

We Can Remember It For You Wholesale

by Philip K Dick

Pre-reading exercises

Key vocabulary

Words that were invented for the purpose of the story

- 1 a) conapt; b) traffic runnel; c) foot runnel; d) gill outfit; e) poscreds; f) sneaky-pete guns;
g) narkidrine; h) maw-worms; i) homeopapes

Combinations (Suggested answers): a) *condominium* and *apartment*

- 2 1 conapt; 2 traffic runnels; 3 gill outfit; 4 foot runnels; 5 narkidrine; 6 poscreds; 7 maw-worms;
8 homeopapes; 9 sneaky-pete guns

Idiomatic expressions

- 3 1 bring her husband down to earth; 2 run into any trouble; 3 bread and butter; 4 fool around with;
5 song-and-dance; 6 at stake

Main themes

- 4, 5, 6 Student's own answers

Post-reading exercises

Understanding the story

Section 1

- 1 That he wants to go to Mars.
2 Only government agents and high officials could go there.
3 Because he calls himself a *miserable little salaried employee*.
4 Not a very happy one. She likes to make him feel small.
5 She gets impatient and frustrated with him about his obsession.
6 A holiday at the bottom of the ocean.

Section 2

- 7 Rekal, Incorporated.
8 He has doubts as to whether he's doing the right thing.
9 Because they are made out of a material that is produced on Mars.

10 Real memories fade very quickly, and details are lost over time. With false memories nothing is forgotten.

11 Nervous.

Section 3

12 Some are imitations, others are real.

13 They will be hidden in Quail's conapt for him to find later as evidence of his trip.

14 There's a problem.

15 On a hospital type bed, under sedation.

16 No.

17 He is aggressive and has a cold look in his eyes.

18 Because he remembers having been there.

19 That he is an Interplan agent and that he has been to Mars on a dangerous mission.

20 Because Interplan didn't want him to remember his trip to Mars.

21 That she may be an Interplan agent too.

22 Because it could make him go mad.

23 Not to make any changes to Quaid's memories because it could be dangerous and to give him back half his money as compensation.

Section 4

24 Mars.

25 The landscape, the life forms, the maw-worms he has brought back with him.

26 To find the maw-worms.

27 The envelope from Rekal.

28 He remembers the visit to Rekal.

29 He tells her about the simulated trip.

30 She reacts angrily and cuts off the call.

31 Possibly because she is an Interplan agent and needs to inform her superiors.

32 To get a complete refund.

33 He thinks the memory implant had not been successful.

34 Not to tell anyone about his trip to Mars.

- 35 A box of Martian maw-worms.
- 36 Because McClane had said he hadn't planted any false souvenirs in his flat.
- 37 If he has been to Mars.
- 38 Either because she thinks his obsession with Mars has gone too far, or because she is an Interplan agent, and now that Quail's memory of his trip to Mars has come back to him her mission is over.
- 39 They appear from inside his flat.
- 40 Because Quail has seen him before.
- 41 Because Interplan has installed a tele-transmitter in his head.
- 42 Because Quail told them about a top secret mission that they should not know about.
- 43 Because Quail would want to go back to Rekal again.
- 44 Because Quail is a trained assassin and he assassinated a political leader.
- 45 He overpowers two of the officers and steals one of their guns.

Section 5

- 46 Because he killed the leader of an important political organisation on Mars and they would capture him or kill him.
- 47 Through his thoughts.
- 48 Because a memory of a normal, quiet life will not be enough for him. He needs excitement and stimulus.
- 49 That they give him a false memory which is more exciting than the memory of the trip to Mars.
- 50 He wants to save his own life.
- 51 So that Quail surrenders himself without a fight.

Section 6

- 52 That he saves the planet from an alien invasion.
- 53 By showing the aliens kindness and mercy.
- 54 Because the aliens won't invade while he's alive.
- 55 That it's childish and arrogant.
- 56 A magic healing rod, a letter thanking him for saving the planet, alien writings and maps.
- 57 There's a problem.
- 58 How he single-handedly saved the planet from aliens.
- 59 Not to kill him. Or the aliens will invade.

Language study

Perfect aspect

- 1 1 I've changed; 2 had been; 3 haven't tinkered with you; 4 had been; 5 had never laid; 6 could have been; 7 has always existed; 8 would have recalled
- 2 (Suggested answers)
- 1 Because he had always wanted to travel to Mars.
 - 2 Because he remembered what had happened there.
 - 3 Because the memory implant hadn't been a success.
 - 4 Because they had installed a tele-transmitter in his head.
 - 5 The memory that Quail had saved the planet from aliens when he was a young boy.
 - 6 Quail remembered that he had really saved the planet.

