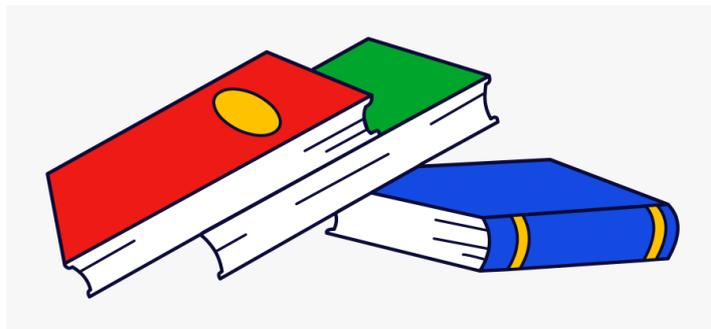


YEAR 6 INDUCTION TASK – ENGLISH



TASK 1

Read through the following extract and complete the list of questions. The extract is written by Morris Gleitzman and called 'Bits of an autobiography I may not write'.

It was a proud moment. I'd just built my first piece of furniture and I could feel my chest swelling almost as much as the finger I'd hit with the hammer. "Well," I said to the kids, "what do you think?"

I held my breath as they ran their hands over the four sturdy legs, the finely stitched upholstery and the skilfully hung mirrored door.

"Funny looking bookshelves, Dad," they said. My chest deflated. They were right. Who was I trying to kid? I was a writer, not a handyman.

"Do-it-yourself furniture," I said bitterly. "If there's anyone who can build this stuff themselves I'd like to know their secret."

The kids looked at the empty boxes strewn around the room. "Perhaps," they said gently, "it involves assembling the bookcase, the settee, the coffee table and the bathroom cabinet as four separate items."

"It was the instructions," I said. "They were impossible to understand. Look at that diagram. I broke three screwdrivers trying to follow that." The kids sighed. "It's the furniture-shop logo," they said.

I realised my problem was that I didn't speak the language of do-it-yourself. I started at language school the following week. The other students were doing French, Spanish and Japanese. I enrolled in Furniture Assembly. The instructor tried hard, but by the ninth week I still couldn't translate 'slot base support bracket A into side panel rib B'. I couldn't even say it.

"I'm sorry", said the instructor, "I can't do any more for you."

I looked at him pleadingly, "Not even put my bookshelves together?"

He shook his head.

At home I stared gloomily at the bookshelf assembly instructions. Why could I construct a story but not a piece of furniture? Then I noticed the instructions were looking different. They were in the kids' handwriting. 'One fine day,' I read excitedly, 'a base support bracket named A met a side panel rib called B...'

Drop in and see my new bookshelves some time. They look great

TASK 1 Questions (try to answer as fully as possible with detail!)

1. What is the first clue we are given that the DIY has not gone to plan?
2. Identify what the character should have built.
3. How do we know that the children don't want to hurt their father's feelings?
4. How does the writer try to solve his problems?
5. Describe how the writer's problem is solved in an unexpected way at the end.

TASK 2

A unit of work you will study in Year 7 next year is about autobiographical writing and recounting life events. Conduct an interview with a family member and record their answers. You could use this set of questions, or come up with your own!

1. Who lived in your house with you when you were growing up?
2. Where did you live as a child and do you now live somewhere different?
3. What's your earliest memory?
4. What did you typically eat in a day or what was your favourite food as a child?
5. What games did you play with your friends?
6. What was your favourite toy and why?
7. What was your favourite book?
8. What was your favourite subject at school?
9. What was your favourite music to listen to?
10. Who was your best friend when you were a child?
11. Did you have any pets? What were they?
12. What did you watch on TV as a child?
13. Who did you want to meet when you were a child?
14. Who did you most admire when you were a child?
15. What did you want to be when you grew up?
16. What is your favourite memory of your childhood?
17. What was your first job?
18. How has life changed since you were a child?
19. What would you say has been the most significant event in your life?
20. If you could relive one day of your life, what day would it be and why?

TASK 3

Think of your favourite book. Write a letter to the author of that book telling them about why you enjoy the book so much. You could also include in your letter any questions that you have for them about the characters and events that happen in the book.

As this is a letter, you should write it in the correct layout of a formal letter, and make sure you proof read your work for spellings, missing capital letters and correct punctuation!