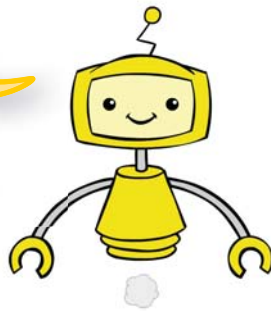


Bittersweet chocolate

The three feature articles in Module 13, Learning Object 2, *Talk about chocolate*, really caught my attention. I'm starting to understand that skill is needed to produce a well-written feature article. Let's explore what a feature article is.



LINKS TO:

Stage 2, Module 13
Learning Object 2: Talk about chocolate

PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 2

Module 2 Work Sheet 7: *Zak and the mystery of the message*
Module 3 Work Sheet 4: *Inspector Zak is on the case!*
Module 11 Work Sheet 2: *I've got a scoop!*



The story behind the story

1

What is a feature article?

A feature article is a piece of writing produced for a magazine or a newspaper, either in print or online. While the main purpose of a news article is to provide information to the reader, a feature article stimulates or entertains the reader and helps them better understand the person, place or issue being presented.

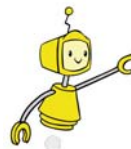
Both news stories and feature articles must be factually accurate. A news story is restricted to the facts; however, feature articles cover the topic in more depth and help readers understand the topic. Feature articles relate the backstory, or the 'the story behind the story'. Because of this focus, they tend to be longer than news articles. Feature articles will sometimes include the writer's opinions and, in which case, may aim to persuade the reader, challenge their views or appeal to their emotions. They may even aim to make the reader laugh, cry or get angry about an issue.

- a body of text, which can include descriptions, quotes from interviews, anecdotes, historical information, narrative about the writer's relevant experience, and reflective passages about the issues canvassed in the article
- text boxes or 'pull quotes' that summarise pertinent information or quote from the article. For example, a travel article might include a pull quote giving information about flights and accommodation; while a profile piece might include a pull quote with a quote from the subject of the article
- images, including photographs and graphics as explanations or to make the article more visually appealing to the reader
- a conclusion, to provide a strong conclusion and an emotionally satisfying ending to the 'story' of the article.

Characteristics of feature articles

Most articles include some of the following features:

- a headline, to capture the interest of readers and indicate the topic of the article
- a byline, stating the name and position of the author
- a lead sentence or paragraph, to entice the reader into the story, and to establish the tone and the topic



All of these articles on chocolate have been a real eye-opener for Anna, and Peter. Even Ardi Sugianto, who is editor of the *Buletin Harapan Bangsa*, has written an article on this topic. It's on the next page. Let's read it together.

(continued on following page)

Buletin Harapan Bangsa

Sisi industri coklat yang tidak begitu manis

Oleh Ardi Sugianto

Pemimpin redaksi

Kamu perlu berpikir dua kali sebelum melahap habis coklat itu!

Kenapa?

Minggu yang lalu, ketika sedang mencari resep-resep lezat yang menggunakan coklat di Internet, saya menemukan sebuah artikel mengenai seorang anak laki-laki bernama Afram. Afram berumur 10 tahun tapi tidak bersekolah karena harus bekerja membantu keluarganya.

Afram bekerja di industri coklat di Afrika. Sehari dia bekerja keras, termasuk mengangkat barang-barang yang berat, di sebuah perkebunan kakao.

Artikel ini membuat kepala saya berputar! Sepuluh tahun? Bekerja keras? Mengangkat barang-barang yang berat? Ini tidak mungkin terjadi! Tadinya saya pikir bekerja keras adalah memotong rumput atau mengosongkan mesin pencuci piring! Tapi dibandingkan dengan Afram, tugas saya di rumah bukan sesuatu yang harus dikeluhkan! Saya tahu bahwa ada buruh anak-anak di masa lalu, tapi bagaimana mungkin ini masih terjadi dalam masyarakat sekarang ini?

Ketika saya menyelidiki lebih jauh tentang masalah buruh anak-anak ini saya menemukan statistik yang cukup mengejutkan. Apa kamu tahu bahwa hampir 250 juta anak yang berumur antara 5 dan 14 tahun bekerja penuh atau paruh-waktu? Hampir setengahnya dari ini, kira-kira 120 juta anak, bekerja penuh, setiap hari dalam setahun.

Enam puluh satu persen dari anak-anak ini hidup di Asia, 32 persen di Afrika dan 7 persen

di Amerika Latin. Tujuh puluh persen bekerja dalam bidang pertanian dan 70 persen bekerja di dalam lingkungan yang berbahaya.

Saya juga menemukan bahwa industri coklat, khususnya di Afrika Barat, telah mengeksploitasi buruh anak-anak selama bertahun-tahun.

Jadi, makin dekat perayaan makan-coklat favorit saya, makin hilang selera saya untuk makan coklat. Saya tidak bisa berhenti membayangkan tangan-tangan kecil si Afram, atau anak-anak lain yang saya sebut tadi, yang membantu memproduksi coklat itu. Coklat yang memenuhi rak-rak di supermarket dan yang akan kita makan pada Hari Kasih Sayang tahun ini.

Apakah anak-anak ini dieksploitasi? Atau apakah sebuah pekerjaan bisa disebut eksploitasi kalau itu merupakan satu-satunya cara mereka untuk tetap bertahan hidup?

Dengan membeli coklat, apakah kita membantu anak-anak yang kelaparan seperti Afram? Atau apakah kita membantu mengabadikan eksploitasi terhadap mereka?

Tambahan lagi, apa yang bisa kita lakukan, di Indonesia ini untuk membantu keadaan anak-anak seperti Afram yang ada di seluruh dunia?

Jadi, pelajar SMP Harapan Bangsa, saya ingin mendengar pendapat kalian mengenai topik yang tidak-terlalu-manis ini. Silakan kirim pendapat, saran dan pikiran kamu kepada saya, Redaksi Buletin Harapan Bangsa di redaksi@buletinharapanbangsa.com.id

2

Exercises

Now that you've read Ardi's article, answer the questions in English.

Exercise 1

1.1 What characteristics identify this text as a feature article?

Hint! How do you know that this is a feature article and not a news story?

Lined area for writing answers.

1.2 How does the headline draw the reader into the text?

1.3 According to the byline of this article, who is the writer?

1.4 Why do you think the writer has stated their position along with their name?

1.5 In your opinion, what was the author's purpose in writing this article?

1.6 In the conclusion the author has solicited responses from readers. Why do you think this is?

Exercise 2

Read the article again and answer the questions in English.

2.1 What is the topic of this feature article?

2.2 What prompted the author to write about this topic?

2.3 What details were given in the article about Afram's working conditions and daily life?

2.4 According to the article, how many children in the world work as child labourers?

2.5 What do you notice about the distribution of child labourers around the globe? What do you think are the reasons for this distribution?

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2.6 How do you feel about the fact that 70 per cent of children work in dangerous conditions? What can you infer from this statistic?

2.7 How does the author feel about the issue of child labour? Give specific examples from the text to back up your answer.

2.8 How do you think Afram feels about having to work to help support his family?

2.9 What impact would being a child labourer have on the life of the child involved?

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2.10 Do you think that children should be allowed to work to help support their families?

2.11 What chores do you do at home? How much time do you spend each day or week doing chores?

2.12 Do you have a job outside your home? If so, how often or how many hours do you work?

2.13 What do you receive in exchange for the work you do?

2.14 In the conclusion, the editor asks for responses from his readers. Write a paragraph (or a letter to the editor if you wish) in Indonesian expressing your personal thoughts and opinions on the topic of child labour.
