

Homework Tasks (Year 6):

- **Comprehension:** Please complete – and mark – ‘An Unhappy Mum’ on pg.2 and 3 of this file. Answers can be found on pg.4. Your responses should be recorded in your Homework Jotter provided by school.
- **GPS:** Please read ‘Human Adaptations’ on pg.5 of this file then answer – and mark – the ‘Text’ and ‘Punctuation’ questions on pg. 6 and 7. Answers can be found on pg.8. Please use these to help work out how to answer any questions you are unsure about. Your responses should be recorded in your Homework Jotter provided by school.

***Please ensure your completed homework is handed in at school on
Wednesday 18th December.***

- **Spelling:** A spelling test on **Autumn 2 Week 6** list of words will take place **Friday 15th**. The list of words is available separately on the Woodpecker Class page of the school website. Please log onto Spelling Shed to support practice at home.
- **Multiplication Facts:** A test of a variety of multiplication facts will take place every **Thursday**. Please practise all facts up to 12 x 12.
- **Reading:** You are expected to do **at least 20 minutes** of independent reading at home, **every day**. *Please remember to log all new books read – both those at home and at school – in our class reading log as there are no home reading records in Woodpecker Class:*



An Unhappy Mum

My husband has many good characteristics. He is a kind and loving man who would do anything to provide for his family. Despite what I am about to tell you, he adores our children, Hansel and Gretel. However, he is often prone to making terrible decisions in the heat of the moment. These can sometimes lead to appalling catastrophes.

A week or so ago, we were short of food in the house. We are poor folk who live in the forest and make our money selling wood, so it's not uncommon for us to have to go without every now and again. The market had been closed for a while because of the roadworks on the main lane into the village, so I hadn't had a chance to sell much timber. On top of that, farmer Gillion's field had been dug up by a bunch of billy-goats who'd made it over the bridge - no grain meant no bread from the mill. Times were hard, but we've been through worse.

I tried to sit down and explain all of this to Frederick, but he went into his usual panic. "It is unfair to keep the children in such squalor," he moaned. "I shall set them free in the forest to fend for themselves. Maybe they'll find some food."

Of course, I told him he was ridiculous, but he's as stubborn as a mule, and his mind was made up. The next day, I set out for the village and sold most of our wood and bought a pantry-full of food. You can imagine my annoyance, then, when I returned home to find that Frederick had set the children free into the forest.

Knowing what their father was like, the children must have made a plan as he led them astray. When I shot out to find them, I found a line of pale pebbles heading off into the shadows. I knew what was lurking for them that way - poor old Mrs Aga had gone a little mad after her cats died and had built a house out of sweets. It was bad enough that it melted every time it rained - you could taste the sugar in the water from the well for days. But, lately, she'd also started eating the children of the village.

We'd tried having words with her, but she just wasn't being reasonable. Hansel and Gretel were heading straight for her sugary lair. Gretel is pretty switched on, but Hansel can be easily led, so I



was more concerned about him.

In the end, I needn't have worried. By the time I'd followed the track and found the house, they'd managed to concoct a cunning plan, and Mrs Aga was busily roasting in her own oven. We had to tell them off, of course. Nobody wants to go that way. I saved the worst of my wrath for my husband, though. If he'd kept his cool, none of this would have happened. Honestly, sometimes it's like having three children.

VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. Find a word that tells you Frederick cares a lot for his children.
2. Write a definition for "prone" in this context.
3. Which word does Frederick say that means "extremely dirty or unpleasant conditions"?
4. Find and copy a phrase that tells you Frederick didn't often change his mind.
5. Which word tells you that Frederick was going to lead the children away from where they should be?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

- | | |
|----------|--|
| S | Why were the family struggling to buy food? |
| R | What did the family sell to make money? |
| I | Do you think the mother was surprised by what the father did? Why? |
| E | Is the use of first person effective here? Why? |
| I | What did the children do to Mrs Aga? |

Answers - An Unhappy Mum:

1. Adores
2. Likely to do something
3. Squalor
4. He's as stubborn as a mule
5. Astray

S: They hadn't sold any wood because of the roadworks and they couldn't buy any bread because there wasn't any grain.

