

The Lawless Road

by Graham Greene

Pre-reading activities

Key vocabulary

Riding the mule

- 1 Eight are verbs: trot, canter, heave, strain, stiffen, amble, wrench, dismount
 2 1 wrenched; 2 strained; 3 muzzle; 4 clip clop, whinny; 5 stiffen; 6 dismounted, stable;
 7 heave; 8 saddle; stirrup; 9 ambled; 10 trotting, cantering/cantered

Describing the effects of the heat

- 3 1g; 2f; 3n; 4k; 5h; 6j; 7o; 8c; 9e; 10b; 11m; 12d; 13l; 14i; 15a

4

Nouns	Verbs	Adjectives
Cramp	Collapse	Listless
Exertion	Faint	
Fever	Flop	
Nausea	Grumble	
Sunstroke	Stagger	
Mirage	Sweat	
	Vomit	
	Doze	

The ruins at Palenque

- 5 The setting: a, b, f, g, j
 The ruins: c, d, e, h, i
 6 1 mounds; 2 one-storey; 3 plateau; 4 slopes, mountainside; 5 shade; 6 rubble;
 7 lavatories; 8 wrinkled; 9 jungle

Main themes

Student's own answers.

Post-reading activities

Understanding the extract

The Long Ride

- 1 He takes the net, a hammock and a rucksack. It was 'foolish' presumably because the cape would have been useful and made his journey more comfortable.
- 2 He is from Las Casas. His father prepares coffee and biscuits for his son and Greene.
- 3 They use the 'ferry' which is a canoe. After that, they travel by mule.
- 4 They are quite pleasant. It is cool and quiet and they pick and eat bananas as they ride along.
- 5 The terrain is bare with very little shade. It is extremely hot. Riding the mule puts a terrible strain on Greene's body.
- 6 The storekeeper thinks it will take ten hours. When they stop, they have already travelled for six hours. The guide thinks it might take another eight hours.
- 7 He raises it because he is hot; he lowers it from fear of sunstroke.
- 8 He rides back to Greene and waits for him to get on the mule again.
- 9 He says there are no huts, no hammocks, no food or drink. There are also mosquitoes and possibly dangerous animals.
- 10 Because it is nearer and there will be somewhere to stay and something to drink. He does not really believe in the existence of the *finca*.
- 11 The news that Palenque is only half an hour away.
- 12 They arrive at night.
- 13 The beer in one store is warm and in short supply. In the second store, they sell only coloured mineral water. The only other drink available is coffee which is 'bad for the nerves'.
- 14 There are noises from other people and animals. Greene has a fever and cramps in his feet. A man arrives in the middle of the night. There is no ventilation.

Visiting the Ruins

- 15 Because they don't arrive at the ruins until 9.30. By that time the sun is high in the sky and it is very hot.
- 16 He thinks the water might be polluted by cattle.
- 17 Two. He feels too ill and exhausted to see more.
- 18 Because he wants to lie down and rest.
- 19 They are worried because Greene is ill and he is their responsibility.
- 20 The Indian girl gives Greene corn coffee.
- 21 He says there are mosquitoes. He mentions the *finca* owned by the German and says they will go there that night when it's cool.
- 22 He goes to the schoolmaster's hut to lie down. He drinks continually but can't eat. He says it is 'very nearly like happiness'.

Language study**Grammar****The use of similes**

- 1 1d the two mules ... like a pair of alligator heads
2c Its trot, I imagine, is something like a camel's
3a And all the time Palenque shifted like a mirage
4b The flies ... sailed by and sank like dirigibles onto the mule's neck
5e Springs ... fell in tiny torrents, spread out like a Devonshire stream
6f corn coffee – thin grey stuff like a temperance drink
- 2 a) the two mules ...like a pair of alligator's heads; [the mule's] trot, I imagine, is something like a camel's
b) Springsfell in tiny torrents, spread out like a Devonshire stream
c) the flies sailed by and sank like dirigibles on to the mule's neck
d) A temperance drink is a drink which does not contain alcohol.
e) Palenque 'shifted like a mirage'. A mirage is something unreal or imagined; often it is a result of the heat. The guide has no idea how far Palenque is; consequently he constantly changes its distance and it 'shifts' nearer and further away in Greene's imagination.

Forming adjectives with noun + *like*

- 3 'Parklike' describes the slope of grass. It gives the impression of smooth, short grass which has been cut.
- 4 1 The helicopterlike flies flew constantly around the mule's head.
2 The desertlike plain stretched for mile after mile.
3 He saw the girl's beautiful statuelike face.
4 She took his soft, fishlike hands.
5 The cavelike temples sat on the hillside.
6 The coffeelike drink made him even thirstier.
7 The man's voice was sharp and birdlike.
8 The treelike crosses leaned at an angle.

Adverbs of manner

- 5 1 foolishly; 2 blindly; 3 patiently; 4 inquisitively; 5 badly; 6 heavily; 7 obscurely;
8 unwillingly, slowly
- 6 Adverbs go after verbs in 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7. In 5, the adverb is after the verb but is preceded by the adverb of degree *very*.

In 1, the adverb is before the verb, giving it extra emphasis. This is also the case in 8.
- 7 1 The day began quietly with the arrival of coffee and biscuits.
2 When the flies came, the mules smelt sickeningly of blood.
3 They drank coffee endlessly / They endlessly drank coffee.
4 A voice urged him constantly to turn his face to the wall. / A voice constantly urged him to turn his face to the wall. / Constantly, a voice urged him to turn his face to the wall.
5 He watched enviously as the mules drank.../Enviously he watched as.../ He enviously watched as...
6 The jungle fell precipitously below.../ fell below precipitously
7 The men spoke philosophically of the origin of life.
8 They slid slowly down.../They slid down slowly.../ Slowly, they slid down...
9 Liquid came quickly through the pores before it reached the stomach.
10 A vulture or two flopped clumsily by.../clumsily flopped by.../Clumsily, a vulture or two...

Literary analysis

Events

- 1 1 The guide's father makes breakfast.
- 2 2 Greene crosses the river on the ferry.
- 3 3 After six hours, Greene and the guide stop to rest.
- 4 4 Greene's mule sits down under him.
- 5 5 As the sun sinks, flies attack Greene's mule.
- 6 6 They arrive in Palenque at night.
- 7 7 They look desperately round the town for something to drink.
- 8 8 Greene spends an uncomfortable night after his long ride.
- 9 9 Greene and his guide go to Palenque.
- 10 10 After visiting two temples, Greene gives up and goes to lie down.
- 11 11 An Indian girl gives Green coffee.
- 12 12 Greene and the guide return to Palenque.
- 13 13 Greene lies down in the storekeeper's hut.

People

- 2 *The guide:* 'a dark, dapper young man of some education', '...a man who liked his comforts'

The school teacher: 'a plump complacent young half-caste with a patronising and clerical manner'

The school teacher's assistant: 'alert, interested in his job for its own sake and not for the prestige it gave him, good with children, I feel sure'
- 3 Nobody is named. This gives the effect of distancing them from Greene and emphasizing their difference from him. He is the central 'character' in his account. The others are secondary or incidental.
- 4 The guide is patient with Greene but is determined to take the lead. He comes back for Greene when the mule sits down but he will not stop on the plain. He worries about him at the ruins but, again, he insists on Greene doing what he tells him. Greene hates him at times but he usually ends up doing what he tells him.
- 5 Poor, used to hardship, not unfriendly, hospitable.
- 6 Student's own answer.

