

Term 3 Memoranda

READING SKILLS**Fighting to feel better (Study & Master pg. 141-142)**

Troy has a hard time at home. His father died when he was a baby, leaving his older brother, Shaun, to rule the house. And boy, he is a **tyrant**. Even Troy's mom is terrified of Shaun and so she never argues with anything he says or does. She is too scared **to stand up for** Troy or protect him. So Shaun just does whatever he likes.

Shaun has a selection of ugly names for Troy: rat, short-squirt, dweeb, oxygen-thief and others that definitely can't be written here. If Troy does well at anything, Shaun says he's just **pathetic**. Troy is Shaun's favourite target when he is drunk. He finds Troy and beats him with a belt or stick. No one ever tries to stop him.

This year, Troy has started acting badly at school. He has targeted a few of the younger kids and seems to be **addicted** to bullying them. He just can't stop himself. He calls them names whenever he walks past them and at least once a week he finds an opportunity to beat up one of the boys. Afterwards, he **swears** them to secrecy by threatening to kill them if they tell anyone. For some reason, he feels much better for a while after he has been violent. He feels much calmer and in control. But then his anger builds up and he finds himself doing it again and again.

In all other ways, Troy seems like a very sweet kid and the teachers would never suspect him of anything. He is liked by most of the kids in his class but doesn't have any very close friends. There are no adults in his life that he trusts enough to talk to. So, although he knows it is wrong, he'll probably carry on bullying the smaller boys until he's caught.

**Activity:**

1. What is bullying? (1)
When someone treats another person badly in order to have power over them
2. What kind of bullying is Troy doing? (1)
 - **Verbal Bullying**
 - **Physical Bullying**
3. What are the problems Troy is dealing with at home? (1)
 - **His brother is abusing him**
 - **His mother does not protect him (ANY ONE)**
4. How long have these problems been going on? (1)
Since his father passed away
5. Why do you think Troy started bullying others? (1)
 - **He was stressed and frustrated by the situation at home**
 - **He is trying to fix his problems at home by bullying others**
 - **He feels powerless at home so, he wants to have power over others (ANY ONE)**
6. Why do you think he only targets younger boys? (1)
He feels that they are weak so, they can't do anything to him
7. How does bullying make him feel? (1)
 - **He feels better for a short while after bullying**
 - **He feels calmer and in control for a short while**
8. Suggest a better way for Troy to deal with his problems? (1)
 - **He needs to go for anger management classes**
 - **He must try to calm himself down**
 - **Try going to therapy**
 - **Talk to a social worker to help sort out the family problems**
9. What do you think should happen to people who are bullies at school? Why? (2)
Any LEGAL answer with a clear logical reason

TOTAL: 10

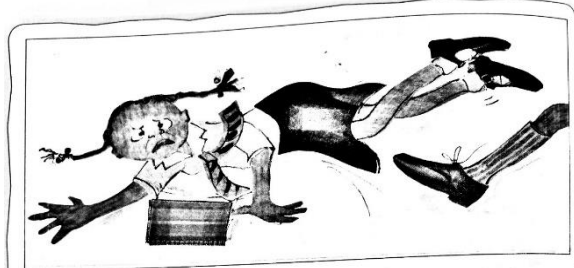
READING SKILLS

Dear Riaan (Study & Master pg. 147-148)



Riaan unlocked the front door. He held his breath for a second, listening, then let out a sigh of relief. There was no one home. He wasn't sure what was worse, coming home to an empty house or finding his father there, drinking.

When he reached his room, he threw his case on the bed. By mistake, it bounced against the wall, burst open and the contents tumbled out onto the floor. He kicked the pencil case. It flew open and pencils shot everywhere. He was about to kick one of the books when he saw the white notepaper. It was folded in half. It had not been in his case when he had packed it. He picked it up and realised it was a letter. It was addressed to him.



When we came here my mother said we have to be brave. She also said we have to face our problems. I haven't told anyone about what you do. I also haven't told my mother. She always worries about me and I don't want to make her worry even more. So, I'm just telling you how I feel.

I am feeling very sad and I don't know what to do.
From
Charlene

Dear Riaan

I used to live on a farm in the country. I went to a farm school. It was very small, but everyone there was friendly.

We moved to the city because my father was sent to jail. He beat up my mother. He also used to beat me up. My mother now has a job in the city and she says we will have a better life here. It will take a bit of time because there's not a lot of money.

I'm quiet at school because it's so big here compared to where I was and I am shy. I'm also quiet because I don't want anyone to know about my father and what he did to us. I don't feel sorry for myself. I feel lucky that we have another chance to be happy. But now, you are doing things that are making me unhappy and making me cry.

I don't understand why you always tease me and call me names. When you trip me in class and you and the other boys laugh it makes me hurt inside. I want to be happy at this school and make new friends, but it's hard.



Riaan sat for a moment not believing what he had read. He crumpled the paper into a tiny ball and flung it across the room. He felt like kicking something. Who did she think she was, Princess Charlene of 'Happily Ever After'?

He sat for a while with his fists clenched. Then Riaan Visser bent forward, buried his face in his hands and cried for the first time in a very long time.

Activity:

1. What do you think made Riaan a bully? (1)
He has family problems (Drunk father)
2. Why did Charlene's family move to the city? (1)
Her mother got a job in the city
3. What happened to Charlene's father? (1)
He was arrested for Gender Based Violence
4. Why do you think Riaan cried after reading the letter? (1)
 - **He felt guilty for the way he treated Charlene**
 - **Charlene's story touched him**
5. Name the kinds of bullying Riaan was doing to Charlene? (2)
 - **Verbal Bullying**
 - **Physical Bullying**
6. How do you think Riaan can get out of the bullying habit? (2)
 - **He needs to realise that he is a bully, and this is hurting other people**
 - **Apologise to Charlene for what he has been doing**
 - **Get help from a counsellor on how to best deal with his family problems (ANY ONE)**

TOTAL: 8