

# Voices Matter

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Worksheets and activities  
based on the 'Voices' book  
of short stories



## Acknowledgements

The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) wishes to thank:

- The 27 authors who wrote a short story in 'Voices'.
- Helen Ryan and Pauline Hensey who wrote the worksheets.

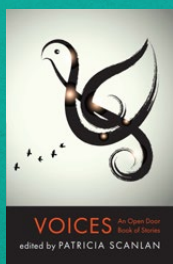
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## About 'Voices'



Voices is a new collection of short stories written for emerging readers by 27 of Ireland's finest writers. It is part of the Open Door series edited by Patricia Scanlan and published by New Island Books.

You can borrow a copy of 'Voices' from your local library or buy in local bookshops or online directly from [www.newisland.ie](http://www.newisland.ie)

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## About this workbook

'Voices Matter' is a workbook to go with the book of short stories, 'Voices'.

'Voices' is a new collection of short stories written for emerging readers by 27 of Ireland's finest writers.

This workbook has worksheets and activities based around each of the 27 short stories in 'Voices'. It has activities for you to:

- develop and practise your reading, writing and spelling skills,
- reflect on the themes in the stories, and
- have some fun.

We use these symbols to guide you through using the book.



Information



Write



Tip



Read

If you have any comments, you can email NALA at **info@nala.ie** or ring us on the Freephone **1 800 20 20 65**.

### We can help you improve your reading, writing and maths.

Call us on Freephone 1 800 20 20 65 or text LEARN to 50050.

We're here from **9.30am** to **5pm**, Monday - Friday.

We can talk to you about your learning options. You can study online or work with a tutor over the phone. We can also refer you to your local adult literacy centre.

You decide what, where and how you want to learn. It's free and confidential and delivered by trained adult literacy tutors.

## Word search

Story

1

Gruyère in the Desmond

All the words in this word search are cheeses.



Find these words in this word search. The first one is done for you.

camembert✓

cheddar

edam

emmental

gouda

gruyère

halloumi

havarti

manchego

mozzarella

munster

pecorino

provolone

ricotta

roquefort

stilton

a	p	m	r	m	z	i	s	x	c	a	d	u	o	g
l	e	x	a	b	y	t	t	a	l	w	w	t	b	x
l	c	l	j	n	i	g	m	r	j	l	r	j	r	m
e	o	r	e	l	c	e	r	y	a	o	d	p	v	z
r	r	p	t	m	m	h	t	u	f	v	q	t	w	x
a	i	o	r	b	m	r	e	e	y	r	a	a	j	q
z	n	m	e	o	e	e	u	g	a	e	t	h	w	n
z	o	r	u	t	v	q	n	d	o	t	r	n	z	g
o	t	y	s	o	o	o	d	t	o	v	b	e	r	b
m	z	n	m	r	l	e	l	c	a	k	r	j	d	t
t	u	a	x	d	h	l	i	o	r	l	m	g	r	k
m	i	b	r	c	n	r	a	k	n	l	e	d	a	m
e	b	r	b	d	k	y	z	h	y	e	t	d	d	x



The answers are on page 62.

## What do you think?

Story

1

Gruyère in the Desmond



Read 'Gruyère in the Desmond' by Blindboy Boatclub.



Answer these questions.

**1. What did you enjoy about this story?**

**2. What did you dislike about this story?**

**3. What stands out most for you in the story?**

**4. What do you think was the main message in the story?**

**5. Would you recommend this story to someone and why?**

Think of a childhood holiday that you really enjoyed.




**What do you remember?**

Where was the holiday?	
What year was it?	
Who went on it?	
How did you travel there?	
How long did you stay?	
What did you do there?	
What was the best thing about the holiday?	

If you could send a postcard from that holiday, who would you send it to and what would you say?



**Fill in the postcard with the name and address and a message.**

	
	_____
	_____
	_____
	_____

# Adjectives

Story

2

That Special Moment

**An adjective is a word that describes or tells us more about a noun.**

A **noun** is the name of a person, place, thing, idea or feeling.

For example: The **happy child** went on the **cold bus** to **damp Dublin**.

The adjectives  
are in **orange**  
and the nouns  
are in **blue**.



**Look at these phrases and write down which is an adjective and which is a noun.**

	Adjective	Noun
shining lino		
long grass		
Cork family		
swirling lights		
small roads		
three times		
stooped figure		
empty rooms		
long week		
summer air		



**Look at these phrases and write down which is an adjective and which is a noun.**

1. I still feel the grains of sand stuck between my bare toes when I crossed the big bedroom.
2. I still feel warm summer air coming in the open window.
3. On the first tee his father asks me if I wish to hit one shot.
4. Standing at the rusting padlocked gate, I need to ask the man next door if this is the right house.
5. I remember us waiting for that magic moment of catching our first glimpse of the sea.



**The answers are on page 62.**

## Questions on the story

Story

3

A Good Woman



Read 'A Good Woman' by Marita Conlon-McKenna.



Answer these questions.

1. What were some of things that Mam liked to do?

---

---

2. What were the names of Mam's two best friends?

---

3. How many children did Mam have? \_\_\_\_\_

4. How many people could attend the funeral? \_\_\_\_\_

5. What did Father Albert say about Mam?

---

---

6. How did you feel after reading this story?

---

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# What makes a good person?

Story

3

A Good Woman

What qualities do you think make a good person?



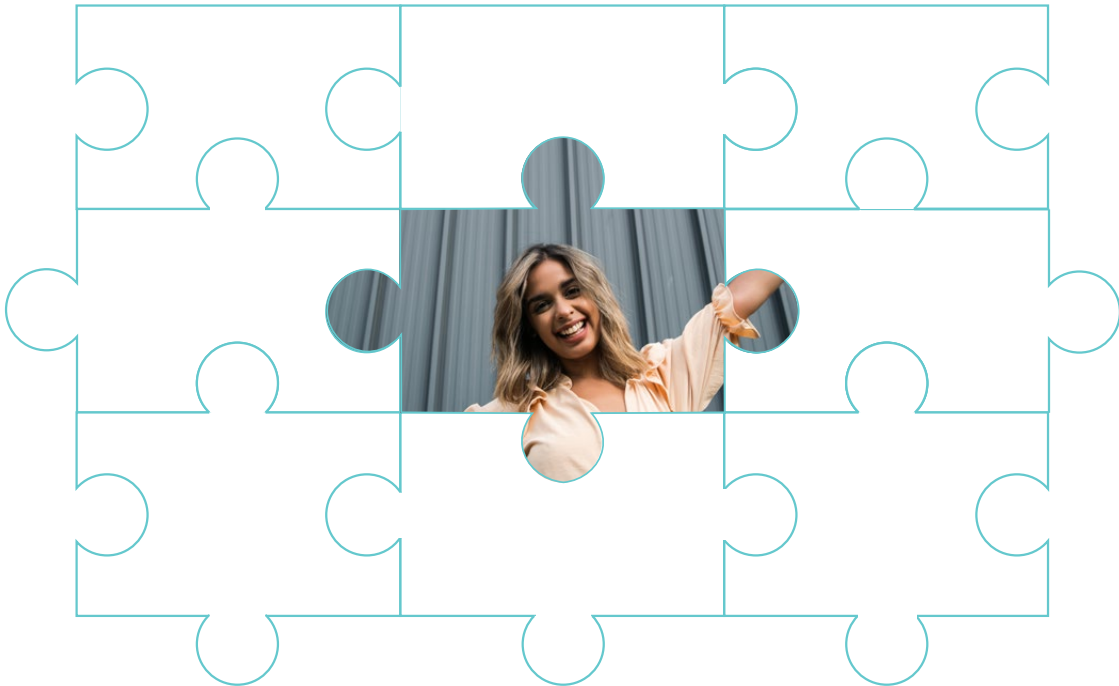
**Jot some notes down.**



**A quality is a distinctive feature of a person.  
For example, a positive quality of kindness and honesty.**



**What qualities do you admire in someone?**





What were your **3 favourite bands or singers** when you were a teenager?

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---

What **3 songs** do you remember most from when you were a teenager?

---



---



---



Can you remember the name of the first album or single you bought?  
What year was it?

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## Name that tune



Write down a song that you remember.

Name a song that makes you smile.

Name of song	Name of band or singer	What year?

Name a song that makes you sad.

