

Into the wild

LINKS TO:

Stage 3, Module 14

Learning Object 3: *A camp journal*

Exercise 1

Answers:

- 1.1 What are the main ideas in the text? Summarise, in English, the main ideas from each paragraph.**

Paragraph 1

The city of Perda is under construction, and all of the inhabitants of the city work on building it.

Paragraph 2

The whole city is covered in scaffolding. There are workers from the top of the city (on catwalks) to the ground (in trenches).

Paragraph 3

The author asked why the city is not finished, and was told that, while it was still being built, there was still the possibility that it would be perfect, and that as soon as it was finished, people would find fault with it.

Paragraph 4

At night, the people left the city to go to their camp on the edge of the city.

Paragraph 5

The stars are the blueprint for the city.

- 1.2 Were there particular words or phrases you found difficult to understand? What strategies did you use to understand these words or phrases, or to understand the text as a whole despite not being sure what some words meant.**

There are several strategies that I use to understand words or phrases that are difficult to understand.

First of all, if the words are basic words such as *kerat* 'crate' and *perancah* 'scaffolding', I consult a dictionary

to find the meaning. For words with affixes, I determine what affixes are used before deciding what the base word is. For example, the words *gundukan*, *tumpukan*, *titian*, *bangunan* and *rancangan*, I know that there is an *-an* suffix in Indonesian that is used to change a verb into a noun. I know *bangun* means 'to wake up' or 'to build', so I can deduce that *bangunan* means 'building'.

- 1.3 What is unusual about the city of Perda?**

It has been under construction for a long time. The inhabitants live in a camp outside the city, and don't seem concerned about finishing the building of it.

- 1.4 What are the people of Perda worried will happen when their city is complete?**

They are worried that it will not be as perfect as they want it to be, and that people will find flaws with it.

- 1.5 Where do the people of Perda live?**

The people of Perda live in an encampment outside the city.

- 1.6 What do the people of Perda eat and drink?**

The workers eat flat bread with salad during their break. In the evening, one of them was drinking sweet mint tea.

Exercise 2

Sample answers:

- 2.1 This fictional piece of travel writing is about a city that is never completed. Why do you think the author has written a story about a city that is never completed?**

I think the author has written about a city that may never be completed, partly because the citizens are aiming to achieve perfection, to offer a comment on the pursuit of perfection.

The citizens of the city give two related reasons for not completing the city. The reasons were: *sementara kota itu masih dibangun, masih ada kemungkinan bahwa mereka bisa membangun sebuah kota yang sempurna, and Begitu kota itu selesai, orang akan mulai mengeluh.*

I think the author is inviting the reader to reflect on the pursuit of perfection, particularly on how it is an endless pursuit, perhaps because achieving an ideal state, agreed on by everyone, is not realistic. Also, it is clear that the citizens' goal of perfection is holding them back from completing the city. In real life, if we endlessly try to be perfect, we may never achieve any of our goals.

- 2.2 Think about the town or city closest to where you live, and write a short paragraph describing it, in Indonesian, in which you exaggerate one feature of the city. You may write either from your own perspective — as a local — or as though you are a visitor to the area.**

Kota itu sangat kecil sehingga hanya mempunyai satu sisi, yang menghadap ke timur ke arah laut. Kotanya akan terlewat begitu saja oleh pengunjung, bila mereka datang dari arah utara atau barat. Dulu, kota itu besar dan makmur, dan mempunyai sebuah bar di masing-masing sudutnya, sebuah kantor pos dan toko serba ada, sebuah tempat praktek dokter dan sebuah taman. Sekarang, semua sudutnya sudah hilang, bersama dengan bangunan dan jalan-jalannya. Rumah-rumahnya juga hilang, bersamaan dengan hilangnya orang-orangnya. Tamannya menjadi malu-malu, seringkali bersembunyi di balik gulma kalau

didekati pengunjung. Kadang-kadang dari kejauhan orang bisa menangkapnya sekilas, seperti seekor burung yang melayang di antara pepohonan, tapi tidak pernah ada sesuatu yang bisa benar-benar dilihat selama bertahun-tahun.