

Class Schedule

1. Test on last lesson's vocabulary (15 mins)
2. Opening Activity (10 mins)
3. Read extract (10 mins)
4. Comprehension questions (10 mins)
5. Read through new vocab (15 mins)

Refresh Test

- Spot check quizzing students on definitions, antonyms and synonyms of last week's words (getting them to use the words in sentences)

Opening Activity



Look at all of the different colours of the rainbow and come up with an adjective to describe each one. Try to be as imaginative as possible!

E.g. *icy blue, fresh green.*

The Halifax Grammar Schools Admissions Test: English (2017)

Read the opening three pages of 'The Machine Gunners' by Robert Westall.

Difficult words are highlighted in bold, but please do make a note as we read of any words that you are finding difficult.

When Chas awakened, the air-raid shelter was silent. Grey winter light was creeping round the door-curtain. It could have been any time. His mother was gone, and the little brown attaché case with the **insurance** policies and bottle of brandy for emergencies. He could hear the **milkcart** coming round the square. The all-clear must have gone.

He climbed out of the shelter scratching his head, and looked round carefully. Everything was just the same: same whistling milkman, same cart-horse. But there was too much milk on the cart and that was bad. Every extra bottle meant some family bombed-out during the night.

He trailed round to the kitchen door. His mother had the **paraffin-heater** on and bread frying. It smelt safe. There were two more **panes** of glass out of the window, and his father had blocked the gaps with **cardboard** from a Nestle's Milk box. The lettering on the cardboard was the right way up. Father was **fussy** about things like that.

Father was sitting by the heater with his pint mug of tea. He looked **weary**, but still neat in his **warden's** uniform, with his **beret** tucked under his shoulder-strap.

'You remember that **lass** in the greengrocer's?'

'The ginger-haired one?' said his mother, still bending over the stove.

'Aye. A direct hit. They found half of her in the front garden and the other half right across the house.'

'She didn't believe in going down the shelter. She was always frightened of being buried alive.' From the way his mother **hunched** her shoulders, Chas could tell she was trying not to cry.

Chas's father turned to him.

'Your rabbits are all right. Chippy had some glass in her straw, but I shifted it. But there's six panes out of the greenhouse. If it goes on this way, there'll be no **chrysanthemums** for Christmas.'

'It won't be the same without chrysants,' said his mother. Her lips were tight together, but shaking slightly. 'Here's your breakfast.'

Chas cheered up. Two whole slices of fried bread and a roll of pale pink sausage-meat. It tasted **queer**, not at all like sausage before the war. But he was starting to like the queerness. He ate silently, listening to his parents. If he shut up, they soon forgot he was there. You heard much more interesting things if you didn't butt in.

'I thought we were a gonner last night, I really did. That dive bomber . . . I thought it was going to land on top of the shelter . . . Mrs Spalding had one of her turns.'

'It wasn't a dive bomber,' **announced** Father with **authority**. 'It had two **engines**. He came down on the rooftops 'cos one of the RAF lads was after him. Right on his tail. You could see his guns firing. And he got him. Crashed on the old laundry at Chirton. Full bomb load. I felt the heat on me face a mile away.' Mother's face froze.

'Nobody killed, love. That laundry's been empty for years. Just as well – there's not much left of it.'

Chas finished his last carefully-cut dice of fried bread and looked hopefully at his father.

'Can I go and see it?'

'Aye, you can go and look. But you won't find nowt but bricks. Everything just went.'

Mother looked **doubtful**. 'D'you think he should?'

‘Let him go, lass. There’s nowt left.’

‘No unexploded bombs?’

‘No, a quiet night really. Lots of our fighters up. That’s why you didn’t hear any guns.’

‘Can I borrow your old shopping-basket?’ said Chas.

‘I suppose so. But don’t lose it, and don’t bring any of your old rubbish back in the house. Take it straight down the **greenhouse**.’

‘What time’s school?’ said his father.

‘Half-past ten. The raid went on after midnight.’

War had its **compensations**.

Chas had the second-best collection of war **souvenirs** in Garmouth. It was all a matter of knowing where to look. Silly kids looked on the pavements or in the **gutters**; as if anything there wasn’t picked up straight away. The best places to look were where no one else would dream, like in the dry soil under **privet** hedges. You often found machine-gun bullets there, turned into little metal mushrooms as they hit the ground. Fools thought nothing could fall through a hedge.

As he walked, Chas’s eyes were everywhere. At the corner of Marston Road, the pavement was burnt into a white patch a yard across. **Incendiary** bomb! The tailfin would be somewhere near – they normally bounced off hard when the bomb hit.

Comprehension Questions

1. Read the passage. Find evidence that tells you what happened during the night. List four things that you find out about.
2. Look in detail at each example – a, b, c, d – from the source. How does the writer use language to build up atmosphere or display the feelings of the characters?
 - a. grey winter light was creeping round the door curtain
 - b. her lips were tight together, but shaking slightly
 - c. “Full bomb load. I felt the heat on me face a mile away.” Mother’s face froze.
 - d. “What time’s school?” said his father. “Half past ten. The raid went on after midnight.” War had its compensations.
3. You now need to think about the whole of the source and how the writer structures the text to engage the reader in this opening chapter. Think about the order in which each of these events happens in the text. Put 1 next to the first event which happens, then 2 etc.
 - a. He sees the milk cart and thinks about the families who get bombed out.
 - b. He wakes up in the air raid shelter.
 - c. He hears about the plane and asks if he can go and see it.
 - d. His father tells his mother about the direct hit.
4. How does the writer use the structure of the text to engage the reader? (select four examples where the structure makes you want to read it and explain what the writer is doing and why it engages the reader).