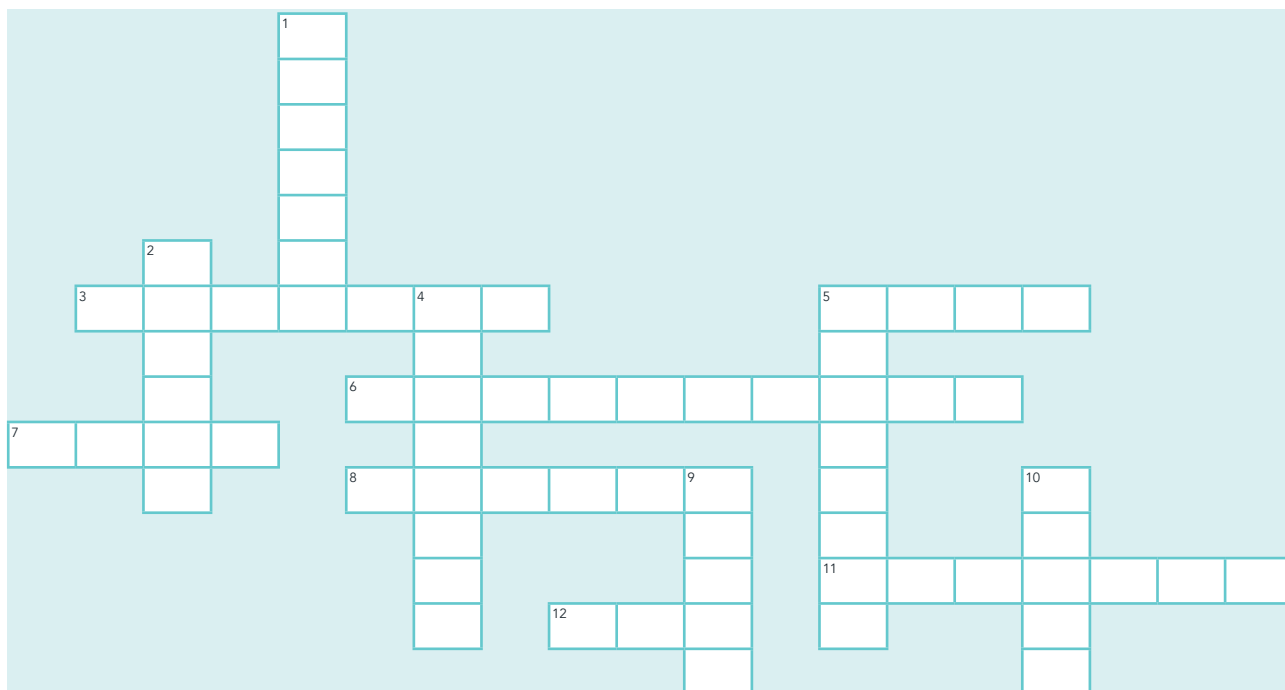
Name of song	Name of band or singer	What year?

Name a song from a life event.

Name of song	Name of band or singer	What year?



You can check if you have the right song name, band or singer and year by looking it up on your phone, tablet or computer.  
If you need help with this, ring us on Freephone 1 800 20 20 65, Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5pm.



Fill in the crossword by answering the following clues.



The number after the clue tells you how many letters are in the answer.

Across	Down
<b>3</b> Online video-sharing platform (7)	<b>1</b> Ask for something to be given or done (7)
<b>5</b> A musical group (4)	<b>2</b> Showing good manners toward others (6)
<b>6</b> An event to raise money for a particular purpose (10)	<b>4</b> Face going red from shyness or embarrassment (8)
<b>7</b> Slang word for friend (4)	<b>5</b> Organisation which produces and sells goods or which provides a service (8)
<b>8</b> A part of a song which is repeated after each verse (6)	<b>9</b> A raised floor or platform (5)
<b>11</b> No noise (7)	<b>10</b> Shout for joy (5)
<b>12</b> Live musical performance (3)	



The answers are on page 62.

Definition	Example
A <b>root word</b> is a word with nothing added at the beginning or at the end.	aware
A <b>prefix</b> is added to the <b>beginning</b> of a root word to change its meaning or to make a new word	<b>un</b> aware

- The most common prefixes are "un" and "dis". Both of these prefixes mean not.

For example: "dis" + trust = **distrust**  
 prefix root word new word

- Some words can have both "un" or "dis" in front of them.

Example: able: **disable** or **unable**  
 satisfied: **dissatisfied** or **unsatisfied**



**Write the opposite of these words using the prefixes "un" or "dis".**

1. like

2. easy

3. cover

4. honest

5. happy

6. comfort

7. aware

8. tidy

Other common prefixes include: "in", "under", "re", "sub", "im", "mis"



**Match the prefixes on the left to the root words on the right to make new words. The first one is done for you.**

## Prefix

In  
 Dis  
 Mis  
 Under  
 Re  
 Over  
 Sub  
 Im

## Root word

look  
 turn  
 possible  
 visible  
 appoint  
 stand  
 read  
 marine



# Best thing that ever happened

Story

5

The Devil You Know



**Answer these questions.**

**1. What is the best thing that ever happened to you?**

You can draw or doodle the event instead of using words.

**2. What changed for you?**

**3. What did you learn from it?**



Read 'All around the world' by Roddy Doyle.



Answer these questions.

1. How many people are in the house? \_\_\_\_\_

Who are they? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How many cities are mentioned? \_\_\_\_\_

Name them: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. How many landmarks are mentioned? \_\_\_\_\_

Name them: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Now add up the number of people, cities and landmarks to get a total of:



The answers are on page 62.

### Over to you



What city would you like to visit and why?

## Writing a travel diary

Story

6

All Around the World

A **travel diary or journal** is a place where you write about your trips such as date, time, place and cost. You can also write about your experiences, what you learned, what you discovered and your feelings.

You can use a notebook and pen to write your diary.  
You can also use an App on your phone such as Diaro.



Here's an example of how you could structure your diary entry:

<b>W</b>	What happened – note down when, where and why?	
<b>R</b>	Reflect on how the day made you feel.	
<b>I</b>	Interesting fact – what did you learn today?	
<b>T</b>	The best and worst part of the day.	
<b>E</b>	Evidence – keep any ticket stubs, leaflets and receipts. Add in some photos.	

## Questions on the story

Story

7

After the Fourth War



Read 'After the Fourth War' by Christine Dwyer Hickey.



Answer these questions.

1. What do you think happened during the Fourth war?

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2. Would you prefer to be part of the city people or Mall people? Why?

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3. Name some of the areas in the story that are familiar to you?

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---

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4. What do you think happens next to the Grandmother and her grandchild?

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## Reading a map

Story

7

After the Fourth War

Look at the diagrams below.

Which instruction goes under each diagram?

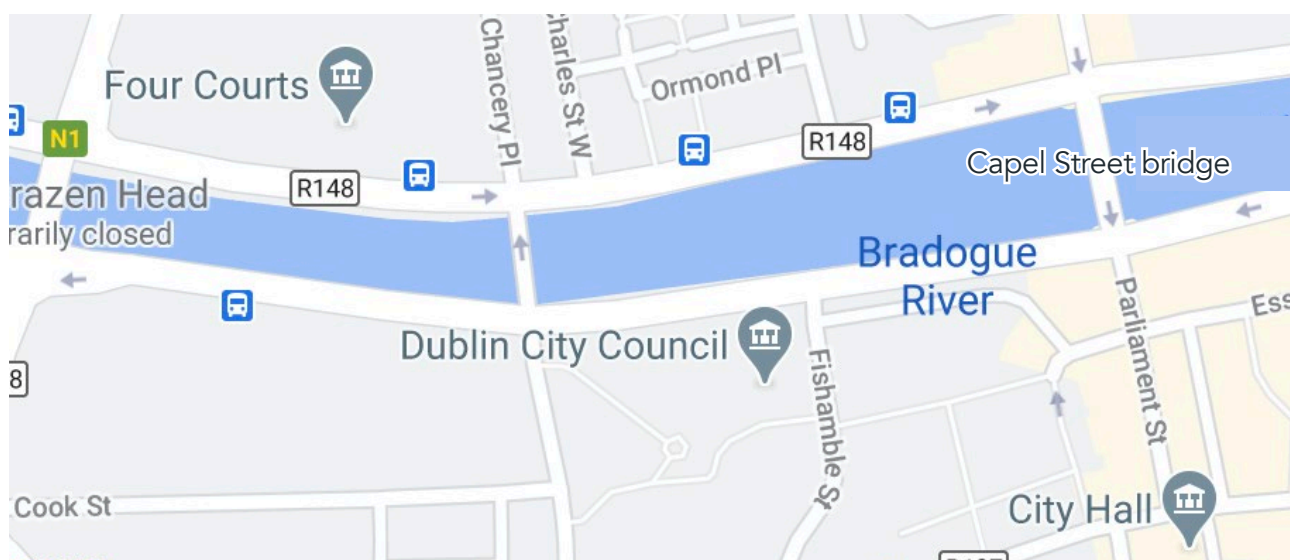
Turn right

Go straight ahead

Cross the road



Look at the map below.



