Newspaper Reporter Challenge with Kit the Fox

Learning objective: To identify and apply the key features of journalistic writing, including headline techniques, formal language, and the 5 Ws.

Help Kit the Fox write the daily news for the BookFlik Forest Gazette! Read the questions carefully and test your knowledge of how to write a brilliant newspaper report.

Answer Key: 1. A (Headline); 2. True; 3. The 5 Ws; 4. B (To give the reader the main facts); 5. False; 6. A (Third); 7. False; 8. Quotation marks (or inverted commas); 9. True; 10. Byline.

Word bank: Headline · Byline · Lead Paragraph · Caption · Formal · 5 Ws · Direct Speech

1. 1. What is the title of a newspaper article called? A) Headline* B) Caption C) Byline D) Lead (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: Newspaper reports should be written in the past tense because the events have already happened. (1 mark)

3. 3. What is the name of the rule journalists use to ensure they include Who, What, Where, When, and Why? (1 mark)

4. 4. What is the main purpose of the lead paragraph? A) To tell a joke B) To summarise the main facts* C) To include a poem D) To write the author's biography (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: It is acceptable to use informal slang and text-speak in a professional newspaper report. (1 mark)

6. 6. Which person should a formal news report be written in? A) Third person* B) First person C) Second person D) None of the above (1 mark)

7. 7. True or False: A caption is the name of the person who wrote the article. (1 mark)

8. 8. What punctuation marks must you use when including a witness's exact words in a report? (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: A newspaper report often includes a photograph to make the story more engaging. (1 mark)

10. 10. What is the name of the line that tells the reader who wrote the article? (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a layout for a front-page newspaper. Include a space for a large headline, a photograph with a small caption underneath, and two columns for the report text.

Extension challenge: Kit the Fox has just discovered that a giant sunflower has grown in the middle of the library! Write a short headline and a lead paragraph (approx. 50 words) for this 'breaking news' story.