrine of *separate but equal* has no place,' as segregated schools are 'inherently unequal.'



NAACP protest march

This ruling was highly significant in finally challenging the institutionalised injustice and maltreatment of people of colour in the southern states of America and led to the desegregation of all schools and the ramping up of the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1955, Claudette Colvin, a 15-year-old student and member of the NAACP Youth Council, was arrested after refusing to give up her seat on a bus for a white woman. Her charges included 'disturbing the peace, breaking segregation laws, battery and assault of a police officer.' Martin Luther King was responsible, along with other community figures, for organising her bail and supporting her throughout the trial. Nine months later, Rosa Parks, Colvin's NAACP mentor and another Montgomery resident, also refused to move to the 'colored section' of the bus. Parks, being older, was deemed a more suitable figurehead for the Civil Rights Movement and her arrest led to the coordinated bus boycotts that lasted over a year.

Southern Christian Leadership Conference

Spurred on by the impact of the economic bus boycotts, a group of ministers and leaders, that included King, formed the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) in 1957. Their motto, 'not one hair of one head of



Economic Boycotts

Protestors demonstrate their power by refusing to give their money to a particular person, business or service.

It is estimated the Montgomery Bus Boycotts cost the city \$3,000 per day. That amounts to over a \$1 million, or about \$10.5 million in today's money!

one white person shall be harmed' was used to galvanise peaceful non-violent protests. As part of his involvement with the SCLC, King had the opportunity to travel to India where he learnt more about the influence of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi - an activist, lawyer and politician in India - practised and encouraged the use of satyagraha in campaigning for India's independence from Britain. Satyagraha wasn't just about non-violent protest, it was a philosophy that encouraged protestors to see the power of truth and love, even in their oppressors. King was deeply moved by this, writing, 'my scepticism concerning the power of love gradually diminished, and I came to see for the first time its potency in the area of social reform.'

Threats, Violence and Intimidation

Publicly supporting the boycotts led to King becoming the figurehead for the Civil Rights Movement. However, it wasn't without its dangers. Throughout and following on from the boycotts, King and his family were subjected to numerous intimidations and attempts on his life, including a shot gun fired into his home, a burning cross left outside his house, a bomb scare at Fisk University where he was due to speak, and multiple attempted bombings of his home.

While signing copies of his book *Stride Toward Freedom* at Harlem department store Blumstein's, King was stabbed with a letter opener in 1958. He was rushed to hospital and given life-saving emergency surgery; the doctors there said the blade was so close to his aorta that he was 'a sneeze away from death'.

In 1963, the continued peaceful protests and economic boycotts were interrupted by the police's use of force, dogs and fire hoses. King and many of his supporters, including hundreds of school children, were arrested and jailed. Alone in solitary confinement, he wrote his famous Letter from Birmingham Jail wherein he reiterated his belief in direct action and non-violent protest, citing moments of civil

disobedience throughout history in support of his argument.

As well as the constant violence directed towards him, King was treated with hostility by the FBI. From 1955, King was on their watchlist and under constant surveillance. J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the FBI, was particularly concerned that King was working with communists at a time when America was gripped by the Red Scare and McCarthyism, and so King's phone was tapped; his privacy violated. The FBI were unable to find any evidence of King's supposed communist associations and turned their approach to defamation. Their spying had proven fruitful in producing evidence of King's extra-marital affairs and following his *I Have a Dream Speech* the FBI were determined to quash him.

Hoping to intimidate him by threatening to expose the upstanding pastor's 'salacious' sex life, the FBI sent an anonymous letter to him in 1964. They refused to address him properly, saying 'your last name calls to mind only the type of King as King Henry VIII and his countless acts of adultery and immoral conduct lower than a beast.' Using repetition and direct address to attack King, the letter calls him 'a colossal fraud and an evil, vicious one at that',



along with repeated use of the words “beast” and “abnormal”. However, the final paragraph is arguably the most shocking, with the anonymous writer calling upon him to commit suicide: ‘King, there is only one thing left for you to do. You know what it is. You have just 34 days.’

“I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.”

Unfortunately for the FBI, the societal attitudes of the 1960s differed to the gossip-driven tabloids of today and, even though the evidence was sent to the press in the hope the papers would publish the reputation-destroying accounts, there was no uptake. The press wouldn’t publish anything so scandalous. King stood his ground and went on to solidify his place in history.

