Grade 6 English

Terms 1, 2 and 3 - notes for 52 topics

IN EVERY TOPIC

- What you will learn and the key words.
- Short, clear notes with worked examples.
- Questions to try and a topic test, with the answers at the back.

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Strand 1.0 Child labour | Term 1

1.1.1 Pronunciation and Listening

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this topic you should be able to:

- select words with the "ear" sound (as in near, here and year) from an oral narrative
- use vocabulary related to the theme in sentences correctly
- use proverbs, fixed phrases, idioms and metaphors with straightforward meanings in sentences
- listen for the main idea and specific details from an oral text

KEY WORDS

child labour, employer, wages, exploit, rights, protect, career, clear.

1. The "ear" sound in near, here and year

The "ear" sound

It is a gliding sound that starts like the "i" in "sit" and moves towards a soft "uh": near, here, year, clear, fear, dear, cheer, career, beard.

Spellings vary: ear (near), ere (here), eer (cheer), ier (pier).

Minimal pairs to practise: knee / near, bee / beer, tea / tear (drop of water from the eye), D / dear.

Chant: "Here, near, clear and dear, I can hear the sound so clear."

2. Listening to an oral narrative on child labour

Model narrative (read aloud): "Juma's Long Day"

Every morning that year, Juma walked past the school gate and on to the quarry near the river. He was only eleven. A man paid him a few coins to carry stones until his hands were sore and his back ached. He could hear the school bell clearly, and each time his heart filled with fear that he would never learn to read well.

One day the head teacher, Madam Wairimu, saw him. She spoke to the chief, and the chief spoke to the quarry owner: no child should work there. Juma's aunt was helped to find work, and Juma returned to class. By the end of the year he was reading story books and dreaming of a career as an engineer.

Vocabulary: child labour (work that harms a child or keeps them from school), employer, wages, exploit (use someone unfairly), protect, rights.

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3. Proverbs, idioms and metaphors

Figurative expressions

Proverb: a short wise saying. "Many hands make light work" (work is easier when people help). "A stitch in time saves nine" (fix a problem early).

Idiom: a phrase whose meaning is not the meaning of each word. "Lend a hand" (help); "a piece of cake" (very easy).

Metaphor: saying one thing is another. "Education is the key to a bright future."

Fixed phrase: "first and foremost", "once in a while".

TRY THESE

1. Which word has the "ear" sound: seat, near, set?
2. Give two more words with the "ear" sound.
3. What is the main idea of the story?
4. Name two "ear" words from the story.
5. What does "lend a hand" mean?
6. Use "many hands make light work" in a sentence.

TOPIC TEST

T1. Write a sentence with three "ear" words.

T2. Retell the story in five sentences.

T3. Write a short paragraph on child rights using one proverb and one metaphor.

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1.2.1 Child labour: Extensive Reading

WHAT YOU WILL LEARN

By the end of this topic you should be able to:

- select appropriate reading materials in collaboration with peers
- read a variety of materials independently for information and pleasure
- use reference materials to find the required information
- judge the suitability of sample extensive reading materials

KEY WORDS

title, author, blurb, contents, index, glossary, dictionary, reading log.

1. Choosing books with peers

Choosing well

Look at the title and cover picture: what might it be about?
Read the blurb (the short summary on the back).
Read the first page: are most words familiar? (The "five-finger test": if more than five words on a page are new, the book may be too hard for now.)
Ask a friend who has read it; share your own recommendations.

2. Reading independently and keeping a reading log

Reading log (columns)

Date | Title | Author | Pages read | What I learnt or enjoyed.
Example entry: 12 March | "Juma's Long Day" | class story | 1-3 | Children have a right to education.
Reasons to read: information, pleasure, new words, ideas, imagination.
Silent reading: read in your head, at your own speed.

3. Using reference materials and judging suitability

Reference skills

Dictionary: words in alphabetical order; guide words at the top of each page.
Contents page (front): chapters and their page numbers.
Index (back): topics in alphabetical order with page numbers.
Glossary: meanings of special words in that book.
Judging suitability: right reading level, suitable content for age, clear print, interesting topic, up to date (for information books).

TRY THESE

1. What is a blurb?
2. What is the five-finger test?
3. Name three columns in a reading log.
4. Give two reasons for reading.
5. Where is the index in a book?
6. What are guide words in a dictionary?

TOPIC TEST

T1. Make a "books we recommend" poster for the class library.

T2. Read a newspaper article about children and record it in your log.

T3. Use an index to find a topic in a science book.

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