R: Wood

I: Probably not. She says how he often does ridiculous things that have appalling consequences.

E: Accept answers that use reasoned arguments linked to their own engagement as a reader.

I: Cooked her in her own oven

The Earth is a pretty unforgiving place to live and is even more dangerous for us as humans because our ancient ancestors decided to move out of the oceans and live on land.

Because of the way we have adapted, we can no longer breathe water. Not only that, our veins and lungs have adapted to be useful at sea level. If we head too far underwater, the pressure will crush them. We wouldn't even have to go very deep - around 100m for any length of time beyond a few seconds could be fatal.

We are also pretty rubbish with heights. The air gets thinner as you get higher, and humans soon succumb to oxygen deprivation. On top of that, we sweat more than most animals, so we lose a lot of water when we get too hot. This can lead to strokes. We've also lost most of our hair, so we can't retain heat well at all - this rules out living in exceptionally cold places.

In fact, if we hadn't developed things like clothing, we'd barely be able to live anywhere. As it is, humans can only live on around 4% of the Earth's surface!

FOCUS ON - TEXT

1 Which verb tense is shown in the underlined words?
Tick one box in each row.

Sentence	Present perfect	Past perfect
Because of the way we <u>have adapted</u> , we can no longer breathe water.		
If we <u>hadn't developed</u> things like clothing, we'd barely be able to live anywhere.		
We <u>have</u> also <u>lost</u> most of our hair.		

2 Identify the different word classes.
Draw lines to match.

<u>We</u> can no longer breathe water.
<u>Our</u> veins and lungs have adapted.
The air gets thinner as <u>you</u> get higher.

possessive determiner
second person pronoun
first person pronoun

3 Circle the causal conjunction in the sentence below.

If we head too far underwater, the pressure will crush our lungs.

4 Tick the box which shows the coordinating conjunction.

On top of that, we sweat more than most animals, so we lose a lot of water when we get hot.



FOCUS ON - PUNCTUATION

1 Name the punctuation marks.

A

B

We've lost most of our hair, so we can't retain heat well at all ^A this rules out living in exceptionally cold places.

A = _____

B = _____

2 What is the name of the punctuation mark which has been used at the end of the sentence below?

Humans can only live on around 4% of the Earth's surface!

Why has it been used in this sentence?

3 Insert a semi-colon into the sentence below.

We lose a lot of water when we sweat and get too hot this can lead to strokes.

4 Tick the sentence which shows the correct use of brackets.

- We wouldn't even have to go very deep around 100m, (as a few seconds could be fatal).
- We wouldn't even have to go (very deep) around 100m, as a few seconds could be fatal.
- We wouldn't even have to go very deep (around 100m,) as a few seconds could be fatal.
- We wouldn't even have to go very deep (around 100m), as a few seconds could be fatal.



Answers - Human Adaptations

TEXT

1. present perfect - Because of the way we have adapted, we can no longer breathe water.
past perfect - If we hadn't developed things like clothing, we'd barely be able to live anywhere.
present perfect - We have also lost most of our hair.
2. We can no longer breathe water. – first person pronoun
Our veins and lungs have adapted. – possessive determiner
The air gets thinner as you get higher. – second person pronoun
3. If we head too far underwater, the pressure will crush the lungs.
4. On top of that, we sweat more than most animals, so we lose a lot of water when we get hot.

PUNCTUATION

1. A = (contraction) apostrophe
B = dash
2. exclamation mark.
It shows that a sentence evokes a strong feeling, such as anger, shock, surprise, joy, fear or pain.
3. We lose a lot of water when we sweat and get too hot; this can lead to strokes.
4. 4th option - We wouldn't even have to go very deep (around 100m), as a few seconds could be fatal.