Grade 5 ELA Assessment: Newspaper Report Writing

Learning objective: To demonstrate understanding of the structural and linguistic features of a newspaper report and apply these to an original news story.

Read the text carefully and answer all questions. Ensure your writing is formal and uses appropriate journalistic language.

LOCAL HERO HELPS HEDGEHOGS: By Pip the Caterpillar. Yesterday, residents of Oakwood Village were amazed when a local gardener discovered a group of hedgehogs trapped in a plastic net. Using a pair of blunt scissors, the gardener carefully freed the creatures before calling the wildlife rescue center. Experts have praised the quick actions of the resident, noting that without this intervention, the hedgehogs would have been in significant danger. An official from the center said, 'We urge all villagers to keep their gardens clear of plastic netting to protect our local wildlife.'

Word bank: Headline · Orientation · Byline · Caption · Formal tone · Third person · Direct quotation · Chronological order

1. Identify the 'Byline' in the passage above. Why is this feature important in a newspaper report? (2 marks)

2. Newspaper reports are written in the third person. Find one example of this from the text and explain why the third person is used. (3 marks)

3. What is the purpose of the 'Orientation' (the first paragraph) in a news report? Briefly summarise the orientation provided in the passage. (4 marks)

4. Identify the direct quotation in the passage. Why do journalists include direct quotes from witnesses or experts? (3 marks)

5. If you were to include a photograph with this story, what information should be included in the 'Caption'? (2 marks)

6. Write a short paragraph (approx. 50-70 words) for a new report about Max the Monkey finding a lost treasure chest in the village park. Include a headline and ensure you use a formal tone. (5 marks)

7. Why is it important for a newspaper report to be written in chronological order? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a layout of a front page for a newspaper called 'The Oakwood Gazette'. Include space for a headline, a main image with a caption, and two columns for text.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Extension: Research a local event in your area and rewrite it as a newspaper report using the inverted pyramid structure (most important information first).