You are explaining how to walk from Four Courts to City Hall using the Capel Street bridge.

- Mark the route on the map.
- Write out the directions.

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# Family tree

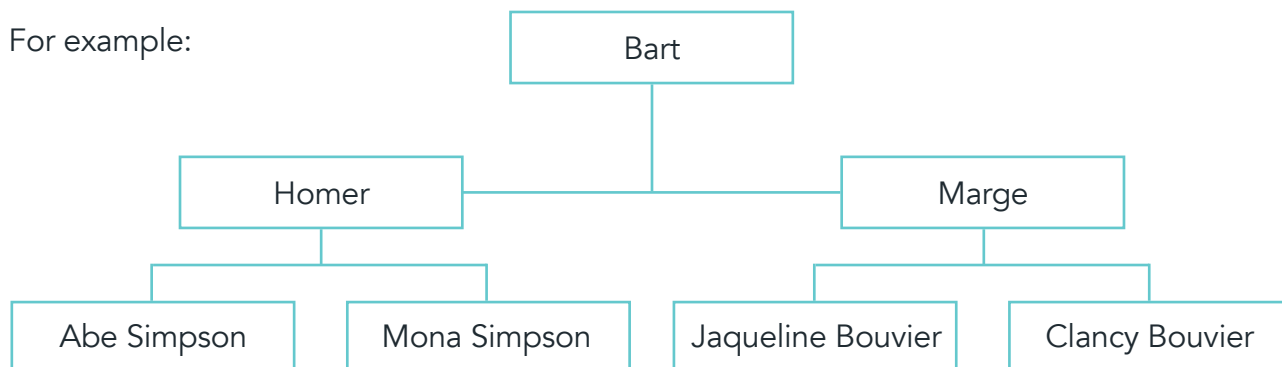
Story

8

Welcome Home Etty

A **family tree** is a diagram showing the relationship between people in several generations of a family.

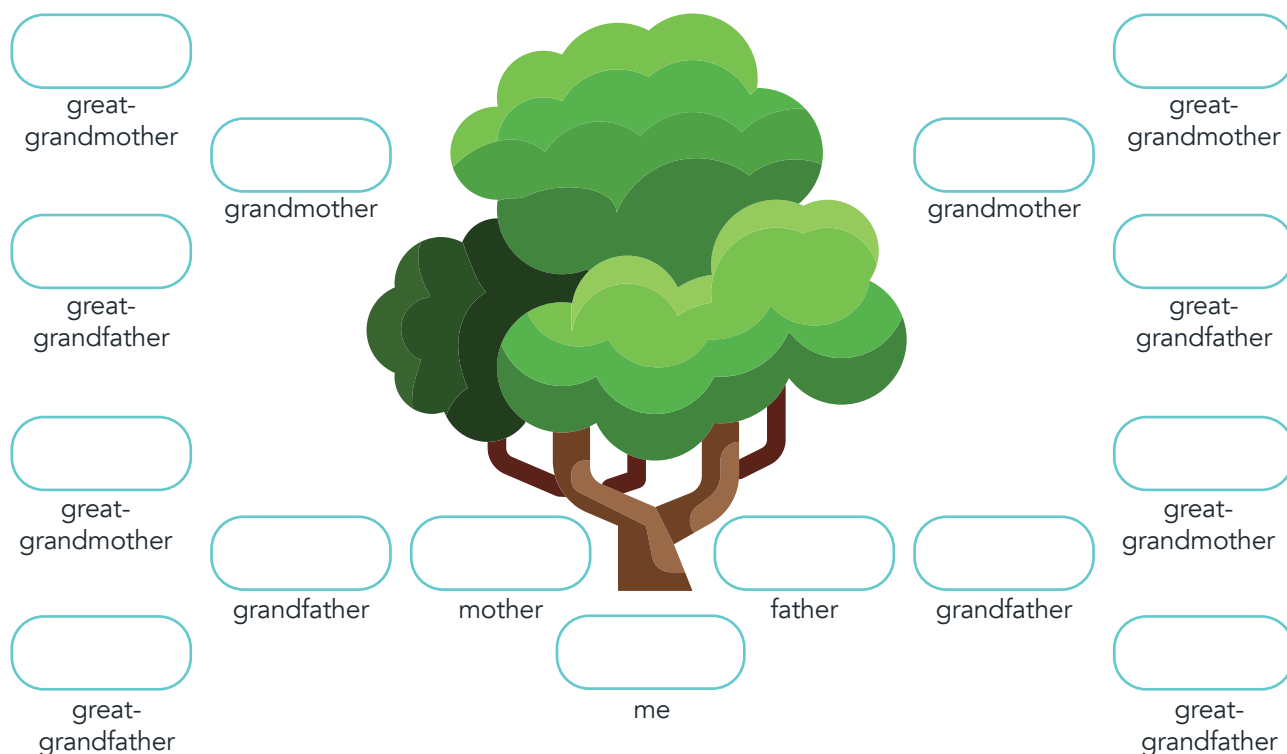
For example:



**Start chatting to family members and make notes of names, dates and places they mention.**



**Now try and fill out your family tree below.**



**If you are looking for records, you can go to the General Register Office in Werburgh Street, Dublin 2. You can also visit the National Archives on Bishop Street, Dublin 8 or online at <https://www.nationalarchives.ie>**

## Making a list

Story

8

Welcome Home Etty

You have a lot of things to do this week.

You don't want to forget anything so you are going to write a list.



**Jot down here what you have to do.**

Look at your notes above. Now let's think about how will I write my list?

Will I do a list for each day or will I group them into themes?



**Write your list for the week ahead.**

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The words in this word search are used in the short story 'The Other City' by Patrick Freyne.



Find these words in this word search. The first one is done for you.

act✓	ask	discussing	dress
interested	lost	noticed	remember
smile	sleep	stare	stopped
talking	watching	working	wonder

```

i b d m d l n y n g t y m
n w t e l i m s n b z d x
t d o d c g n i h c t a w
e r y r r i s l t g r y e
r e w b k s t a t n r r r
e s l s u i l o r c a l k
s s j c t k n e n t a s t
t r s t i o b g s v a j l
e i s n b m p n g w j b z
d o g n e j e p q z q b d
l g v m l j e m e y r j t
v j e m y g l j t d b b d
j r t t k t s w o n d e r
    
```



Writers use **detail** to describe people, places or things. They use **detail** to paint a picture.



**Read 'The Other City' by Patrick Freyne.**



**Answer these questions.**

<p>What details does the writer use to describe the '<b>Other City</b>' in the story?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>What details does he use to describe the <b>people</b> from the 'Other City'?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>How does the person telling the story feel about the <b>people</b> from the 'Other City'?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>How did you feel about the <b>people</b> from the 'Other City'?</p>	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

## Puzzle using Chinese numbers

Story

10

The Writer who Lives in a Suitcase

Look at the numbers 1 to 10 in Chinese

一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10



Find the answers to the questions below.

Try writing your answer using Chinese characters.

1. 一 + 二 =

---

2. 二 + 四 =

---

3. 二 + 五 =

---

4. 三 + 六 =

---

5. 十 - 二 =

---

6. 七 - 二 =

---



The answers are on page 62.

## Finish the story

Story

10

The Writer who Lives in a Suitcase



**Write out what happens next.**

One sunny morning before the air purifier arrived, my father cooked poached eggs and came to my room to tell me the breakfast was ready. He found that I was not in my bed, that my bedroom was empty. I could never know how he felt when...

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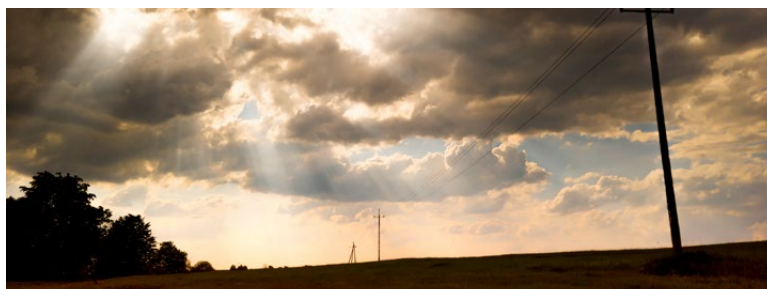
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## Word and meanings

Story

11

Cell 13

When we read a story or article, we won't always know what every word means. Sometimes we can guess what the word means from its place in the sentence or the words around it.



Here are eight words from the story, 'Cell 13' by Carlo Gébler.  
Can you guess their meaning?

Word	Guess the meaning
agnostic	
banjaxed	
bloke	
clobber	
linoleum	
orderly	
presence	
screw	



You can look up the meaning in a dictionary or online – check out <https://en.wiktionary.org/>



If you read the word in a sentence, does this help with the meaning?