Using adverbs of manner in dialogue

- 3 1 patiently; 2 encouragingly 3 respectfully; 4 nervously; 5 savagely; 6 tonelessly; 7 desperately; 8 curiously
- 4 1 a) slowly and carefully b) he's a salesman; 2 a) in a friendly, reassuring manner b) he's a salesman; 3 a) politely b) the robot is programmed to be polite; 4 a) quickly, having difficulty with her words b) she knows he might cause trouble; 5 a) with a hard voice b) his personality has changed since his memory has come back; 6 a) with no emotion b) she does not feel anything for her husband; 7 a) almost shouting b) he is confused and needs his wife to help him; 8 a) in an informal, chatty way b) he finds the idea of the healing wand amusing
- 5 1a; 2c; 3b; 4e; 5f; 6d
- 6 1 sardonically; 2 drowsily; 3 starkly; 4 lamely; 5 harshly; 6 witheringly

Literary analysis

Plot

- 1 Quail saved the planet from invasion by aliens.
Quail's memory of his meeting with the aliens was erased.
Quail was trained as a government assassin.
Quail visited Mars as a government secret agent.
Quail's memory of his trip to Mars was erased.
Quail visited Rekal to get a memory implant of a trip to Mars.
Quail's memory of his trip to Mars came back to him.
Quail visited Rekal to get a memory implant of a meeting with aliens when he was a child.
Quail remembered meeting the aliens.

- 2 (Suggested answers) 1 They all happened; 2 We don't know if he really met the aliens, or if it was a fantasy rather than a memory.
- 3 Student's own answer
- 4 The government secret agency, Interplan, were responsible for erasing Quail's memory of the trip to Mars. The aliens were responsible for erasing his memory of meeting them. In both cases because they didn't want Quail to tell other people about what had happened. Both came back when he was under the influence of narkidrine when the technicians at Rekal were preparing him for a memory implant.
- 5 (Suggested answer) It is suggested that the technicians from Rekal knew how to tell the difference between a fantasy and a real memory.
- 6 Student's own answer

Character

- 7 (Suggested answers) Quail when we first meet him: He's probably fairly young and fit. He's married. He works in an office. He isn't satisfied with his life. Quail the secret agent: He's a professional killer. He's fit, intelligent, and potentially violent. He knows how to look after himself. Quail the saviour of the planet: He's kind, intuitive, and intelligent.
- 8
- a That he's dissatisfied with his boring life as an office clerk. That he's married to a woman who doesn't seem to love or respect him
 - b That he has been trained as a killer. That he's dangerous. That he killed a political leader on Mars. That Interplan erased his memory and now they want to kill him.
 - c That he once saved the planet from an alien invasion. That if he dies, the alien's will invade.
- 9 He becomes more confident and resourceful. Three: Quail the clerk, Quail the killer, Quail the saviour.
- 10 Student's own answer
- 11
- a Initially just another client, then a risk, then a very real danger.
 - b If Quail is right and she's an Interplan agent, then she sees him as part of her job, a danger to be contained; if not, then she probably sees him as a weak man who's going through a mid-life crisis and is now in trouble with the police.
 - c As a very real danger
- 12 Student's own answer

Narration

- 13** A third-person narrator. From Quail's point of view. Effect: Student's own answer.
- 14** (Suggested answer) The story is told in the sequence that Quail slowly discovers the truth about his past. The focus of the story is on the contrast between reality and appearance, memory and truth, and how difficult it is to know what is real.
- 15** Quail visited Rekal to get a memory implant of a trip to Mars.
Quail's memory of his trip to Mars came back to him.
Quail visited Mars as a government secret agent.
Quail's memory of his trip to Mars was erased.
Quail was trained as a government assassin.
Quail visited Rekal to get a memory implant of a meeting with aliens when he was a child.
Quail remembered meeting the aliens.
Quail saved the planet from invasion by aliens.
Quail's memory of his meeting with the aliens was erased.
- 16, 17** Student's own answers

Style

- 18** (Suggested answer) It is like hearing Quail's voice speaking to us.
- 19** (Suggested answer) It emphasises the boring repetition of his daily routine. It highlights the debate about reality and fiction. It underlines the fact that it was inevitable that his wife would leave one day.
- 20, 21, 22** Student's own answers

A Sound of Thunder

by Ray Bradbury

Pre-reading exercises

Key vocabulary

Hunting

- 1 1b/e; 2j; 3a; 4f; 5g/h; 6i; 7c; 8d; 9k
- 2
 - 1 game / bagged / trophy
 - 2 safety catch / went off
 - 3 aimed / rifle / fired
 - 4 tracked

Nervous movements

- 3 1 flushed; 2 fumbled/scrabbled; 3 scrabbled; 4 twitching / trembling; /shivering; 5 sway; 6 shuffled; 7 stiffened; 8 twitched

Main themes

Unseen consequences

- 4
 - a They choose animals that would have died at the time anyway, they have built walkways so they don't come into contact with the ground. They do this because a small change in the past could have a devastating effect on the future.
 - b Student's own answer

Time travel

- 5
 - a) One where time travel is possible.
 - b), c), d) Student's own answers

Post-reading exercises

Understanding the story

Section 1

- 1 Nervous
- 2 Coming back alive
- 3 The advertisements for the Time Safari
- 4 There was a presidential election in the USA and a candidate called Keith had won.