Sense of place

- 7 by canoe
- 8 plateau; plain
- 9 bare; exposed; patch(es) of forest
- 10 baked plateau; listless in the heat
- 11 immense
- 12 on a plateau up a mountain, surrounded by jungle
- 13 precipitously
- 14 rubble
- 15 cold, cool, dark, little, snaky
- 16 'Snaky' – this can mean narrow and winding but it also suggests there might be snakes hidden there.

The author's voice

- 17 'foolishly': Greene admits that it is years since he has ridden and that he has never ridden a mule before. His helmet, which he bought himself, is cheap and it is useless in the heat. He goes to the ruins when he is already feeling ill and when the sun is very hot ('it was stupid...to go the next morning'). He is surrounded by water but is too cautious to drink it.
- 18 Yes. He is rarely complimentary. He begins to hate the guide for apparently feeling no discomfort and for urging him to continue. He dislikes the 'patronising' schoolteacher. He says that his guide and the Indian are worried when he is ill because Mexicans don't like responsibility. His reactions are partly caused by physical discomfort but partly by prejudice which is made worse by his inability to really communicate.
- 19 Greene paints a vivid and humorous picture of himself clinging to the mule and his humiliation when the animal repeatedly sits down under him. Again, on the way to the ruins, the mule stops frequently to drink and is 'like the American dentist, chewing all the time'.
- 20 Student's own answer.

Himalaya

by Michael Palin

Pre-reading activities

Key vocabulary

The sounds of Xangu

- 1 1d; 2f; 3e; 4b; 5c; 6g; 7a
2 1 drill; 2 thumped; 3 banging; 4 whistled; 5 hissed; 6 clunking; 7 crackling

Yaks

- 3 1g; 2b; 3f; 4i; 5c; 6e; 7a; 8d; 9j; 10k; 11h

Descriptions of people

- 4 1 complexion; 2 aged; 3 etched; 4 rough; 5 features; 6 stunted; 7 weathered;
8 craggy

Descriptions of the mountain landscape

- 5 1h; 2b; 3c; 4j; 5a; 6d; 7f; 8i; 9e; 10k

Making personal observations

- 6 1 daunting; 2 aloof; 3 bewildered; 4 rancid; 5 mysterious; 6 inaccessible; 7 officious;
8 inhospitable
7 1b; 2c; 3d; 4a

Main themes

Student's own answers.

Post-reading activities

Understanding the extract

Day Fifty Nine: Xangmu to Tingri

- 1 Because it is so loud – the town comes alive at night and is full of the sounds of industrial work such as drilling, shouting, banging and other loud noises.

- 2 The only explanation he can think of is that Xangmu is a frontier town and these have their own rhythms.
- 3 There are a lot of people waiting and there is a lot of bureaucracy.
- 4 They travel slowly into Tibet because they are climbing. The terrain is harsh and the air is thin.
- 5 The fire.
- 6 They eat noodles with mushrooms, pork, peppers and bread. They drink yak butter tea.

Day Sixty: Tingri to Rongbuk

- 7 He has headaches and nausea. He is also too warm and spends a lot of time taking off layers of clothing.
- 8 Migmar is the guide who is helping the film crew. He explains that the painted animals are a type of pictorial code, developed in Tibet when Buddhism was under threat.
- 9 They ask the crew to give them something.
- 10 Dancing and singing.
- 11 Mount Everest.
- 12 In 1960. A Chinese team.
- 13 Palin describes it as dirty, soulless and ill-smelling.

Day Sixty One: Rongbuk

- 14 The wind is very strong and he can't breathe well because of the altitude.
- 15 They are relieved and happy. They can't believe the BBC team is going to stay for three nights.
- 16 It is too windy. People also need time to get used to the altitude.
- 17 He feels frustrated that the monastery seems unable to help them.

Day Sixty Two: Rongbuk to Everest Base Camp

- 18 He feels much better because he has slept well.
- 19 Eight miles.
- 20 November. Base camp is quieter than during the summer when all the expeditions come. But the rubbish – bottles, clothes, playing cards, batteries – is evidence of the climbers' presence.
- 21 They provide everything – food, clothes, transport, fuel and building materials. They are also comfortable at high altitudes.

- 22 He eats with the yak herders. The meal is magical because of the weather, the yaks, the cheerful herders and the nearness of Everest.
- 23 It began when Everest was first climbed, in 1953. Palin was ten at the time.
- 24 They are climbing, the herders go slowly, there is an increasing amount of snow and they keep stopping to film. Basil and Pritchard go back because the air is too thin for them to breathe well.
- 25 He gets to 5,480 metres or 18,000 feet. Everest's summit is 8,850 metres.

Language study

Vocabulary

Compound adjectives

- 1 a) People and clothes: bewildered-looking tourists, prosperous-looking man, cherry-red jacket
- b) animals: sure-footed yaks, short-legged creatures
- c) buildings: white-tiled windows, two-storey buildings, much-repaired windows
- d) landscape: prayer flag-bedecked pass, greeny-brown hills, eye-catching rock formation, scree-covered slopes, rock-strewn valley floor

-ed or -ing?

- 2 1 apple-green trousers
- 2 red-tiled roofs
- 3 happy-looking people
- 4 blue-tiled walls
- 5 pebble-covered beaches
- 6 heavily-painted doors
- 7 a ten-storey(ed) hotel
- 8 strong-armed men
- 9 hand-decorated pots
- 10 harsh-sounding music

Grammar

Ellipsis

- 3 The word that has been left out is 'I'.
- 4 1 Have you got a passport?
2 It isn't very pretty here, is it?
3 Does anybody want more noodles?
4 I wrote my diary this morning.
5 Are you (feeling) better this morning, John?
6 My wife and I are going up Everest tomorrow.
7 Have you finished your lunch yet, Bas?
8 I don't know why I feel so cold.

The use of the passive

- 5 1 The difficulty of the climb was not underestimated.
2 The guesthouse was administered by the monastery.
3 Yak butter tea was being made by our cooks.
4 The mountain was called Everest after Sir George Everest.
5 Only one mountain can be seen from here.
6 Our visas have been cancelled.
7 The original buildings were destroyed by the Red Guards.
8 My view was obscured by two women.

Literary analysis

Events

- 1 1a; 2e; 3c; 4b; 5b; 6a; 7d; 8e; 9d; 10b
- 2 Student's own answer.

People

- 3 1g; 2f; 3c; 4a; 5e; 6b; 7d
- 4 Yes. We know this because he writes about them in detail and in a sympathetic way. He describes their clothes and is interested in their traditions and way of life. He is moved by the harshness of the people's lives e.g. the women at Rongbuk who appear at his window begging.
- 5 In some cases – for example, Migmar – he probably uses some English. Sometimes, he gives gifts e.g. the hotel manager gives the team scarves and Palin presents the abbot of the monastery with a painting. Contact is often established via food and drink e.g. with the herders, who also use joking and laughter to communicate. The villagers use music and dancing to communicate with each other and also with strangers.
- 6 He admires them but is also fascinated by the importance of the yaks in their lives.
- 7 They are on his mind because he associates them with Everest. Both men disappeared when climbing there. He feels close to them because he is following the same path as they did.

