

English

Year 8

Name: _____

My homework is due on _____

Leeds United sack manager Simon Grayson after Birmingham thrashing

Ken Bates has begun the search for the fifth manager of his seven-year reign at Elland Road. The Leeds United chairman sacked Simon Grayson in the wake of Tuesday night's 4-1 home defeat to Birmingham City and promptly placed Neil Redfearn, the youth team manager, in caretaker charge.

Despite appearing to perform a decent job while working to a tight budget, the popular Grayson, who replaced Gary McAllister in December 2008, had been under mounting pressure in recent weeks as Leeds slipped out of the Championship's top six.

Although the 42-year-old former Blackpool manager and ex-Leeds, Aston Villa and Blackburn Rovers midfielder is highly regarded in coaching circles and

viewed as a rising talent by senior football figures including Martin O'Neill and Howard Wilkinson, Bates had clearly run out of patience with Grayson.

"We have 18 games to go this season and are still within touching distance of the play-offs, but felt with the transfer window now closed we needed to make the change at this time in the belief that a new managerial team will be able to get more out of the existing squad of players and make the difference," said Shaun Harvey, the Leeds chief executive.

"Simon and his staff have given the club over three good years service and we would like to place on record our thanks and wish them all the best for the future."

After leading Leeds to promotion from League One in 2010 and missing out on the Championship play-offs by only three points last season Grayson - whose first team coaches Glyn Snodin and Ian Miller have also departed Elland Road - has found this season far from plain sailing and leaves the club four places beneath the play-off zone.

The identity of Grayson's successor remains unclear but early speculation centres around currently unemployed managers such as the immediate bookmakers' favourite, Neil Warnock, Steve Bruce, Dave Jones and the former Leeds luminary Gordon Strachan. Among those currently in jobs, Roberto Di Matteo, the former West Brom manager currently assisting André Villas-Boas at Chelsea, and Huddersfield's Lee Clark could be potential contenders.

Task A) Read the article, 'Leeds United sack manager Simon Grayson after Birmingham thrashing' and answer the questions below, using P.E.A.

- **What impression does the headline give of Leeds United's performance in their match against Birmingham?**

The headline gives the impression that_____

Because it says_____

This makes the reader think_____

- Explain the meaning of the following metaphors:

“Still within touching distance of the play offs”

“has found this season far from plain sailing”..

- What is meant by the description of Gordon Strachan as being a “luminary”?
-
-

- What is meant by the description of Roberto Di Mateo and Lee Clark as being a “potential contenders”?
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Review: The Muppets

Joe was at the premiere of the movie along with CBBC's Dodge. You can watch their report [here](#) but first, find out what they thought of the film.

The Muppets is a musical comedy about the world famous gang of puppets getting back together and putting on a massive show. You might not know much about the Muppets because although they're really famous, they haven't made a movie in 12 years!

The plot

When three muppet fans learn that an evil man wants to destroy the muppet theatre they set out to find Kermit the Frog. They tell him about the evil plan and convince him to travel around the world to get his crazy muppet gang back together including Kermit's long, lost love Miss Piggy. Can the muppets put on a show that will earn them enough money to buy back the theatre and make them all as famous as they used to be?

The stars

The Muppets are the stars! Kermit The Frog, Miss Piggy, Fozzie Bear, Beaker, Animal, Gonzo... the list goes on! From small prawns to giant furry monsters - there are dozens of puppet characters to make you laugh.

Hit or miss?

JOE says...Hit! It's really fun with lots of singing and dancing and silly jokes.

Good news for your parents is there are also a lot of grown-up jokes in it too so you'll all be able to laugh along.

NR rating: 4 out of 5

Task B) Read the review of The Muppets Movie and answer the questions below, using P.E.A.

- How does the writer use language to build interest for the film?

Firstly, the writer uses adjectives, such as _____

To make the film seem interesting. This creates the impression that _____

Additionally, the writer's use of punctuation creates interest for the film. An example of this is _____

This makes the reader think _____

What's more, the writer creates interest in the film through their use of a rhetorical question: " _____

This makes the reader feel _____

74 KILLED IN FOOTBALL FIGHT HORROR



At least 74 people have been killed after violence broke out at a football match in Egypt.

The fighting happened at a game between two of the countries top teams - al-Masry and al-Ahly.

Hundreds more were injured. It's thought it started after rival fans of each team invaded the pitch in the city of Port Said.

Now the Egyptian Government will hold an emergency meeting to try and work out what happened.

Fighting between fans in Egypt is not unusual, with the two sets of fans being bitter rivals - but a Government official said it was the worst football disaster the country had ever seen.

But people there are said to be angry and plan to protest because they don't think security and police in the stadium did enough to stop the riot.

Task C) Read the news report, '74 Killed in Football Fight Horror' and answer the questions below.

How does the writer make the fight at the football match seem shocking?

