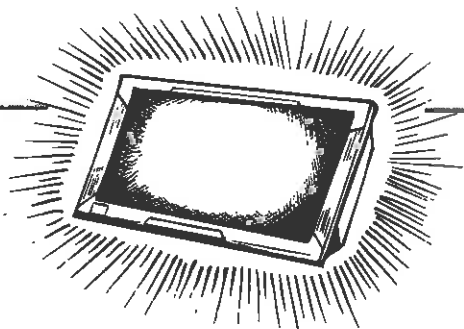


Point of view and purpose – 1

When we read, we should try to think like the writer to work out how and what he or she feels and believes (point of view) about the subject and why he or she wrote the text (purpose).

Read the diary entries.



Too much TV!

30 November

Everywhere I turn, people are telling me I watch too much TV, spend too much time on the computer and play too many video games! But I like it, I like to get lost in the story-lines, absorbed in other people's lives and escape my own boring life!

Mum is always telling me to read a good book. She read books when she was young and found the story-lines totally absorbing and entertaining. I find books boring, it's too much hard work reading, when I can hire a DVD of a movie from the video shop and watch it in full colour. She gave me a copy of her favourite book of all time, *The lion, the witch and the wardrobe* and made me promise to read it for 30 minutes each day. She swears I won't be able to put it down—we'll see about that. When I have finished

reading it, she has promised to hire the movie for me to watch. That way, she reckons, I will be able to see that the movie isn't always as good as the book!

My grandad is always at me to learn a new game. He thinks of himself as a bit of a chess champion and wants me to spend one hour each week with him so he can teach me the game. He says it's better than any video game—whatever! Mum thinks I will really enjoy it and it will help me to get to know my grandad better—I'm not so sure about that, he's pretty old and boring!

Heather, my best friend at school, is starting to play netball. Her mum and dad are making her play a sport, because they think she spends too

much time watching TV! It means Heather and I have to give up our computer chat because she will be at netball practice. Heather wants me to play too—that way we can chat face to face! I'm not so sure we'll really get time to chat while we are playing. Mum reckons it would be a good idea to play some sport and it would mean Heather and I could spend some time together! I suppose that makes sense.

All these extra things to do, I don't know how I'm going to get to watch all my favourite shows. Dad says all I have to do is plan my time better. But I think it's all just a ploy to get me away from the TV and the computer.

25 January

Well I got onto the Internet and did some of my own research about watching too much TV. Couldn't believe it! I didn't know that my generation is the least active of all time and it's causing huge health problems. They say we are heavier than previous generations of kids and at risk of heart disease and diabetes! I always thought old people got those diseases.

Luckily I had already decided to give my mum and grandad some of my time to try out their ideas. I know it's not really active to read books and play games, but I truly think I've got smarter. I actually use my brain more, especially playing chess. Grandad

has been teaching me all about strategy and forward planning—really interesting stuff! We also have a chance to talk about his life when he was my age. He spent all of his waking time outside on the farm with his dad, working with the animals and tending to the family crops. He reckons he was fitter than most of the kids today—he's probably right too!

Mum was right about the book. I hate it when she's right. I couldn't put it down—even found myself sneaking a torch under the blankets to finish a chapter some nights. What a fantastic story! My imagination was working overtime!! The movie wasn't a patch on the book, I was actually a bit disappointed. They missed out some

bits and changed others, I guess to fit in with the time frame of the movie.

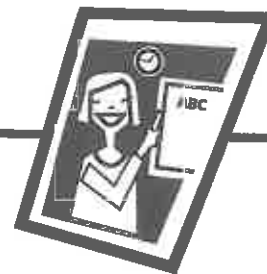
I'm also really enjoying netball with Heather. We even catch up two afternoons each week to go for a run and practise our ball skills at each other's house. I reckon our friendship is even better than before. The coach gives great advice on getting fit and eating the right foods.

Dad asked me the other day how things were going with me. And for once I could say 'Really good, Dad' instead of just moaning at him!

I'm feeling great and I don't feel like my life is so boring! I don't actually need so much TV!

Point of view and purpose

Learning about the skill



Learn how to work out the writer's point of view and his or her probable purpose or reason for writing the text.

