

Victorian Soap

1. Quickly read through the text to find out how these numbers relate to Dickens' life:

7 25 1870 21 12 38 1858

2. Now read the text again. There are eighteen lines. Twelve of them contain one extra word. Find the extra words and write them in the column on the right. The first two lines have been done as examples.

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 1 | The novelist Charles Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England on February 7, 1812. He | ✓ |
| 2 | and his family then moved to Chatham, near London, where he had spent the happiest | <u>had</u> |
| 3 | time of his life. However, when his parents were imprisoned for being in a debt, he | _____ |
| 4 | entered a period of intense misery which deeply affected him. He started working, at the | _____ |
| 5 | age of twelve, in a boot polish factory. Later, he worked out as a solicitor's clerk and then | _____ |
| 6 | as a court reporter. At the age of twenty-one old, he started sending in contributions to a | _____ |
| 7 | monthly journal and by 1837, at the age of twenty-five, he had been published an entire | _____ |
| 8 | volume of work under the title of <i>The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club</i> . | _____ |
| 9 | Over the next five years, Dickens was established himself as a household name with | _____ |
| 10 | novels such like <i>Oliver Twist</i> , <i>Nicholas Nickelby</i> and <i>The Old Curiosity Shop</i> . | _____ |
| 11 | Throughout the 1840s he and his wife travelled extensively in the Europe and America. | _____ |
| 12 | At thirty-eight, Dickens started to writing <i>David Copperfield</i> (1849-50), a largely | _____ |
| 13 | autobiographical work portraying his father as the irresponsible Mr Micawber. In his | _____ |
| 14 | forties his novels did became progressively pessimistic, possibly following the course of | _____ |
| 15 | his own marriage, which ended in 1858. He has formed a relationship with Ellen Ternan, | _____ |
| 16 | a young actress, and put his energy into performing public readings of his own works. | _____ |
| 17 | The readings were successful but however they were also exhausting, which no doubt | _____ |
| 18 | hastened his sudden death in 1870. | _____ |

PETER BENCHLEY LIKES SHARKS

Peter Benchley, the author (0)^{who}..... wrote the novel *Jaws*, thinks it may be partly his fault that people don't like sharks. The movie, (16) on his book, involved a terrifying monster fish (17) main purpose was to attack anyone (18) everyone in the ocean.

In (19), sharks kill approximately 12 people a year. In (20) , people kill millions of sharks every year and (21) to 90 per cent of great white sharks have been (22) out. Peter Benchley admits, 'I created something that doesn't exist.' He hopes to set (23) record straight with a new documentary film he has made. The film focuses (24) some of the more attractive aspects of great white sharks. For (25) , one extremely brave diver demonstrates that when you touch a shark on the nose, (26) goes very still.

Benchley grew up in Massachusetts in the US and (27) a large part of his childhood swimming in the ocean. He got the idea for *Jaws* (28) a newspaper article about a man who caught a shark which (29) about 2,000 kilos. When the movie was made, Benchley had the opportunity to appear (30) an actor, playing the reporter on the beach just before the shark attacks for the first time.

The Lord of the Rings

WORKSHEET B

EXERCISE A

Can you fill the sixteen gaps in the text with the correct words from the box? There are four words that you will not be able to use.

| | | | |
|---------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| time | forces | land | people |
| tall | corrupting | for | possesses |
| between | series | nevertheless | contain |
| detail | volcano | greatest | published |
| have | therefore | fiction | creatures |

EXERCISE B

Now fill the gaps below to complete the title of the second book in *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy.

- Tolkien _____ in World War I.
- Frodo is a _____.
- The Lord of the Rings* stories are very _____.
- The Lord of the Rings* is a work of _____.
- Although small, the Ring is immensely _____.
- Tolkien needed an amazing _____ in order to create *The Lord of the Rings* stories.
- Tolkien gives an extremely _____ description of Middle-earth.
- Hobbits are _____ than adult human beings.
- Frodo and his companions get into dangerous situations on their _____ to Mordor.
- Terry Pratchett obviously thinks that many seventeen-year-olds are likely to be _____ by *The Lord of the Rings*.
- The Ring has the power to _____ those who possess it.
- The Lord of the Rings* books have been _____ in many different languages.

