

Year 5 Assessment: The Art of Newspaper Reporting

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the features, purpose, and language of journalistic writing.

Read the following short news snippet carefully. Use your knowledge of newspaper report structures to answer the questions that follow. Write in clear, formal sentences where required.

LOCAL HERO RESCUES RARE SAPPHIRE. Yesterday morning, Max the Monkey discovered a missing gemstone buried deep within the forest floor while calculating the area of a nearby flowerbed. The rare blue sapphire, which was reported stolen from the Town Museum last week, was returned to the curator by midday. 'I was simply measuring the perimeter of the daisies when I spotted a glint in the soil,' Max remarked, adjusting his spectacles. Local authorities have praised Max's quick thinking and his sharp mathematical eye.

Word bank: Headline · Byline · Lead Paragraph · 5 Ws · Orientation · Formal Tone · Direct Speech · Captions

1. Identify the '5 Ws' (Who, What, Where, When, Why) present in the lead paragraph of the passage. (5 marks)

2. Explain why the author has chosen to include direct speech in this report. How does it affect the reader's engagement? (3 marks)

3. What is the purpose of a headline, and why must it be concise yet informative? (2 marks)

4. Identify one example of a formal tone used in the text. Rewrite it to sound more informal or conversational. (3 marks)

5. If you were writing this for a newspaper, what visual element would you include alongside the text? Justify your choice. (2 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Write a follow-up paragraph (approx. 50-70 words) for this report. Include a quote from the Museum Curator expressing their gratitude, and maintain a formal journalistic style. (5 marks)

7. Compare and contrast the style of a newspaper report with a diary entry. What are the key differences in viewpoint and language? (5 marks)

Draw: Sketch a newspaper front page layout. Include a space for a headline, a photograph, and two columns of text. Label your features.

Extension challenge: Greater Depth: Imagine the sapphire was actually a fake. Write a brief 'Editor's Note' explaining why the paper must issue a retraction. Justify why accuracy is the most important quality of a journalist. Total: /25