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Reading Corner 1: Computers, Internet and blogs

Summary

There are 3 texts on the topic of computers, the Internet and blogs.

Text 1 is a short quiz about you and computers.

Text 2 is about teenagers and the Internet. It explains how computers are everyday equipment for teenagers today. It describes how teenagers use the Internet to e-mail friends, send instant messages and write blogs. Finally, it explains what blogs are and what bloggers do.

Text 3 is an extract from a typical teenage blog about a trip to Ireland.

Activity

Choose two or three interesting days from your last holiday and write your blog. Write about the events as if they were happening now. (Or imagine you are a famous person and write their blog!)

Think about the answers to the questions:

- Where are you?
- What things do you do on each day?
- What things do you like/not like?

Now write the blog.

Reading Corner 2: Gandhi

Summary

The text is an extract from a book about Gandhi. It gives information about his early life and how he began to fight for Indian independence. It describes how he used non-violent protest to get important changes.

Activity

Imagine you are a journalist. It is 1947 and you are going to interview Gandhi about his life and his achievements.

- Write a list of the questions you want to ask in the interview.
- Look on the Internet or at the text in the Reading Corner and find the answers.
- Write the interview.

Reading Corner 3: Films

Summary

The texts are on the topic of films. There is a short text with fun film facts about *Plan 9 from Outer Space*, the worst film ever made. The main texts are reviews of three films, *Empire*, *King Kong* and *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

Activity

Write a Fun Film Facts poster for your favourite film.

- Decide which film you are going to write about.
- Find out information about the film, e.g. Who is the director? Who are the actors? When did they make the film? Where did they make the film? Do they use special effects? What music do they use? Why is the film good/bad?
- Try to find out some other interesting facts, e.g. Forty-three cats appeared in the film *Catwoman*!
- Decide how you are going to organise your information. Choose one of these options:
 - a) Questions and answers
 - b) Short paragraphs with titles
- Write the poster.

Reading Corner 4: The Visitor

Summary

The Reading Corner contains two scenes from a film script, *The Visitor*. Ben, a teenage boy, is at home with his mother, Rose. Suddenly the doorbell rings. Rose opens the door, but she doesn't know the man. He acts as if he is at the right house and says his name is Richard Green. He gives Rose some flowers and goes into the house. Ben doesn't know the man either. Rose phones her husband, Johnny, but he doesn't know who Richard Green is. The doorbell rings again and Richard answers the door.

Activity

Imagine you are Ben. It is the night after Richard came to your house. Think about the answers to the following questions. Then, write a story describing what happened yesterday.

- Where were you and what were you doing when the visitor arrived? How did you feel?
- What was the visitor like? What did he do? What did you do?
- Did your mum know the man? What did she do?
- Who was the second person to ring the doorbell? What happened then?
- What happened in the end?

Reading Corner 5: Your problems, your replies

Summary

The Reading Corner has two letters to a problem page. The first letter is from a teenage boy, Dan, who has recently moved to London. He isn't happy at school because he hasn't made any new friends.

There are three replies to his letter from three teenagers with advice about his situation. The other letter is from a teenage girl. Her parents don't like her best friend.

Activity

Imagine you are Dan. Write an email to a friend from your old town. Tell him/her about your problem. Then say which advice from the three replies to your letter you decided to follow and what happened.

Hi!

How are you? Well, I started at my new school last month, but at first I didn't make any new friends. I wrote to a problem page and I got three replies. They had good advice. I decided ...