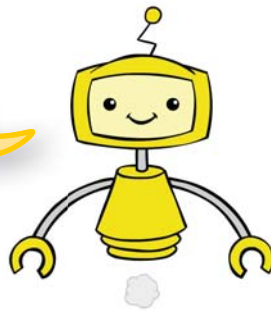


Zak and the mystery of the message

Deciphering a new text is just like being a detective! You need to use your powers of observation to gather clues, and decoding strategies to decipher the clues. Let's learn how to solve the mystery of the message.



LINKS TO:

Stage 2, Module 2

Learning Object 4: You've got a friend

Gathering the evidence

1

When detectives are called in to solve a mystery, their first task is to gather evidence, or clues, to help them find out what's happened.

When you're faced with deciphering a new text, you need to gather clues about the text. The first step is to break the text down into clues you do understand, and those you need to decode.

The clues you do understand provide a context for decoding the elements that remain a mystery.

Here are the five strategies you can use for gathering your evidence.

1. **Identify the text type**
Examine the evidence of the layout, graphics, salutation and farewell to solve the first mystery.
2. **Identify the themes**
Skim through the text, highlighting **in green** recurring words and phrases that you can read, and which suggest a theme or themes.
3. **Identify the purpose and audience of the text**
Examine elements of the text such as the salutation and farewell, and words in the text that suggest who the text is for. Circle the relevant evidence.
4. **Identify the three main ideas**
Now that you've identified the text type, themes, and audience, use your powers of deductive reasoning to identify the three main ideas in the text and underline them.
5. **Identify the words you need to decode**
Are there words or phrases, particularly in the text you've underlined, which stop you from understanding the text? Highlight these important words **in pink**. You'll need to examine these more closely.

Let's have a look at an example of a text Detective Zak has under investigation on the following page.

(continued on following page)

To: yuli@indomail.co.id

Cc:

Subject: Berita dari Australia

Hai Yuli,

Apa kabar? Terima kasih untuk berita kamu. Semuanya di Australia baik-baik saja. Aku baru saja mendaftar di Sekolah Lanjutan Tingkat Pertama dan aku menyukainya. Semua orang di sini sangat ramah dan baik walaupun aksennya kadang-kadang sulit untuk dimengerti.

Kebanyakan mata pelajaran di sekolah di sini sama dengan di Indonesia. Tetapi aku juga ikut kursus-kursus yang keren seperti berselancar. Kamu bayangkan saja dapat belajar berselancar di sekolah?

Hal yang lain yang berbeda dengan sekolah di sini adalah seragam sekolah. Di sini tidak ada seragam nasional dan semua sekolah masing-masing memiliki seragam yang berbeda warnanya, bentuknya dan mutunya.

Di sekolah ini aku harus mengenakan rok berwarna hijau tua, kemeja putih, dasi hijau tua, topi (untuk melindungi kepala dari matahari), kaus kaki putih dan sepatu terbuat dari kulit yang berwarna hitam.

Ada apa yang baru di Jakarta? Bagaimana dengan kedua siswa baru dari Australia, si Anna dan si Peter? Apakah mereka suka dengan sekolah kita? Aku berharap mereka tidak terlalu sulit untuk memahami guru! Terutama Pak Darsono (hi ... hi ... ☺).

Aku sangat merindukanmu! Aku juga titip salam buat semua teman di Jakarta.

Salam kangen,

Reni

1

Identify the text type

The format, layout and salutation suggest that this text is an email.

2

Identify the theme or themes

These are highlighted in green.

3

Identify the purpose and audience of the text

The audience for this text is Yuli.

The purpose of the text is to inform Yuli about Reni's experience of starting school in Australia.

4

Identify the three main ideas

1. Informing Yuli that Reni has enrolled at an Australian school where everyone is helpful.
2. Comparing Indonesian and Australian schools, particularly uniforms and subjects.
3. Asking about Jakarta, and how Peter and Anna are settling in at school in Indonesia.

5

Identify the words you need to decode

These are highlighted in pink.

Elementary, my dear Watson!

Now that we've gathered lots of evidence about the text we can move on to the next step: decoding the clues that remain mysterious. The final step in gathering the evidence was identifying words we need to decode in order to solve the mystery of the message.

A good detective has a range of strategies for decoding clues. They don't use all the strategies all the time. Instead, they choose the strategy that best fits the clue. If that doesn't work, they try another strategy.

Here are seven strategies you can use to decode words or phrases you don't understand, with examples of how Zak has used them to decode the words he didn't understand in the example text.

Strategy 1

Sound it out. Break the word into syllables. Have you heard the word before? Does it sound similar to another word you know?

Strategy 2

Look for patterns. Do you notice any familiar patterns: base words, smaller words within compound words, suffixes, prefixes, verb endings, and so on, that you have seen before? Does it resemble another target language word/character? Does it resemble a word in English?

Berselencar starts with the prefix *ber-*. It must be a subject that is 'cool'. Many hobbies or sports begin with the prefix *ber-*. Maybe it's a type of hobby or sport.



Strategy 3

Look at the position of the word in the sentence. What comes before and after it? Can you identify its purpose? Is it verb, a noun or an adjective?

kangen: This is part of the farewell. Because it seems to be a personal message, perhaps the word is a personal farewell word, rather than something formal.



Strategy 4

Read on. Does the word appear again in another sentence that makes the meaning clear?