Dreams, Prizes and Man of the Year

How could a civil rights leader, campaigning for equality in a non-violent manner, drive the FBI to such desperate, bullying behaviour? On August 28 1963, 250,000 protestors marched

peacefully to Washington calling for equal rights, pay and housing. However, President Kennedy was concerned about the potential for the peaceful protest to turn violent. On standby were 4,000 army troops and 15,000 paratroopers. The protest however, was a huge success. With celebrity support, TV broadcasting and King’s iconic *I Have a Dream Speech*, it is considered a catalyst in driving legislation changes, namely the Voting Rights Act 1965 and the Fair Housing Act 1968, as well as encouraging changes to immigration reform, the war on poverty and Medicare and Medicaid. In 1964, King’s impact was reflected in Time magazine’s decision to feature him as the first African American *Man of the Year* as well as him being the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.



Photo by National Park Service (CC BY 2.0) - (Cropped)

WHAT WE DEMAND*

Comprehensive and effective *civil rights legislation* from the present Congress – without compromise or filibuster – guarantee all Americans

- Access to all public accommodations
- Decent housing
- Adequate and integrated education
- The right to vote

Withholding of Federal funds from all programs in which discrimination exists.

Desegregation of all school districts in 1963.

Enforcement of the *Fourteenth Amendment* – reducing Congressional representation of states where citizens are disfranchised.

A new *Executive Order* banning discrimination in all housing supported by federal funds.

Authority for the Attorney General to institute *injunctive suits* when any constitutional right is violated.

A massive federal program to train and place all unemployed workers – Negro and white – on meaningful and dignified jobs of decent wages.

A national *Minimum Wage Act* that will give all Americans a decent standard of living. (Government surveys show that anything less than \$2.00 an hour fails to do this.)

A broadened *Fair Labor Standards Act* to include all areas of employment which are presently excluded.

A federal *Fair Employment Practices Act* barring discrimination by federal, state, and municipal governments, and by employers, contractors, employment agencies and trade unions.

*Support of the March does not necessarily indicate endorsement of every demand listed. Some organizations have not had an opportunity to take an official position on all of the demands advocated here.

The list of demands as printed in the March on Washington’s program.

Assassination, Death and Legacy

Families tuning in to the evening news on April 4 1968 were shocked by the tragic headline: **Martin Luther King Assassinated.** At just after 6pm, King had stepped onto a balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Tennessee. He was there to lead a march protesting for the rights of the Memphis Sanitation Workers but, by 7:05pm, had been pronounced dead after being shot. An escaped fugitive, James Earl Ray, was arrested two months later at Heathrow Airport and was extradited back to the United States where he confessed to the murder of King. However, three days after his confession he recanted it, stating that he had entered a guilty plea to avoid the death sentence. His story was investigated and, in 1997, King's son met with him to explain that he and the King family believed Ray's innocence. Furthermore, in 1999, a friend of King's, William Pepper, represented the King family in a wrongful civil death trial. The jury found Ray had been part

Did You Know?

Stevie Wonder's 1981 song *Happy Birthday* was written as part of a campaign for Martin Luther King's birthday to become a national holiday in the USA. In 1983 President Ronald Reagan approved the holiday.

of a conspiracy and set up to take the blame on behalf of the Mafia, local, state and federal government. Ray was also acquitted on a televised mock trial. Despite these findings, Ray spent the rest of his life behind bars, dying aged 70 in a maximum security prison.

King's death sparked huge civil unrest. Over 40 people died during rioting across America. King's two obituaries in the New York Times said 'We pledge ourselves anew to try even harder to bring about a world in which all men will truly be brothers' and "A victim of white racism. May America repent.'





Martin Luther King Jr Extraordinary Lives Comprehension Questions

1. What name was Martin Luther King given when he was born?

2. Why did his father change both of their names?

3. What memory had a lasting impact on King?

4. Who was King inspired by?

5. Which landmark court case took place in 1954?

6. What was Claudette Colvin arrested for in 1955?

7. What was the motto of the SCLC?

8. What were the dangers of being a civil rights figurehead?

9. What famous letter did King pen from prison?



Martin Luther King Jr Extraordinary Lives Comprehension Questions

1. What childhood memory had a lasting impact on King?

2. How did King's father inspire him?

3. Who else did King find inspiring? Why?

4. What surprised King about living in the integrated north of the USA?

5. Which landmark court case took place in 1954?

6. What was Claudette Colvin arrested for in 1955?

7. What was the motto of the SCLC?

8. What were the dangers of being a civil rights figurehead?



10. Why is the March on Washington considered to be so important?





9. Why is the March on Washington considered to be so important?

10. What lasting impact do you think Martin Luther King has?

11. How do you think King would perceive the Black Lives Matter movement?



Martin Luther King Jr Extraordinary Lives Vocabulary Sheet

What do the following words from the article mean? Can you figure out their meaning from the text or do you need to use a dictionary?

alma mater

defamation

discrimination

formative

inequity

inherently

namesake

orator

philosophy



prospective

spurred

scepticism

violated



KS3 English Language Reading – Ghosts

Moving House



The following is an extract from the novel **Maya's Journey** by Ellis Leadbetter.