Sense of place

- 8 He gives the impression that Xangmu is a place where time is turned upside down. During the day, it is reasonably quiet, but at night it comes alive as everyone seems to start work. This noise is conveyed through a wide use of vocabulary to describe noise – banging, thumping, clunking etc.
- 9 There are many examples:
- Paragraphs beginning (page 51): 'As we drive out of Xangmu ... Yellow River and Brahmaputra' and 'In the relatively short distance from Xangmu...through tight, tussocky cover.'
- Paragraph beginning (page 52): 'The road continues upwards... the hot springs in San Pedro de Atacama in Chile at 14,700 feet/4480 m)...'
- Paragraph beginning (page 55): 'A military checkpoint..... the monumental pyramid of Everest, rising serenely above them all at 29,021 feet (8850 m).'
- This gives us an idea of the huge scale of the Himalayas, the number of mountains, and the place of Everest among them, as well as conveying Palin's sense of awe.
- 10 Student's own answers. The first two might only be fully effective if you know what gorgonzola is and if you have some knowledge of 1960's fashion. The last one is more generally comprehensible and is quite humorous.

- 11** Palin describes it as 'nowhere near as romantic as it sounds' and he seems a little disillusioned. This is probably due to the fact that there is too much evidence of previous climbers – the place is full of rubbish.
- 12** Student's own answer.

The author's voice

- 13** Examples:
- The complaints box at the customs in Tingri which is 'conveniently inaccessible'.
'I notice he (the manager) doesn't have a complaints box'.
The 'nocturnal striptease' of his first night in Tingri.
Palin's discovery of the yak calf which is drinking the water he uses to wash in.
His description of the latrine at Rongbuk.
His humour is gentle, based on observation; he has the ability to laugh at himself.
- 14** Examples:
- 'a fire, so simple and so intensely welcoming' (Day 59)
'...I stand at the top of the pass, unable to take my eyes off this stupendous panorama' (Day 60)
'This is the start of one of those magical mealsunique and unforgettable.'
(Day 62)
- 15** It tells us that he has been in a similar situation before and that he deals with it by trying to be objective and not taking things too seriously. All the same, we know that he is very uncomfortable! Student's own answer.
- 16** Examples: his interest in Migmar's background and education; his frustration at the women at Rongbuk who seem so sad.
- 17** Student's own answer. Suggested adjectives: imaginative, curious, sympathetic, funny, genial, patient etc.

The Land Of The Camels

by Eric Newby

Pre-reading activities

Key vocabulary

Describing the wells

- 1 1a; 2d; 3f; 4h; 5b; 6c; 7e; 8g
- 2 1 bullocks; 2 tomb; 3 well; 4 venerated; 5 domed; 6 shaft; 7 shrine; 8 minarets

Words relating to religious practice

- 3 1 people: pilgrim, saint, worshipper
- 2 buildings: mosque, temple
- 3 religious practice(s): ceremony, sacrifice
- 4 describing a place of religious importance: sacred, inviolable

Describing the landscape

- 4 1 adjectives: abundant, fertile
- 2 relating to plants: crop, marsh, shrub
- 3 describing manmade structures: dam, reservoir
- 4 describing natural structures: (desert), peninsula, sand dune

Words connected with military action

- 5 fortress; artillery bombardment; impregnable; garrison; martial prowess; warriors; clansmen; chieftains; soldiers of fortune

Main themes

Student's own answers.

Post-reading activities

Understanding the extract

- 1 India.
- 2 An Ambassador, an old Indian car.
- 3 An Indian driver.
- 4 The Aravalli mountain range.
- 5 A large area of saline marsh or desert, depending on the time of year.
- 6 Sandy and unproductive.
- 7 The growing of crops such as barley and wheat.
- 8 Mid-November; it is hot (32c).
- 9 They give shade from the heat.
- 10 The camels.
- 11 The women wear jewellery and bright wraps; the men wear large, colourful headscarves.
- 12 Because there is water nearby.
- 13 The wells are very beautiful, with columns and domed roofs.
- 14 The rains usually come during the second half of September until early November.
- 15 The Thar is the Indian desert between India and Pakistan.
- 16 It is difficult to believe that the sand could turn to vegetation overnight if it rained.
- 17 He sees birds – peacock, partridge and Indian roller, and a type of deer.
- 18 Most of the inhabitants are Hindu.
- 19 Newby describes the Rajputs as influential, great fighters and ‘mighty fortress builders’.
- 20 *Jauhar* was a religious sacrifice – when a man died, his wife would allow herself to be burned alive, along with her children.
- 21 Rajputs often fought to the death after which the women and children killed themselves.
- 22 Newby arrives late in Ajmer because part of the car engine, the sump, falls off and is squashed under a wheel. They cannot continue until a new part has been fitted.
- 23 Because he wants to get to Pushkar before dark.

At the Fair

- 24 Seven days.
- 25 On November 13th, Hindus bathe in the sacred lake of Pushkar Sarowa.
- 26 Hindu pilgrims, merchants and tourists.
- 27 There are about 200,000 people plus thousands of foreign tourists at the fair. There are also about 50,000 animals.
- 28 To pull the carts in which the pilgrims have travelled.
- 29 They cook it over fires which they make themselves.
- 30 Because it is having its nostrils pierced.
- 31 Because it is dark, there are many tents, and they look very similar.
- 32 Some of the European and American tourists.
- 33 A plastic bag is important because it can be used for rubbish.
- 34 There is water near the toilets; it can be heated on an open fire.
- 35 The 'principle problem' is that there is nowhere to keep valuables safe. The strong boxes at Reception are all full so people have to carry their things with them.
- 36 'Not bad'; they are vegetarian and there are no alcoholic drinks.
- 37 At 4am (4 in the morning).
- 38 Brahma performed a sacrifice on the lake.
- 39 Savitri was angry because Brahma did not wait for her to perform the sacrifice but chose a milkmaid instead.
- 40 The curse was he would be worshipped only in Pushkar.
- 41 He is reading an old guide book which mentions crocodiles in the lake. He is afraid that they still live in the lake and might harm the bathers.
- 42 He watches the camel owners showing off their camels and astrologers trying to predict the future.
- 43 The closing ceremony.
- 44 He feels that he has rarely spent a more enjoyable day.

Language study

Vocabulary

Formal language

- 1 principal – biggest; expire – end; signifies – means; encounters – meetings;
reminiscent of – like; concourse – crowd; clad – dressed; beverage – drink;
henceforth – from this time; eminence – hill

Grammar

Multiple-clause sentences

- 2 No sane traveller would be here in May/June.
The main day temperature is 94°F
It can and does go up to 120°F.
This is insupportable unless you are a fire worshipper.
The shaft itself was surrounded by four slender columns.
They resembled minarets.
Sometimes there were only two.
There was one on either side of it.

The use of *preposition + which*

- 3 ...in which they had come
On the hills a large proportion of the 200,000 humans, together with something like 50,000 camels, cows, bullocks, calves, sheep, goats and horses were encamped, together with their carts. They had come in these carts; some had been hauled by bullocks, some by camels, and a few by tractors.
We were in the midst of seemingly endless expanses of sandy semi-desert. In spite of this/ However, there were equally endless groves of trees giving merciful shade.
- 4 1 There were a lot of animals, about half of which were camels.
2 We stopped at an old well on top of which there was a dome.
3 The merchants carried large bags in which there was a variety of goods.
4 The fortress, of which there was very little left, had been huge.
5 The village at/in which we stopped to eat was very poor.
6 The women wore saris, some of which were brightly coloured.

