

Year 8 Summer 2 Homework Booklet: Summarising

Each week you must read one extract. You must annotate the extract, then answer the summary question which follows. You should summarise both **explicit** and **implicit** information.

Week 1.

North Sea cod: Is it true there are only 100 left?

By Hannah Barnes & Richard Knight

More or Less: Behind the stats, BBC News website

If recent reports are to be believed, the North Sea cod's days are numbered. But should we believe these reports? What do the experts say about the numbers of fish that are left?

The Daily Telegraph recently ran the headline: "Just 100 cod left in the North Sea". It sounded fishy.

Trawlermen were furious. "It just makes my blood boil - 100 cod in the North Sea?" fumes Brian Buchan, who's been fishing in the North Sea for more than 30 years. "More like 100 million cod in the North Sea."

It's not a trivial issue. Over-exploitation and conflicts over fisheries cause major problems worldwide.

The story was picked up by other media, including the Atlantic Wire and Canada's Globe and Mail, but it started in the The Sunday Times which reported there were "100 adult cod in North Sea". A different claim - but still wildly wrong.

The newspaper got the figure by looking at data from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). It then asked researchers from the British government's Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) for help with the numbers. According to Cefas, however, the journalists "misunderstood the data".

The Sunday Times chose to class an adult cod as aged over 13. But that's not merely an adult cod. It's an ancient cod.

"Cod start to mature at ages one and two and they're fully mature by six," says Dr Carl O'Brien, the UK's chief fisheries science adviser. So we shouldn't be surprised that there are very few cod aged over 13 (in fact fewer than 60 have been recorded in the North Sea in past 30 years) just as we shouldn't be surprised there aren't very many humans over 100.

Summarise what we learn about North Sea cod.

Week 2.

Britishisms and the Britishisation of American English

Cordelia Hebblethwaite

There is little that irks British defenders of the English language more than Americanisms, which they see creeping insidiously into newspaper columns and everyday conversation. But bit by bit British English is invading America too.

"Spot on - it's just ludicrous!" snaps Geoffrey Nunberg, a linguist at the University of California at Berkeley.

"You are just impersonating an Englishman when you say spot on. Will do - I hear that from Americans. That should be put into quarantine," he adds.

But not everyone shares his revulsion at the drip, drip, drip of Britishisms - to use an American term - crossing the Atlantic.

"I enjoy seeing them," says Ben Yagoda, professor of English at the University of Delaware, and author of the forthcoming book, *How to Not Write Bad*. "It's like a birdwatcher. If I find an American saying one, it makes my day."

Last year Yagoda set up a blog dedicated to spotting the use of British terms in American English. So far he has found more than 150 - from cheeky to chat-up via sell-by date and the long game - an expression which appears to date back to 1856, and comes not from golf or chess, but the card game whist. President Barack Obama has used it in at least one speech.

Yagoda notices changes in pronunciation too - for example his students sometimes use "that sort of London glottal stop", dropping the T in words like "important" or "Manhattan".

Summarise what the writer thinks about Britishisms.

Week 3.

Billy Bragg: 'education reforms risk stifling creativity'

The singer and left-wing activist used a lecture in memory of John Peel to criticise Michael Gove's plans to scrap GCSEs By John Plunkett, *The Guardian*

Singer Billy Bragg has warned that the government's education reforms risk stifling creativity and leaving the pop charts the preserve of a well-off public school elite.

Bragg used a lecture in memory of broadcaster John Peel in Salford to criticise education secretary Michael Gove's plans to scrap GCSEs in favour of an English baccalaureate. He also turned his ire on and "culture-clogging shows" such as Simon Cowell's *The X Factor* on ITV1.

The singer and left-wing activist said the government's proposed new education system threatened to exclude creative subjects from the core qualifications expected of 16-year-olds.

He criticised the "insistence that knowledge is more important than creativity", adding: "As Albert Einstein said, imagination is more important than knowledge, for knowledge is limited while imagination embraces the whole world".

Bragg, delivering the second annual John Peel Lecture at the Radio Festival on Monday, said: "Under the English baccalaureate, with its reliance on a single end of course exam, the child with the creative imagination will always lose out to the child with the ability to recall knowledge learned by rote.

"And it's not just the creatively talented kids who will suffer. Evidence shows that pupils from low-income families who take part in arts activities at school are three times more likely to go on to higher education. Young people do better in English and maths subjects if they study the arts. They are more easily employable, more likely to vote, to volunteer and to get a degree. You might add to that they will be more likely to get into the charts, too."

Bragg called on the radio industry to take more risks with the music they played, like John Peel.

"For teenagers today, the most obvious path to a career in the music industry would be the shiny floor TV talent shows which have come to dominate the schedules and the charts," he said.

Summarise what Billy Bragg thinks about education reforms.

Week 4.