- 5 They feel lucky that Keith won. They think he'll make a good President.
- 6 That he would not be a very good or liberal President.
- 7 A piece of paper saying that the company are not responsible for anything that might happen to him. So that he (or his family) cannot ask for money in the case of an accident.
- 8 Because he wants to make sure that Eckels is really convinced about going on the trip.

Section 2

- 9 Five. Eckels and four other men; Travis, the leader, Lesperance, his assistant, and two other hunters, Billings and Kramer.
- 10 Very little.
- 11 Three shots. The first two in the eyes and the third in the brain.
- 12 60 million two thousand and 55 years.
- 13 A walkway made of anti-gravity metal that floats six inches above the ground.
- 14 So that they don't touch anything and by touching it, change the future.
- 15 They observe the animals until they find one that dies of natural causes in an accident.
- 16 Because it would be a "paradox".
- 17 He's amazed by the world surrounding him and scared of the hunt ahead.
- 18 He is amazed by the size and strength of the tyrannosaurus.
- 19 He thinks it's too big and that they can't kill it using their guns.
- 20 Because he doesn't really know what he's doing or where he's going.
- 21 They shoot it in the eyes.
- 22 Blood had spurted out of the dinosaur's neck.
- 23 Because the hunt had been more difficult and destructive than it should have been.
- 24 They are too dazed by the experience of the hunt.
- 25 To get the bullets from the body.
- 26 He is worried that the government will take their licence to travel in time away from them and that the company will have to close.
- 27 He is worried that the future will have changed.
- 28 A chemical smell in the air and a difference in the quality of the colours.
- 29 The sign painted on the door.
- 30 A dead butterfly.

- 31 There has been a subtle social and political change. Keith did not win the elections, his rival, Deutscher did. The new future is a harder, more violent and unforgiving place.
- 32 Travis shoots him.

Language study

Modals of speculation

1 1 b); 2 a)

An if-clause with a verb in the *past perfect* describes an imaginary situation in the past.

An if-clause with a verb in the *simple past* describes an imaginary situation in the future.

2 1c; 2d; 3d; 4a; 5b

- 3
- 1 If Eckels hadn't stepped off the path, the future wouldn't have changed.
 - 2 Eckels might have escaped if he'd reacted a little more quickly.
 - 3 Deutscher wouldn't have won the election if Eckels hadn't killed the butterfly.
 - 4 Keith would have been a better president in Eckel's opinion.
 - 5 The other hunters could have stopped Travis from killing Eckels.

4, 5 Student's own answers

Multiple-clause sentences

7 1 as; and

2 he – he waved the check; was sitting – the man was sitting

3 (Suggested answer) The longer sentence is more concise and less repetitive. It paints one picture rather than list a number of separate details.

4 You can include more details in fewer words.

8 (Suggested answer)

The fog that enveloped the Machine blew away.

They were in an old time.

It was a very old time indeed.

There were three hunters and two Safari Heads.

They had blue metal guns.

They were holding their guns across their knees.

Literary analysis

Plot

1 Main events: (Suggested answer) Eckels and the others travel to the past, Eckels panics when he sees the tyrannosaurus. He walks off the path. He stands on and kills a butterfly. The others kill the tyrannosaurus. Eckels goes back for the bullets. They travel back to the future. The future has changed. Travis kills Eckels. Most important event: Student's own answer

Why is it so important? Student's own answer

2 (Suggested answer) Eckels left the path because he panicked. He was terrified by the sheer size of the dinosaur and didn't want to take part in the hunt any more. His shouts attracted the tyrannosaurus's attention to the hunt party and the tyrannosaurus attacked. The Safari leaders couldn't keep an eye on him, so they didn't stop him wandering off the path. When he wandered off the path he stepped on and killed a butterfly. This changed the course of history and changed the future. It also put the Time Safari business at risk as they had promised that no-one would step off the path.

3 (Suggested answer) There had been a subtle social change. Language had developed slightly differently. The quality of the air was different as was the quality of colours. Deutscher had won the election, not Keith. This showed that there had been a change in people's attitudes and a shift towards more extreme, conservative politics. It probably meant that the law would be harsher and the punishment for the Time Safari's mistakes more extreme.

4 Student's own answer

5 (Suggested answer) That we can never know what the consequences of our actions, are going to be, no matter how small; all we know is that that all actions have a consequence.

6 Student's own answer

Character

7 Very little except that he is a hunter. He feels very nervous about the hunt. Because it was something he has never done before, because it was a challenge. Because he wasn't really prepared for what he saw. He asks a lot of questions rather than just accepting the rules of the hunt and concentrating on what he has to do. He is afraid.

