

Activity #4



An extract from 'The path that led nowhere'

The mist clouded Harry's view as he woke up early that morning. Looking out of his sash window, he had expected to be greeted with the promised view of rolling hills and animals grazing in the meadow below. Instead, the mist meant that he couldn't see for more than 20 metres. Harry had looked forward to his annual holiday. Working hard in the city centre, the daily grind had started to get to him and he had had little time for pleasures such as relaxation. The holiday had been booked for weeks. He had looked forward to a country retreat, far away from the hustle and bustle of work. This apartment in an eighteenth-century mansion had caught his eye as it promised exquisite cuisine, beautiful interior decor and a range of country pursuits such as clay pigeon shooting and horse riding. This Sunday morning though, many activities were cancelled due to the low-lying mist. Anxious not to let the day slip away, Harry decided that a walk through the nearby forest would enable him to relax. So he set off just after breakfast. He headed towards the forest with a small packed lunch in case the mist prevented him from returning to the mansion before lunchtime. As he walked along the path, the twigs snapped under his feet and the dew from the trees dripped on to his shoulder. Harry heard the birds sitting in the trees above him, letting him know that he wasn't alone. He had

been told about a clearing in the middle of the forest that would greet him with a comfortable bench, often used in the warmer summer months. Harry thought he was heading in the right direction but, over an hour later, he still hadn't reached it. By now he was getting worried. Another hour passed...then another hour...he was still walking amongst the tall oak trees. He decided to rest and sat on a fallen tree to enjoy his lunch.

Questions

- Skim the text and answer these questions.

1: *This piece of text can be described as:*

- informative
- persuasive
- instructive
- descriptive

2: *The weather in this story can best be described as:*

- sunny
- misty
- humid
- cold

3: *Why was Harry in the apartment?*

- It was his own apartment.
- It was his parents' apartment.
- It was his best friend's apartment.
- He was on holiday.

4: *At this hotel you can normally do clay pigeon shooting and horse riding.*

- true
- false

5: *This extract doesn't mention:*

- the birds in the forest
- how Harry got to the hotel in the first place
- why Harry wanted to go to this hotel
- the weather

6: *What kind of story is this?*

- a romance
- a horror story
- a mystery
- a comedy

7: *How many people are featured in this story?*

- one
- three
- two
- four people and a dog

8: *Which of these has the right events in the right order?*

Harry eats his lunch, then decides to go for a walk. However, he gets lost and has to stay overnight at a hotel.

Harry goes on holiday, decides to go for a walk, looks for a clearing but doesn't find it, stops for lunch.

9: *Apart from the birds, there were lots of animals in the forest.*

true

false

The text doesn't say.

10: *By the end of this piece of text, Harry has found his way out of the forest.*

true

false

Adapted from: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/skillswise>