Literary analysis

Events

- 1
 - e) Newby sees the sand dunes of the Thar desert.
 - b) The car breaks down.
 - d) They arrive at Ajmer.
 - c) Newby looks for his tent at Pushkar.
 - g) The camel complains when its nostrils are being pierced.
 - a) The bathers enter the sacred lake.
 - h) Newby watches the Fair from up on a hill.
 - f) The closing ceremony takes place.
- 2
 - 1 Historical background: f, h
 - 2 Legend: c, g
 - 3 Description of landscape: b, e
 - 4 Advice to travellers: a, d

People

- 3 No. It gives the impression that he mostly observes, rather than interacting or trying to make friends with individuals.
- 4 '200,000 Rajasthani', 'assorted pilgrims', 'hordes of saddhus', 'innumerable merchants', 'innumerable booths', 'all sorts of merchandise', 'thousands of foreign tourists'
- 5 He compares the women's jewellery to something you might find in a Paris fashion house. He is impressed by the 'dazzling colours' of the clothes and the huge cloths that the men wear on their heads.

Sense of place

- 6 The Aravalli mountains. It is not surprising that they are 'the colour of old bones' and very worn down, because they have existed for millions of years.
- 7 The Rann of Kutch is a huge area of land. It changes from saline desert to marsh depending on the rains that fall at different times of the year. The asses probably have a chance of survival because they live in such a vast, isolated place where they are not 'mucked about' – made to work or suffer – by people. Newby finds it 'spooky'.

- 8 Newby is describing the sand dunes. He describes them as 'awe-inspiring'.
He compares them to 'ripples on a seashore'.
Phrases that tell us that the sand hills are huge: 'each one up to a couple of miles long', '...their summits blown up to a height of between fifty and a hundred feet'.
They are changing: 'constantly on the move'.
- 9 The wells are unique because they look like more like temples and they are beautiful. Newby describes them as they are now but he also evokes them as they were in the past – meeting places and places of worship, where bullocks were used to draw up the water skins.
- 10 Newby paints a picture of the Rajputs, dressed in their yellow robes and drugged with hashish. He imagines them fighting to their deaths, and their families burning on fires/pyres.
- 11 It appeals to our sense of sight (the sun), our sense of smell (the camp fires and evening meals) and our sense of hearing (the noise of animals).

The author's voice

- 12 '...whatever anyone tells you...': Newby here is suggesting that he has experience of the extreme temperatures which other people might not have, and implies that what he says is more reliable than what other people say.
'..when no sane traveller would be here...': Newby is saying that it would be madness to travel at the hottest time of year and warns people against it.
'...goodness knows...': this gives emphasis to the fact that the landscape is monotonous and suggests Newby is bored with it at times.
'...late as we invariably were...': Newby is resigned to the frequent delays he encounters. He suggests that they are an inevitable part of travelling in India.
'...one never quite believes hundreds of thousands and millions in India...': Newby suggests that the Indian authorities have a tendency to exaggerate but that this is understandable given the huge numbers that attend this type of event.
- 13 The guidebook tells him that there are crocodiles in the lake. He hopes that this information is no longer true.
- 14 Student's own answer.
- 15 Student's own answer.

Hammerfest

by Bill Bryson

Pre-reading activities

Key vocabulary

Around the harbour

- 1 1b; 2a; 3i; 4k; 5g; 6e; 7j; 8f; 9h; 10a; 11d

Describing the Northern Lights

- 2 Verbs which only describe light: glimmer, glitter, flash, flicker
Verbs which could be used to describe other things: swirl, shoot, hang, creep, spin, vanish
- 3 1 flickered; 2 hung; 3 crept; 4 flashed; 5 shot; 6 glittered; 7 vanished; 8 swirled; 9 spinning; 10 glimmered

Describing the experience of seeing the Northern Lights

- 4 1
a) weird, eerie, unsettling, terrifying
b) terrifying
2 luminous, shimmering, translucent
3 frantic/languorous
- 5 1 unsettling, eerie, weird; terrifying
2 languorous
3 frantic
4 translucent
5 shimmering
6 weird
7 luminous

Main themes

Student's own answers.

Post-reading activities

Understanding the extract

- 1 It is small but comfortable.
- 2 He is pleased with the room and excited about being in a new place.
- 3 It is 'agreeable' but he's glad he doesn't have to live there.
- 4 He thinks a 'desperate thrill seeker' may have been responsible, i.e. someone who is looking for excitement in the dull town.
- 5 It is dark and very quiet. The only sign of life is 'an occasional cab' (or taxi) driving quickly past.
- 6 It means that he doesn't have to wear a 'Russian-style' fur hat, in which he says he would feel quite ridiculous.
- 7 It looks attractive, 'bright and snug-looking'.
- 8 He is woken by a storm with lightning, snow and high winds.
- 9 The next day the storm continues. It is cold and very windy.
- 10 Because they walk past him in the street without looking at him or greeting him.
- 11 The headland isn't very interesting – it has a few warehouses, ship-repair yards and cranes.
- 12 'Irish windsurfing' – Bryson finds that if he holds out his arms, the strong wind carries him along by itself. He stops after falling over and hitting his head on the ice.
- 13 It is an obelisk which celebrates the first scientific measurement of the earth's circumference. Hammerfest's 'other historical distinction' was to be the first town in Europe to have electric street lights.
- 14 It is 'dead'. There are very few people and no sign of celebrations.
- 15 Bryson asks the waiter what someone can do for 'fun' in Hammerfest. The waiter doesn't answer him because a drunken customer says something and the waiter throws him out of the hotel.
- 16 He goes out into the street. At first, nothing happens and then just before midnight, everyone comes out and fireworks are set off. Half an hour later, all is quiet again.
- 17 He goes for long walks, looks out for the Northern Lights, drinks beer and reads.
- 18 He finds it boring and badly made and presented.

- 19 He begins to feel as if he's been told by a doctor to have a 'complete rest'. He begins to focus on things he wouldn't normally worry about, such as the length of his laces, or the contents of his wallet. He makes lists and he sits on his bed staring into space.
- 20 He compares himself to his father who kept a 'pointless diary' of his daily activities after he retired.
- 21 He has dinner with Ian Tonkin, an Englishman, and his Norwegian wife, Peggy.
- 22 In 1944, the Germans burned down Hammerfest to make things more difficult for the Russian Army. The residents were evacuated by ship. They later rebuilt the town, 'one house at a time'. Bryson admires them greatly for this.
- 23 He learns about the fishing industry, a murder trial and snow removal. He begins to find the town very interesting. It starts to feel like home and England becomes 'oddly distant and dream-like'.
- 24 He sees the Northern Lights for just a few minutes. He is 'transfixed' and finds it very beautiful.
- 25 In the evening, the Northern Lights appear again, this time for much longer. The 'eerie' thing is how silent it is.
- 26 He goes to tell Hans the tourism director that he has seen the Lights and to reserve a seat on the following week's bus.
- 27 He is 'crushed' – very disappointed – thinking that he will have to spend more time in Hammerfest.
- 28 He learns that a bus is leaving in ten minutes and he runs back to the hotel to pack his suitcase.
- 29 He feels a sudden urge to stay in the town. He has become fond of it and its people.
- 30 A hat, probably a Russian-style fur hat.

