

BIG NEWS



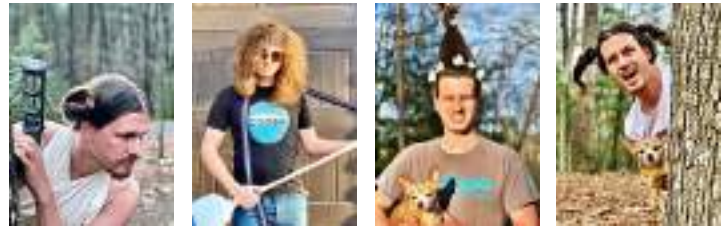
HAIR-LARIOUS HAIRDOS

A HAIRDRESSER in America has found a way to keep up-to-date with her skills while her salon is closed.

While Geoff Clark works from home on his computer, his girlfriend Heidi Lee Oley styles his long hair in a variety of ways, often mimicking famous characters from popular culture.



All pics: heidleeoley/hair/ Facebook



Geoff's hair has been styled to look like Princess Leia from Star Wars, Poppy from Trolls and children's book icon Pippi Longstocking.

Heidi said of the hairdressing industry: "We don't have clients, we don't get paid, many are self-employed. I wanted to be a glimmer of light during the shadows of the uncertainty of our industry."

Heidi added that Geoff "has a heart of gold for letting me do this and post it".

KEEPING YOUR DISTANCE

A FATHER and son duo have invented a funny way to make sure people are keeping 2m apart from each other – the Social Distancing Circle!

The son, who goes by the name *impatman* on video-sharing site TikTok, shared footage of their exploits. The pair linked together pipes to make the circle, then covered it with a tarpaulin. A video of them wearing the device and taking a wander in the park has been viewed millions of times.

"There were a few confused people," admitted *impatman*. His dad added: "Some of them thought we were flying a big kite, others thought it was a trampoline."



HANDSHAKE SHAKE-UP

WILL people still be shaking hands after the lockdown ends?

That was the interesting question asked by Dr Anthony Fauci, the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) in the US. Fauci is one of President Donald Trump's most senior medical advisers, and is highly respected.

During a podcast he said that if people stopped shaking hands, it would help to reduce the numbers of annual flu cases and other illnesses. "I don't think we should shake hands ever again," he said.

People in many other countries greet each other without touching, such as the *ojigi* (bow) used in Japan. Lots of other greetings became popular before the lockdown, such as elbow bumps, but what's your favourite?

SELF-ISOLATE!

FANS of Doctor Who will be familiar with the terrifying Daleks and their famous catchphrase, "EXTERMINATE!"

Now they're taking to the streets of Whitby! A Dalek was spotted patrolling the local area, warning: "All humans must self-isolate by order of the Daleks!"



The dustbin-shaped robots first appeared on TV way back in 1963.

Many people still remember being scared of them when they were little.

One person online wrote: "Am I the only one to feel a shiver of fear watching this? As a child I would most certainly have been hiding behind the sofa." Another user agreed: "I'm not going to argue with a Dalek!"



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Questions on – ‘Hair-larious hairdos’, ‘SELF-ISOLATE!’, ‘Keeping your distance’ and ‘Handshake shake-up’



Questions on ‘Hair-larious hairdos’

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Who are Heidi Lee Oley and Geoff Clark?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. Why has Heidi been styling Geoff’s long hair in a variety of ways?

B2. Suggest why Heidi says that Geoff “has a heart of gold for letting [her] do this and post it”.

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. How does the writer use language to make the headline more interesting?

Questions on ‘SELF-ISOLATE!’

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Answer the following questions about Daleks:

1. Which TV show are they associated with?
2. When did they first appear on TV?
3. What is their famous catchphrase?
4. Where has a Dalek been spotted patrolling?
5. What did it say on the street?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. The news about a Dalek on patrol is amusing, but what is the more serious message behind it?

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Comment on the use of capitalised words in this story.

Questions on ‘Keeping your distance’

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. What have a father and son duo invented?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. Why were there “a few confused people” when they took a walk in the park?