8 Nothing, except their names. They are sickened by it and don't even want to have their photo taken next to the dead dinosaur.

9 Student's own answer

Narration

10 An unknown narrator. Eckels's. Through what they say. Eckels's.

11 (Suggested answers) a) page 65, Eckels's question to Travis; b) and c) pages 66–69, dialogue between Eckels, Travis and Lesperance

12 (Suggested answers) Explaining some of the changes that have happened in the future; explaining some of the possible consequences of Eckels leaving the path; showing how angry Travis is; introducing the idea of the dead butterfly.

Style

Similes, metaphors and imagery

- 13** Physical features; the wires, the boxes, the lights and the noise it is making; Compared to: 1 a pile of snakes, 2 books burning on an enormous fire; Effect: 1 that it is a living thing, 2 that it is incredibly powerful and possibly destructive; Overall effect: one of amazement and wonder at the power of the machine.
- 14** The images are of coming back from the dead (*out of chars and ashes*), of reversing the ageing process (*wrinkles vanish*), of the natural order being reversed (*suns rise in western skies and set in glorious easts*), of returning to our origins (*everything returning to ... the seed ... the time before the beginning*). Student's own answer
- 15** a) oiled, piston, ropes, steel mesh; b) watchmaker, terrible warrior; c) towered, sculptured stone, fence; d) snake neck, ostrich eggs

Most effective images?: Student's own answer

- 16** Touch, movement, smell. Student's own answer
- 17, 18** Student's own answers
- 19** No. From the *sound of thunder*. The tyrannosaurus rex. Student's own answer

Travel by Wire!

by Arthur C Clarke

Pre-reading exercises

Key vocabulary

Scientific terminology

- 1 (Suggested answers)
- a definition, interference, fuse
 - b chloroform, respirator
 - c Appleton Q layer, delta ray, fuse, induction, polyaxial cable, resistance coils
 - d definition, fuse
- 2 1 *definition, a*; 2 *delta ray, b*; 3 *chloroformed, a*; 4 *respirators, a*; 5 *fuses, b*; 6 *interference / induction, b*; 7 *resistance coils, b*; 8 *polyaxial cables, b*; 9 *Appleton 'Q' layer, a*

Idiomatic expressions

- 3 1e; 2a; 3c; 4b; 5d; 6f
- 4 like nothing on earth
- 5 1 finished ... off ;2 drew the line; 3 comes out on top; 4 in our line; 5 like nothing on earth; 6 heap coals of fire on their heads

Main themes

Discoveries and inventions

- 6 Student's own answers
- 7 a) intercity travel across Europe; b) helping people lose weight; c) space travel

Commercialisation

- 8 Student's own answer

Post-reading exercises

Understanding the story

- 1 One of the inventors of the radio-transporter.
- 2 (Suggested answer) Possibly to a journalist or reporter interviewing him/her about the invention.
- 3 Improving definition.

- 4 Like a solid version of an early TV image.
- 5 By using six delta scanners positioned all around the object they wanted to transport.
- 6 From the biology department of the institution where they were working.
- 7 It was being used for important medical tests.
- 8 It died.
- 9 They attacked their laboratory with a high-frequency field.
- 10 The guinea pig had died of shock.
- 11 They suggested that they blindfold (tie something around the eyes of) the animals they wanted to transport so that they couldn't see what was happening.
- 12 That their department, and their field of studies, is superior to all the others.
- 13 They killed it.
- 14 Both are on show in a museum.
- 15 A professor of Greek.
- 16 They didn't want to risk it.
- 17 By sending them through the machine.
- 18 A flag.
- 19 London.
- 20 Paris.
- 21 Yes.
- 22 The Post Office.
- 23 We don't know, but the machine helped reduce the number of deaths in road traffic accidents.
- 24 Travellers disappearing, only half of them coming through, lines getting mixed, people losing weight.
- 25 People losing weight.
- 26 That one of her eyes had moved.
- 27 Nobody could see the difference.
- 28 Because of sun static and reflecting layers which would interfere with the transmission.
- 29 By plane.
- 30 He knows the dangers.

Language study

Linkers

- 2 1f; 2g; 3b; 4a; 5e; 6d; 7b
- 3 a2 However; b3 As a result; c7 let alone; d6 in fact; e4 not to mention; f1 except for; g5 instead of
- 4 1 except for; 2 let alone; 3 not to mention; 4 instead of; 5 as a result; 6 however; 7 in fact

Multiple-clause sentences

- 6 1 There were cheers from the assembled crowd.
 2 The Prime Minister pressed a button.
 3 The button wasn't connected to anything.
 4 The chief engineer threw a switch.
 5 The switch was connected to the machine.
 6 A large Union Jack faded from view.
 7 It appeared again in Paris.
 8 This annoyed some patriotic Frenchmen.
- 7 Five clauses.