Omnishambles named word of the year by Oxford English Dictionary *bbc.co.uk/news*

"Omnishambles" has been named word of the year by the Oxford English Dictionary. The word - meaning a situation which is shambolic from every possible angle - was coined in 2009 by the writers of BBC political satire *The Thick of It*. But it has crossed over into real life this year, said the judges.

Other words included "Eurogeddon" - the threatened financial collapse in the eurozone - and "green-on-blue" - military attacks by forces regarded as neutral, such as when members of the Afghan army or police attack foreign troops.

The London Olympics threw up several contenders including the verb "to medal", "Games Maker" - the name given to thousands of Olympic volunteers - and distance runner Mo Farah's victory celebration "the Mobot".

New words from the world of technology included "second screening" - watching TV while simultaneously using a computer, phone or tablet - and social media popularised the acronym "Yolo", you only live once.

"Pleb" - an old word given new life by claims Conservative Chief Whip Andrew Mitchell used it to describe police officers in Downing Street - was also shortlisted. He denied using the word, a derogatory term for the lower classes, but was forced to resign as a minister.

But it was omnishambles that most impressed the judges.

Fiona McPherson, one of the lexicographers on the judging panel, said: "It was a word everyone liked, which seemed to sum up so many of the events over the last 366 days in a beautiful way. "It's funny, it's quirky, and it has broken free of its fictional political beginnings, firstly by spilling over into real politics, and then into other contexts. If influence is any indication of staying power, it has already staked its claim by being linguistically productive in its own right, producing a number of related coinages.

Summarise what we learn about the word 'omnishambles'.

Week 5.

Vegetative patient Scott Routley says 'I'm not in pain'

By Fergus Walsh, BBC

A Canadian man who was believed to have been in a vegetative state for more than a decade, has been able to tell scientists that he is not in any pain. It's the first time an uncommunicative, severely brain-injured patient has been able to give answers clinically relevant to their care.

Scott Routley, 39, was asked questions while having his brain activity scanned in an fMRI machine. His doctor says the discovery means medical textbooks will need rewriting.

Vegetative patients emerge from a coma into a condition where they have periods awake, with their eyes open, but have no perception of themselves or the outside world.

Mr Routley suffered a severe brain injury in a car accident 12 years ago. None of his physical assessments since then have shown any sign of awareness, or ability to communicate. But the British neuroscientist Prof Adrian Owen said Mr Routley was clearly not vegetative.

"Scott has been able to show he has a conscious, thinking mind. We have scanned him several times and his pattern of brain activity shows he is clearly choosing to answer our questions. We believe he knows who and where he is."

Prof Owen said it was a ground-breaking moment.

"Asking a patient something important to them has been our aim for many years. In future we could ask what we could do to improve their quality of life. It could be simple things like the entertainment we provide or the times of day they are washed and fed."

Scott Routley's parents say they always thought he was conscious and could communicate by lifting a thumb or moving his eyes. But this has never been accepted by medical staff. Prof Bryan Young at University Hospital, London - Mr Routley's neurologist for a decade - said the scan results overturned all the behavioural assessments that had been made over the years.

"I was impressed and amazed that he was able to show these responses. He had the clinical picture of a typical vegetative patient and showed no spontaneous movements that looked meaningful."

Summarise what we learn about Scott Routley.

Week 6.

'Trillions of carats' of diamonds found under Russian asteroid crater

Ian Steadman

The Russian government has revealed that a vast quantity of high-quality diamonds rests beneath a Siberian impact crater, numbering in the "trillions of carats".

The Popigai crater, 100km-wide and located in the isolated north of the country, was formed roughly 35.7 million years ago by the impact of an asteroid estimated to be between five and eight kilometres wide. Its collision created a wealth of impact diamonds -- which form when an existing diamond seam is hit by a large falling body -- in such quantities that could, it is claimed, supply the world diamond market for the next 3,000 years.

According to the Christian Science Monitor, Nikolai Pokhilenko, the director of the Novosibirsk Institute of Geology and Mineralogy, has said that these diamonds are "twice as hard" as normal diamonds, making them ideal for industrial and scientific use. He also claimed that the supply under Popigai is ten times the size of the rest of the world's reserves, potentially holding trillions of carats. A carat -- defined as 200mg -- is the standard measurement of weight for precious gems and minerals.

The Popigai crater is the world's fourth-largest asteroid impact crater known so far, after the Chicxulub, Sudbury and Vredefort craters. The Soviet government reportedly discovered the deposits in the 1970s on a scientific expedition, but decided to keep the information secret so as not to disturb world markets and lower the value of their already-profitable Mirny mine further east, which at its height was producing ten million carats of diamonds per year.

The mine, now closed due to falling yields, is currently the second-largest excavated hole in the world, and helicopters are forbidden from flying over it in case downward air flow sucks them in. The Soviet Union had also invested large sums in manufacturing high-quality diamonds, and wanted to see a return on their research.

If the Russian source under Popigai is as big as reported, then the world diamond industry will be in for further changes -- especially if their quality is as high as is claimed.

Summarise what the writer thinks about the diamond mine.