

Argument

Worksheet 1: Analysis of an argument

Read the following argument, and then answer the questions below.

WHY EVEN SANTA'S SAD

Do you think of Christmas as a great time? Do you remember Santa, the presents, the ornaments on the tree, the food, the holidays? Well, maybe, but let's be honest. Many people simply hate Christmas. And with good reason.

Those people who think of it as a magic time for families, obviously don't know families. You can choose your friends, but not your relatives. And at Christmas, relatives are unavoidable. You have to be nice to your horrible Uncle Jack, the one who gets drunk and tells bad jokes. You have to be sweet with Aunt Mavis, the chain smoker who insists on kissing you and calling you by your baby name. You have to hope that the two cousins who hate one another don't cause a scene. And all that on top of Mum's throwing a wobbly because the food is too cold, or too hot, or because she just had a fight with her sister.

Christmas is for many people a time of real sadness. People who just lost a loved one, look at the empty place, or the old photos, and try to fight back a tear. Dad's brother Brian just got divorced, so he makes excuses to rush away to see his children, and you can see the pain in his eyes. Poor people feel out of it, because they can't afford all the glamorous consumer items that they know others are rushing out and buying. They've seen the swarms of shoppers thrashing the plastic, and feel left out, unworthy, losers in an unfair competition.

Speaking of money, what a shocking time it is for crazy overspending. How do you get through the vast list of people who need gifts, when \$50 seems to be the minimum you can spend, and you've got 25 people to buy for. With all the glossy goodies on every shelf, everyone gets into a mad frenzy of buying. No wonder Australians owe \$16 billion on credit cards! That's \$8000 per person. A lot of this madness is caused by Christmas extravagance.

So let's not get too carried away about jingling bells and jingling cash registers. Lots of people enjoy Christmas, and that's a good thing for them. But let's spare a thought for the darker side, and those people who are just plain happy to get through to the other side, where reckless spending and overeating are not compulsory. I'm sure even Santa must say, as he tucks into bed, 'Thank goodness that's over – for another year!'

(417 words)

ANALYSE 'WHY EVEN SANTA'S SAD'

1. Which sentence in the first paragraph sums up the overall argument?

2. What is the key issue (or topic) addressed by the second paragraph?

3. What is the 'proof' offered by the mention of Uncle Jack and Aunt Mavis?

4. What is the point what the writer says about Mum?

5. What is the topic sentence in paragraph 3?

6. How does the detail about Brian make us feel, and why this anecdote?

7. Which sentence sums upon what paragraph 4 is about?

8. What is the reason for mentioning the \$16 billion debt?

9. What could we call phrases like 'swarms of shoppers', 'mad frenzy', 'reckless spending', and why are they used by the writer?

10. The mention of Santa is an attempt to suggest that even he has what attitude to Christmas?

Worksheet 2: Rhetoric Research

Persuasive tricks are often known by the Greek name 'rhetoric', which means anything designed specifically to influence the reader (or listener). For example, 'exaggeration' has a rhetorical name (one of those listed below). Can you find out what these devices do, and give an example of each?

1. metaphor

2. analogy

3. simile

4. understatement

5. alliteration

6. climax

7. rhetorical question

8. assonance

9. hyperbole

10. irony

FACTS – 'Make it right' worksheet

The following sentences are based on the passage about Frankenstein. There are errors of fact in each statement below. Can you correct them in the space provided?

1. Mary Shelley was the wife of the poet Percy Shelley, who wrote Frankenstein.

2. The story of Frankenstein was written in 1816.

3. Mary, Percy and Lord Byron were staying in London at the time.

4. The story was based on the experiences of Lord Byron.

5. Mary Shelley had a nightmare one night, which was the origin of the story.

6. Percy Shelley and Lord Byron were co-writers of Frankenstein.

7. Mary Shelley had heard about a man called Andrew Crosse who had created a monster out of spare human parts.

8. Dr Frankenstein was the name of the monster.

9. Although the story of Frankenstein begins badly, it ends well.

10. These days Mary Shelley is largely unknown.

FACTS – What's wrong? worksheet

The following sentences are based on 'The History of English' account. Can you correct the errors in each one?

1. A long time ago lived a people called the Celts. They spoke Latin.

2. When Julius Caesar invaded Britain he made everyone speak Gaelic.

3. The Angles and Saxons came from Denmark.

4. After the Romans left Britain, the next invaders were the French.

5. Most of the names for the days of the week are Danish.

6. Old English was a mixture of German and French.

7. In 1066, the Vikings under William the Conqueror took over England.

8. French added many new words to the English language, such as finger, Wednesday and husband.

9. Middle English is largely a form of French.

10. Shakespeare may have been the most famous writer in English, but he didn't do much for the language.

Stories

Worksheet 1: Analysis of a narrative

Here is a retelling of a very famous story. At the end are questions, requiring you to use the 'Stories' lesson as a guide. Can you complete the questions?