Literary analysis

Plot

- 1 The inventors managed to tele-transport a cube. They then succeeded in transporting a guinea pig, but it died of shock. They subsequently succeeded in transporting a live guinea pig. They transported their first human subject. They showed the invention to the press. They gave their first public demonstration. They successfully transported people all over Europe. They discovered that they could use the machine to help people lose weight.

2, 3, 4 Student's own answers

Character

- 5 Student's own answer
- 6 (Suggested answers) Childish: stealing the guinea pig, playing tricks on their fellow researchers; Arrogant: *you can always do what you like with the other people*, suggesting that the Professor of Greek would not be a loss to humanity.
- 7 The other inventor/s. We don't know how many inventors there were.

Narration

- 8 (Suggested answers) Possibly in a radio or TV studio or at a bar. To a reporter. The inventor is retelling the history of the invention, maybe for an article in a magazine.

- 9 A first person narrator is always biased. There is no reason to think that he/she is lying, but he/she may be omitting some facts, or representing them in a way that suits him/her.

Style

- 10 It creates the effect of speech, as if the inventor is speaking directly to us, the readers, and that we are part of the inventor's reality. Student's own answer
- 11, 12, 13 Student's own answers
- 14 As products or impersonal clients, part of a business, being exploited to make money. The inventor sees the invention as a means of becoming rich, he doesn't care about the individual people or what might happen to them.
- 15 Student's own answer

The Martian Odyssey

by Stanley G Weinbaum

Pre-reading exercises

Key vocabulary

Body parts

- 1 crab – claw; eagle – talon/beak; elephant – trunk; fish – scale; flower – stem; grass – blade; octopus – tentacle

Movements

- 2 1b; 2f; 3h; 4d; 5c; 6i; 7a; 8g; 9e
- 3 a) prowling; b) crawled; c) trotted; d) lure; e) leap; f) tag along; g) trudged; h) dashed; i) scurrying

Sounds

- 4 1 creaked; 2 drumming; 3 rustled; 4 cackled; 5 clucking; 6 trilled; 7 twittering; 8 boomed; 9 screech/squeal; 10 cawed

Transcribing Putz and Leroy's English

- 5 1 Did you maybe try washing the combustion chamber with sulphuric acid? Sometimes the lead gives a secondary radiation.
2 I bet it wasn't serious.
3 What is "shenanigans"?
- 6 1a, e; 2c, e; 3b, e; f4, d

Main themes

Martians

- 7 a Some are and others aren't.
b Not a direct threat.

Understanding an alien culture

- 8 a) He is curious and friendly; b) He is curious and friendly; c) Attempts at communication and cooperation.

Measuring and judging intelligence

- 9 Student's own answer

Post-reading exercises

Understanding the story

- 1 Four. Jarvis, Harrison, Leroy and Putz.
- 2 They are the first men to set foot on Mars.
- 3 Ten days.
- 4 They are not native English speakers.
- 5 Looking for points of interest and filming what he saw.
- 6 Because he only had enough hours of daylight to get back to the ship.
- 7 It stopped working.
- 8 He knocked it on the window when the rocket crashed.
- 9 He didn't want to have to sit in the rocket doing nothing.
- 10 Water, a gun, some iron rations and a sleeping bag. (Suggested answers) Water because there's on water on Mars, a gun in case of attack, iron rations to keep up his strength and a sleeping bag because the nights on Mars are extremely cold.
- 11 At the bottom of a cliff on the edge of Mare Chronium. Because it was almost night and because there was nothing very interesting to see.
- 12 Because he saw that Tweel was carrying a bag which made him suppose that Tweel was either intelligent or belonged to an intelligent being.
- 13 He held his hands out to Jarvis.
- 14 With a glowing coal.
- 15 Because the atmosphere on Mars was very thin and it was difficult to start a fire.
- 16 Because it was well made, it had an interesting system for opening and closing, and it showed that there was intelligent life on Mars.
- 17 Exchanging names, naming objects, doing simple maths, drawing pictures of the planets.
- 18 Yes, to some extent.
- 19 Tweel. He could remember some of the words that Jarvis taught him, but Jarvis couldn't understand Tweel's language as the words seemed to change all the time.
- 20 The giant leaps and jumps he took, always landing on his beak.
- 21 Student's own answer
- 22 That Tweel's language had words to describe very specific objects, but no generic words.
- 23 Jarvis was exhausted, but Tweel wasn't at all tired.

