



STAGE 5

Unit focus: Persuasive Texts
Text focus: Playscript (500L)

No Homework

Teacher: Why on Earth haven't you handed your homework in? This is the seventh time in a row.

Pupil: I don't see why I should do homework. If I can persuade you that I'm right, can I have next week off doing it?

Teacher: Go on.

Pupil: First and foremost, I'm 9 years old. Scientists have worked out that I need a lot of rest at my age. I'm in school for over 6 hours a day, and I'm happy to do that. I enjoy your lessons and accept that it is important for my education. However, by the time I get home, I'm shattered.

Teacher: This is why I hand out the homework on a Friday. You can do it at the weekend.

Pupil: Don't you agree that extra-curricular activities are just as important to my whole education?

Teacher: Of course.

Pupil: Well, I spend Saturday mornings playing badminton. In the afternoons, I visit my grandparents and spend time with them. On Sunday, my sister has stage school, and I have cricket in the morning. I feel it's not unreasonable of me to expect Sunday afternoons to myself to rest and recuperate.

Teacher: The work that we set for homework is important to consolidate what you have learnt during the week. If you spread it over a few evenings, it shouldn't take too much time.

Pupil: But, spreading the work over several evenings is confusing. We wouldn't spread one lesson over a few days in school. Surely, if the work can't be completed during the school day, then maybe it isn't important?

Teacher: I understand what you're saying, and think you've made some good points. One of the benefits of homework is that it allows you to revisit work that you did at the beginning of the week, or in previous weeks, and to refresh it in your memory.

Pupil: Couldn't that be achieved by simply reading the same information? Do I really need to complete yet

another worksheet?

Teacher: One of the best ways to practise things, such as maths, is to work through problems. Do you think you would have been able to learn long division just by reading about it?

Pupil: A fair point. Maths is a lot easier when you can practise it as you are learning it. I suppose it's the same with grammar and punctuation. Isn't there a way that homework could be done in school, though?

Teacher: There is a homework club on Monday lunchtimes that you are free to join.

Pupil: Thank you. Isn't it a shame that I have to give up more of my free time, though? If the point of homework is to embed my learning, wouldn't it be better to do it at a time when I should be learning anyway? Couldn't we fit in half an hour on a Friday afternoon to revisit the learning?

Teacher: You've definitely made some good, well-reasoned points.

Pupil: So, do I have to do homework next week?

Teacher: I've not decided yet! Leave it with me.

RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. How many weeks of homework has the child missed?
2. How many hours each week is the child in school?
3. Why is homework handed out on a Friday?
4. What does the child's sister do on Sundays?
5. When does the pupil see their grandparents?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

V

Find a word with a definition closest to "advantages".

I

How does the pupil feel about practising maths?

E

Why do you think the text is set out as a playscript rather than a narrative? What are the benefits?

V

If you embed your learning, what does it mean?

P

If you could add one argument to this discussion, what would it be?

Answers:

1. 7
2. 30
3. So that the children can do it over the weekend
4. Stage school
5. Saturday afternoon

V: Benefits

I: The pupil finds it much easier to practise it when they are learning it

E: You can easily see what each person is saying. You can act it out and understand how persuasion works in a conversation. Accept similar, well-reasoned answers.

V: You make sure it is secure in your brain