Vocabulary

Is the word a noun, verb, adverb or adjective? And what does it mean?

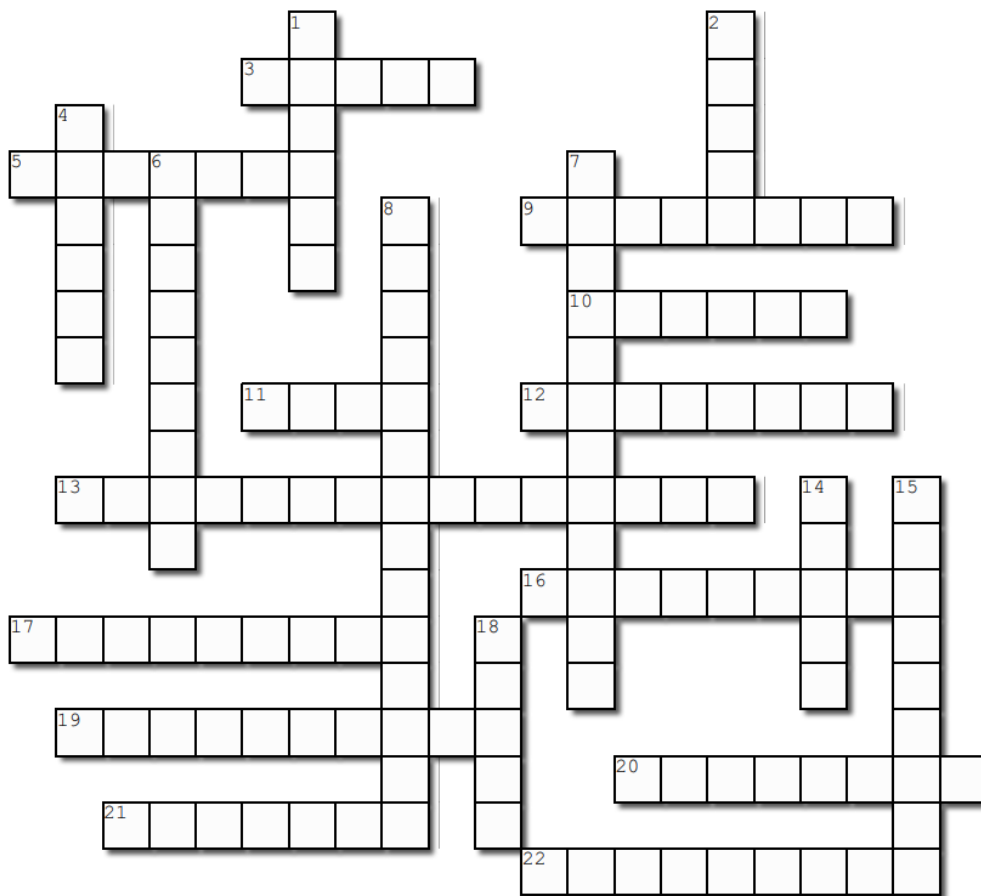
Can you think of any synonyms or antonyms?

- Insurance
- Milk-cart
- Paraffin-heater
- Panes
- Cardboard
- **Weary**
- Warden
- Beret
- **Lass**
- **Hunched**
- Chrysanthemums
- **Queer**
- **Announced**
- **Authority**
- Engines
- **Doubtful**
- Greenhouse
- Compensation
- Souvenirs
- Gutters
- Privet
- **Incendiary**

Homework

1. Complete the crossword attached below.
2. Learn the definitions of the vocabulary covered in this lesson.
3. Find the antonym (word with the opposite meaning) for the **bolded** words above, and use the antonym in a sentence.
4. Pick five words from the list above and write me a story. The story must include all five of the words you have picked. It must also include a moment of recognition, something blue, and a moment of humour.

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

- 3.** A single sheet of glass in a window.
- 5.** Bent over with the shoulders high.
- 9.** Feeling uncertain about something.
- 10.** A small shrub.
- 11.** A colloquial word for a young woman.
- 12.** Make a statement of fact about an occurrence or happening.
- 13.** A heater that is fuelled by paraffin, a very flammable wax.
- 16.** A small cart with wheels used to deliver milk.
- 17.** A guarantee of compensation for loss.
- 19.** A warm, glass building in which plants are grown.
- 20.** Something that is kept as a reminder of a person, event or place.
- 21.** A machine with moving parts that turns power into movement.
- 22.** Designed to cause fires.

Down

- 1.** A person responsible for supervising or looking after a certain place.
- 2.** A French-style hat.
- 4.** A shallow trough used for carrying rain water away.
- 6.** Very stiff paper, used for packaging things.
- 7.** Something (usually money) awarded to someone after a loss.
- 8.** A type of flower.
- 14.** Showing extreme exhaustion, very tired.
- 15.** The power or right to command people, or make decisions.
- 18.** Strange or odd.