- 24 Jarvis used his sleeping bag, Tweel had natural protection over his eyes and nostrils.
- 25 He jumped up and down and made strange noises. He seemed to be trying to help Jarvis signal to it.
- 26 Because they were pointing in the same direction that Jarvis was taking. They grew bigger as they followed them.
- 27 By the rate of corrosion of the silica – the material the rocks were made of.
- 28 That the rock creatures weren't intelligent, and that they couldn't reason. He understood that the simple maths was an equivalent for logic and that Tweel's brain was in his stomach.
- 29 A strange grey creature.
- 30 They came out of its mouth.
- 31 By throwing out little crystal balls which are carried away by the wind.
- 32 Home, a good hot meal, New York and a girl he knew there.
- 33 The girl.
- 34 He grabbed him and then shot at the image of the girl.
- 35 That Tweel's intelligence and his civilisation are equal to and possibly better than that of humans.
- 36 They looked like barrels on legs with tentacles and no head, just a row of eyes around its body.
- 37 They were all rushing about pushing little carts.
- 38 No explanation is given but Jarvis thought they might all be part of the same organism.
- 39 Because he saw a light and was curious to find out more about the strange barrel-like creatures.
- 40 Because the light was electric.
- 41 Jarvis doesn't know. It could be a matter of hours or of days.
- 42 They dumped it on the floor in front of a large wheel that then crushed it.
- 43 A crystal about the size of an egg.
- 44 Because Jarvis picked up the crystal.
- 45 Tweel set fire to one of the cartloads. The smoke from the fire led them to the entrance. The barrel creatures were about to attack when Putz arrived in his rocket and both Tweel and Jarvis escaped.
- 46 The crystal.
- 47 Because he was more interested in Tweel.

Language study

as ... as ...

- 1 1 thick; 2 long; 3 true; 4 light; 5 solid; 6 tight

Continuous aspect

- 2 1 were going; 2 were ambling; 3 were getting

The verb is in the past continuous. It describes the setting and background of the story.

a2; b3; c1

- 3 1 was using; 2 was telling; 3 was going; 4 was thinking / were approaching; 5 was staying;
6 wasn't paying

- 4 1 will be arriving; 2 have been working; 3 had been walking; 4 'm / have been trying; 5 were crossing;
6 might be looking

Omitting the verb *be* ...when using *and* to combine sentences

- 5 The creature were coming and going, paying us not the slightest attention, fetching their loads of rubbish.

...in relative clauses

- 6 1 she was / she was / she was; 2 it was; 3 he was / he was / he was; 4 it was; 5 he was; 6 which was;
7 which was; 8 which were

Literary analysis

Plot

- 1 b, a, c, j, e, f, i, d, g, h

- 2 Student's own answer

- 3 Yes, apart from the fact that the story is being told by Jarvis after he has been rescued, so we already know there's a happy ending, otherwise he wouldn't be there to tell the tale. The story starts when Jarvis set off on his solo mission.

- 4 Student's own answer

Characters

- 5 We know Jarvis is an astronaut and a chemist. We know Tweel can communicate and reason and that he is intelligent and capable of feeling gratitude and showing friendship and loyalty. They are interested in each other and in learning about each other.

- 6 Student's own answer

7 Harrison is an astronomer and is the captain of the expedition. Putz is the engineer; he looks after the rockets. Leroy is a biologist; he is interested in the life forms they find. The three of them, through their questions and comments encourage and shape the telling of the story.

8, 9, 10 Student's own answers

Narration

- 11 The story begins with an introduction to Jarvis and the crew, the situation they're in and the background to their story. A third-person narrator.
- 12 They encourage Jarvis to give more details and explanation. They are interested in finding out about the creatures Jarvis met on his travels and about the things he has learnt about the planet.
- 13 Harrison doesn't take him seriously; the other two, and Leroy in particular, are fascinated and offer more theories and speculations. Both Harrison's scepticism and Leroy's enthusiastic interest encourage Jarvis to give examples of Tweel's behaviour and intelligence.
- 14 (Suggested answer) He might not have given so many details, and he wouldn't have referred so much to his fellow crew members.

Style

- 15 He explains things slowly and in great detail. He enjoys telling his tale carefully and step by step, missing out nothing and keeping strictly to the order the events happened in. He knows he has a captive audience and enjoys keeping the crew in suspense. He enjoys the interruptions, using them as an excuse to make a joke or poke fun at one of his fellow crew members.
- 16 a) a dry ditch, a railroad, a map; b) a ditch, a nice green lawn; c) crows, canaries

(Suggested answers) It looked rather like a barrel / a diaphragm stretched as tight as a drumhead / writhing black rope-armed horrors /

The overall effect is one of a personal anecdote rather than a scientific report.

Student's own answer.

- 17 It is comic, cartoon-like, and makes the creatures seem more familiar. That their relationship is fairly informal, they know each other well and their conversation is based on exchanging jokes.
- 18 Because he misses Tweel and realises he probably won't see him again. Harrison is more interested in the healing powers of the crystal.

