Teaching text: Stig of the Dump

Question	Answer	CD/Mark	Useful strategies
1. *"He crawled to the edge of the pit and peered over"* (paragraph 2). What is the effect of the word *"peered"* in this sentence?	"Peered" tells you that he looked carefully/with concentration/with difficulty/shyly/looked closely/looked just over the edge of the pit. Accept other answers with the same meanings.	2a 1 mark	*Question focus: explain the meaning of a word in context.* Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Scan the text for the sentence in the question and read it carefully to understand the context. • Reread the quotation, focusing on what the word "peered" tells you that is different from "looked".
2. Paragraphs 4 and 5 are very short. Why?	• They mirror the speed at which the events happened. • They show a sequence of actions and each new action triggers a new paragraph.	2f 1 mark	*Question focus: explain how narrative content is related and contributes to the meaning as a whole.* Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Identify the paragraphs in the text. • Carefully read these paragraphs together with the paragraphs immediately before and after.
3. *"And the ground gave way"* (paragraph 5). Why does the author begin this paragraph with the word *"And"*?	• He wants to emphasise the link between this sentence and the one before it.	2g 1 mark	*Question focus: how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.* Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Identify the paragraph in the text. • Consider how "and" is usually used and its impact here.
4. The paragraph beginning *"His thoughts did those funny things"* begins with a very long sentence. Why do you think the author didn't use shorter sentences here?	The length of the sentence mirrors Barney's rambling thoughts.	2f 1 mark	*Question focus: explain how narrative content is related and contributes to the meaning as a whole.* Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Carefully read paragraph 8, noting the sentence length. • Think about what the sentence is about.

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6. Read the description of the pit. (a) Is the author trying to make the reader excited by the pit, or afraid of it? (b) How does the author manage this? Explain your response using words and phrases from the text. Explain how the author makes you feel like this. Use information and a quotation from the story in your answer.	(a) Excited. (b) The author makes the pit seem exciting by letting us see it through Barney's eyes. Barney wants an adventure and thinks he sees "*the steering wheel of a ship … The tail of an aeroplane*" (paragraph 3). (a) Afraid. (b) The author wants the reader to realise how dangerous the pit is. He starts by telling us that the bottom of the pit is "*Far below*" (paragraph 3) to emphasise the danger and then tell us that it's full of "*wreckage*" (paragraph 3) and "*nettles*" (paragraph 3), both of which could hurt you.	2d 2 marks	*Question focus: explain inferences and justify them with evidence from the text.* Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Carefully read the description of the pit, considering how Barney might feel. • Select ideas and a quotation from the text to support your answer. • Scan the text to find relevant quotations. Award 1 mark for an explanation which matches the initial response. There is no mark for (a) itself. Award the second mark for a suitable quotation from the text. Understanding can be shown without quotations.
6. How does paragraph 4 introduce the events in the rest of this extract?	Barney wished he was at the bottom of the pit and then he fell. When he opened his eyes, he found that he was at the bottom of the pit. Do not accept simply "*the ground gave way*" or "*he fell over the edge*".	2c 1 mark	*Question focus: summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.* Strategies: • Carefully read the question, marking key words. • Carefully read from paragraph 4 to the end of the text, considering how subsequent events are related to the statement in paragraph 4.

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