The Key

Once upon a time, there was an exceedingly wealthy man. His name was Mr Black. He owned a castle, a mansion in town and huge estates. And he was looking for a wife. But since he was rather ugly, with staring eyes and a big beard, no young woman was interested. Besides, he had had several wives, and no one knew what had become of them.

It happened that he had a pretty young neighbour, whose name was Eloise. They were a noble family, but poor.

In order to get acquainted, he invited her, together with her mother and younger sister, to come and stay at his castle. For a week, they had picnics and dinners and rode around his beautiful estate in his golden coach. Servants looked after their every need, and they were delighted.

'What do you think of Mr Black now?' asked the mother. For she was eager to see her daughter marry well.

'Why, he is quite nice,' replied the daughter. 'I think it is unfair of people to say how horrible he is. I think he is lovely!'

Within weeks, Eloise had become his wife.

All went well for a time. Then one day, Mr Black informed his wife that he had to go away on a long trip for business.

'Amuse yourself while I am gone,' he said, smiling. 'Invite anyone you like. And don't worry about me.'

Eloise curtsied. For she was still in awe of her husband.

'Here are the keys to the castle,' said he. 'These ones open the storerooms, and here is the key to my treasure.' And he handed her the ring of keys.

'And this little one?' asked Eloise, for she had spotted a tiny key.

'Ah, my dear,' said her husband, 'Not that one, please. It opens the red door at

When at last she returned with the key, he said, in a rage,

'Why is there blood on this key?'

'I scarcely know,' said Eloise, nearly fainting with fright.

'Alas, I know,' he growled. 'You disobeyed me. Now you must take your place with my other wives!'

'Please, sir, no!' she cried, clasping his feet.

'You must die, madame,' he replied, mercilessly.

'Then let me at least say my prayers,' she pleaded.

'Very well. You have half an hour.'

Eloise went upstairs and locked herself in her room in the tower. She looked out. Her brother had promised to visit her that day. Maybe they would be in time. But there was no sign of anyone on the road.

'Madame, I am waiting!' called Mr Black, and he sharpened his sword. 'Oh, where are they?' In the distance was a cloud of dust. But it was only a shepherd and his flock.

'The time has come!' called Mr Black, advancing up the stairs.

'One more minute...' she cried, sobbing. She looked again. A farmer went past with his horse. Otherwise the road was empty. 'Oh, mercy...'

'Now I am coming to get you,' roared Mr Black. And advancing to the door of her chamber, he knocked loudly. 'LET ME IN!'

'I beg you, please...'

He broke down the door, and strode in.

'Now you must die!' He raised his sword high and grabbed her.

At this very moment, there was the sound of footsteps on the stairs. In rushed her brother and his friend. They drew their swords.

'Unhand her!' they cried.

He dropped her, and made to escape. But they were faster. Soon he lay dead on the floor, his evil deeds finally at an end.

It was found that Mr Black had no heirs. Thus Eloise became mistress of all his wealth. She married her brother's friend, and her family came to live in comfort with her. And they all lived happily ever after.

the bottom of the staircase. Do not use it, my love, or I shall be very angry with you.'

Eloise looked down and blushed, and promised to obey his instructions.

Mr Black kissed her, and went away.

Soon she had invited her family and friends to come and stay. Together, they ate and drank and had a wonderful time.

But as time passed, Eloise grew bored. Together with her friends she had explored all the rooms in the castle, and roamed throughout the grounds. Alone, she found she had nothing to do. And her thoughts went increasingly to the strange little key.

One day, she could restrain herself no more.

She tiptoed down the stairs and stood in front of the red door.

'Should I?' she whispered to herself. 'Why ever not? I am his wife!'

And with that, she turned the key in the lock.

Inside the room, all was dark. But as her eyes became accustomed to the gloom...

'OH NO!'

On hooks along the walls were six bodies.

'His wives... The ones who were never seen again.'

Horrified, she locked the door and rushed upstairs. But when she looked at the key, she found that it had blood on it. She washed it, but the blood would not go away.

That night, Mr Black returned from his travels.

'Here I am, my dear,' he said. 'Did you miss me?'

'Welcome back,' she said, trying to conceal the tremble in her voice.

The next day, Mr Black asked for his keys. She brought them.

'And what of the little key?' For he could see that it was missing.

'I forgot that one,' she said, in a tiny voice.

'Then get it!'

