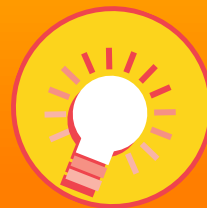


Comprehension Workbook 2

An edible town

(Grow-your-own)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles



An edible town

(Grow-your-own)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

Caring for our environment

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with your normal subject studies. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our textbook.)

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An edible town

Everywhere you look in the town of Todmorden, West Yorkshire, you see fruit and vegetables. There are carrots in front of the police station; raspberries and apricots by the canal; blackcurrants and strawberries next to the doctor's surgery; beans and peas outside the college; cherries in the supermarket car park; and mint, rosemary, thyme and fennel by the health centre. When the food is ready to pick, people wander around the town, picking what they want – for free.

The idea to grow the free fruit and vegetables was started by some local townspeople. One day in March, they began planting fruit and vegetables in unused places all over town. By May all kinds of new plants began shooting up by the roadsides and in odd places.

To start off, nobody took much notice. But by June people were really curious. They began saying to one another, "That looks like a carrot," and, "I think those are onions." And then, one day in late summer, little signs began appearing near the vegetables saying, "Help Yourself," and "Free Vegetables".



In July, children on their way to school were able to pick berries to munch on their way to school. By August, moms and dads could stop on their way home to pick salad leaves and courgettes for dinner.

The newspaper was told and soon the news was spreading like wildfire – there were free fruit and vegetables all over town. By September everyone in the town was involved in healthy eating and healthy growing.

The next spring people from other towns came by to learn about the project, and now more than 20 towns in the UK are growing food for anyone to take. People have even come from as far away as Canada, Hong King and Germany to learn about Todmorden's free food.

If you looked around near where you live, do you think there are any areas where free food could be grown. Who would look after the plants? You see, plants need caring for as well as eating. Is there somewhere in your school where you could grow food?





Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'healthy'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'healthy' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'healthy'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'healthy'.

e Give an example of some types of 'healthy' foods.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: told	informed

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Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

- 1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.**
- 2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.**
- 3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.**
- 4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?**

**There is
nothing wrong
with rewriting; even
the best authors
rewrite their
work.**



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4

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they make sense.



By August, moms and dads could stop on their way home to pick salad leaves and courgettes for dinner.

By September everyone in the town was involved in healthy eating and healthy growing.

One day in March, they began planting fruit and vegetables in unused places all over town.

By May all kinds of new plants began shooting up by the roadsides and in odd places.

The next spring people from other towns came by to learn about the project...

In July, children on their way to school were able to pick berries to munch on their way to school.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



1 Which town does this story take place in?

2 What was growing next to the doctors surgery?

3 How much did the fruit and vegetables cost?

4 What happened in May?

5 How many other British towns have started growing free food?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.

1 Why were people curious?

2 Why did some local townspeople start growing free fruit and vegetables?

3 What are some of the places in Todmorden where the free foods were grown?

4 Why did people go to Todmorden from Hong Kong, Germany and Canada?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



- 1 How would you feel if there was free fruit and vegetables in your neighbourhood? Would you pick them?
- 2 Do you think the people in Todmorden eat more healthy foods now than they did before the free food?
- 3 Why didn't people take much notice at first?
- 4 What do you think people thought when the "Free Vegetable" signs first started appearing?
- 5 Why isn't the park a good place to grow free food? What are some places where it might be good to grow free food?



Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.

Discussion topic: Growing free food

Do you think it is a good idea to grow food in unused places and let people pick the fruit and vegetables for free? What are some problems that could happen? What are some of the good things about this idea?





Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



Growing your own

One day, you and your friends decide to grow some food and let people pick it for free. Describe how you would chose where to grow the food and who would care for the plants as they were growing.
(Now continue the story of describing what happens next...)

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