The Lord of the Rings

WORKSHEET A

The Lord of the Rings is the name of a (1) _____ of three books written in the 1950s by the English author and professor J.R.R. Tolkien (1892-1973). They were turned into three extremely successful films by the director Peter Jackson between 2001 and 2003.

The story is set in 'Middle-earth', which represents our own world but in an imaginary era in the distant past. It has a human and animal population along with a variety of imaginary (2) _____. These include the 'Hobbits', one of whom, Frodo, is the main character in each of the books. Hobbits are similar to human beings but are only about one metre (3) _____, have slightly pointed ears, and often live for more than 100 years.

The elaborate tale told during the three books centres on 'the Ring', a very small object that (4) _____ gives immense magical powers to whoever (5) _____ it. Frodo inherits the Ring but the 'Dark Lord' Sauron – who could perhaps be described as a mixture of ghost and wizard, and is the main source of evil in Middle-earth – wants to capture it. Because of its destructive, corrupting powers it is decided that the Ring should be destroyed by taking it to the (6) _____ of Mordor and throwing it into a (7) _____ called Mount Doom. Frodo and his companions are frequently attacked by sinister beings such as 'Orcs' and 'Ringwraiths' on their way to Mordor, while the story also contains spectacular battles between the 'free peoples of Middle-earth' and the armies of the (8) _____ of evil.

Soon after *The Lord of the Rings* was (9) _____, the British newspaper *The Sunday Telegraph* said it was 'among the greatest works of imaginative (10) _____ of the 20th century'. It has since been translated into numerous languages and has sold more than 100 million copies around the world. In a 1999 survey, Amazon.com customers voted it their favourite book of all (11) _____. Most readers are impressed by Tolkien's astonishing imagination and also by the huge amount of (12) _____ he provided about Middle-earth, which helps give the impression of actually stepping into another world.

The stories clearly reflect Tolkien's interest in mythology and religion, and also his experiences as a soldier during World War I. The battle (13) _____ good and evil is a constant theme, and in the characteristics of the Ring there is also a message about the (14) _____ nature of absolute power.

The books tend to appeal more to young people, a fact recognised by British author Terry Pratchett when he suggested that 'at seventeen, if you don't think *The Lord of the Rings* is the (15) _____ contribution to literature there's something wrong with your head', but 'if you still think that at fifty, there's definitely something wrong with your head'. It is true, however, that the stories (16) _____ many aspects that are also of interest to adults, which is one of the reasons why in the last few years they have sometimes been compared with the *Harry Potter* books.

For Questions 31–40, complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. **Do not change the word given.** You must use between two and five words, including the word given. Here is an example (0).

Example: 0 The bag is not big enough for all my luggage.
small
 The bag for all my luggage.

The gap can be filled by the words 'is too small' so you write:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| 0 | is too small |
|---|--------------|

Write **only the missing words** on the separate answer sheet.

Tip Strip

Question 32: What preposition must come after 'accused'?

Question 36: Don't overlook the need to include the reference to the person.

Question 39: This sentence needs a phrasal verb.

- 31** My father says he's too old to learn another language.
young
 My father says to learn another language.
- 32** 'You borrowed my watch, didn't you?' Donna's sister said.
accused
 Donna's sister her watch.
- 33** Most people hope they will have enough money to buy a house or a flat.
afford
 Most people hope they to buy a house or a flat.
- 34** Do you know who this pen belongs to?
know
 Do you is?
- 35** I wish I had not lied to my parents.
truth
 If only to my parents.
- 36** I can't possibly get to work if the buses are on strike.
impossible
 It to get to work if the buses are on strike.
- 37** The students are raising the money for charity.
raised
 The money the students for charity.
- 38** It's unusual for Zoe to be rude.
hardly
 Zoe rude.
- 39** There's no milk left, so can you buy some?
run
 We, so can you buy some?
- 40** My shoes need to be repaired next week.
must
 I next week.