ANALYSE 'THE KEY'

1. Who are the two main characters?

2. What hint of a future problem is there in the first paragraph?

3. What solution (apparently) to a problem does Eloise find in marrying Mr Black?

4. What challenge confronts Eloise when Mr Black announces his departure?

5. How does she deal to that challenge?

6. What does Eloise discover about the true nature of Mr Black's character, and how is it different from the concept of him that she previously had?

7. What problem is caused by Eloise's disobedience of Mr Black's instruction?

8. How does she try to avoid the consequences of her action?

9. How does the suspense and tension of the narrative escalate after the return of Mr Black?

10. What does the ending of the story offer by way of a moral?

NOTE: You may have noticed that this story is a simplified retelling of *Bluebeard*, a famous traditional European folk tale. It first appeared in Charles Perrault's 1704 book *Tales of Times gone By*, which also contained the classic fairy stories *Sleeping Beauty* and *Cinderella*.

Stories

Worksheet 2: Make it right

Can you correct these statements about the famous story 'Peter Pan and Wendy'?

1. Peter Pan is the name of the villain.

2. Wendy has two brothers, Michael and Jackson.

3. Peter Pan meets Wendy at school.

4. Peter Pan lives on a fabulous island called Disneyland.

5. Peter Pan takes Wendy and her brothers to Neverland in a hot air balloon.

6. Hook is the team manager of a basketball team called 'The Pirates'.

7. Captain Hook has a pet crocodile called 'Clock'.

8. Wendy falls in love with Captain Hook.

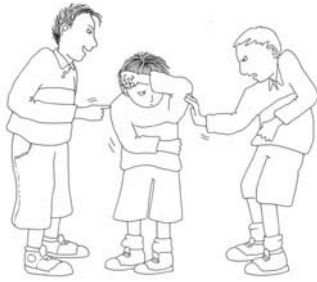
9. Tiger Lilly is Hook's wife.

10. At the end of the story, Wendy and her brothers decide to stay in Neverland forever.

Stories

VISUAL LITERACY: Analysis Worksheet

Look at the following cartoon strip. It is a story about bullying, but all the words have been removed. Can you answer the questions below?



A



B



C



D

ANALYSE THE PICTURES

1. What does picture **A** tell us?

2. How would you describe the three persons in picture **A**?

3. What is the point of picture **B**?

4. What do you think the boy is telling the teacher in picture **C**?

5. If picture **D** is the final result of the teacher's actions (after picture C) what does it tell us about the boy at the end (of the story)?



E



F

6. How would you 'read' the dog in picture **E**?

7. How would you 'read' the dog in picture **F**?

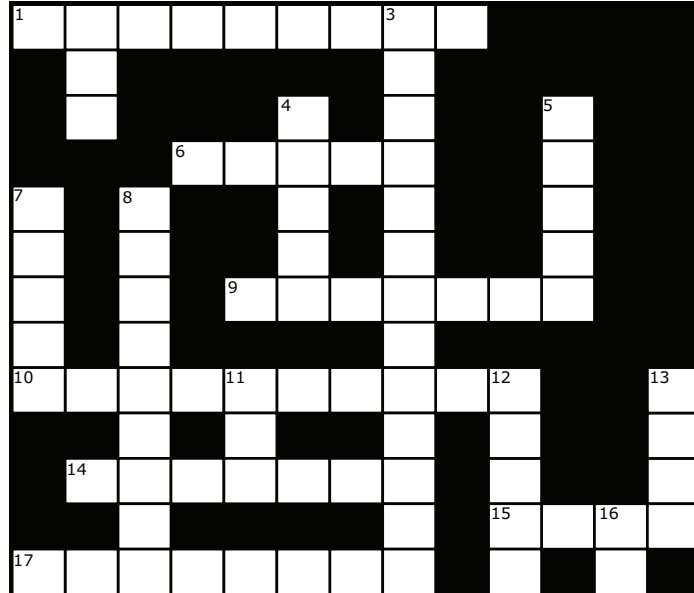
8. If you were an advertising agent asked to market dog food, which picture would you pick, and why?

9. If you were trying to raise awareness of lost and abandoned dogs, which picture would you choose, and why?

10. If you wanted to create a picture story out of the two pictures, what would it be?

Visual Literacy

Worksheet 2: Words for Pictures



ACROSS

1. Images often create an _____ effect.
6. Another word for picture.
9. Not all comics are _____.
10. Comics always have _____.
14. A _____ is worth 1000 words.
15. We _____ pictures too.
17. Images appeal to our _____.

DOWN

2. A picture of or an area of a country.
3. A way of persuading using images and words.
4. A list of figures, images and words in two directions.
5. Pictures plus _____ are very powerful.
7. Most _____ strips are very popular.
8. Comics have a _____ as well as a plot and characters
11. Pictures are a form of _____.
12. Comics always have a _____.
13. A map consists of a picture with a _____.
16. The short word for advertisement.