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Reading Corner 1: A day in the life of Leo Thomas

Summary

The text is about a sixteen-year-old home-educated student, Leo Thomas. Leo describes what a typical day is like for a home-educated student. He also talks about how he stays in touch with his friends and the difficulties of being home-educated.

Activity

Imagine you are a home-educated student. Write to Leo Thomas about your life.

Think about the answers to these questions:

- When did you start home education?
- What's a typical day like for you? (Remember, you can organise your timetable how you like!)
- What do you like about being home-educated?
- Do you have any problems with being educated at home?

Reading Corner 2: Magic

Summary

There are two texts describing how to do two different magic tricks. One trick uses dice and the other uses silk handkerchiefs.

Activity

Think of a character in a book or film about magic. Imagine you are that person and write about a time you used magic.

- Decide who you are, e.g. a character in the Harry Potter stories, Eragon, Gandalf or Frodo (in *The Lord of the Rings*) etc.
- Describe the situation and say why you had to use magic.
- Explain how the spell worked and what things you used for the spell.
- Describe exactly what happened when you used magic, e.g. Did the spell work? Did you have any problems? How did you feel? Did anything unexpected happen? How did the other person/people react?

Reading Corner 3: Mystery holiday

Summary

There are 4 texts in the Reading Corner. The first is an advert for a competition to win a holiday by guessing the mystery destination. The other three texts are the three parts of the competition. First, there is a description of the country. The second, contains more information about the country. The third contains details of the trip. Readers have to solve clues to complete it.

Activity

Imagine that you won the competition and went to Australia. When you were there, you had an adventure. Write about what happened.

Think about these things first:

- Where were you when the adventure happened?
- What was the adventure about? E.g. Did you lose all your money? Did you meet someone (who?)? Did you go somewhere strange?
- What happened?
- What did you do?
- What happened in the end?

Reading Corner 4: *The Fugitive*

Summary

The Reading Corner is based on the book *The Fugitive*. There is an introduction and three short extracts from the story. Dr Richard Kimble's wife was killed by a man with one arm. However the police arrest Kimble because they think he is the murderer. When they are driving to the trial, there is an accident and Kimble escapes. Detective Gerard goes to investigate the scene with two police officers, Newman and Poole. They chase Kimble, but he escapes by jumping into a river.

Activity

You are Dr Richard Kimble. Yesterday you jumped into a river to escape from the police. Write an e-mail to a friend. Describe what has happened since your wife was murdered and what you plan to do to find the murderer.

Reading Corner 5: Our music is rock

Summary

Our music is rock is a short play about four teenage musicians. Jack and Jason are in a band and they are looking for a new guitarist. Rob phones up although he isn't a guitarist, he's a keyboard player. He speaks to Jason. Jason agrees to meet him because Rob explains that he also writes songs. Jason and Jack also get an e-mail from another musician, Alex. Alex sounds perfect and they are excited about meeting him. Jason and Jack meet Rob, but his songs aren't very good. They are waiting for Alex when a girl arrives – it turns out that Alex is a girl, not a boy. Alex plays a song and she's very good – she's in the band.

Activity

It is now six years since Jack, Jason and Alex first met. Now they are a very famous band! Choose one of the characters, Jack, Jason or Alex. Imagine you are going to do an interview on TV. Prepare your answers for the interviewer's questions.

- 1 How did you first meet?
- 2 When and where was your first concert?
- 3 What was your first famous song? What was it about and who wrote it?
- 4 How did you become famous?

5 What are your plans for the future?

In class, work in pairs. Take it in turns to act out your interviews. One person is the interviewer and asks the 5 questions above, the other acts the part they have chosen and answers the questions. Then, change roles.