Reporting for Duty: The Scoop on Newspaper Writing

Learning objective: To understand the structural features of a newspaper report, including headlines, the 5 Ws (Who, What, Where, When, Why), and formal journalistic tone.

Max the monkey has been busy gathering facts for the BookFlik Gazette, but he has mixed up all the parts of his newspaper report! Use the word bank to fill in the blanks for the 'Skeleton of a Story' below. Then, use the 5 Ws checklist to identify the key information needed for a successful news report.

Word bank: Headline · Byline · Lead Paragraph · Formal · Columns · Caption · Quotes

1. 1. The _____ is the catchy title that grabs the reader's attention. (Fill in the blank) (1 mark)

2. 2. Why should a newspaper report use 'formal' language rather than slang or informal chat? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

3. 3. Which part of the report must contain the '5 Ws' (Who, What, Where, When, Why) to ensure the reader understands the story immediately? (1 mark)

4. 4. If a photographer captures a picture of a local event, what do we call the text written underneath it to explain what is happening? (1 mark)

5. 5. Imagine Max is reporting on a £500 charity fun run. Write a 'Lead Paragraph' (approx. 30 words) that includes the Who, What, and Where. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw the layout of a front page newspaper. Include a space for a large photograph with a caption, a main headline, and two columns of text.

Extension challenge: Research a recent positive event in your local community. Write a short newspaper report (approx. 150 words) using a formal tone, including one direct quote from a witness or participant.