

Tuesday 22nd June 2020

Guided reading – WALT - retrieve questions from information texts

WALT - answer questions involving authorial intent (What impression does the author want us to have?)

Hello chipmunks.

Yesterday we read some online news reports from the Newsround website.

I wonder what interesting news I could find at the moment.

Hmmmmmm I wonder...

Marc makes marvellous model!

My model of Arnos Grove station

by Marc



OR

Mufty Day hits Crown Lane



OR

Ieysha saves boy from stick insect!



Today we are going to read the 'Look Closer' article.

Read the article carefully then answer the 4 questions at the end.

Up close with a giant whale shark



IMAGINE swimming next to an animal that could fit you in his mouth and still have room to spare...

That didn't worry five-year-old snorkeller Kieran Liu, who was happy to swim next to this great whale shark.

It was the first time young American Kieran had been swimming in the open ocean.

"On the day, we were the first ones in the water," said photographer Eric Cheng.

"Kieran was suited up first and just jumped in some 20 miles

from land. He was amazing, not once did he display any fear."

Luckily this 10m (40ft) long whale prefers plankton and fish eggs.

Every year in late summer, huge numbers of little tunny fish gather in the waters off Isla Mujeres in Mexico to spawn.

This attracts up to 100 whale sharks at a time, and a few brave humans, like Kieran, go into the water with them.

LOOK CLOSER

Weekly In-Depth Reading Comprehension



Can you:

- Find the facts?
- Interpret the information?
- Work out why the journalist wrote and presented the story in the way that they did?

Carefully read the article 'Up close with a giant whale shark' and then answer the following questions:

1) Are these sentences true or false? Write **T** or **F** by each one.

Whale sharks eat humans.

Kieran encountered the whale shark the first time he swam out in the ocean.

2) Why are whale sharks attracted to the sea off Mexico?

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3) Find and copy two words that mean 'worry'?

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4) Why has the journalist included a quotation in this article?

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5) Give three ways that 'Up close with a giant whale shark' is written in the style of a newspaper article?

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5) What details in the article show that the journalist is presenting Kieran Liu as courageous to have got into the water with a whale shark?

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6) Sharks are often portrayed in newspapers, films and other media as frightening creatures. What impression of the whale shark do you think the journalist wants to give?

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Answers -

1) Are these sentences true or false?

Whale sharks eat humans (False)

Kieran swam with the whale shark the first time he swam out in the ocean. (True)

2) Why are whale sharks attracted to the sea off Mexico?

Possible answer - As a concentrated number of tunny fish spawn (produce eggs) in the sea off Mexico, and fish eggs are part of a whale shark's diet, there is enough in one place for big mammals to feed on.

3) Find and copy two words that mean 'worry'?

'phase' and 'fear'

4) Why has the journalist included a quotation in this article? possible answers -

The quote by the photographer emphasises/shows how exceptionally courageous Kieran was to swim with the whale shark by:

- states that Kieran was one of the first people in the water and it implies Kieran is brave not to have waited for more people to be with him and protect him;

- using the adjective 'amazing' to describe Kieran's actions - this shows praise for the boy's attitude and actions;

- adding that Kieran did not seem afraid at all, 'not once did he display any fear'.

5) Give three ways that 'Up close with a giant whale shark' is written in the style of a newspaper article? Any of the 3 below.

Written in the past tense.

Answers the five W's (What? Who? When? Where? and Why?)

Use of reorientation at the end of the article to conclude the retelling of events or bring us up-to-date. As it tells us what is happening now it will move from the past tense to the present tense, i.e. 'a few brave humans like Kieran go into the water with them.'

Has a headline in bold that is made up of only a few words and is eye-catching, uses alliteration, and action verbs etc.

The paragraphs are written in columns.

The article is written in a 'news-style' with short informative sentences giving details about the five W's (What? Who? When? Where? and Why?).

It uses quotations.

The photograph or picture will carry a caption.

6) Sharks are often portrayed in newspapers, films and other media as frightening creatures.

Reference to either the fact that the whale shark is scary because of its size or that the whale shark is not to be feared because it does not eat humans.

Example of a developed answer -

There is a sense of awe (and even fear) at first about the creature as the journalist compares the overwhelming size of the whale shark with the five year old boy. The journalist builds up the feeling of tension as Kieran's bravery at getting in the water with the whale shark is repeated in the quotation and the detail about it being the boy's first time in the ocean. Tension is also heightened with the use of the large photograph, that dominates the text, showing Kieran with the whale shark. It is not until halfway through the article that the journalist puts the reader at ease (with some humour) by explaining that the whale shark does not eat humans unlike some other sharks, 'Luckily this 10m (40ft) long whale shark prefers plankton and fish eggs...' By concluding that people, who get into the sea to swim with whale sharks, are 'brave' the journalist nevertheless underlines the fact that Kieran's feat is one to be admired. The suggestion is that, even though the whale shark is not a predator of humans, they are still awe inspiring to grown-ups, let alone little boys.