Language study

Grammar

Making comparisons with *as if* and *like*

- 1 1 as if; 2 like; 3 as if; 4 as if; 5 like; 6 like; 7 like; 8 as if
- 2 1 An occasional cab speeded past as if it were on an urgent mission.
- 2 The cars were buried in snow, like large boulders covered with a fluffy white blanket.
- 3 I tied my scarf round my face as if I were a bandit.

- 4 The man was still and silent as if he had fallen asleep.
- 5 The Lights flashed across the sky like falling stars.
- 6 The clouds rushed towards me as if they wanted to attack me.
- 7 I wrote busily in my notebook as if it were really important.
- 8 He watched the Lights for hours as if he were hypnotized by them.

Talking about the past: *used to* and *would*

- 3 1 used to; 2 would; 3 used to; 4 would; 5 would/used to; 6 used to; 7 would; 8 used to; 9 would /used to; 10 used to

Literary analysis

Events

- 1 1 Bryson arrives in Hammerfest.
2 Bryson is woken by a storm
3 Bryson is blown off his feet by the wind and hurts his head.
4 Bryson visits the obelisk.
5 The waiter at the hotel throws a man into the street.
6 Bryson watches the fireworks on New Year's Eve.
7 Bryson has dinner with Ian and Peggy.
8 Bryson sees the Northern Lights.
9 Bryson catches the bus to Oslo.
- 2 No it isn't. The appearance of the Northern Lights is the most important event of his stay.
- 3 The description of Bryson's activities as he tries to fill his days, his long walks, his experience of 'wind-surfing', his reflections about his father and retirement. A lot of the information about the Northern Lights is not what Bryson actually sees, but what he knows about the Lights from other sources.
- 4 Bryson elaborates on the situation by imagining what people are saying. He imagines that the waiter tells him to go and burn phone directories for fun, and he invents an elaborate insult to explain the waiter's angry reaction to one of the customers.

- 5 Because it is very sad but also shows the strength of the people and the love they have for their town. Bryson admires them greatly. The story gives him a deeper appreciation of the town and its history.
- 6 It is possible that he exaggerates in order to make his narrative funnier and more exciting. The detail about the clothes trailing from his bag may, or may not, be true but it is entertaining.

People

- 7 He finds them unfriendly, reserved, humourless. The people in the street don't greet him. The waiter doesn't respond to his attempts to be friendly. The customers sit in silence. When the people celebrate, they seem to do so in a rather regimented way, all leaving their houses and returning at the same time.
- 8 The programmes are dull. The presenters all look the same and seem rather amateurish and joyless.
- 9 Bryson thinks the Mayor is 'a kind man' but possibly a little dull. Bryson can't resist making a joke about him when the Mayor tells him he has a daughter.
- 10 He says they are hospitable and feed him 'lavishly'. He describes Peggy and Tom as 'kindness itself'.
- 11 He expresses great admiration for the way they rebuilt their town after it was destroyed.
- 12 Yes. Peggy and Tom, and Hans, the tourism director. Other people in the town begin to recognise him and say hello as his stay progresses.
- 13 His attitude changes as he learns more about the town and its history. He views them from the outside at first but gradually gets to know them better. By the end of his stay, he is beginning to feel at home. He says: 'I liked the people. They had been kind to me.'
- 14 They think he is 'a harmless eccentric, the man from England who came and stayed and stayed'.
- 15 Student's own answer. Suggestions: kind, quiet, hard-working, strong, boring, tough, conservative, obedient, conformist, cautious etc.

Sense of place

- 16 At first, he finds it 'agreeable enough' but thanks God he doesn't have to live there. Everything is shut and there are no people about. He notes the burnt phone directories and wonders if someone burned them because they were desperate for entertainment. It is cold but not as cold as he's feared. This encourages him to walk further from the main town. He tries to find a source of fun in the strong wind but stops after he is blown over.
- 17 It looks attractive, 'a haven of warmth and light in the endless Arctic night'.
- 18 He lists the things that he has time for, such as making lists of things to do and sitting staring into space. He compares his situation to being retired and tells us about his father's behaviour after retirement and how he finally understands it.
- 19 He enjoys having dinner with Peggy and Tom and hearing about the local news. He seems to enjoy his walks. He loves seeing the Northern Lights.
- 20 No, he also describes ('from my reading') the different forms that the lights can take. This has the effect of giving the reader a wider experience and knowledge of the Lights.
- 21 Bryson's view of the town changes the longer he is there: from being a place where there is nothing to do except 'set telephone books alight, insult the waiter and weep', Hammerfest becomes a place with an interesting history and people of courage and character. Bryson begins to find it 'engrossing'. He describes it as 'a nice town' and says that in other circumstances, he might have settled down and stayed. He will probably remember it with affection.
- 22 Student's own answer.

The author's voice

- 23 'I wasfull of those little pulses of excitement that come with finding yourself in a new place.'
- 24 'It seemed an agreeable enough town in a thank-you-God-for-not-making-me-live-here sort of way.'
- The Russian hat: 'I have this terrible occasional compulsion to make myself an unwitting source of merriment for the world.'
- The wind-surfing episode: 'It was the most wonderful fun.'
- 25 'I noticedthe telephone books had been set alight by some desperate thrill-seeker.' Bryson imagines the waiter telling him to go and set phone books alight for fun. He also imagines what the drunken customer must have said to be thrown out of the hotel. When he visits the Mayor, he imagines his reply to him when he says he has a daughter.

- 26** Bryson gives elaborate and sometimes rude descriptions of the programmes he sees. The humour is in the accumulation of absurd detail culminating in the comparison of Norwegian television to 'the sensation of a coma without the worry and inconvenience'. There may be some exaggeration in the episode with the waiter. There is some in the description of the Northern Lights when Bryson describes the Lapps showing 'a white handkerchief' and being taken away.
- 27** Yes. He laughs at himself after he falls over in the wind; also when he describes making notes in a small book like his father; his various references to the Russian hat show his willingness to admit poor judgement and to change his mind.
- 28** He gives a very detailed account of the Lights, using a wide variety of vocabulary to describe their movements and changes in appearance. He also tells us what he doesn't see and hear (this gives a good idea of the eerie silence that accompanies the display). He tells us what he feels and also what one might feel if the lights were different.
- 29** Student's own answer. Suggestions: As a person Bryson seems cheerful, open, curious, friendly, observant, lively, imaginative, humorous etc.

The Amateur Emigrant

by Robert Louis Stevenson

Pre-reading activities

Key vocabulary

Words for describing a person's character or personality

- 1 Student's own answer.
Suggested answer:
1 Positive/complimentary: devoted, skilful, industrious, bold, merry, imperturbable
2 Negative/critical: incompetent
3 Neither complimentary nor critical: voluble, quaint, eager, obedient, sober, vehement
- 2 1 eager; 2 bold; 3 skilful; 4 devoted; 5 imperturbable; 6 incompetent; 7 industrious; 8 merry; 9 sober; 10 vehement; 11 quaint; 12 voluble; 13 obedient

Words connected with poverty, hunger and bad luck

- 3 1 calamity; 2 struggle; 3 homeless; 4 starving; 5 Misfortune; 6 defeat; 7 strike; 8 famine

Words connected with ships and the sea

- 4 1c; 2m; 3a; 4n; 5o; 6h; 7i; 8b; 9d; 10l; 11e; 12f; 13j; 14g; 15k

Main themes

Student's own answers.