Firstly, the writer makes the violence seem shocking when he writes _____

This creates the impression that _____

Secondly, the writer makes the violence seem shocking when he writes _____

This creates the impression that _____

Lastly, the writer makes the violence seem shocking when he writes _____

This creates the impression that _____

Manrico's miricle

An officer who was trapped on the cruise ship Costa Concordia has said he used a frying pan to attract the attention of rescuers.

Manrico Giampedroni was trapped inside the sunken ship for 36 hours before he was found. He explained how he banged on the wall with a pan when he saw the rescue team through the window.

Manrico was the last person to be rescued from the ship which capsized off the Italian island of Giglio. He said: "When I saw the first fireman I

embraced him. Those guys were incredible. In three hours I was out of there."

Manrico worked as the ship's purser, which means he was in charge of all the money on board. He's now been released from hospital in Italy. He described how, when the ship hit the rocks, he tried to help rescue passengers but was thrown into one ship's restaurants and trapped by tables and chairs.

Despite his terrifying experience, Manrico has said he can't wait to get back to work. 17 people are known to have died in the disaster and a further 15 people are still missing and presumed dead.

Since Tuesday the rescue mission has had to be scaled down because it's become too dangerous for teams to go into certain parts of the ship.

Task D)

Read the news report, 'Manrico's Miricle' and answer the questions below.

How are facts used in the article?

One fact we are told about the disaster is _____

This creates the impression that _____

Another fact we are told about the disaster is _____

This creates the impression that _____

A further fact we are told about the disaster is _____

This creates the impression that _____

Fuel to be pumped from cruise ship

Italian authorities are preparing to start pumping fuel from the wreck of the Costa Concordia.

People are worried because it's carrying about 1.9m litres of fuel in 13 tanks.

And it's predicted it will take 28 days to remove all of the fuel.

The wreck is close to the Tuscan Archipelago National Park - home to rare plants and wildlife, including tree frogs, finches, and geckos.

A double containment boom will be used to help reduce the possibility of any oil reaching the shore.

Although there has been no leak so far, the civil protection agency says there is pollution in the water from solvents and disinfectants which were on board the vessel.



Task E)

Read the news report, 'Fuel to be Pumped from Cruise Ship' and answer the questions below.

Explain why the risk of a fuel leak from the Costa Concordia is worrying.

REMEMBER to use P.E.A. Use the connectives below to introduce and link your points.

First of all,

Additionally,

Furthermore,

It lived about 95 million years ago, and may have grown to a massive 9m (30ft) long - much bigger than modern-day crocodiles.

An average-sized saltwater crocodile alive today is about 5m (16ft) in length, but they can grow as large as 7m.

Shieldcroc's thick-skinned shielded head could have been used to attract mates, put off enemies and even control how hot or cold it was.

But scientists also think its long head, which could have measured up to a metre and a half long, may have been used to catch prey, too.

"We believe Shieldcroc may have used its long face as a fish trap," said Nick Gardner, one of the researchers on the team.

"It is possible that it lay in wait until an unsuspecting fish swam in front of it. Then, if it was close enough, Shieldcroc simply opened its mouth and ate the fish without a struggle, eliminating the need for strong jaws."

The fossils of Shieldcroc were discovered in Morocco, and the unusual looking creatures would have been around at the same time as many dinosaurs.

Task F)

Read the news report, 'New Species of Snake discovered' and answer the questions below.

Use each of the following words in a sentence:

- **Ancient:** _____
- **Species:** _____
- **Prey:** _____

- **Unsuspecting:** _____

How much bigger was the Sheildcroc than the average-sized salt water croc today?

Why was the Sheildcroc given its name?

Why didn't the Sheildcroc need strong jaws?

CITY STUMBLE



It's all level at the top of the Premier League, as Manchester City's terrible month continued.

Roberto Mancini's team lost to Everton 1-0, which means that rivals Manchester United are now level at the top of the league. United beat Stoke City 2-0, helping them take advantage of City's stumble.

After their game, the Manchester City manager blamed himself for the result, saying his team didn't prepare properly. It was an ex-United player that scored the winner for Everton - midfielder Darron Gibson hammering in from outside the box. And if the result was a shock, it was an even bigger shock when a supporter handcuffed himself to the Joe Hart's goal post just before half time! Put that wasn't enough to throw Everton, and they defended brilliantly to hold on for the win.

Rivals Manchester United made it look a lot easier in their game at Old Trafford. Two penalties, one from Javier Hernandez and one from Dimitar Berbatov were enough to beat Stoke. The two Manchester teams are now level on points, although City are still on top because they've a better goal difference (they've scored a lot more goals than they have let in).

But don't ignore Tottenham Hotspur, they won 3-1 against Wigan and are 5 points behind. Chelsea dropped points though, only managing a 1-1 draw with Swansea.

Task G) Read the news report, 'City Stumble' and answer the questions below.

How does the article suggest the Everton team played very well?

Firstly, it says in the article _____

This suggests _____

Secondly, it says in the article _____

This makes the reader feel _____

What information are we given about the following teams;

Manchester United; _____

Tottenham Hotspur; _____

Chelsea; _____

Wigan: _____