Word in the sentence	Help with meaning?
Whatever I thought about ghosts it had nothing to do with being <b>agnostic</b> .	
My sleep's <b>banjaxed</b> .	
He had knocked a <b>bloke</b> unconscious in a club.	
Then we swapped our <b>clobber</b> .	
I was in the corridor outside, buffing the <b>linoleum</b> with the polisher.	
But if the <b>orderly</b> asks, that's different.	
There is a <b>presence</b> at night.	
I found Ricky with Hayes, a day <b>screw</b> .	

# Making a story board

Story

11

Cell 13

A storyboard is a graphic layout that sequences illustrations and images to visually tell a story.

For example:

**Beginning:** introduce the characters and conflict



Two friends, Mary and Sarah, dream about building a coffee shop.

**Middle:** action and excitement



They begin to build their shop but Mary is in an accident.

**End:** wrapping up the story



Mary and Sarah open their coffee shop.



**Think of a story that you want to tell.  
Fill in the storyboard below.**

**Beginning**

---

---

---

**Middle**

---

---

---

**End**

---

---

---

## Who is telling the story?

Story

12

Careful Lady Driver

In every story there is a storyteller, called a narrator. The narrator tells the story. Narrators have a point of view. The **point of view** is the perspective from which the story is told.

There are two main types of points of view in fiction – first person or third person

### First person

- The story is told by a character in the story.
- The character uses 'I' and 'me' in the story.

### Third person

- The story is told by a someone outside the story.
- 'He', 'she' 'it' and names of people are used.



**Read this text from 'Careful Lady Driver' by Ciara Geraghty.**



**Answer these questions.**

She paid for me in cash. I was her first. I sensed her pride, despite her initial reservations about my colour.

I was only six back then. A six-year-old golden Nissan Micra. One previous owner, Ronald said. I don't like to speak out of turn but used-car salesmen can be deserving of their reputation in my opinion.

### 1. Who is telling the story?

Circle the correct answer.

- a. The woman                      b. The Nissan Micra                      c. The car salesman

### 2. What is the point of view?

Circle the correct answer.

- a. 1st person                      b. 3rd person



**The answers are on page 62.**



**Write a diary entry from the point of view of the woman in the story 'Careful Lady Driver'.**

Remember to:

- ✓ Write in the first person – using 'I'.
- ✓ Include personal feelings and emotions
- ✓ Use an informal style – use of emojis is fine 😊

Dear Diary

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---

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---

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## A family history interview

Story

13

The Tatty Hoker

One way to gather information for a family history is to do a family history interview. These questions are about a person's memory of childhood. Try it out with someone you know.



**Ask a family member these questions and jot down the answers.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**1. Tell me about where and when you were born.**

---

---

**2. How did your family come to live there?**

---

---

**3. Tell me about you family and what it was like growing up?**

---

---

**4. Did you have a favourite toy or childhood game?**

---

---

**5. Who was the oldest relative you remember from childhood as a child?  
What do you remember about them?**

---

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## A life story

Story

13

The Tatty Hoker

One way of gathering information for a family history project is to do a life story.



**Fill in the blanks of Martin's life story from 'The Tatty Hoker' by Ruth Gilligan.**

When Martin was little he lived in \_\_\_\_\_. When he was young his father  
(name of country)

worked in Scotland for \_\_\_\_\_. His father went to Scotland  
(how long)

because \_\_\_\_\_.  
(explain why his father went)

Martin took the \_\_\_\_\_ to Scotland for the summer with the  
(how did he get to Scotland?)

Galway lads. They spent their nights \_\_\_\_\_.  
(describe what it was like)

\_\_\_\_\_ and their days \_\_\_\_\_.

In those summers Martin's father \_\_\_\_\_.  
(how did his father spend his time?)

\_\_\_\_\_

His father died \_\_\_\_\_.  
(how did he die?)

## What is your spirit animal?

Story

14

Spirit Animals

Your spirit animal is your guide and helper in this world.

In the story 'Spirit Animals' by Emily Hourican, Juliette talks about two spirit animals, the Snow Wolf and Black Panther.

### Snow Wolf Spirit Animal



Reminds you:

- You have sharp intelligence
- To follow your instinct
- Appetite for freedom

### Black Panther Spirit Animal



Reminds you:

- You have courage
- You are protective
- You are graceful



**Have a look online about spirit animals. You can look it up on your phone, tablet or computer. If you need help with using the internet, ring us on Freephone 1 800 20 20 65 , Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5pm.**

**What is your spirit animal? Draw it below or describe it.**

## Chia seed brownies

This recipe is egg free and gluten free.

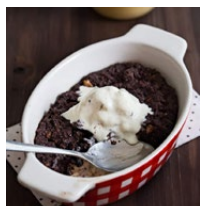
**Try this recipe.**

### Ingredients

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| ■ 2 tablespoons chia seeds soaked in 6 tablespoons water | ■ 30 g cocoa powder           |
| ■ 70 g honey   | ■ 1 teaspoon baking powder    |
| ■ 70 g brown sugar                                       | ■ 1/3 teaspoon salt           |
| ■ 50 g coconut oil, melted                               | ■ 2 teaspoons vanilla extract |
| ■ 40 ml milk, (2 tablespoons and 2 teaspoons)            | ■ 50 g chopped walnuts        |
| ■ 35 g coconut flour                                     |                               |

### Instructions

1. In a small bowl combine coconut flour, cocoa powder, baking powder and salt. Mix very well and set aside.
2. In a large bowl whisk together honey, sugar and the chia seeds, soaked in water (the mixture will be gel like) until combined. Add the oil, vanilla and milk and whisk for few more seconds until uniform. Add the dry ingredients and whisk shortly until just absorbed. At the end add the walnuts and whisk gently with a wooden spoon until evenly distributed.
3. Preheat oven to 180 degrees celsius (350 degrees Fahrenheit). Grease very well a baking pan with capacity 750 ml to 1 litre (you can use 2 baking dishes with 500 ml capacity each). Transfer the batter to the pan and smooth the top with the spoon.
4. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean.
5. Serve hot or cool, ideally with an ice cream scoop on top.



Recipe from website 'Dani's Cooking'

<https://daniscookings.com/chia-seed-brownies-egg-free-gluten-free/>

## Find the fact

Story

15

Where It All Began



Read 'Where It All Began' by Úna-Minh Kavanagh.



Answer these questions.

1. When was Úna-Minh born?

---

2. What city and country was Úna-Minh born in?

---

3. What does Minh mean in Sino-Vietnamese?

---

4. Why did Vietnamese women wear long sleeves everywhere?

---

5. What was life like for a woman in Vietnam then?

---

---

---

---

## Creative writing

## Story

15

## Where It All Began

The story 'Where it all began' by Úna-Minh Kavanagh begins with a great opening line:



The longest journey in life starts with one step.



**Create your own piece of writing from this line.**

[illegible]

Here are some of the signs we see at bus stations.

**What are the signs telling us? Choose from the list in the box.**

Left Luggage

Waiting Room

Emergency Exit

Toilets

Information

Bus Station



**Read the signs above. Circle the right answer.**

This sign tell us to turn right if we are:

1. Using the emergency exit
2. Looking for information
3. Looking to use the toilets

This sign tell us to turn left for the:

1. Ladies toilets
2. Ladies and gents toilets
3. To buy tickets



## Agree or disagree?

Story

16

Victoria



**Read 'Victoria' by Louise Kennedy.**



**Answer these questions. The first one is done for you.**

Statement	Agree	Disagree	Why – give reasons why you agree or disagree.
The narrator (person telling the story) works in an office in the City of London.	✓		She tells the man that she works in an office on page 3 of the story.
The man is going home to his brother's funeral.			
The man caught the coach to Holyhead.			
The narrator is a caring person.			
The narrator is a good observer of people.			
The picture we get of the Irish in London is a sad one.			



**Fill in the timeline for the man in the story.**

Date	Event
1954	
1978	
1988	

# Contractions

Story

17

To Russia With Love

A **contraction** is a shorter way to say or write words.

For example :      was **not** = wasn't      did **not** = didn't

An apostrophe ' replaces the missing letter.

Look at some of the most common contractions.

	Contraction		Contraction
I am	I'm	that is	that's
You are	You're	I will	I'll
I have	I've	I will not	I won't
is not	isn't	I can not	I can't
are not	aren't	I could not	I couldn't



Write the underlined words in the WhatsApp message as contractions:

1 \_\_\_\_\_

I will not make it tonight.

No problem. I hope you are not sick.

4 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

No I am fine. I have a flat tyre.

That is a pity. I will tell the others.

5 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks. Enjoy. I can not wait till next time.

Cheers. It will not be too long I hope.

