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LO: To write in a formal tone

### Extract from *Journey to Jo'burg* by Beverley Naidoo

'Dineo is very ill, Mma,' Naledi spoke between sobs. 'Her fever won't go away. Non and Mmangwane don't want to trouble you, but I told Tiro we must come and bring you home.'

Mma gasped again and held her children more tightly.

'Madam, my little girl is very sick. Can I go home to see her?'

The Madam raised her eyebrows.

'Well Joyce, I can't possibly let you go today. I need you tonight to stay in with Belinda. The Master and I are going to a very important dinner party...'

She paused.

'But I suppose you can go tomorrow.'

'Thank you, Madam.'

'I hope you realize how inconvenient this will be for me. If you are not back in a week, I shall just have to look for another maid, you understand?'

'Yes, Madam.'

The children couldn't follow everything the Madam was saying in English, but her voice sounded annoyed, while Mma spoke so softly. Why does the white lady seem cross with Mma? It's not Mma's fault that Dineo is sick, Naledi thought.

### About the author

Beverley Naidoo was born and grew up in South Africa, but she now lives in England. She goes back to South Africa to stay in touch, especially with young people. A teacher for many years, she has a doctorate in education and a number of honorary degrees. *Journey to Jo'burg* was her first children's book. It was an eye-opener for readers worldwide, winning awards, but it was banned in South Africa until 1991.

## Reading

### Warm up



- 1 Where do you think this story is set? Choose **one** answer from the options below.

(1 m)

South Africa      India      England      USA

- 2 What are the names of the mother's three children?

(3 m)

### Test yourself



- 3 What job, as well as writing, did the author do? (1 n)
- 4 Give a reason for your answer to question 3, based on the information given. (1 n)
- 5 What was surprising about the author's first children's book? (1 n)

### Challenge yourself



- 6 Why couldn't the children 'follow everything the Madam was saying'? (1 n)
- 7 Do you think the author wants us to like 'Madam'? Explain your answer fully using evidence from the text. (3 n)
- 8 What do you think 'Mma' means? How do you know this? (2 n)

# Answers

## Pages 12–13

1. South Africa (**1 mark**)
2. Dineo, Naledi and Tiro (**1 mark** for each)
3. teacher (**1 mark**)
4. The author grew up in South Africa, so is writing about the culture she knows about (**1 mark**)
5. it was banned in South Africa until 1991 (**1 mark**)
6. She is speaking in English and they only know a little English (**1 mark**)
7. Example answer: No, because 'Madam' behaves selfishly. She wouldn't let her maid go straight away to see her sick child and she said it was inconvenient (**1 mark** for answering No; **1 mark** for each piece of evidence that supports an answer, whether Yes or No, up to max. of extra **2 marks**)
8. Mum/mother (**1 mark**); text says that she gasped and 'held her children more tightly' (**1 mark**)





- Where did the UFO come from?
- Who – or what – is controlling it?
- Why are they taking the tricycle?
- Who does the tricycle belong to?
- Why was the child here alone?
- How is the child feeling?
- What will happen next?



## Messiah: taken or alive?

MONDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

THE NO. 5 IN THE CITY

28p

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### The Betrayal

This mysterious story began at Jesus' last supper. He claimed that the disciple He handed the dipped bread to would betray Him. "One of us? Betray Jesus? That's what I asked myself at the time: I should've known Jesus was right," claimed Simon, a beloved follower to Jesus. Supposedly, Jesus gave the bread to Judas - one of his disciples. Most of the disciples believed that Judas wasn't the betrayer but Peter - Jesus' closest companion - thought differently, "I knew deep down he was a liar."

### The Garden of Gethsemane

According to witnesses, the last place the disciples saw Jesus was at the Garden of Gethsemane: they claim to have fallen asleep as the betrayal occurred - Jesus was arrested by several armed guards that Judas made a deal with. We attempted to interview Judas by asking him if he had anything to say about the last few events, but he declined to comment.

### The Trial

After the arrest, the guards took Jesus to jail. Before this, he went to the court of Pontius Pilate. Pilate had many questions, but it is believed that Jesus refused to answer all of them. Pilate then asked if He was the 'King of the Jews': once again Jesus declined to answer. The crowd wanted Barabbas - a murderer - to be set free and Jesus to be crucified; according to what we have heard, this made many followers angry, "This is unbelievable, He did nuffin' wrong!" argued Steve, a local librarian.