The Shadow and the Flash

by Jack London

Pre-reading exercises

Key vocabulary

Rivalry

- 1 a) acknowledge; b) beaten; c) endeavours; d) outdo; e) animosity; f) striving; g) struggle; h) mutual; i) rancor; j) spur
- 2 1 trying / better / fight / efforts; 2 admit /lost; 3 disliked / other; 4 anger

Verbs of movement

- 3 brush against my legs ; butt his head against the door; cavort playfully; dart from side to side; fling a tennis ball; fondle the cat's ears; pitch violently; plod slowly; plunge into water; rebound back to me; stoop down gently; stub my toe; stumble in the dark; trip on the step; wring his hand
- 4 1 plunged; 2 brushed / against; 3 stumbled; 4 tripped; 5 plodded; 6 fondled; 7 cavorted; 8 stubbed; 9 butted; 10 pitched; 11 wrung; 12 flung; 13 darting; 14 rebounded

Idiomatic expressions

a8; b1; c2; d5; e4; f3; g7; h6

- 5 1 My lips are sealed; 2 in line; 3 run riot; 4 knew / by heart; 5 came to a head; 6 a king's ransom; 7 at concert pitch; 8 as like as two peas

Main themes

Rivalry

- 6 They had always competed against each other since they were children. Their friends encouraged them to compete against each other. (Suggested answer) Possibly they could have been separated, or maybe someone could have explained to them how dangerous and destructive their rivalry was before it was too late.

The dangers of obsession

- 7 (Suggested answer) Because it gave them an excuse to compete against each other. They both worked very hard to discover a way of creating invisibility and they both succeeded, but their bitter rivalry eventually drove them to kill each other and all their work and their discoveries were lost.

The danger of scientific discoveries

- 8 Paul failed to predict the shadow, Lloyd failed to predict the flash. The story teller failed to predict the fact they would ultimately kill each other.

Post-reading exercises

Understanding the story

- 1 They were both tall, slim and nervous.
- 2 Paul was blond and fair with blue eyes and Lloyd had dark hair, dark skin and dark eyes.
- 3 He was the peacemaker.
- 4 They had to dive to the bottom of a ten foot pool, hold onto some roots on the bottom of the pool and see who could stay under the water for the longest time.
- 5 He couldn't wait any longer and he was sure something terrible was going to happen.
- 6 Because neither of them wanted to lose the game.
- 7 Six boys dived in and dragged Paul and Lloyd up out of the water.
- 8 Paul.
- 9 It made them study very hard and do exceedingly well at their studies.
- 10 Paul wanted to meet her too and they both fell in love with her.
- 11 Because she loved them both equally well.
- 12 It made it much worse.
- 13 Nothing in particular; they both came from wealthy families and didn't need to work for a living.
- 14 They had nothing else to do with their time.
- 15 They were talking about a mythical race of invisible people.
- 16 No. He had already started experimenting.
- 17 Objects must reflect light to be made visible. If Lloyd could create the perfect black, a colour that did not reflect any light, then he could create invisibility.
- 18 That it was completely unrealistic.
- 19 Become the most powerful man in the world.
- 20 That, even if he reflected no light, he would still cast a shadow.
- 21 Transparency.
- 22 We don't know.
- 23 To tell him about his latest results.
- 24 By showing him a man whose skin was so dark that he could not be seen.
- 25 Because it would absorb all frequencies of light.

- 26 Student's own answer
- 27 Yes.
- 28 Because a transparent object lets light pass through it and doesn't cast a shadow.
- 29 A window made of the finest glass in the world which was totally transparent.
- 30 That mixing different chemical substances can cause a change in colour.
- 31 To show him his new hunting dog.
- 32 He could hear strange noises. He could see strange flashes of light.
- 33 (Suggested answer) Maybe because he didn't believe that Paul could create transparency in a living creature and so the thought had simply not occurred to him that Paul wanted to show him an invisible dog.
- 34 The flashes of rainbow light.
- 35 It died.
- 36 It was hit on the head.
- 37 The body decomposed very quickly.
- 38 No.
- 39 He painted his laboratory with perfect black paint and made it invisible.
- 40 It became invisible.
- 41 He could only see his shadow and when Lloyd passed between him and another object he blocked out, or blurred, the view of the other object for a moment. When Lloyd moved quickly this hurt the story teller's eyes. He also felt a strange cold sensation and he could sense Lloyd's presence as you would sense the presence of an object in a dark place.
- 42 Because it was the last morning they would spend together in his laboratory.
- 43 Because he was afraid of the consequences.
- 44 To show him that he had succeeded in making himself invisible.
- 45 He felt a cold chill and then he saw the tennis ball bounce a fair distance away from one of Paul's rainbow flashes.
- 46 They wouldn't let him.
- 47 Because the families saw them as symbolising the main reasons for the men's deaths.
- 48, 49 Student's own answers

Language study

The passive

- 1 1 to be, f; 2 had been, c; 3 was, b; would be, d; 4 will be, d; 5 is, a; 6 being, g; 7 should have been, e
- 2 1 had been expelled; 2 could be produced / was applied; 3 were noted; 4 are absorbed / are thrown; 5 had been brushed; 6 being shoved
- 3 1 You can't achieve transparency, *a*, because it suggests that no-one can achieve it (transparency).
2 The black we have does not absorb all the colours, *a1, b2*
3 They had exceeded the longest record of the longest-winded boy, and still there was no sign, *a*

Inversion after so

- 4 1 So hard had they studied that they knew more than any of the professors at their college.
2 So black will it be that no man will be able to look on it and see it!
3 So overpowering was the smell that it was easy to discover the source.
4 So unusual is its disappearance that it seems to me as though my eyes had blurred.
5 So strong was their rivalry it ended up killing them both.
6 So incredible was their story that no one would believe it.