6 \_\_\_\_\_



## Looking at words

Story

17

To Russia With Love

In the story 'To Russia with Love' by Sinéad Moriarty you will be reading about a young couple travelling to Russia to adopt a little boy.



**Before you read the story fill in the chart below.**

**In this story I think...**

(Jot down what you think will happen.)

---

---

---

---

**Some words I expect to see in this story are:**

---

---

---

---



**Read the story and then fill in this chart.**

Some words in the story I didn't know are:

What I think each word means is:

1. 

---
2. 

---
3. 

---
4. 

---



**You can check the meaning by looking up the word on your phone, tablet or computer. If you need help with this, ring us on Freephone 1 800 20 20 65, Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5pm.**

## Planning a party

Story

18

The Party

You are planning a birthday party for your friend. What do you need to think about and organise?



**Look at this list and fill in what you will need to do.**

1	Choose your party theme.	
2	Work out a budget.	
3	Set a date, pick a venue and list the guests.	
4	Send your invites.	
5	Pick up party supplies and decorations.	
6	Arrange the birthday cake – order or make it?	
7	Plan the food and drinks.	
8	Buy a birthday present.	

## Working out a budget

Story

18

The Party

To make a budget, you can:

1. Decide on the total amount you're willing to spend on the party. Then divide this amount up for the different categories.

Or

2. **Estimate** how much each category will cost and add this all up to get a rough total.



### To plan for the party, you must look at costs.

You can use the internet to look up costs or ask a friend who has organised a party recently. Firstly decide how many people you will have – just make a guess so you can work out costs.

	Category	Estimated costs	Total
1	Choose your party theme.	€	€
2	Food and drinks.	Food is € _____ per person by _____ people Drinks cost € _____ per person by _____ people	€
3	Send your invites – email or post?	Posting the invite is €1 per invite x _____ of people Emailing or messaging is free.	€
4	Party supplies and decorations.	€	€
5	Birthday cake.	Buying ingredients € or Buying cake €	€
6	Birthday present.	€	€
	TOTAL	€	€

## Star signs

Story













19

Against the Stars

There are 12 **astrological signs**. Astrological or star sign dates change from year to year, depending on the date of the Spring Equinox.

The order of the signs are Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius and Pisces.

Here are the star sign images and the dates for 2021.

<b>Aries</b>  21 March - 19 April	<b>Taurus</b>  20 April - 20 May	<b>Gemini</b>  21 May - 20 June	<b>Cancer</b>  21 June - 22 July
<b>Leo</b>  23 July - 22 August	<b>Virgo</b>  23 August - 22 September	<b>Libra</b>  23 September - 23 October	<b>Scorpio</b>  24 October - 21 November
<b>Sagittarius</b>  22 November - 21 December	<b>Capricorn</b>  22 December - 19 January	<b>Aquarius</b>  20 January - 18 February	<b>Pisces</b>  19 February - 20 March



Answer these questions.

1. When is your birthday? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What is your star sign? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What do you think about star signs? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Word search

Story

19

Against the Stars

All the words in this word search are star signs.



Find these words in this word search. The first one is done for you.

Aries✓

Taurus

Gemini

Cancer

Leo

Virgo

Libra

Scorpio

Sagittarius

Capricorn

Aquarius

Pisces

d	g	s	u	i	r	a	t	t	i	g	a	s
o	z	r	v	d	z	k	y	j	r	t	n	g
a	i	n	r	o	c	i	r	p	a	c	y	w
s	q	p	z	e	b	j	z	q	s	d	d	r
u	i	u	r	z	c	o	d	e	t	t	l	t
r	n	s	a	o	g	n	c	l	i	b	r	a
u	i	p	e	r	c	s	a	g	d	r	q	b
a	m	l	i	i	i	s	y	c	q	y	y	d
t	e	v	e	p	r	u	y	y	t	x	z	l
j	g	r	n	o	g	a	s	t	b	r	r	g



The answers are on page 63.

## Fill in the blanks

Story

20

If I Can't Have You



Read 'If I Can't Have You' by Roisín O'Donnell.



Fill in the blanks of Ava's story.

When I was ten, my dad gave me a \_\_\_\_\_ set. I taught my best \_\_\_\_\_ (Mír).  
(board game) (person)

The \_\_\_\_\_ I turned eighteen, I was at my \_\_\_\_\_ house party. He kissed my bare  
(season) (person)

\_\_\_\_\_. I fixed the strap of my \_\_\_\_\_ sundress.  
(body part) (colour)

I did not know \_\_\_\_\_ was watching me. She had been \_\_\_\_\_  
(person) (tracking someone steps)

me on days I walked home alone. One day she stopped me at the \_\_\_\_\_.  
(circular route on the road)

She gave a \_\_\_\_\_ smile. 'Do you \_\_\_\_\_ him?' she asked.  
(description) (feeling)

The conversation was getting \_\_\_\_\_. 'Right,' I said, I better  
(describe what it was like)

go \_\_\_\_\_. 'Give me your \_\_\_\_\_ Ava,' she said. I did not want to.  
(place) (body part)

But my hand \_\_\_\_\_ by itself. At her \_\_\_\_\_, I felt like I had been  
(where it went) (one of his senses)

\_\_\_\_\_. I tried to shout. But my \_\_\_\_\_ was trapped in my  
(describes feeling) (sound from mouth)

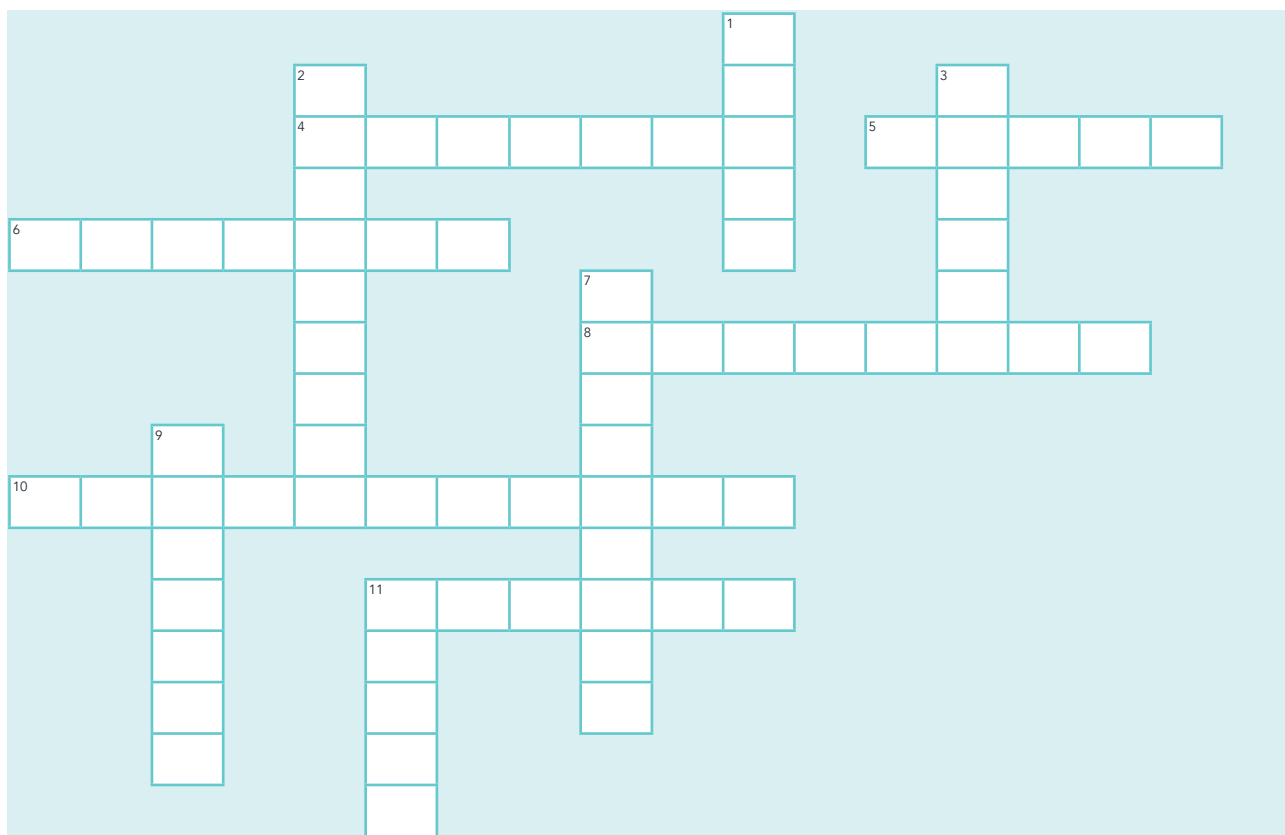
\_\_\_\_\_. Darkness came down.  
(body part)

# Crossword

Story

20

If I Can't Have You



Fill in the crossword by answering the following clues.