Post-reading activities

Understanding the extract

The Second Cabin

- 1 Going down the River Clyde to join the ship. The English-speaking passengers don't speak to each other at first.
- 2 At Greenock, at the Tail of the Bank.

- 3 He wanted to travel as a steerage passenger so that he could see the worst of emigrant life. He was advised to travel 'second cabin' and he is glad because he has a table to work on.
- 4 In second cabin, a table, crockery and bedding are provided. The food is slightly more varied and there is more air in the cabin.
- 5 The tea keeps him awake and the coffee doesn't. The tea tastes of snuff and the coffee tastes of boiling and dish cloths.
- 6 Second cabin passengers get 'broken meat'; steerage passengers get none.
- 7 He finds a brass plate with 'gentleman' on it.
- 8 Steerage is six guineas, and second cabin is eight guineas. The steerage passengers either bring extra food with them or pay the steward on board for extra rations.
- 9 Because of his attempts to speak English. The Irishman doesn't look after his sister. Both he and the Scotsman behave badly at table.
- 10 When they were school children, the boy offered to carry the girl's books.
- 11 The old lady wants to keep her watch set to the time in Scotland. She never turns her watch backwards. It stops at 2 o'clock when she is ill and she waits until she thinks it is 2 o'clock before winding the watch. She is horrified to learn that it is 7 o'clock in Scotland and cries out 'Gravy!', using it innocently as a swear word.
- 12 Jones has travelled a lot and lost his original accent. Golden Oil is a medicine for which Jones has the patent. It is supposed to cure all illnesses.
- 13 They enjoy discussing the characters of the other passengers. Jones laughs because he realizes that he and Stevenson are secretly analyzing each other.

Early Impressions

- 14 It goes to Ireland to pick up the last group of passengers.
- 15 Ten days.
- 16 He thought they were bold, enterprising, heroic.
- 17 Most of the passengers are people who have had bad luck or have not done much with their lives until now. He suggests they are mostly mild, obedient people.
- 18 There has been an economic down-turn resulting in strikes, unemployment, homelessness and poverty.
- 19 They are full of hope for the future.

- 20 He admires the children's liveliness and the way they quickly make friends. He admires the way mothers watch their children doing potentially dangerous things without interfering.
- 21 A little boy. He is full of life and cheerful even when his family is sick.
- 22 They talk about the food on board and the awful conditions in steerage.
- 23 They hate it and give the impression they are used to much better.
- 24 The air below decks is very bad. Some people agree to join him but then don't come.
- 25 They give them 'generous applause' and join in cheerfully.
- 26 The men suddenly become shy and awkward. The passengers begin to whistle and they decide to stop.
- 27 Songs from the music-hall and traditional songs such as Auld Lang Syne.
- 28 They try to 'observe the Sabbath' or holy day by not playing games or by attending the religious service.

Steerage Scenes

- 29 At five bells. Because the lights are turned out.
- 30 It cheers them up and makes them forget their discomfort.
- 31 He hears the sounds of a familiar song.
- 32 They are dancing.
- 33 He treats him like a god, praising and admiring him.
- 34 The doors are closed and it is difficult to breathe.
- 35 At the front of the boat. They go to visit their friends.
- 36 Very bad. The boat moves a lot and nearly everyone is ill. It is badly lit and smells bad.
- 37 By singing.
- 38 He is frustrated and angry because it takes such a long time to guess the answer.
- 39 On the floor of second cabin where there is a current of more or less fresh air.
- 40 Because the sea is calmer and the sun is shining. They sing, tell stories and play games. Stevenson makes cigarettes for the other passengers.
- 41 He doesn't like their superior attitude to the steerage passengers.

Language study

Vocabulary

Words and expressions with 'heart'

- 1** 1 heart; 2 heartily; 3 had my heart in my mouth; 4 heartlessness; 5 to our hearts' content; 6 good-hearted
- 2** 1 to my heart's content
2 heartily
3 had my heart in my mouth
4 heartlessness
5 heart
6 good-hearted

Words and expressions with 'spirit' and 'spirits'

- 3** 1d; 2b; 3d; 4a; 5b; 6e; 7e; 8d
- 4** 1 in the highest possible spirits; 2 break his spirit; 3 out of spirits; 4 in a spirit

Grammar

Conditional tenses

- 5** 1 If you told me the story twenty times, I wouldn't believe you.
2 If it rained tomorrow, we would have the meal indoors.
3 He could study something different if he failed the exam.
4 What would you do if the train arrived late?
5 If he danced all night I wouldn't be surprised.
6 If she had realized how bad the food was she wouldn't have gone.
7 He was so ill that if the sky had fallen he wouldn't have noticed.
8 If you had spoken to me politely I might have answered you.
9 What would they have done if the shop had been closed?
10 I would have preferred it if he had not continued to play the violin.

Participle clauses with *-ing* and *having* + *past participle*

- 6
- 1 I have seen some passengers still doubting whether they had had tea or coffee.
 - 2 We walked around the deck for ages, dissecting the characters of our fellow passengers.
 - 3 I heard stories about people asking for money on the streets.
 - 4 Having said goodbye, she put down the phone.
 - 5 I recalled a story about two small children fighting with each other.
 - 6 Having gone on board ship, they ran to the rails.
 - 7 He talked continuously, working as he talked.
 - 8 Having finished work, I decided to go home.
 - 9 He was a young man looking for a wife.
 - 10 The child was delightful, running around the ship and laughing all the time.

Literary analysis**Events**

- 1 Things that happen on board: b, e, f
A description of the ship or conditions on board: a, d, i
Personal reflections: c, g, h, j
- 2 General conditions. A lot of the things that happen are repeated, with variations, throughout the trip.
- 3 He wants to know about the emigrants and emigration and he spends time reflecting on what they have left behind and their reasons for leaving. He is also a student of human nature and motivation which leads him to generalize about different aspects of life.
- 4 Yes, on the whole Stevenson seems to be more interested in other people than himself.
- 5 Student's own answer. Suggestions: Are there any major incidents or dramas? Do the passengers change as they get nearer to New York? What happens when they finally arrive?