### Mary's Shock

After the trial, Jesus was crucified for his 'sins'. Later, Mary Magdalene went to clean Jesus' feet, after he had been laid to rest. Although this has not been confirmed, she claims she was given a great shock when she saw Jesus was not in His tomb. The tomb guards accuse her of lying about the disappearance.

It was later reported that when Mary turned around, she saw

a bright light in the figure of Jesus. "It was 'im, I know it was... if only He stayed a lil bit longer," Mary insisted.

### What is happening now?

Until now, Jesus' body has not been discovered. Havoc has filled the air and Judas is filled with great anxiety. The authorities have been doing everything they can to help find our Messiah: search parties have been organized; posters have been dispersed all over town; and guards are searching day and night for the body. If you would like to help, please attend the search meetings held at the main church or talk to the disciples - they've got this!



Above: Judas, the betrayer.

How is a Newspaper report different from other texts?

Main text

Evidence of formality in their newspaper report:

- Formal
  - Use of passive voice and passive constructions - e.g the body was found missing from its tomb...Jesus was discovered missing
  - Use of present perfect – Jesus had been reported missing...they claim to have fallen asleep
  - Use of abstract nouns for nominalisation – bewilderment has filled the country...disruption has risen throughout the country
  - Use of verbs – confirmed, expressed, investigated, declined, occurred
  - Shift in time from past tense towards speculation – Jesus had been reported missing...it is claimed that Judas has fled Jerusalem...havoc has spread throughout the town like water
  - Appropriately formal vocabulary choices and use of newspapers-specific language – this was later confirmed...according to witnesses...he declined to comment
- Informal
  - Direct address of the reader through rhetorical questions – could someone have stolen Jesus' body?...Could he be out there? Or just taken away?
  - Informal quotations from witnesses – "He stayed a lil bit longer"... "The silly ol' guards were snorin' their 'eads off"
  - Intentional misspellings in speech to show slang – nuffin, ting, dat
  - Contractions in speech – seen', couldn't, snorin'

Quotes from people



Language for  
a newspaper  
report

Create a list of vocabulary - think of verbs and formal vocabulary you may want to use.



Create a RAG table using the words you have collected - underline at least 3 Red and Amber words you are going to try and use in your setting description. Cross out at least 3 green words that you are not going to use in your setting description.

Red - Words I don't really use- (found in thesaurus)	Amber words - I use occasionally	Green words - I use them often
identified reported	suggested stolen unknown	taken strange

### Grammar - parenthesis

A word or phrase inserted as an explanation or afterthought into a passage which is grammatically complete without it, in writing usually marked off by brackets, dashes, or commas.

Brackets, dashes and commas can all be used in the same way. By adding extra information, this is known as parenthesis. They will always be used in pairs.

Megan (my sister) received a certificate today.

Megan - my sister- received a certificate today.

Megan, my sister, received a certificate today.

### Parenthesis

#### **Section A: insert brackets into the sentences below**

1. Ellie my older sister lives in Manchester.
2. Jupiter the largest planet is made of gas.
3. The twins Ben and Billy have just played their first football match.
4. The ambulance which had sirens blaring and lights flashing moved swiftly through the traffic.
5. The student who was new to the school got lost to her first lesson.

#### **Section B: insert dashes or commas into the sentences below**

- e.g. The bridge -built in 1915- is in need of repair.
1. Sheffield FC founded in 1857 is the oldest football club in England.
  2. Italian food particularly spaghetti is my favourite.
  3. The children were really excited about the new movie the one with the wizard in it.
  4. He wanted to work for the IOC International Olympic Committee.

**Section C: which sentence has been correctly punctuated?**

- 1) a) Mr Andrews (a very funny teacher) is leaving the school.  
b) Mr Andrews a very funny teacher (is leaving the school).  
c) Mr Andrews (a very funny teacher is leaving the school).  
d) (Mr Andrews) a very funny teacher (is leaving the school).

- 2) a) She rode her bike ,far too dangerously, especially as breaks were broken.  
b) She rode, her bike far too dangerously especially as breaks were broken.  
c) She rode her bike far too dangerously, especially as breaks were broken.  
d) She rode, her bike far too dangerously, especially as breaks were broken.