The number after the clue tells you how many letters are in the answer.

Across	Down
<p><b>4.</b> An imaginary creature with a long horn on its forehead (7)</p> <p><b>5.</b> Female monarch (5)</p> <p><b>6.</b> Two-wheeled vehicle operated by foot (7)</p> <p><b>8.</b> Number of holes in a standard round of golf (8)</p> <p><b>10.</b> Small electric lights on a string used as decoration (5, 5)</p> <p><b>11.</b> Larva case (6)</p>	<p><b>1.</b> Birds need these for flying (5)</p> <p><b>2.</b> Insect with broad colourful wings (9)</p> <p><b>3.</b> A colour between red and blue (6)</p> <p><b>7.</b> Someone living next or close to you (9)</p> <p><b>9.</b> Events of the past (6)</p> <p><b>11.</b> Classic board game of strategy (5)</p>



The answers are on page 63.

## Compound words

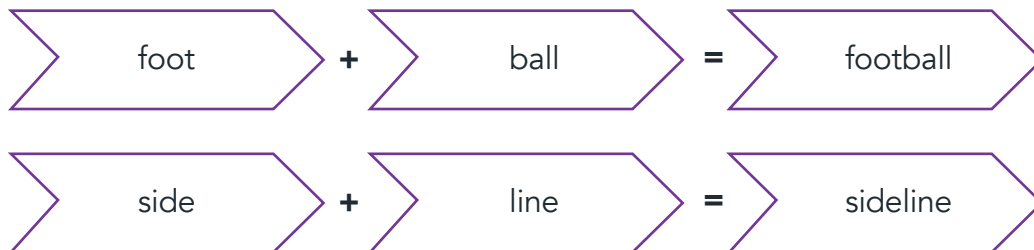
Story

21

Man of the Match

A **compound word** is a word that is made up of two (or more) other words.

For example:



**Find six compound words in the box.** The words are all to do with football.  
**Write the new words below.**

foot	side	lines	goal
half	kick	time	ball
man	off	post	off

	+		=
_____		_____	_____
	+		=
_____		_____	_____
	+		=
_____		_____	_____
	+		=
_____		_____	_____
	+		=
_____		_____	_____



**The answers are on page 63.**

## Looking for information

Story

21

Man of the Match

If we just want one piece of information from a text we scan for it.  
This means looking quickly over the piece to look for that particular piece of information.



**Read the statements 1-8.**

**Scan the player information below and ✓ the boxes true or false.**

- |   | True                     | False                    |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Paul plays with Bray Wanderers         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Sean was born in Cork.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Sean plays as a defender, left back.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Paul's height is 1.73 metres.          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. They both play using their right foot. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Paul is ten years older than Sean.     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Paul is a Midfielder.                  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Sean is an Irish citizen.              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Paul</b>
<b>Date of birth:</b>	<b>Jul 12, 1983</b>
<b>Place of birth:</b>	<b>Dublin</b>
<b>Age:</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>Height:</b>	<b>1,82m</b>
<b>Citizenship:</b>	<b>Ireland</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Midfielder - Central Midfield</b>
<b>Foot:</b>	<b>Right</b>
<b>Current club:</b>	<b>Bray Wanderers</b>

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Sean</b>
<b>Date of birth:</b>	<b>Jan 26, 1993</b>
<b>Place of birth:</b>	<b>Dublin</b>
<b>Age:</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Height:</b>	<b>1,73m</b>
<b>Citizenship:</b>	<b>Ireland</b>
<b>Position:</b>	<b>Defender - Left Back</b>
<b>Foot:</b>	<b>Left</b>
<b>Current club:</b>	<b>Shamrock Rovers</b>




**The answers are on page 63.**


## Your reviews

Story

22

The Life Changing Magic of Murder

Green thumb means a good review. 

Red thumb means a bad review. 



**What review would you give these?**

	Category	Answer	Green thumb up	Red thumb down
1	What is the last <b>film</b> you watched?			
2	What is the last <b>meal</b> you had out?			
3	What is the last <b>book</b> you read?			
4	What is the last <b>trip</b> you made?			
5	What is the last <b>holiday</b> you had?			

Think about which one of these would you recommend most to a friend.



**Write a review here of your experience and what was so good about it.**

## Your digital footprint

Story

22

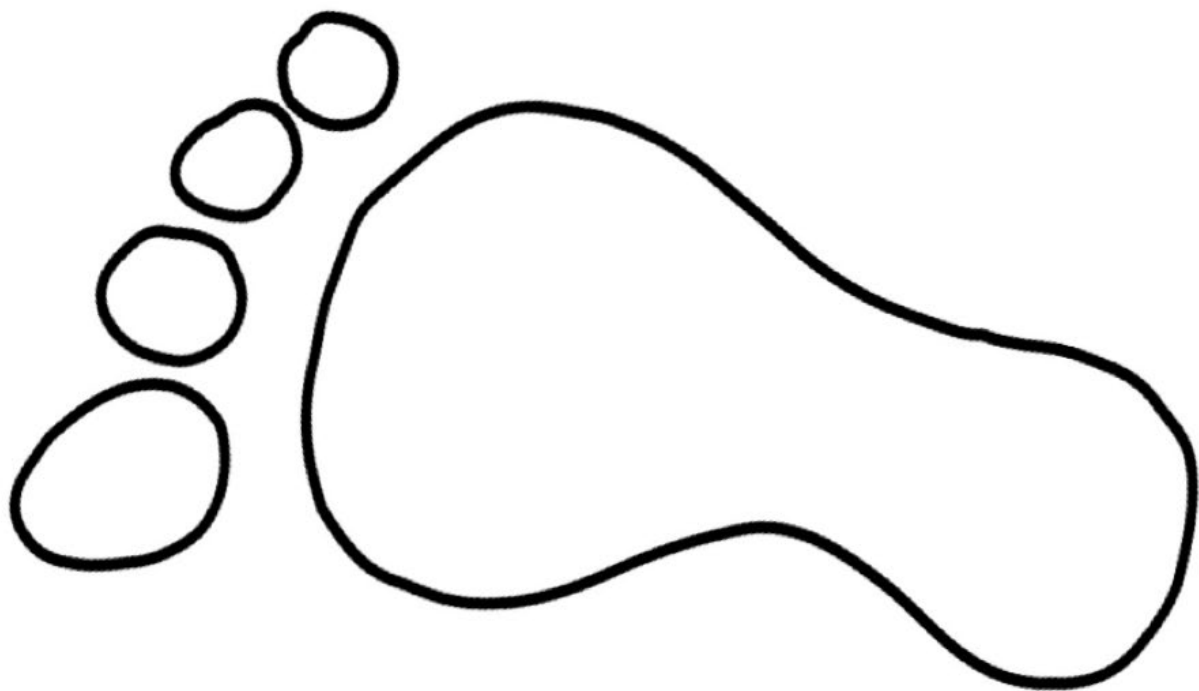
The Life Changing Magic of Murder

A **digital footprint** is information about a particular person's online activities that exists on the Internet. It includes the websites you visit, emails you send, posts you put up and information you submit to online services.

**What kinds of information would you want to find about yourself online in 10 years?**



**Fill in the footprint below with the types of search results (articles, posts, videos, images and so on) that you would want to see about yourself.**



**Make a note.**

How do you create a positive digital footprint?

**Nouns are the names of people, places, things, ideas and feelings.** For example:

People	Places	Things	Ideas	Feelings
Mark, Mrs Fox	Windy Arbour, Canada	house, sweets	memory	kindness, anger



**Underline the nouns.**

1. We took out the lawn mower.
2. Mark held the coin in his hands.
3. The grass was so long that it covered our heads.
4. That paper does not exist anymore, but the memory does.
5. All the sweets were in plastic jars on the counter.
6. In the kitchen, he cracked eggs and threw flour into a bowl.

**Common nouns** name people, places or things.

People – boy, mum cousin

Place – kitchen, shop, river, street

Thing – pancake, flat, bike, bonbons

Common nouns are written in lower case letters.

**Proper nouns** name a particular person, place or thing.

People – Mrs Fox, Mark

Place – Miltown Road, Sandyford, Ireland

Thing – Tuesday, September, Christmas Day

For proper nouns, the first letter is a capital letter.



**Fill in the blank word in these sentences. The words are in the box.**

Canada      sweet      pan      Mark      Bird Avenue      mixture      dad

1. He put the \_\_\_\_\_ on the stove and poured the \_\_\_\_\_ in.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ lived in a flat. His \_\_\_\_\_ lived in \_\_\_\_\_.
3. There was a \_\_\_\_\_ shop on the corner of \_\_\_\_\_.