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. The pair shared footage of their exploits on TikTok and indeed lots of people are turning to social media at this time. However, why do we need to treat social media platforms with caution?

Questions on ‘Handshake shake-up’

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Who is Dr Anthony Fauci?

A2. What is the ojigi?

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. Explain the meaning of the headline: ‘Handshake shake-up’.

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Dr Fauci has stated: “I don’t think we should shake hands ever again.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your view. Look up the history of hand shaking to help you.

Questions on – ‘Hair-larious hairdos’, ‘SELF-ISOLATE!’, ‘Keeping your distance’ and ‘Handshake shake-up’



Questions on ‘Hair-larious hairdos’

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Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

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Teacher Answers

AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS: News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE: The teacher answers are intended to provide a guide to the reading skill each question is practising. Suggestions are given for a starting point for responses that students would be expected to give at the start of KS3. Further suggestions then give fuller, more developed responses that students will work towards by the end of KS3, in preparation for the non-fiction elements of GCSE English language.

Questions on: 'Hair-larious hairdos'

PART A

A1. Who are Heidi Lee Oley and Geoff Clark?

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- Heidi Lee Oley is a hairdresser in America. Geoff Clark is her boyfriend.

Development

- While Geoff is working from home on his computer, Heidi styles his long hair in a variety of ways, often mimicking famous characters from popular culture.

PART B

B1. Why has Heidi been styling Geoff's long hair in a variety of ways?

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

Starting point

- Heidi's hairdressing salon has had to close due to the coronavirus pandemic. She is styling Geoff's hair as a way to keep up-to-date with her skills until she is able to reopen it.

Development

- However, she is also trying to make people laugh in these difficult times and in particular to bring "a glimmer of light" to those in the hairdressing industry. Many hairdressers are self-employed and are losing a lot of money because they cannot see their clients and thus aren't getting paid. Therefore, she is trying to show solidarity and bring a bit of light relief to those affected.

B2. Suggest why Heidi says that Geoff "has a heart of gold for letting [her] do this and post it".

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer

Starting point

- If someone is said to have "a heart of gold" then it means that they are very kind and generous.

Development

- Heidi has used the phrase to describe Geoff because he has allowed her to style him as characters such as Princess Leia, Poppy from Trolls and Pippi Longstocking. Some men might fear ridicule if they allowed their girlfriend to make their hair look like that of famous female characters. They might not want the pictures posted for everyone to see. Therefore, Heidi is praising Geoff for being a good sport and for being confident enough to let her use his photographs to cheer people up and make them laugh.

PART C

C1. How does the writer use language to make the headline more interesting?

READING SKILL — Recognise effect of language choices

Possible answer

Starting point

- The writer uses a pun by inserting the word "hair" into "hilarious".

Development

- This makes the headline look more unusual, and it is appropriate because it highlights the fact that the story is about funny hairstyles. The pun establishes a light-hearted tone that is maintained throughout the text. The repetition of "hair" in the headline and the use of alliteration, also makes it flow.

Questions on: 'SELF-ISOLATE!'**PART A****A1. Answer the following questions about Daleks:**

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer**Expected response**

Which TV show are they associated with?	Doctor Who
When did they first appear on TV?	1963
What is their famous catchphrase?	"EXTERMINATE!"
Where has a Dalek been spotted patrolling?	Whitby
What did it say on the street?	"All humans must self-isolate by order of the Daleks!"

PART B**B1. The news about a Dalek on patrol is amusing, but what is the more serious message behind it?**

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

- The news about a Dalek on patrol is amusing, but the serious message behind it is that it is vital for people to stay at home to stop the spread of coronavirus and to protect the NHS.

Development

- There have been accounts of some people not taking the lockdown seriously so the prank with the Dalek is a fun way of confirming the message from the government. The Daleks are Doctor Who's most popular and famous villains. As one online user commented in response to the patrol: "I'm not going to argue with a Dalek!" This may have been said tongue-in-cheek but let's hope that people do heed the Dalek because the message to "self-isolate" is serious.