- 3) a) He spent almost -2 hours a new record!~ completing his homework.  
b) He spent almost 2 hours a new record! -completing his homework-.  
c) He spent almost -2 hours- a new record! completing his homework.  
d) He spent almost 2 hours -a new record!- completing his homework.

Write a definition (an explanation) of parenthesis -the word- with parenthesis, the symbols, used correctly within it.



### Extract from *Jack and the Beanstalk*

Jack was a lazy boy who lived with his mother in the countryside. They did not have much money and what they did have only covered essentials. Jack was too lazy to help his mother or try to earn more money, even though he wanted the latest technology, clothes and music (which they could not afford).



One day Jack's mother decided that their funds were so low they would have to sell their only prize possession: Daisy the cow. She asked Jack to take the cow to market and get the best price he could for her. He refused. She then *told* him to take the cow to market and get the best price for her. He reluctantly got off the sofa, fetched the cow, and set off for market. However, he had not gone far when a small man appeared at his side (he seemed to have come from nowhere). The man offered Jack a pouch of magic beans in exchange for the cow. Jack leapt at the chance as it meant he didn't have to walk all the way to market.

When Jack arrived home his mum was furious. She threw the beans at him (they missed and sailed out of the window). She then sent him to bed with no dinner; partly because she was angry, and partly because she had no food to give him.

The next morning, Jack woke up even later than normal. Normally the daylight eventually woke him up, but today no light at all was shining through the window into his room. Jack could not understand what was happening. He opened his curtains; still no light. He walked into the sitting room and no light was coming in there. He tried to open the front door; it wouldn't move – not even a little bit. Jack's first thought was that his mother was so angry with him that she had locked him in and left. He called her name. She came running into the room shouting about everywhere being dark. He tried the back door and, when it opened, he crept out into the garden holding a bat to defend himself against the aliens that he had assumed had landed on Earth!

He did not expect to see what he did. The biggest, most enormous beanstalk filled the garden, reaching up and through the clouds. Its branches were leaning against the doors and windows preventing them from opening...

## Reading

### Warm up



- 1 Which door could Jack not open? Choose **one** answer from the options below.

(1)

trap door      front door      cellar door      back door

- 2 Write the **two** words that showed how Jack's mother attempted to get him to take the cow to market.

(1)

### Test yourself



- 3 What information does the author give you straight away about Jack? (2 r)  
 4 How does the author build suspense before Jack opens the back door? (1)  
 5 What did Jack think had happened that was stopping the doors from opening? (2 r)

### Challenge yourself



- 6 In your own words, explain why Jack did not wake up at the usual time. (2 r)  
 7 From the information in this extract, do you think that Jack should have swapped the beans for the cow? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (2 r)

## Answers

### Pages 14–15

1. front door (**1 mark**)
2. asked/told (**1 mark** for both correct)
3. That he lives with his mother in the country, does not help her, is poor but too lazy to work and wants the latest things (**2 marks** for three pieces of information; **1 mark** for two pieces of information)
4. The author builds suspense by not saying what it is that is blocking the light, so the reader is left in the dark like Jack (**1 mark**)
5. His mother was so angry with him that she had locked him in (**1 mark**) and left him (**1 mark**)
6. Something was blocking the window so the light could not come in to wake him up as usual (**2 marks** for an answer that links something blocking the window with not waking up at the usual time; **1 mark** for stating that there was no light but without further explanation)
7. Example answers: Yes, because the man said that the beans were magic so they could bring them good luck; No, because they still have no money and now have a giant beanstalk wrapped round their house! (**2 marks** for answers using evidence from the text; **1 mark** for answers with plausible reasoning but which do not use evidence from the text)

Drafting a Newspaper report  
using parenthesis

The boy did nothing but stare at the ship.

How many different ways can you change  
enhance these sentences to increase  
tension?

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How does the writer report?



Write your story with tension: max word limit 500 words.



Editing and Final copy

Editing steps:

1. Read through and check there are no missing words.
2. Read backwards a word at a time - Underline all words you are unsure of the spelling (check and correct using a dictionary).
3. Check that you have included at least 3 sentences with subordinate clauses - if not edit and find a place where this can be added.
4. Check punctuation - Especially commas.
5. Look for vocabulary/sentences that can be improved - use thesaurus or RAG table to help you.

Write a final version in best handwriting with all amendments included.