People

- 6** Yes. From the beginning, he describes the different nationalities, their characteristics and tells anecdotes about their behaviour. He and his friend also enjoy analysing the characters of other passengers.
- 7** He generalises when he talks of the working man's attitude to the food on board, to dancing in public, and to the general approach to emigration. He also generalises about the children and their easy way of making friends on board.
- 8** The old lady, the fiddler and his brother, Mr. Jones, and the little boy. In each case, he describes them in detail because he finds their behaviour interesting or eccentric. In the case of the little boy, he is attracted by the child's vitality and positive attitude to life.
- 9** He names Mr. Jones, whom he likes very much and spends a lot of time with. Otherwise, passengers are known by their nationality, profession or occupation.
- 10** He is surprised that they tend to be older than he expected and that they are rather ordinary. He is surprised that the working man finds the food on board so bad and that, when it comes to enjoying himself, he is shy when called on to dance in front of others. He admires his fellow passengers' cheerfulness, self-reliance and optimism. He also admires the courage of the women with regard to their children.
- 11** Yes. He has a lot of sympathy and affection for them. On the whole, he finds their habits endearing rather than irritating e.g. the old lady and the watch, the attitude of the woman to the preacher and people breaking the Sabbath.
- 12** Not really. We know that Mr Jones has 'seen through' him when he laughs at him. He realizes that Stevenson is an observer and an analyzer of character, like himself.
- 13** Details such as his references to Classical mythology and literature, and his admission that he knows nothing first-hand of strikes and unemployment but has only read about them. He admits that he is a little horrified at the careless way the children run around the ship and makes reference to 'the more delicate classes' and their more fearful attitudes. The working men do not seem to like fresh air as Stevenson does, and he notes how they take every opportunity to shut themselves in 'with their own poisonous exhalations'.
- 14** Yes. He joins in the songs and games on board. He even attempts a dance. He spends a lot of time talking and mixing with the other passengers. He makes cigarettes for his acquaintances.
- 15** They have something in common – an interest in discussing the character of their fellow passengers. He also finds Jones to be an enterprising and interesting person who has travelled a lot and had interesting experiences.

Sense of place

- 16** Student's own answers. Suggested answer: it seems to be crowded and uncomfortable. Passengers would feel the movement of the ship more and be unable to escape the noise and smells. It would also be very dark.
- 17** Yes, because he had supplies of bedding and some furniture, a little more space and fresher air.
- 18** Student's own answer.
- 19** He describes the quality of the air and the night sky, the 'gentle and cradling' movement of the waves and the comforting sounds of the bell and the cry of 'All's well.'
- The passengers are 'delighted'. Stevenson builds up a picture of communal activity and laughter. He describes the little groups of people 'like bees,' children climbing, the dancing and singing – a merry and good-hearted scene'.
- 20** The most important factors are the food, the sleeping quarters, and the determination of the passengers to make the best of things. Entertainment is important as we see from the descriptions of singing and dancing and the ability of the fiddler to distract people from their sickness.
- 21** A ship today would provide more entertainment, more comfortable cabins and better food. The ship would be more stable but would still be subject to the weather and the condition of the seas.

The author's voice

- 22** Examples: the Scottish passengers, good and bad; use of the Scottish dialect; comments on things that are characteristically Scottish e.g. the commentaries on the preacher, the need to keep to Scottish time. There are also references to Scottish history, songs and dances.
- 23** It tells us that he wanted new experiences even if they were uncomfortable. It shows his curiosity and interest in other people and their circumstances.
- 24** It is mildly humorous and ironic. Stevenson knows he is a gentleman only in name because he knows nobody knows where he sleeps when he is with the other passengers. He says it is a consolation to him when he feels depressed, but is probably joking.
- 25** Stevenson enjoys the behaviour of the old lady who cries out 'Gravy!' and he laughs at this, but not unkindly. He also enjoys the behaviour of the fiddler and the contrast with his admiring brother. He generally finds humour in the people's reactions to bad situations, for example in Steerage 1 where the sick people try to sing.

- 26** Although he finds the behaviour of the old lady and her watch amusing, he also feels sorry for her because she is sick and suffering. He also shows he has a social conscience when he talks of the workers' economic situation. He does not always enjoy the fiddler's tunes but tells him that he is a lucky man to be able to alleviate people's suffering.
- 27** Student's own answer. He seems to have empathy, enjoy life and other people's company, to see humour in bad situations, to have a poetic appreciation of the sea or of human beauty (the child), and to find human behaviour fascinating.

Long Way Round

by Ewan McGregor and Charley Boorman

Pre-reading activities

Key vocabulary

Informal language

- 1 1 out of sorts; 2 great; 3 give it a go; 4 couldn't face; 5 to say the least; 6 get my head around; 7 in a mess; 8 it was all too much
- 2 1 great; 2 give it a go; 3 can't face; 4 her head round; 5 out of sorts; 6 too much; 7 a mess; 8 to say the least

Words for describing feelings and character

- 3 1j; 2a; 3g; 4c; 5d; 6b; 7h; 8f; 9e; 10i

Words connected with motorbikes and accidents

- 4 1 dip; 2 cracked; 3 collided; 4 crunch; 5 crashed; 6 bump; 7 tumbled; 8 botch; 9 smashed; 10 landed

Main themes

Student's own answers.

Post-reading exercises

Understanding the extract

- 1 He is very tired and relieved. He has had a very hard journey from the Russian border. He spends the day in his ger resting.
- 2 He goes fishing. He is glad to be on his own as he has been travelling with other people for two weeks.
- 3 The first time to say 'thank you' for the beautiful day and the landscape; the second to say 'thank you' for not catching a fish.
- 4 He goes fishing with some of the local people. He realizes that he doesn't like to see animals die.
- 5 His physical tiredness; Charley suffers from Ewan's bad mood.

- 6 Being out of touch with 'civilisation' makes it easier to see what is important in life and to focus on what people have in common with each other.
- 7 Spend some time mixing with people in other countries.
- 8 He misses his family. He talks to Charley and Claudio.
- 9 It is snowing. Ewan isn't very pleased; they've already experienced rain and bogs.
- 10 Over 100 miles. They are looking forward to reaching the lowlands where it is warmer.
- 11 It is miles from anywhere but very 'English' in all aspects.
- 12 He falls off his bike. He blames Charley, saying that he rode too close to the rock.
- 13 He says that Charley was going too quickly and he was trying to keep up with him.
- 14 He had to throw his bike on the ground to stop it. He was riding close behind Charley at the time and seems to blame him for what happened.
- 15 The Red Devil. All the brakes are broken and the exhaust pipe is bent. It is difficult to ride and it keeps breaking down.
- 16 He falls off his bike when he is racing Charley. The bike is hardly damaged. Ewan just laughs because he is used to falling off.
- 17 He catches his wheel in a rut. He hurts his ribs.
- 18 He offers to drive the Red Devil the last few miles to the camp. He throws himself on the ground because he is so delighted that there are proper roads at last.
- 19 They have been sharing a tent for seven weeks and they need some privacy.
- 20 They have their first shower for ten days.
- 21 He feels dreadful because he hasn't slept due to the pain in his ribs. They travel 250 miles to Ulaanbaatar.
- 22 Ted Simon rode around the world twice, once in the 1970s and again, more recently. His book, 'Jupiter's Travels', had inspired Ewan. His first trip took over four years, he did a lot of it alone, and he did not have all the technology Ewan and his friends have.
- 23 They ride around the city and the nearby countryside. Ted says the Red Devil is very dangerous (a 'death trap'), but claims to love it.
- 24 It became independent of the Soviet Union and entered the free market. Unemployment increased, welfare services declined and the gap between rich and poor got bigger.
- 25 He says the landscape is 'stunning' but Ulaanbaatar is strange, ugly and industrial.

- 26 Unicef organized the visit. The children live underground. He describes them as tough, cocky but in need of love and affection.
- 27 About forty. The staff have too much to do and can't look after the children properly. Ewan is very upset at the condition of the little girl.
- 28 He is distressed at what he has seen and doesn't want to talk about it. The girl isn't in hospital because the government centre can't pay the medical bills. He leaves money for the medical bills at the centre. It isn't enough because there are many more children in need. He decides to dedicate time in the future to working with Unicef.
- 29 They cross the border into Ulan Ude in Russia. They meet up with the support crew.
- 30 It has made a deep impression on him. He can't stop thinking about the street children. He loves the landscape and the people have been kind to them. He likes the mixture of traditional and modern. It was better than Kazakhstan because he was more anonymous and people were interested in him as a person rather than a film star.

