

English Department

Year 7 Homework

Reading fiction texts

BUDDY

ATL grade (teacher to complete)



Name: _____

Date due in: _____

Instructions:

- Complete all tasks in this workbook
- Use any extra lined paper if you need to
- See your English teacher if you are having difficulties completing
- **Attend English Homework Club on Tuesdays at lunchtime in Room 21 if you need to.**

Firstly, read the extract below. It has been taken from the novel 'Buddy', which is about a young boy named Buddy and his two friends, Julius and Charmian. They decide to visit a house on their street where a murder has taken place.

1 The houses were tall and all set back from the pavement, some with front
2 gardens so large that there were trees in the middle of the lawns. Buddy lost count of
3 the house numbers but it didn't matter because, when they reached it,
4 it was obvious which house was number 56.

5 Tall, brick gateposts guarded the two entrances to the semi-circular drive but there was
6 only one gate and that was half-open and hanging off its hinges. The other entrance
7 looked like a barricade – with wooden posts and tangles of barbed wire. There was a
8 tall, straggly hedge that hid the garden and the lower part of the house but what Buddy
9 could see made the skin crawl on the back of his neck. The windows were all boarded
10 up as if what was inside was too terrible to see, or as if someone had tried to stop
11 something horrible from getting out.

12 Buddy had known that Julius would dare him to go up to the front door and he had
13 made up his mind to say no, but at the last minute he changed his mind. Julius was
14 right: it was only an old house, even if some people had died there. So what – people
15 must have died in almost every old house in the town; that didn't make them scary. It
16 was just an ordinary old house and he had to prove it to himself – if not he'd go on
17 being scared by stupid things like ghosts. He'd walk right up to the front door. There
18 was nothing to be afraid of. He just had to stop acting like a kid; he was nearly fourteen,
19 after all. It was ridiculous all this stuff about ghosts and death. He had to stop it. If he
20 walked up to the front door and stood there while he counted to ten – no, twenty – it
21 would be like a victory and all his fears would stop for ever.

22 He crossed the lawn and walked softly up the gravel path up to the front-door steps.
23 The steps were worn in the middle from all the people who had climbed them, including
24 **them** – *the murder victims!* Buddy got to the top step and stared at the front door.
25 There was an old door-knocker in the middle and on either side of it two planks had
26 been nailed lengthways, presumably to cover broken glass panels. Half way down was
27 a letter box. He was just about to push it open and peer through when there was a
28 noise behind him.

29 He whirled around to see Julius and Charmian standing at the bottom of the steps.
30 "You scared me, you idiots! What're you doing, sneaking up on me like that?"
31 "Coming to look for ourselves," Julius explained in a loud voice.
32 "Sssh! I'm going to look through the letter box."

33 As Buddy turned back to the door, Julius skipped up the steps and banged the door-
34 knocker. "Anyone home?" he shouted. Buddy and Charmian stooped to look through
35 the letter-box. Buddy bent down just as she pushed open the flap. Through the large slit
36 they saw a flickering candle and a face staring back at them. Charmian screamed and
37 together they fled down the steps in terror.

Section A: READING QUESTIONS

Q1: Read again **lines 5 to 11**.

List 4 details that make the **house look neglected**.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Now, using those details, label the image of the house below **with QUOTATIONS** from that paragraph.

Use quotation marks and ensure they are **exact** quotations!



Q2: Read again **lines 12 to 21**.

How does the writer use **language** to describe **Buddy's thoughts and feelings**?

What to do:

- (1) **Read the text below.**
- (2) **Fill in the blanks.** Choose the correct word from the *Word Box* at the bottom.
- (3) **Write it out.**

The writer uses _____ in interesting ways to describe Buddy's thoughts and feelings to the _____. Buddy is obviously _____ by the abandoned house because he was going to say no when his friend _____ dared him to knock on the front door but then **"at the last minute he changed his mind."** The fact he changes his mind helps the reader to understand that he is trying to be _____.

He does this by reassuring himself that the house is now _____ so there is nothing to be scared of. The reader hears Buddy's private thoughts as we read: **"It was just an ordinary old house."** Here, the _____ **"ordinary"** helps the reader to understand that Buddy is telling himself that there is no _____ for him to be afraid.

WORD BOX: Use each word only **once**.

adjective

Julius

reason

language

frightened

reader

empty

brave

Q3: How has the writer **structured** the text to interest the reader?

What to do:

(1) **Read** the sentences below.

(2) **Number them** in the correct order to show your understanding of the story.

- Tension increases when Buddy crosses the lawn and climbs the steps to the front door of the house. Just as he is about to knock, he hears a noise behind him.
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- The climax of the episode is a terrifying cliff hanger. As Buddy and Charmian peer through the letter box, they see someone holding a candle staring back at them. They scream and in terror, run away from the house.
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- The narrative focus then shifts to a description of Buddy's private thoughts and feelings as he decides whether or not he should knock on the front door of the house for a dare.
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- The writer begins by establishing the setting for the reader: the action of the story takes place at an empty, abandoned house on the street where Buddy and his friends, Julius and Charmian, live.
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- What follows is some dialogue where Buddy tells Julius he is going to look through the letter box.
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Q3: Write up

What to do:

- (1) **Write out** the text below.
(2) Fill in the blanks. Choose the **correct word** from the **Word Box** at the bottom.

The writer begins by establishing the _____ for the reader: the action of the story takes place at an empty, _____ house on the street where Buddy and his friends, Julius and Charmian, live.

The narrative focus then shifts to a description of Buddy's private thoughts and _____ as he considers whether or not he should knock on the front door of the house for a dare.

Tension _____ when Buddy crosses the lawn and climbs the steps to the front door of the house. Just as he is about to knock, he hears a _____ behind him.

The climax of the episode is a terrifying _____. As Buddy and Charmian peer through the _____, they see someone holding a _____ staring back at them. They scream and, in _____, run away from the house.

WORD BOX: Use each word only once.

terror **cliffhanger** **abandoned** **builds**

letter-box **noise** **candle** **feelings** **setting**

Section B: WRITING SECTIONS

Descriptive writing

What to do:

Your school has asked for pieces of creative writing for their school newspaper.

Choose **ONE** of the following tasks:

Either:

Write a description suggested by the picture below



OR:

Write a story in which something tense happens.

Guidelines

- Use a range of descriptive words, phrases, and devices
- Check your spelling, punctuation and grammar
- Ensure that your work makes sense. Read it back through before handing it in.

Please turn over