Can you remember your local sweet shop when you were a child?



Can you remember the name of these sweets? Jot down their name.

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



What were your favourite sweets as a child and why?



The answers are on page 63.

## Adding suffixes - dropping the 'e'

Story

24

Amore

Definition	Example
A <b>root word</b> is a word with nothing added at the beginning or at the end.	walk
A <b>suffix</b> is a group of letters added to the <b>end</b> of a root word to change its meaning or make a new word	walk <b>ing</b>

Sometimes we need to drop the letter 'e' from a root word when we are adding a suffix. We drop the letter 'e' when we are adding an ending starting with a **vowel**.

For example: Change + ing = Chang**ing**



The letters A, E, I, O and U are called vowels.



Add the endings to these root words.

Remember if the root word ends with an 'e' you might need to drop it before adding the suffix.

Word	<b>ing</b>	<b>ed</b>	<b>s</b>	<b>er</b>
walk				
jump				
wave				
wait				
decide				
arrive				



The answers are on page 63.

## Borrowing words from other languages

Story

24

Amore

English is full of 'borrowed' words from other languages. The title of this story is an example.



**See if you can match these words to their meanings.**

The first one is done for you.

- |              |                                   |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. amore     | a. long stringed pasta            |
| 2. macho     | b. a gentle wind                  |
| 3. en route  | c. love                           |
| 4. karate    | d. a sauce put on chips           |
| 5. spaghetti | e. a self-defence martial art     |
| 6. breeze    | f. on the way to somewhere        |
| 7. ketchup   | g. coffee with steamed milk       |
| 8. latte     | h. someone who is strong or manly |



**Where do the above words come from?**

**There are two words from each country.**



China



France



Italy



Spain

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**You can look these up on the internet using your phone, tablet or computer. If you need help with this, ring us on Freephone 1 800 20 20 65, Monday to Friday 9.30am to 5pm.**



**The answers are on page 63.**

**Sequencing** is putting things in order, from first to last.



**Read 'The Cottage' by Donal Ryan.**



**Write the numbers 1 through 8 in the boxes to show the sequence or order of what happens in the story.**

One day a young man and woman with a child called and asked if they could rent the house. Jack told them they could not live in the house it needed too much work.	
Jack asked the couple if they wanted to take another look at the cottage. The couple said it was their dream house. Jack handed the cottage and keys over to them.	
Jack retired at 70. Jack lived on his own four miles from the town. He was worried about stories he heard on the news about people being attacked in their own homes.	
The same day Jack got a lift from his nephew into town. He told him the young couple were homeless and living in the hotel in town.	
One day a man called and asked if Jack would be interested in selling the old cottage he owned next door to his own house. His job was buying old houses, doing them up and selling them again. Jack said no.	
Jack called an old friend of his and gave him a list of things he needed. Jack and his friend worked on the cottage over the next few weeks.	
That evening when he came back from town Jack looked around the cottage. He saw that the roof wasn't in bad condition. It needed new floors and new doors and windows. It needed to be plastered, insulated and painted.	
When the cottage was finished, Jack rang the hotel manager and asked him to leave a message for the young couple to call to Jack Ward's house.	

## Using clues

Story

25

The Cottage

Context clues are hints as to what words might make sense in a sentence.



**Read the sentences below from the story 'The Cottage' by Donal Ryan.**



**What words are missing from these sentences?**

- a. She lost \_\_\_\_\_ of the dates.
- b. I told him to mind his own \_\_\_\_\_.
- c. At the taxpayer's \_\_\_\_\_.
- d. He has learned a \_\_\_\_\_ about giving.
- e. It's our dream \_\_\_\_\_.
- f. They thanked me over and \_\_\_\_\_ again.
- g. Cash is \_\_\_\_\_!
- h. I can hear them coming and \_\_\_\_\_.



**The letters A, E, I, O and U are called vowels.**



**The vowels have been left of the words below. Try putting them back in.**

- |               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| a. tr_ck      | b. h__s__ |
| c. b_s_n_ss   | d. __v__r |
| e. __xp__ns__ | f. k_ng   |
| g. l_ss_n     | h. g__ng  |



**The answers are on page 63.**

## Use your voice

Story

26

I Have a Voice

Your voice and opinion is important. Sometimes we can use our voice confidently but other times we may need to practise what we want to say.

Think of a topic that you want to have a voice on: \_\_\_\_\_



**Now fill in these boxes.**

**Describe this topic.**

**How do you feel about this topic?**



**What words or phrases do you use when you speak about this?**

**What do you want to tell people about this topic?**

## Setting goals

Story

26

I Have a Voice

A **goal** is something you want to achieve or reach.

**Motivation** is what makes you reach your goal.

For example: Goal: to use video on my phone

Motivation: to see and speak to my friends

**Motivation** is important when setting learning goals because it helps us to look at the reasons for achieving the goal.

**Motivation** is also helpful throughout learning because it helps us remember why we want to achieve the goal.

**Think of a learning goal you want to reach.**



**Write down the goal and answer these questions.**

My learning goal is...	
I want to achieve this goal because...	
What would help me to achieve my goal?	
How would my life change if I achieved my goal?	



**If learning gets difficult, it is good to remember your motivation for learning in the first place. It also helps your motivation if you are enjoying the learning.**

**If you get stuck, ring NALA on our Freephone support line on 1 800 20 20 65 for a chat. We are open Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 5pm.**

## Writing sentences

Story

27

The Initiation

A **sentence** is a group of words that make sense when they are put together. A sentence begins with a **capital letter** and ends with a **full stop**.

Here are two short sentences: **J**umi lifted the fabric from the bed.

**S**he rang her finger over it.

You can use the word '**and**' to join together and add in more information.

For example: **J**umi strolled to the window and gazed out of it.



**Match the beginning to the ending to make a sentence.**

**Then write out the new sentence.**

The first one is done for you.

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. She caressed the tiny hand-sewn mirrors | went to take her nnenne's hand. |
| 2. She knew the lace                       | a knock came to the door.       |
| 3. Jumi placed the lace back and           | in front of the mirror.         |
| 4. Before Jumi could answer,               | that showed bits of her face.   |
| 5. Then she went to stand                  | meant a lot to her.             |

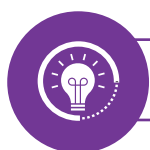
1. She caressed the tiny hand-sewn mirrors that showed bits of her face.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_



**The answers are on page 63.**

## Using punctuation

Story

27

The Initiation

Knowing where and when to use punctuation marks can greatly improve your writing.

**Punctuation** means the correct use of the following:

Full stop	.	Comma	,	Colon	:	Brackets	( ) or [ ]
Question mark	?	Quotation marks	" " or ' '	Semi colon	;	Dash	—
Exclamation mark	!	Apostrophe	'	Ellipsis	...	Hyphen	-

### When to use punctuation marks?

Punctuation mark	When to use	Example
Full stop .	A full stop is used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ at the end of a sentence</li><li>■ to show an abbreviation</li></ul>	She draped this lace over me.
Question mark ?	The question mark is used at the end of a question.	Did I ever tell you the lace was given to me by my mother on my wedding day?
Exclamation mark !	An exclamation mark is used to show strong feeling such as surprise, excitement, anger or joy.	Quick Jumi, we must hurry!



**Read out loud the following paragraph from 'The Initiation' by Melatu Uche Okorie.**



**Mark where you think the full stops, quotation marks, apostrophes and commas should go.**

she turned her head from the window to look at jumi Her eyes pleading for Jumi s understanding. just the way my own father did when I was born '

'Shh Nnenne it s OK. I understand jumi said as she hugged her nnemme again

Your mother left the earth too soon ...' jumi's nnenne added in a muffled voice, her head buried in Jumi s shoulder



**The answers are on page 63.**

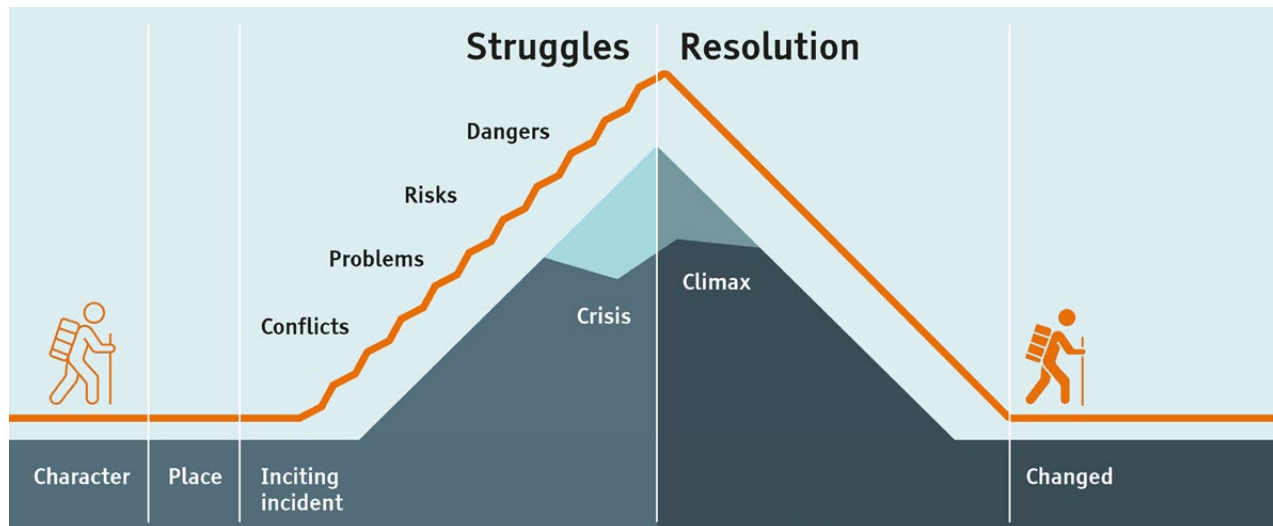
## Writing your story

Over to you

We can all write a short story. If you haven't tried it before, let's look at what we need to start with.