- Writers don't always just tell you what they think or believe or why they have written the text. Sometimes you have to try to think like they do and work it out for yourself.
- In the text, there are details and information related to the question for you to find, underline and use in making your choices.
- Always consider all possible answers before making a decision.

1. *The writer probably wrote the first diary entry because she ...*

- (a) wanted to make changes in her life and by writing them down, she would be forced to follow through.
- (b) was bored.
- (c) hates writing diary entries.
- (d) wanted to express her frustration about the situation of the people around her wanting her to do more than watch TV, play video games and spend time on the computer.

Choosing the best answer

- (a) The writer made it quite clear that she was happy the way things were. So this doesn't seem the best answer.
- (b) She fills her times with TV, video games and time on the computer, so she doesn't get bored. So this doesn't seem the best answer.
- (c) The writer seems to be quite good at writing in her diary. So this wouldn't be the best answer.
- (d) Keeping a diary is a way of expressing your feelings and emotions; this is what the writer has done. This would be the best answer.

2. *In the first diary entry, the writer believes that ...*

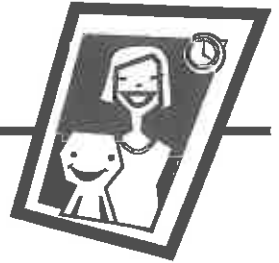
- (a) what happens on TV is better than what happens in her own life.
- (b) her grandad is a really interesting person.
- (c) books are great to read and better than watching a DVD.
- (d) spending time exercising is better than playing computer games.

Choosing the best answer

- (a) The first paragraph talks about using TV as an escape which allows her to get absorbed in other people's lives. This is a good answer, but check all of them.
- (b) She actually considers her grandad to be old and boring in the first diary entry. So this isn't the best answer.
- (c) It is the writer's mother who thinks books are great to read and better than watching a DVD. This wouldn't be the best answer.
- (d) The writer believes that exercising would take time away from her computer games. So this is not the best answer.

Point of view and purpose

Practice page



Use similar strategies to those on page 89 to help you work out what the writer believes about the subject and why he or she wrote the text. (Clues are given to help you.)

1. (a) Explain how the writer's relationship with Heather has changed from the first diary entry to the second.

- (b) What does the writer think about the changes?

Think!

Read both paragraphs involving Heather and compare the two.

2. *What do you think the writer's point of view about books is now?*

- (a) She thinks books are boring.
(b) She prefers to watch DVDs.
(c) She thinks books can be absorbing to read.
(d) She thinks books are too much hard work to read.

The best answer is .

Think!

Read both paragraphs involving books to find the clues you need.

3. *What was her mother's purpose in encouraging the writer to learn chess from her grandad?*

Think!

Read the last sentence of the third paragraph.

4. *Explain your own point of view about the writer's Internet research in the first paragraph of the second diary entry.*

Think!

In what ways do you agree and disagree with the writer?

Point of view and purpose



On your own

Think about the strategies you have learnt and work out these answers.

1. *What does the writer think about playing chess with her grandad?*

- (a) She was excited from the beginning to be spending more time with her grandad.
- (b) She didn't want to at first, but liked the strategy and forward planning skills.
- (c) She didn't want to at first and still doesn't like it.
- (d) She asked her grandad to teach her chess, so she was obviously interested.

The best answer is .

2. *Which sentence do you think the writer would probably disagree with now?*

- (a) Go out and get involved in life and then you don't need to watch so much TV.
- (b) Playing sport helps to strengthen friendships.
- (c) Books are great for getting the imagination working.
- (d) Chess is a really boring game for old people.

The best answer is .

3. (a) Think of four words you could use to describe the writer.
I think the writer is:

(b) Explain why you think this (your point of view).

4. *The writer said, 'I like to get lost in the story-lines, absorbed in other people's lives and escape my own boring life!'*

(a) How did her attitude change after she made the changes to her life?

(b) Do you think her attitude changed for the better? Yes No
Explain.