Strategy 5

Make an educated guess. Based on the rest of the text can you guess the meaning of the word? Use your knowledge of the topic to substitute another word into the text. Does it make sense?

If none of these strategies have worked, then it's time for a little outside help.

Strategy 6

Look it up in a dictionary.

mutunya: The dictionary says that this means 'quality'.



Strategy 7

Ask a friend.

Merindukanmu: I asked Ardi if he knows this word, and he says it means 'miss you'!



Exercise 1

Now it's your turn! **Using the strategies outlined above, fill in the boxes to decode the following text.**

1.1

Identify the text type

1.2

Identify the theme or themes

Highlight these in GREEN

1.3

Identify the purpose and audience of the text

Purpose:

Audience:

1.4

Identify the three main ideas

1.4.1

1.4.2

1.4.3

1.5

Identify the words you need to decode

Highlight these in PINK



SURAT KUBAR

Sekolah Harapan Bangsa akan dibuka pada bulan Juni dalam rangka Program Sekolah Terbuka. Pendaftaran dari anak akan diterima untuk program khusus ini yang berlangsung dari tanggal 7 Juni s/d 12 Juni.

Kegiatan yang akan diselenggarakan berupa:

- Darmawisata ke Jawa Timur untuk mendaki Gunung Bromo (2 hari)
- Kegiatan kreatif (membatik dan melukis)
- Kegiatan musik (vokal dan perkusi gamelan Jawa)
- Lokakarya penulisan

Akhirnya, anak-anak akan diberikan waktu untuk melaksanakan tugas dari kegiatan yang tercantum diatas.

Formulir pendaftaran telah dibagikan kepada semua siswa. Pendaftaran harus diserahkan sebelum hari Rabu tanggal 25 Mei. Hanya 25 tempat yang tersedia dalam program ini. Registrasi siswa akan ditentukan berdasarkan urutan pengembalian formulir pendaftaran.

Drs Darmawan
Kepala Sekolah

1.6

Decode the mystery

Mystery word:

Meaning:

Mystery word:

Meaning:

Mystery word:

Meaning:

1.7 When you encountered unfamiliar words or phrases in the reading comprehension text, what did you do?

Discuss any decoding strategies you used to help you make sense of the new vocabulary.

Give three examples from the Exercise 1 text and outline how you decoded these words.

Hint! Think about techniques you use when you encounter new vocabulary in other subject areas. How do you work out the meanings of new words?

Exercise 2

The Opinions Hotline on *Radio Remaja* is going wild with responses to their ongoing debate about school uniforms.

Use the reading comprehension strategies you have learnt to decode the student responses, and then answer the questions that follow.

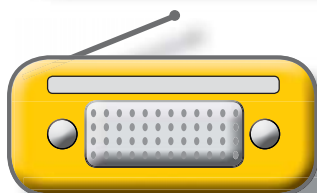
Pendengar nomor satu:

Saya pikir seragam sekolah menyebalkan banget. Sekarang saya harus memakai kemeja putih, rok abu-abu, kaus kaki putih dan sepatu kulit hitam di sekolahku. Abu-abu bukan warna yang menarik untuk seragam sekolah SMA. Warnanya tidak keren dan modis.

Kami juga tidak boleh memakai sepatu kets di sekolah.

Dilarang juga memakai perhiasan dan berdandan. Ini tidak adil!!! Dalam dunia yang ideal tidak perlu ada seragam sekolah. Seharusnya kita dapat memakai celana jins atau rok denim dan dapat juga memakai T-shirt dengan corak atau warna terang dan sepatu kets atau sandal, tentu saja. Seragam sekolah tidak bergaya atau bergengsi karena semua orang sekarang tampak sama dan kita tidak dapat menunjukkan kepribadian kita masing-masing waktu memakai seragam sekolah.

(Suryani, siswi Kelas 1 SMAN 6 Jakarta Selatan)



Pendengar nomor dua:

Saya sendiri pendukung berat konsep seragam sekolah dan bagi saya mengenakan seragam sekolah merupakan suatu hal yang sangat nyaman. Saya pikir lebih mudah memakai seragam sekolah karena kita tidak repot memilih pakaian kita setiap hari. Selain itu, semua siswa memakai pakaian yang sama, sehingga kita tidak saling bersaing menunjukkan penampilan. Menurut pandangan saya, dengan seragam tidak ada perbedaan sosial dan para siswa memiliki rasa identitas yang sama.

(Ronny, siswa Kelas 2 SMAN 1 Rawamangun)

Hint! Use the working space provided to make notes and decode the texts.

Working space

2.1 What does Suryani view as acceptable attire for school?

2.2 What are advantages and disadvantages of wearing a school uniform?

Summarise Suryani and Ronny's opinions in the box below.

Advantages	Disadvantages
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>
<hr/>	<hr/>

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

2.3 The issue of compulsory school uniforms in Indonesia has prompted a heated debate.

What conclusions can you draw about the social and community values of Suryani and Ronny from their talkback radio responses?

What conclusions can you draw about their different personalities?

Suryani:

Ronny:

(continued on following page)

(continued from previous page)

2.4 Is it Suryani or Ronny who presents the most passionate argument?

Justify your opinions using examples from the text.

2.5 What is your opinion about school uniforms?

Give reasons for your views, including the pros and cons of wearing a school uniform.