<b>Who is the main character in your story?</b> What is their name? How old are they? What do they look like? Where are they from? Where do they live? What is their job?	
<b>What is the outline of your story?</b> What is going to happen? What is the problem? How will it be solved? What is the resolution?	

In a story you will have a **character arc** – this is the transformation or inner journey of a character over the course of a story. If a story has a character arc, the character begins as one sort of person and gradually transforms into a different sort of person in response to changing developments in the story.



### Now it's time to start your story.

1. Using your character and outline, write your first draft.
2. Reread and edit any bits you like or dislike.
3. Give it a title.
4. Give it to a friend and get some feedback.
5. Edit again and again until you are happy.

## Starting your story

Over to you

It is good to start your story with something out of the ordinary – this will hook the reader in.

Think back to one of the stories in 'Voices' that you liked.

Can you remember the opening? What stuck out for you? Why do you still remember it now?



**Now think about what the opening to your short story could be.**

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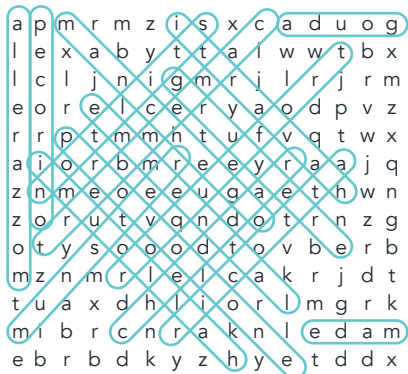
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# Answers

## Story 1. Word search (page 6)



## Story 2. Adjectives (page 9)

Adjectives	Nouns	Adjectives	Nouns
shining	lino	three	times
long	grass	stooped	figure
Cork	family	empty	rooms
swirling	lights	long	week
small	roads	summer	air

Underline the adjectives in these sentences.

1. I still feel the grains of sand stuck between my bare toes when I crossed the big bedroom.
2. I still feel warm summer air coming in the open window.
3. On the first tee his father asks me if I wish to hit one shot.
4. Standing at the rusting padlocked gate, I need to ask the man next door if this is the right house.
5. I remember us waiting for that magic moment of catching our first glimpse of the sea.

## Story 4. Crossword (Page 13)

Across	Down
3 YouTube	1 request
5 band	2 polite
6 fundraiser	4 blushing
7 mate	5 business
8 chorus	9 stage
11 silence	10 cheer
12 gig	

## Story 5. Prefixes (Page 14)

1. dislike
2. uneasy
3. uncover
4. dishonest
5. unhappy
6. discomfort
7. unaware
8. untidy

## Story 5. Prefixes (Page 14)

- |            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Invisible  | Return     |
| Disappoint | Overlook   |
| Misread    | Submarine  |
| Understand | Impossible |

## Story 6. Puzzle with numbers (Page 16)

1. 10 People: Ryan, Ma, 3 sisters, 4 nephews and Granny
2. 5 cities: London, New York, Belfast, Paris, Dublin
3. 5 landmarks: Big Ben, The Blackpool Tower, The Eiffel Tower, The Statue of Liberty, The Spire
4. Total number is 20 (10 + 5 + 5)

## Story 9. Word search (page 22)



## Story 10. Puzzle using Chinese numbers (page 24)

1. 一 (1) + 二 (2) = 3 三
2. 二 (2) + 四 (4) = 6 六
3. 二 (2) + 五 (5) = 7 七
4. 三 (3) + 六 (6) = 9 九
5. 十 (10) - 二 (2) = 8 八
6. 七 (7) - 二 (2) = 5 五

## Story 12. Who is telling the story? (page 28)

1. Who is telling the story? b) The Nissan Micra
2. What is the point of view? b) 3rd person

## Story 16. Reading signs (page 36)

This sign tell us to turn right if we are:

1. Using the emergency exit

This sign tell us to turn left for the:

2. Ladies and gents toilets

## Story 17. Contractions (page 38)

I **won't** make it tonight.

No problem. I hope **you're** not sick.

No **I'm** fine. **I've** a flat tyre.

That's a pity. **I'll** tell the others.

Thanks. Enjoy. I **can't** wait till next time.

Cheers. It **won't** be too long I hope.

## Story 19. Word search (page 43)



## Story 20. Crossword (Page 45)

Across	Down
4. unicorn	1. wings
5. queen	2. butterfly
6. scooter	3. purple
8. eighteen	7. neighbour
10. fairy lights	9. history
11. cocoon	11. chess

## Story 21. Compound words (Page 46)

foot + ball = football	off + side = offside
half + time = halftime	lines + man = linesman
goal + post = goalpost	kick + off = kickoff

## Story 21. Looking for information (Page 47)

1. True	5. False
2. False	6. True
3. True	7. True
4. False	8. True

## Story 23. Nouns (page 50)

- We took out the lawn mower.
  - Mark held the coin in his hands.
  - The grass was so long that it covered our heads.
  - That paper does not exist anymore, but the memory does.
  - All the sweets were in plastic jars on the counter.
  - In the kitchen, he cracked eggs and threw flour into a bow.
- He put the pan on the stove and poured the mixture in.
  - Mark lived in a flat. His dad lived in Canada.
  - There was a sweet shop on the corner of Bird Avenue.

## Story 23. The sweet shop (page 51)

1. Apple drops	5. Milky mints
2. Flying saucers	6. Bull's eyes
3. Cream pies	7. Candy necklace
4. Strawberry bon bons	8. Kola cubes

## Story 24. Adding suffixes – dropping the e (page 52)

Word	ing	ed	s	er
walk	walking	walked	walks	walker
jump	jumping	jumped	jumps	jumper
wave	waving	waved	waves	waver
wait	waiting	waited	waits	waiter
decide	deciding	decided	decides	decider
arrive	arriving	arrived	arrives	arriver

## Story 24. Borrowing words (page 53)

1. amore = love	5. spaghetti = long stringed pasta
2. macho = someone who is strong or manly	6. breeze = a gentle wind
3. en route = on the way to somewhere	7. ketchup = a sauce put on chips
4. karate = a self-defence martial art	8. latte = coffee with steamed milk

China	France	Italy	Spain
karate	amore	spaghetti	macho
ketchup	en route	latte	breeze

## Story 25. Using clues (page 55)

- |             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| a. track    | e. house |
| b. business | f. over  |
| c. expense  | g. king  |
| d. lesson   | h. going |

## Story 27. Writing sentences (page 58)

- She caressed the tiny hand-sewn mirrors that showed bits of her face.
- She knew the lace meant a lot to her.
- Jumi placed the lace back and went to take her nnenne's (grandmother's) hand.
- Before Jumi could answer, a knock came to the door.
- Then she went to stand in front of the mirror.

## Story 27. Using punctuation (page 59)

She turned her head from the window to look at Jumi. Her eyes pleading for Jumi's understanding. 'Just the way my own father did when I was born.'

'Shh, Nnenne, it's OK. I understand.' Jumi said as she hugged her nmemme again.

'Your mother left the earth too soon ...' Jumi's nnenne added in a muffled voice, her head buried in Jumi's shoulder.

The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) is a charity and membership based organisation. We work to support adults with unmet literacy and numeracy needs to take part fully in society and to have access to learning opportunities that meet their needs. NALA does this by raising awareness of the importance of literacy, doing research and sharing good practice, providing distance learning services and by lobbying for further investment to improve adult literacy, numeracy and digital skills.

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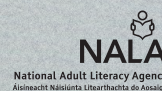


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