5. *What was her mother's purpose in encouraging the writer to read her favourite book?*

- (a) To convince her daughter that movies are better than books.
- (b) To reduce the amount of time her daughter spent watching TV.
- (c) So her daughter would trust her opinions.
- (d) So her daughter would get to know her grandfather.

The best answer is .

Point of view and purpose – 2

Read the letter.

Letter from Wolfie

22 Blueberry Drive
Strawberry Fields FF 9088

25 October

Dear Red

1. I am writing to apologise for nearly eating your grandma. My mum found out what I've been up to lately (apparently your grandma told her how badly I've been behaving) and she told me I have to write apology letters to everyone I have upset over the last month and explain my actions. I have nine letters to write, so it's going to take me a while to get around to everyone.
2. My mum told me that it's not very nice to eat people's grandmas. She said that people love their grandmas and you would have been very sad if your grandma hadn't been rescued. Mum said you would have missed all of her hugs and kisses. I guess I never really thought about it that way. I never knew my grandma, so I don't really understand the bond you must have with her. It was the only way I could think of to get close to you. I often see you walking through the woods to your grandma's house and admire your slender legs and wonder how they would taste. Such young, juicy flesh would be divine and a well-earned break from eating the same old boring animals I eat all the time. Surely you can understand that I was just looking for a change in my menu.
3. I've been on a bit of rampage lately. I tricked the shepherd and his dog when I put on the sheepskin, hid among the sheep and ate some of the lambs. Mum said that was a really mean thing to do. She said that the mother sheep would be very sad without their lambs. I've just been really hungry lately and the little lambs looked absolutely scrumptious. Mum says I must be having a growth spurt and my body is telling me to eat more; but it's not acceptable to go around eating people OR lambs. I really didn't mean to upset anyone—I just don't know what to do!
4. Even when I'm not causing trouble, everyone automatically thinks I am. I was hanging around the local watering hole just for something to do the other day and everyone ran screaming for their lives. I truly wasn't going to cause any trouble. I actually went down there because I thought it might be a good place to meet some friends. No-one understands! I find being a wolf very lonely—I am generally quite shy and find it difficult to make friends. It makes it all the more difficult to find friends when all the stories show me as the bad guy—I know I do some stuff I shouldn't—but it would be nice to be the hero every now and then. I think I could be a great hero if given the chance; I have strong, powerful limbs for leaping to people's rescue!
5. I don't have many friends and no-one to really talk to about my feelings. Mum tries to be there for me, but it's just not the same as having a real friend. I can't talk to Mum about everything like I could if I had a best friend. The thing is that no-one will want to be my friend if I keep behaving the way I am. So I have decided to turn over a new leaf. I am going to be more thoughtful and considerate of others and try really hard not to eat them! I am going to work hard to make some new friends. So I hope you accept my apology and that all will be forgiven. I am truly going to try to be a better wolf from now on!

Sincerely yours

Wolfie



Point of view and purpose



Try it out

Use the strategies you learnt and practised in *Too much TV!* to work out the writer's point of view and purpose.

- Writers don't always just tell you what they think or believe or why they have written the text. Sometimes you have to try to think like they do and work it out for yourself.
- In the text, there are details and information related to the question for you to find and use in making your choices. (These could be underlined.)
- Always consider all possible answers before making a decision.

1. Do you think Wolfie's reasons for nearly eating Grandma were okay? Yes No
Explain.

Think!
Are you able to empathise with the writer?

2. Why do you think Wolfie's mother made him write this letter?
- (a) She wanted Wolfie to practise his spelling.
 - (b) She wanted Wolfie to be accountable for his actions.
 - (c) She wanted Wolfie to make friends so he wouldn't be lonely.
 - (d) She wanted Wolfie to sit and complete a quiet activity.

The best answer is

3. How does Wolfie feel about being the villain all the time?
- (a) He never thinks about it because it doesn't bother him one way or the other.
 - (b) He would like to be a hero every now and then.
 - (c) He thinks being a villain is a full-time job and works hard to be really good at it.
 - (d) Everyone around him likes it when he is a villain and so does he.

The best answer is

4. Do you think the wolf was sincere in his apology? Yes No
Explain.

5. What is your point of view about Wolfie's behaviour?