Maya awoke with a start, to discover that Aunt Trix had stopped the car. Rubbing sleep from her eyes, she reached for Brown Bear and pushed his soft fur against her face. Then, she looked out of the window to see a high, overgrown hedge, with a narrow opening blocked by a rusty iron gate. "We're here!" announced her aunt.

In front of them, the removal van had already arrived, and the men were lowering the back door to form a ramp. Maya could see their boxes of possessions, neatly labelled, stuffed between sofas and the kitchen table and Uncle Bert's grandfather clock. Everything looked higgledy-piggledy and out of place: just like she felt.

Sighing, she waited for Aunt Trix to turn off the child-locks and let her out of the car, then she followed her through the rusty gate, which predictably squeaked on its hinges as it swung open. In front of them was a cobbled path, leading up to the front door of a thatched cottage. Once, it would have been called picturesque with its beamed structure and crooked chimney. A spiky plant climbed the façade, twirling inky fingers around the window frames. In spring, the plant probably burst into beautiful blooms. Now, under the lowering September sky, the whole building looked forbidding.

Clutching Brown Bear, Maya gazed up at the first-floor windows, three of them neatly lined up along the front of the house. Which would be her bedroom? Aunt Trix had said there were

only two available, with a bathroom in between that “needed some TLC”. Mrs Watkins at school always said her work needed “TLC” when it was really bad. She sighed again.

As she stared at the house, something caught the corner of her eye. There, in the furthest window, was a figure, staring down at her. It was standing to the side of the window, as if hiding. As she watched, the figure stepped back into shadow, and was lost from view.

“Someone’s inside,” she announced, tugging on Aunt Trix’s coat.

“Don’t be silly, dear,” Aunt Trix removed her hand carefully from the fabric and patted it gently, “No-one’s lived here in years.”

“I saw them,” Maya insisted, pointing up to the window, “There. I saw them there.”

“Ah!” Aunt Trix smiled down at her, squeezing her hand in reassurance. “That’s your bedroom.”

Maya felt a rush of dread sweep over her.

KS3 English Language Reading – Ghosts

Moving House Questions

1. How does Maya feel when she first arrives at the house? Find a sentence from the text to show this.

2. What are your first impressions of the cottage? Find evidence in the text to back up your impressions.

3. Has Maya been to the house before? How do you know?

4. What is the strange incident at the end of the extract?

5. Roughly, how old is Maya? How do you know this?

The House of Terror

Family forced out of home by pesky poltergeist

by Adil Montserrat



Horror house: the Carpenters' haunted home

A Midlands family has been forced to flee their new home after ornaments, pictures and even furniture went flying through the air **in front of their eyes!**

The Carpenters moved into 26, Cherry Blossom Lane in Birmingham on 23rd March this year. The family of four had moved to the area from Sussex, as father Frank, 39, had a new job in the city as a firefighter.

"Everything was fine at first," explained 32-year-old Sue, mum to twins Leah and Leonie. "We had arranged our

furniture and redecorated most of the rooms. It had started to feel like home."

But events took a startling turn when the girls came home from school on 28th April. "We were upstairs alone, doing our homework" said Leah, "And suddenly we heard a massive thump from downstairs. We were so scared."

"We crept down to see what it was," continues Leonie, "and the living room was in a right state. The sofas had both been moved and pictures were hanging off the walls. It was like a whirlwind had happened."

The two terrified girls called their mum, who came home to inspect the damage. At first, she admits, Sue was sceptical about what had happened: "I thought it was the girls playing pranks, until I saw it happen with my own eyes."

Two nights later, the family were together in the kitchen when the toaster went spinning off the side. Then, the fridge door swung open on its own. "It was petrifying," said Frank.

But this was only the beginning. The incidents increased until they were happening



every day. At their wits' end, the family consulted a local exorcist, who visited the home on 10th May.

"He said we had a poltergeist, which is basically an evil spirit," explained Sue. "The ghost was angry with what we had done to the house – all the changes we had made. The exorcist

tried to get rid of it, but he said it was a very powerful spirit and it wouldn't budge."

Left with no other choice, the family put the home on the market. So far, there have been over thirty viewings of the property, but no-one has made an offer. "I think they can sense the evil here," said

Frank, "people know it is a bad place. But what can we do? We can't afford to move until we sell, so we're stuck living in a house of terror."





KS3 English Language Reading – Ghosts

The House of Terror Questions

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2. How many viewings of the house have the family had?

3. What is a poltergeist?

4. Name one thing the poltergeist has done.

5. What is the date of the first poltergeist incident?

6. How long after was the next incident?

7. When did the exorcist visit the home?

8. What is the age of the mum?

9. Why did the family move there?

10. What is the address of the house of terror?



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