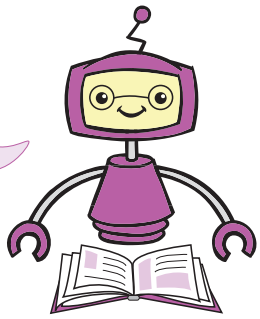
MODULE 14: WORK SHEET 3

Into the wild

Do you enjoy reading about faraway places? Exotic adventures in exotic climes? Travel writing is one of the most popular and enduring forms of literature. Ever since explorers set off to chart the world, people have delighted in reading tales of wild adventures in wild places. Let's find out more about travel writing ...



LINKS TO:
Stage 3, Module 14
Learning Object 3: *A camp journal*

PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 3
Module 5 Work Sheet 6: *Foreign correspondent*

1 You are here

In Learning Object 3, *A camp journal*, Anna was writing in her journal about camp.

Many people who travel the world have kept records of their travels, often in the form of a journal or diary. Have you ever read first-hand accounts of travel from famous explorers or travellers like Marco Polo, Charles Darwin or Captain Cook?

The best travel writers tell us a great deal about what they heard, saw, smelled, tasted, thought and felt during their travels. They bring the places they visited to life for their readers.

Most travel writing is written from the point of view of someone travelling in a country with which they are unfamiliar.

Less often, travel writing might be written from the point of view of someone travelling in an unfamiliar region of their own country. For example, a person from the city could write about their experience of travelling through the desert.

The urge to explore

The earliest forms of travel writing were often accounts by explorers of their journeys into new terrritory. These were published either on their return, or while they were still travelling.

Later, travel guides became popular. Travel guides are books or pamphlets in which professional travellers offer advice to those who are planning to travel. This advice could cover places to stay, things to eat, special places to visit, and activities to undertake.

Recently, there has been a dramatic growth in the popularity of travel writing that is a pleasure to read in its own right. This type of travel writing is primarily produced to entertain and inform the reader through engaging and exciting narratives about travel.

A sense of adventure

When writing about a place that is unfamiliar to you, and to your reader, you want to try to create a sense of being immersed in the experience and the place. You can do this by appealing to all five of the reader's senses.

While you are reading the following account of a traveller's adventure, consider the effects they create for you by drawing on each of the five senses:

- taste
- touch
- smell
- hearing
- sight.

© State of Queensland (represented by the Department of Education, Training and Employment) 2012

Exercises

The following text is a short extract from a fictional piece of travel writing.

Read the text, using all the reading strategies you have already learned in Stages 1, 2 and 3.

After you have read the text you will be asked to complete two kinds of reading exercises: comprehension questions and critical thinking questions.

Kota Perda

Pertama kalinya mengunjungi kota Perda, aku sama sekali tidak bisa melihat kotanya. Ini karena kota itu dikelilingi oleh gundukan besar batu bata dan pasir dan tanah.Tumpukan kayu yang menggunung, kerat-kerat ubin, peti kemas yang dipenuhi oleh gipsum dan cat. Begitu kamu turun ke lembah, kamu bisa mendengar suara kota itu. Orang mengasah, menempa, memalu dan menuang.Penduduk kota memakai pakaian kerja, bahkan anak-anaknya sekali pun, dan bekerja dari matahari terbit sampai terbenam membangun kota itu.

Kotanya sendiri tersembunyi di belakang perancah. Perancah itu membubung lebih tinggi dari dinding kota, lebih tinggi dari pencakar langitnya yang paling tinggi. Makin dekat aku ke kota itu, aku bisa melihat para pekerja di titian yang tergantung di atas tanah, dan di parit-parit di mana mereka memasang pipa ledeng dan kabel listrik. Semua orang memakai topi pengaman. Semua orang bekerja membangun kota

Aku bertanya pada beberapa orang dan diberi tahu bahwa hal ini sudah terjadi selama tujuh, mungkin delapan generasi. Pada saat istirahat, ketika para pekerja berkumpul untuk bersama-sama makan roti dan sayur-sayuran, aku bertanya mengapa kota itu belum selesai juga walaupun mereka sudah bekerja selama itu. Mereka bilang mereka tidak akan pernah menyelesaikan kota itu, karena sementara kota itu masih dibangun, masih ada kemungkinan bahwa mereka bisa membangun sebuah kota yang sempurna. Begitu kota itu selesai, orang akan mulai mengeluh bahwa jalannya terlalu sempit, atau bangunannya terlalu tinggi. Taman-tamannya tidak terawat atau udaranya terlalu nyaman.

Pada malam hari, setelah sirene dibunyikan dan semua pekerja berhenti bekerja dan kembali ke perkemahan sementara mereka di sekitar pinggiran kota, kota itu menjadi sepi. Derek yang membawa balok dan ubin naik turun seharian tidak bergerak. Bulan naik di atas puncak-puncak menara kota yang dikitari perancah.

Seorang laki-laki yang duduk di sampingku, sambil minum teh manis dari sebuah cangkir timah, menunjuk ke bintang sementara mereka bermunculan. ‘Lihat’, katanya padaku. ‘Itu adalah rancangan untuk kota kami. Kota ini akan menjadi kota tercantik, dan paling sempurna di dunia.

Exercise 1

Reading comprehension

First, let’s have a look at how well you understood the text.

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

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

Paragraph 1

Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3

Paragraph 4

Paragraph 5

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.

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

1.3 What is unusual about the city of Perda?

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

1.5 Where do the people of Perda live?

1.6 What do the people of Perda eat and drink?

Exercise 2

Critical thinking

It is time to start using some critical and creative thinking skills.

When answering critical thinking questions, you should always support your answers with quotations from the text. This shows that you are focusing your attention on the text, and helps to ground your answer.

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?

Answer this question in English, with quotations from the text in Indonesian, where appropriate.

Hint! Think about the reason the local people give for not completing the city. Can you think of situations in real life where people put off completing something for similar reasons? Is the author making a comment about the pursuit of perfection?

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

2.2 In the sample text, the author imagines and then describes a fictional, fantastical city, partly by exaggerating a familiar feature of contemporary cities: the constant rebuilding.

Think about the town or city closest to where you live, and write a short description of 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.