

Term Four Week Three:

Thursday Literacy Tasks

Reading Task:

Read the following text then respond to the questions below.

‘The Honey Bee Mystery’

Having an entire bee colony disappear overnight is not unknown. There are written records of cases in North America and Europe from as long ago as the 1800s. At that time, unusual weather conditions were blamed.

But in 2006, after a huge and sudden increase in the disappearance of bee colonies in North America, the worrying phenomenon was given a name: Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD). That year, and in many of the years since, North American and European apiarists (beekeepers) have recorded losses of up to half of their bee colonies. No-one knows exactly why, or why so far, Australia has been spared.

CCD is blamed for the death of a colony only when the following characteristics occur simultaneously:

- a complete absence of adult worker bees
- few or no dead bees evident in or near the hive
- the queen bee is present
- there is plenty of food
- there are unhatched eggs.

While you may think the absence of bees is no more than a mild inconvenience for honey-lovers, the reality is that bees are a vital link in the production of our food. Bees are responsible for pollinating about a third of the fresh produce that we eat. The shortage of bees in the USA has caused significant problems for farmers, with many having to hire honey bees from all over the country and as far away as Australia to guarantee pollination of crops. Bee-hire and transportation have become huge expenses for food growers, which in turn result in higher prices for consumers.

Scientists and beekeepers are racing against time to discover both the cause of and a cure for CCD before it is too late. Theories about climate change, pesticides, parasites and bacteria have all found favour at various times and current thinking suggests that it is a combination of all these factors that has created a ‘perfect storm’ of environmental stresses for bees. Colony collapse has put bees firmly in the scientific spotlight, and it is a problem we cannot afford to ignore.

Question Time:

1. What led to the identification and naming of CCD?

- written records of cases from the 1800s
- a sharp rise in the loss of bee colonies
- unusual weather conditions in 2006
- an increase in the demand for honey

2. In which situation could CCD be blamed for the death of a colony?

- The adult worker bees have disappeared, there are no dead bees surrounding the hive and the queen bee is absent.
- The queen bee is present, there is no food and the eggs have all hatched.
- There is no food, there are unhatched eggs and all the adult worker bees have disappeared.
- There are no dead bees around the hive, the queen bee is present and some eggs are unhatched.

3. What is the main idea of the paragraph beginning *While you may think ...* ? (paragraph 4)

- Bee shortages mean that North America will need to import produce from Australian farmers in the future.
- Although bee colonies are disappearing, farmers are finding solutions to the problem.
- There is money to be made in producing bees to supply to farmers.
- Bee shortages can be very costly for farming communities.

4. What is the purpose of the first sentence of paragraph 4?

- to acknowledge an opinion about CCD and then challenge it
- to explain why honey-lovers will be disadvantaged
- to argue that CCD is not a huge problem
- to dismiss the concerns of some groups about CCD

5. Why would farmers in the USA hire bees from Australia when it is so far away?

- Australia supplies the cheapest bees.
- Australia's bees are the best at pollination.
- Australia has not been affected by CCD as yet.
- Australia produces the most honey in the world.

6. ***Scientists and beekeepers are racing against time ...***

What does this quotation imply?

- It is simply a matter of time before a solution is found.
- Research is proceeding at a rapid rate.
- The scientists want to be the first to solve the problem.
- There is a degree of urgency involved in this issue

7. **The text ends with**

- a call to action.
- a counter-argument.
- a summary of facts.
- an admission of defeat.

Writing Task:

Read each sentence. Look at the word in bold italic. It has been incorrectly spelt. Rewrite the word at the end of the sentence using the correct spelling.

1. The ***autamatic*** doors would not open.
2. There are lots of frogs and ***taddpoles*** in the pond. 2
3. Last summer was the ***warmist*** for ten years.
4. 4 My little brother had ***truble*** learning to tie his shoelaces.
5. His shirt was ***dirtyer*** than mine at the end of the football match.
6. I know all the ***lirics*** of the songs.
7. I ***urn*** money working in the paper shop after school.
8. The guest speaker made a strong ***impresion*** on us.
9. The iron stopped working because it was ***fawlty*** .
10. Crocodiles and ***alligaters*** are both reptiles.

Highlight the correct answer in each question.

1. Which word completes this sentence correctly?

If we win a few more games it is _____ that our team will make the finals.

- unlikely
- possible
- doubtful
- necessary

2. Which word completes this sentence correctly?

Our dog follows me _____ I leave the house.

- whenever
- wherever
- whatever
- whichever

3. *They walked through the thick bush with difficulty.*

In this sentence, with difficulty is a phrase describing

- why an action is done.
- how an action is done.
- when an action is done.
- where an action is done.

4. In which sentence should *well* replace *good*?

- We all played good and won the game.
- We felt so good that we had another chance.
- It was a very good result.
- The swim definitely did me good.

5. In the *second* sentence of this text, what does *They* refer to?

*Some new staff members have introduced afternoon study periods for interested students on weekdays during term. **They** will be held in the library for an hour.*

- new staff members
- afternoon study periods
- interested students
- weekdays

6. Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- When the band appeared, the crowd started cheering, whistling and clapping.
- When the band appeared the crowd started cheering, whistling, and, clapping.
- When the band appeared the crowd started, cheering, whistling and clapping.
- When the band appeared, the crowd started, cheering, whistling and clapping.

7. Which is a compound sentence?

- Mark looked everywhere for the naughty pup.
- He found it hiding under the house.
- It was chewing a slipper belonging to Dad.
- Mark took the pup inside and he gave it some real food.

8. Which word from this sentence is an adjective?

Staying close to each other, we stumbled towards the building guided only by the flickering light of the candle.

- Staying
- stumbled
- guided
- flickering

9. Which sentence contains an apostrophe of possession?

- Dan's idea for this weekend is a beach trip.
- I think that Dad's coming with us as well.
- When we get there we'll see if the surf's up.
- Mai's learning to ride her new board.

10. Which event happened last?

Before we pitched the tent, we cleared the site and spread out the groundsheet that we had borrowed.

- we pitched the tent
- we cleared the site
- we spread out the groundsheet
- we borrowed the groundsheet