Multiple-clause sentences

- 5 1 I found them at the bottom.
2 They were clutching tight to the roots.
3 Their heads were not a foot apart.
4 Their eyes were wide open.
5 Each was glaring fixedly at the other.

Light, however was thrown upon this when a frightened housemaid brought the news that Gaffer Bedshaw had that very morning, not more than an hour back, gone violently insane, and was strapped down at home, in the huntman's lodge, where he raved of a battle with a ferocious and gigantic beast that he had encountered in the Tichlorne pasture

Literary analysis

Plot

- 1 (Suggested answer) Both Paul and Lloyd succeeded in creating invisibility but their lifelong rivalry was so strong they ended up killing each other before they could make the most of their discoveries.
- 2 Swimming with friends; they almost killed themselves because neither could bear to lose the game. It is the first example given of the intensity of the rivalry between the two men and the dangerous extremes they were ready to go to in order to win.

Meeting Doris Van Benschoten: Paul could not bear for Lloyd to be successful in something that he was not involved in. Even love became a competition between the two of them, but a competition that neither could win.

A conversation at the story teller's house: Again Paul could not bear to be left out. He insisted in joining in the conversation and challenging Lloyd in his search for invisibility.

The boxing match: Lloyd proved his theory of the relationship between the perfect black and invisibility.

Going hunting: Paul proved his ability to create transparency in a living organism.

The game of tennis: Both men realised that they had been beaten. They couldn't beat this and the intensity of their rivalry any more.

- 3 The two men die, their laboratories are destroyed and the secret of invisibility is lost. Student's own answer
- 4 Student's own answer

Character

- 5 The three of them are young, they grew up together and have only just graduated. They all come from wealthy families and do not work for a living. The fact that they are wealthy and have so much leisure time means that Paul and Lloyd are able to dedicate all their time and energy to the search for invisibility. The fact that they are both so young and have so much to offer makes their deaths more tragic.
- 6 They are similar in almost everything except their colouring: Lloyd is dark and Paul is fair.
- 7 (Suggested answers) Lloyd is interested in power and money. Paul is interested in doing something better than Lloyd. Student's own answer
- 8 He is not so ambitious; he feels no need to prove himself; he is happy and contented with his life as it is and doesn't need competition and challenge like Paul and Lloyd do. He too is young, comes from a wealthy family and doesn't have to work for a living. He is the peacemaker and the witness to the two men's search, success and constant rivalry.

Narration

- 9 (Suggested answers)
 - a It would have been very one-sided with only an account of one set of experiments and it could not possibly have included a description of the last, tragic struggle on the tennis court.
 - b It would have been full of guilt and blame and anger at the young men's deaths.
 - c It would have been less sympathetic towards the two men's rivalries.
- 10 (Suggested answers) a) pages 169–170, 171–172, b) pages 167–8

Student's own answer

- 11 Student's own answer

Style

- 12 (Suggested answers) It emphasises the fact that the two men are so similar. He emphasises their nervousness and their anger, the characteristics which will eventually lead to their deaths. It is also interesting to note that Lloyd, who is dark, opts for black as his solution to invisibility, whereas Paul, who is blond, opts for transparency.
- 13 It emphasises the differences between him and his two friends.
- 14 Of suspense and anxiety. Student's own answer
- 15 It shows us the lengths the two men are ready to go to in order to win.
- 16 The story teller's first objection encourages Lloyd to explain the scientific details of his theory. Lloyd is passionate about the idea of invisibility. The story-teller does not share his passion, he thinks it's a dream, an impossibility. His non-committal response to Lloyd's enthusiasm makes Lloyd even more enthusiastic. But Paul's interruption changes the mood of the conversation. Paul is pleased to have the opportunity to contradict Lloyd and show him the weakness of his theory. Lloyd's enthusiasm disappears. The competition has started and Lloyd is furious. He warns Paul not to interfere or something terrible will happen. The seeds are sown for their final, tragic competition.
- 17 The sounds the dog makes, feeling of it brushing against his legs, flashes of light, stubbing his toe, butting his head on the door, the sensation of being in a dark place. He sees the shadows and the flashes and a strange blurring sensation.

Student's own answers

- 18 Echoes: the competition in the swimming hole; the dark shadow of Lloyd echoes his dark hair; the flashes of light from Paul echo his lighter colouring. The sense of sight: the flashes and the shadow. The sense of hearing: the sounds of the fight.

Effect: Student's own answer