**Class Schedule**

1. Vocab Bingo! (15 mins)
2. Opening Activity (10 mins)
3. Read extract (10 mins)
4. Comprehension questions (15 mins)
5. Read through new vocab (10 mins)

**Vocabulary Bingo**

* Spot check on definitions, antonyms and synonyms of last week’s words (use the words in sentences)

**Opening Activity**

*Match the word to the definition!*

1. Omen
2. Desiccated
3. Stunted
4. Abundance
5. Accustomed
6. Predicament
7. Odious
8. Oasis
9. Pensive
10. Mollify
11. An event that predicts something good or bad happening
12. Extremely unpleasant; repulsive
13. Having been prevented from growing or developing properly
14. Appease the anger or anxiety of someone
15. A fertile spot in a desert, where water is found
16. Having had the moisture removed; dried out
17. A very large quantity of something
18. Engaged in, involving, or reflecting in deep or serious thought
19. A difficult, unpleasant or embarrassing situation
20. Customary; usual

My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell – Eton College King’s Scholarship Examination 2014

*The author describes an encounter he had as a boy on the Island of Corfu.*

Perhaps one of the most weird and **fascinating** characters I met during my travels was the Rose-beetle Man. He had a fairy-tale air about him that was ‘impossible to **resist’**, and I used to look forward **eagerly** to my **infrequent** meetings with him. I first saw him on a high, lonely road leading to one of the **remote** mountain villages. I could hear him long before I could see him for he was playing a **rippling** tune on a shepherd’s pipe, breaking off now and then to sing a few words in a curious, **nasal** voice. As he rounded the corner both Roger and I stopped and stared at him in amazement.

He had a sharp, fox-like face with large, **slanting** eyes of such a dark brown that they appeared black. They had a weird, **vacant** look about them, and a sort of bloom such as one finds on a plum, a pearly covering almost like a **cataract**. He was short and slight, with a thinness about his wrists and neck that argued a lack of food. His dress was fantastic, and on his head was a shapeless hat with a very wide, floppy brim. It had once been bottle-green, but was now speckled with dust, wine-stains, and cigarette-burns. In the band were stuck a fluttering forest of feathers: cock-feathers, hoopoe-feathers, owl-feathers, with the wing of a kingfisher, the claw of a hawk, and a large dirty white feather that may have come from a swan. His coat was dark and shapeless, with patches of different **hues** here and there; on the sleeve a bit of white cloth with a design of rosebuds; on the shoulder a triangular patch of wine-red and white spots. The pockets of this **garment** bulged, the contents almost spilling out: combs, balloons, little highly coloured pictures of the saints, olive-wood carvings of snakes, camels, dogs and horses, cheap mirrors, a **riot** of handkerchiefs, and long twisted rolls of bread decorated with seeds. His trousers, patched like his coat, drooped over a pair of scarlet charouhias, leather shoes with upturned toes decorated with a large black-and-white **pompon**. This extraordinary character carried on his back bamboo cages full of pigeons and young chickens, several mysterious sacks, and a large bunch of fresh green leeks. With one hand he held his pipe to his mouth, and in the other a number of lengths of cotton, to each of which was tied an almond-size rose-beetle, glittering golden green in the sun, all of them flying round his hat with desperate, deep buzzings, trying to escape from the thread tied firmly round their waists. **Occasionally**, tired of circling round and round without success, one of the beetles would settle for a moment on his hat, before **launching** itself off once more on its endless merry-go-round.

I asked what the rose-beetles were for, and why he had them tied with pieces of cotton. He held his hand out to **denote** small boys, took one of the lengths of cotton from which a beetle hung, and **whirled** it rapidly round his head. Immediately the insect came to life and started on its planet-like circling of his hat, and he **beamed** at me. Pointing up at the sky, he stretched his arms out and gave a deep nasal buzzing, while he **banked** and **swooped** across the road. Aeroplane, any fool could see that. Then he pointed to the beetles, held out his hand to denote children, and whirled his stock of beetles round his head so that they all started to buzz **peevishly**.

**Comprehension Questions**

1. Summarise the extract in a few sentences.
2. Write down a simile from the extract and suggest why it is effective.
3. Write down a metaphor from the extract and suggest why it is effective.
4. Write down an example of assonance from the extract and suggest why it is effective.
5. Why does the ‘Beetle-Man’ emit ‘a deep nasal buzzing’?
6. Describe the sort of gesture he makes with his hand to ‘denote children’.
7. Considering the passage as a whole, what qualities made the ‘Beetle-Man’ ‘impossible to resist’ for the author when he was a boy?

**Vocabulary**

* *Define each word, put it into one of four categories (noun, adjective, verb or adverb) and, where applicable, note down a synonym or antonym.*
1. Fascinating – extremely interesting
2. Resist
3. Eager – strongly wanting to do or have something
4. Infrequent
5. Remote
6. Rippling – move in a way that resembles a series of small waves
7. Nasal – relating to the nose; pronounced by breathing through the nose
8. Slanting – positioned or directed in a sloping direction
9. Vacant
10. Cataract – a medical condition in which the lens of the eye becomes unclear, resulting in blurred vision
11. Hue – a colour or shade
12. Garment – an item of clothing
13. Riot
14. Pompom – a large woollen ball attached to a garment for decoration
15. Occasionally – on occasion; now and then
16. Launching – send or hurl something on its course; set sail
17. Denote
18. Whirled – move or cause to move rapidly round and round
19. Beamed – smile radiantly; transmit a radio signal in a specified direction
20. Banked – tilt or cause to tilt sideways when making a turn
21. Swooped
22. Peevish

**Homework**

* Revise the vocabulary we have learned today.