Language study

Grammar

The use of *get*

- 1 Once we arrived at White Lake I spent a whole day lying in a ger.
My youngest daughter had become really upset that I wasn't at home.
We were going to buy two one-man tents in Ulaanbaatar.
I said goodbye and entered a car.
We finally obtained a long stretch of straight tarmac.
You use whatever you can put your hands on.
- 2 1 When they got to the town, they went straight to the hotel.
2 Will you get me a ticket for the match?
3 You'd better get on the train before it leaves.
4 If I get my hands on a new bike, I'll tell you.
5 They got very angry when they weren't paid.
6 Did you manage to get a new job?

Phrasal verbs

- 3** 1 ran out; 2 shook off; 3 came across; 4 keep up; 5 put up with; 6 pulled in; 7 nod off; 8 set off; 9 going on; 10 look around
- 4** 1 nod off; 2 pulled in; 3 set off; 4 put up with; 5 came across; 6 ran out; 7 going on; 8 shake off; 9 keep up; 10 look around

Vocabulary**Common expressions**

- 5** 1d; 2i; 3j; 4h; 5f; 6m; 7a; 8k; 9l; 10e; 11b; 12c; 13g
- 6** 1 desperate for; 2 a dim view; 3 crack up; 4 taught me a lesson; 5 a big impression; 6 out of touch; 7 hang out; 8 blot on the landscape; 9 in my wildest dreams; 10 burst out; 11 chill out; 12 short of; 13 left to their own devices

Literary analysis**Events**

- 1** 1e; 2i; 3c; 4b; 5j; 6h; 7f; 8d; 9a; 10g
- 2** The visit to the street children; he has never seen children living like this and he is moved by their situation.
- 3** Fishing, because it gives him time on his own. Meeting Ted Simon because he inspired Ewan to make the trip and is very encouraging. Having a shower after two weeks without one.
- 4** He has mixed feelings but, on the whole, it has been a rewarding experience.

People

- 5** Student's own answer. Suggested answer: as seen through Ewan's eyes, Charley seems patient (Ewan is grumpy with him), human (he loses his temper with Claudio and Ewan), rash (his attitude to riding the bike), impulsive (when he gets off the bike and kisses the tarmac.) He doesn't seem very different to Ewan.
- 6** Student's own answer. Suggested answer: Claudio is not such a bike fanatic as the other two and seems to feel he is victimised. He blames Charley for all his mishaps. However, he is tough because he rides a long way on a difficult bike (the Red Devil) and continues riding even when he is in pain.

- 7 Ted Simon is another bike enthusiast who has made two round-the-world trips. Though he is no longer young, he is still enthusiastic and enjoys riding round with the younger men. He also appreciates that times have changed and is understanding about all the equipment the others have and tolerant of their different attitude to travel. Ewan has read Ted's book and been inspired by it to make the trip.
- 8 Ewan recognises that the street children are just like other children but in a terrible situation of abandonment. They are 'tough and cocky' but in need of affection and they show this by touching Ewan's tattoo and putting their arms round each other. He is touched by how 'proud' they are of their living quarters. He leaves wanting to do more for them, and resolves to do more work with Unicef.
- 9 Ewan knows that the staff are doing what they can but they are 'overstretched', have too much to do, too many children to care for and not enough resources, and so the children are often neglected and 'left to their own devices'.
- 10 The little girl is 'weak', her legs are 'withered' and she is alone, trembling, and lying on the floor. Ewan is appalled that a girl the same age as his own daughter should be left in such a condition. He spends time stroking her hair and playing a game with her. It shows the caring side of his nature.
- 11 He describes them as 'curious', 'open-hearted' and 'welcoming'. He feels that they are happy people who are interested in him for his own sake and not just because he is famous.

Sense of place

- 12 He tells us about standing near the lake just watching the water and pretending to fish. He describes how he puts a stone on the shrine to say 'thank you' for the day and another one in gratitude for not catching a fish. He describes going fishing in a boat with two local people. He enjoys the solitude and doing nothing.
- 13 Examples: 'beautiful ride', 'the roads were fantastic', 'everyone's spirits soared', 'we swept through stunning gorges'.
- 14 Examples: 'ruts', 'bumps', 'dips', 'mud', 'dust', 'dirt track'
- 15 The city is 'a strange place'. It is dirty and industrial, the power station pumps out dirty smoke into the atmosphere. Some people seem well off while others have absolutely nothing and are totally abandoned.
- 16 Examples: 'dusty, stifling maintenance pit', 'dark, stinking cavern'.
- 17 He describes it as exciting to look at, a mixture of ancient and modern. People wear traditional clothes and many live in gers. The people in the countryside ride horses and still want to be herdsman. There are many things of natural beauty as well as the trappings of modern civilisation, such as satellite dishes and solar panels.

The author's voice

- 18** Colloquial: paragraphs beginning 'It was great to do very little for two days....'; 'I woke up to find a little Mongolian lady feeding the stove'; the conversation between Ewan, Claudio and Charley.
- Ewan's style becomes more formal when he talks in a more abstract way, for example about world conflict and what people have in common. He is also more serious and formal when he speaks about the economic conditions of Ulaanbaatar, the 'home' of the street children and the visit to the government centre.
- In general, Ewan's style is reasonably formal but scattered with colloquialisms and common informal phrases.
- 19** He wants to be alone after two weeks of very hard riding. It is hard for him to be good humoured with his friends because he is so tired and unwell. Charley and he have agreed to sleep in separate tents in the near future because they need privacy. Every day, they face difficult conditions and their resources and patience are always being tested. Ewan also wants to be alone after seeing the abandoned children because he is upset and doesn't want to talk about it. He has enjoyed being 'anonymous' in Mongolia and walking around without being recognised. This is something that did not happen in other countries and the constant attention added to the strain imposed by the travelling.
- 20** The ride has been tough because of physical conditions – bad roads, accidents, break-downs etc – and also because Ewan and Charley have had to deal with the attention of the public which is not always welcome.
- 21** It has been physically difficult because of the lack of good roads and the great distances travelled. It has been emotionally difficult because of the close contact forced on the men and the things they have seen, especially the children in Ulaanbaatar.
- 22** His need to say 'thank you' when he puts the stone on the shrine; his reflections about the mess the world is in; his appreciation of the beauty he sees; his concern for people and his desire to do more to help them.
- 23** The description of the ride after White Lake when the men ride further than planned because they are enjoying themselves so much; the incident where Ewan races against Charley and obviously finds great pleasure in going as fast as he can. Even when 'resting' in Ulaanbaatar, the men spend time riding round the city and its outskirts.

24 Suggested answers:

Warm: his attitude to Ted, the street children, his family etc.

Moody: he seems to need time alone and admits to being 'grumpy'

Sensitive: he doesn't like watching the fish die, he can't deal alone with his homesickness, he tries to get close to the street children and can't put them out of his mind

Curious: he enjoys the details of travel – the shrine, the English café, the landscape, the contrasts.

Other adjectives: concerned, generous, friendly, energetic etc.