

# Reading Comprehension Task:

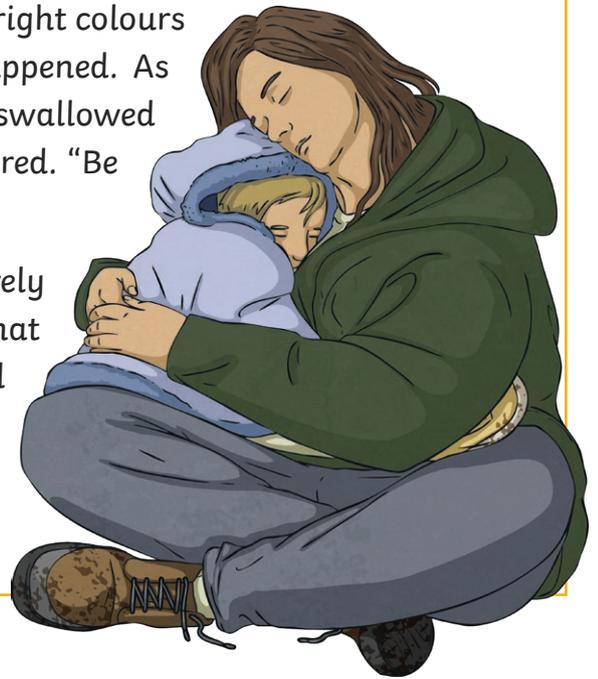
## Our Town of Old

You have 30 minutes to read the following passage and answer **all** of the questions below. Match your response to the marks available. You may continue your answers on the additional pages provided, if required.

The harsh and biting wind snapped its teeth through the deserted streets, swirling the debris and carnage of the pavement into a paper tornado. Flyers and empty packaging danced through the air, falling like ash from a great volcano onto the ramshackle ruins of the old town. Only white noise lingered on the breeze: the laughter of children long gone, to return only in dreams.

Concealed within the shadows, Jaelyn scanned the alien landscape which lay before her, aghast by what her home town had become. With a trembling hand, she picked a leaflet from the gutter, marvelling at how the bright colours remained untarnished despite everything that had happened. As her stinging eyes darted between the photographs, she swallowed the frog in her throat. “No, Jaelyn, not now,” she muttered. “Be strong for Evin.”

Folding the crumpled leaflet neatly in half, she securely placed it into her pocket. Evin would want to see what life used to be like. Wading through the darkness and holding her breath, Jaelyn struggled on towards the abandoned pharmacy.



1. Discuss two ways in which the author uses personification in the extract and explain the effect that each example has.

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2 marks

2. **Folding the crumpled leaflet neatly in half, she securely placed it into her pocket.**

What does this sentence imply about Jaelyn's opinion of the leaflet?

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2 marks

3. What impression does the author give of the character Jaelyn? Discuss at least two aspects of her character, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

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3 marks

4. Summarise, in your own words, what you think the circumstances surrounding this extract are. You may wish to write about what may have happened and why Jaelyn may be present.

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3 marks





# Reading Comprehension Task:

## Our Town of Old **Example Answers**

To achieve the full number of marks for each question, pupils' responses should be to the same quality as the examples below. This is not a comprehensive list of answers and should only be used as a guide regarding answer depth and detail.

1. Discuss two ways in which the author uses personification in the extract and explain the effect that each example has.

**One way in which the author uses personification is in the phrase 'the harsh and biting wind snapped its teeth'. The effect of this is that it makes the wind seem vicious, as though it is so cold that it could hurt you. Another example of personification is when the flyers and packets 'danced through the air'. The effect of this is that the reader can imagine their movement and how they swirl together as if they are dancing.**

2. **Folding the crumpled leaflet neatly in half, she securely placed it into her pocket.** What does this sentence imply about Jaelyn's opinion of the leaflet?

**This sentence implies that Jaelyn wants to make sure that she doesn't lose the leaflet because she makes sure that it is secure. It also shows that Jaelyn cares about how the leaflet looks because she folds it neatly, despite finding it crumpled in the gutter.**

3. What impression does the author give of the character Jaelyn? Discuss at least two aspects of her character, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

**The author gives the impression that Jaelyn is determined because, despite being upset, she manages to keep her composure by telling herself to 'be strong for Evin'. Another impression the author gives is that Jaelyn is injured. They give this impression because she 'struggles' to move towards the pharmacy, where it is presumed that she will get medicine to treat herself or somebody else.**

4. Summarise, in your own words, what you think the circumstances surrounding this extract are. You may wish to write about what may have happened and why Jaelyn may be present.

**I think that Jaelyn and another child (possibly her sister, Evin) have survived a natural disaster. The town they used to live in has been abandoned and, with resources scarce, the streets have become hostile. Jaelyn or Evin need medical support and Jaelyn's only option is to secretly try to reach the abandoned pharmacy.**