PART C**C1. Comment on the use of capitalised words in this story.**

READING SKILL — Explain methods used by the writer with appropriate use of terminology

Possible answer**Starting point**

- The word "EXTERMINATE!" is capitalised in the text. This makes it seem more aggressive, as capitals are often used to denote shouting. Indeed, the catchphrase was used by the Daleks as they pursued their victims with the intent of killing them!

Development

- The only other entirely capitalised word is the headline: "SELF-ISOLATE!" This makes it easy to imagine the Daleks shouting "SELF-ISOLATE!" in the same way that they would normally say "EXTERMINATE!". As the Dalek in Whitby actually was ordering humans to "SELF-ISLOATE!", the use of capitalisation helps to bring the story to life.

Questions on: 'Keeping your distance'**PART A****A1. What have a father and son duo invented?**

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer**Starting point**

- A father and son duo have invented a funny way to make sure people are keeping 2m apart from each other – the Social Distancing Circle.

Development

- The pair linked together pipes to make the circle, then covered it with a tarpaulin.

PART B**B1. Why were there “a few confused people” when they took a walk in the park?**

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

• There were “a few confused people” because there has never been the need for a Social Distancing Circle before, so people didn’t know what it was.

Development

• Some people thought it was a big kite or a trampoline! We are living in unprecedented times so it is not really surprising that people were confused and thought the device was a version of something that you’d traditionally use in a park.

PART C**C1. The pair shared footage of their exploits on TikTok and indeed lots of people are turning to social media at this time.****However, why do we need to treat social media platforms with caution?**

READING SKILL — Consider contextual factors

Possible answer**Starting point**

• We need to treat social media platforms with caution because the information and news that they contain may not be reliable.

Development

• Indeed, the Government has acknowledged this problem and is addressing the issue of misinformation with social media firms in order to remove fake news and false medical information issued by unqualified “experts”.

• We also need to be aware of cyber-crime. There have been reports of several fake versions of Government texts about the coronavirus circulating on social media. We need to be very cautious about the personal details that we share online to ensure that we are not tricked by phishing scams.

• The increased usage of social media has also led to security concerns with some social media platforms. Several online chat platforms have had to increase their security measures because of unauthorised users.

• When using social media platforms you should also abide by the age restrictions and be wary of interacting with strangers. If in doubt, seek advice from a trusted adult.

Questions on: ‘Handshake shake-up’**PART A****A1. Who is Dr Anthony Fauci?**

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer**Starting point**

• Dr Anthony Fauci is the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) in the US.

Development

• Fauci is one of President Donald Trump’s most senior medical advisers, and is highly respected.

A2. What is the ojigi?

READING SKILL — Find and explain information

Possible answer**Expected response**

• The ojigi is a bow used as a greeting in Japan.

Development

• People in many other countries greet each other without touching, and the ojigi is one example of such a greeting.

PART B**B1. Explain the meaning of the headline: ‘Handshake shake-up’.**

READING SKILL — Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

Possible answer**Starting point**

• A “shake-up” is when major changes are made to something.

Development

• In this case, the “shake-up” is the suggestion that people should no longer shake hands as a form of greeting. The custom of shaking hands is embedded in the cultures of many countries, so the idea that it should now stop is certainly a major change.

Hence the headline: ‘Handshake shake-up’.

PART C – Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Dr Fauci has stated: “I don’t think we should shake hands ever again.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Give reasons for your view. Look up the history of handshaking to help you.

READING SKILL — Develop opinions and provide justifications for view points

Possible answer

AGREE	DISAGREE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● According to researchers at Aberystwyth University, handshaking passes on 90% more germs than fist bumping and is about twice as unhygienic as a high-five. ● Shaking hands became a greeting because it was proof that you weren’t carrying a sword and that you came in peace. This is out-of-date and the greeting is unnecessary now. ● People in many other countries greet each other without touching so we just need to find a safer custom. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Now that people have been trained in the importance of washing their hands, it should be safe to reinstate handshaking once lockdown is over. ● Shaking hands is still a sign of trust, friendship and sportsmanship. If we don’t shake hands any more then it could create an unfriendly culture in which humans fear contact with each other. ● You can’t suddenly change a custom that is steeped in years of history. There will be confusion over what to do instead and offence might be caused.