Primrose High

Lockdown lessons Grade 9 English HL

**Week 2**

Reading: The breakaway

Poetry: Mother to son

Summary writing activity

Story Review

Compound sentences

Reported Speech

Idioms and proverbs

Please complete all the activities in your workbook. Activities will be marked when the school starts again. You will receive planning for the coming week on a weekly basis.

Keep safe, Stay strong.

Ms Gouws and Ms Brown.



As far as Justin knew, there was only one way out of his neighborhood: basketball. So he ran with the ball like the hounds were chasing him. He could drop any of the older guys at the court in a blaze of crossovers, fadeaways, and finger rolls, and the younger guys didn’t stand a chance. Justin saw his way out and he ran for it. But the world has a funny way of changing right when you think you’ve got things figured out, and that’s just what happened to Justin.

One day when Justin was shooting around at the local court, some guys from another block ran up and asked to play. The big one in the middle said that he had heard that Justin was the best and he wanted to see if it was true. Justin said, “Nah, Man, I’m just shooting around with my cousin, I ain’t trying to get all sweaty right now.” But the big guy was insistent, and Justin’s cousin was bugging, “C’mon, Justin, drop this guy.” So Justin figured that he’d just do what everyone wanted and play.

Justin was running all over the big guy and making his shots while he did it. But just as the outcome of the game seemed certain, the big guy shoved Justin as he went for a lay up. Justin went flying in just such a way that he managed to tear up his right knee. The doctor said Justin might never play again, and if he did play, he wouldn’t play the same. Justin was devastated.

The first six weeks, Justin just laid in bed with his leg in a long cast feeling like a broomstick. He watched three reruns of *The Simpsons* every day and ate potato chips until the bag was empty, and then he’d dig the salt and grease out of the corner with his index finger. Justin blew up like a balloon as watched his once bright future fadeway. Right when he reached the bottom of the pit of despair, Justin’s sister, Kiki came home from the university.

She came in the house like a whirl of sunshine, bringing exciting tales of a far away land called college. Justin was amazed and intrigued by the dorm room dramas and campus craziness that Kiki told, but he could hardly believe any of it. It was as if she were telling him about some fantasy land high above the clouds. Justin gazed off dreamily as she spoke.

“Justin!” She interrupted his day dream. “Let me see your progress report.” Justin was ashamed. His grades had really slumped since his injury. “Oh no, this won’t do, J,” she said. “We’re going to have to get these up.” Well, Justin was a pretty stubborn guy, but his older sister had a way of getting him to do things that nobody else could. So, while she was home on break, they studied together, and they talked, and they worked, and Justin felt better than he ever had before.

After spending those weeks with his sister, Justin realized that he didn’t want to feel bad for himself any more, and he didn’t want to quit. Basketball used to be his thing, and he was good at it, but now there was only school, so he had to get good at that. Justin passed through all his classes like a half-court trap. By the time he got to senior year in high school, his GPA was hovering in the slam-dunk position. The last thing that Justin had to do to get into the college of his choice was score well on the ACT. Well wouldn’t you know it? Using the study skills Justin had acquired from his sister, Justin scored a 24 on the ACT. That’s not the highest score a person can get, but it was high enough for Justin. Now he had his academic game together.

Though the recruiters never came to Justin’s door, every university that he applied to accepted him; and when the fall came, Justin had his choice in colleges. Though he’d miss his family, Justin decided to enroll in the sunniest university in Hawaii, and nobody could say that Justin made a bad choice.

**Activity**

**Read the story and answer the following:**

1. Author’s Purpose: **entertain inform persuade**

Why did the author write this?

2. Genre: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ex: Nonfiction, fiction, or folklore

|  |
| --- |
| 3 & 4 Summarize the text:  Five key events from beginning, middle, & end. |

5. **Exposition**

1. Setting:\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

When and where does the story take place?

B. Conflict:

|  |
| --- |
| 6. Climax:  The turning point |

Falling Action: List some events that occur after the climax.

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |
| --- |
| Resolution:  When the conflict is solved |

Mother to son – message from a mother to her son.

Langston Hughes

1 **Well, son, I’ll tell you: -** colon indicates that explanation will follow, what she will tell him.

2 **Life for me ain’t been no crystal stair.** – Life has not been easy and beautiful for the mother.

3 **It’s had tacks in it,** tack: short light nail with a sharp point and flat head.

4 **And splinters,** Tacks and splinters are hazards that can cause pain, just like hazards in life.

5 **And boards torn up,** - The torn up boards represent damage, obstacles, and hardships in life.

6 **And places with no carpet on the floor** A floor without a carpet is hard and cold. It creates a mood

7 **Bare.** of lonliness. ‘Bare’ placed in separate line for emphasis.

8 **But all the time –** mood changes.

9 **I’se been a-climbin’ on**, - she always keeps going despite the hardship and obsticles.

10 **And reachin’ landin’s,** - achieving her goals, ‘landin’s’ represent the landings of triumph.

11 **And turnin’ corners,** - trying new things.

12 **And sometimes goin’ in the** **dark**  not knowing what lies ahead she is still courageous and believes.

13 **Where there ain’t been no light.**

14 **So boy, don’t you turn back.** – don’t run away from obstacles in life.

15 **Don’t you set down on the steps –** don’t give up.

16 **’Cause you finds it’s kinder hard.** If you find that it is hard, don’t give up.

17 **Don’t you fall now—**

18 **For I’se still goin’, honey,**

19 **I’se still climbin’,**  she is setting her son an example. If she can do it, he can also do it.

20 **And life for me ain’t been no crystal stair.** Life has not been easy for her.

**Notes on the poem**

**Background**

James Langston Hughes was born February 1, 1902, in Joplin, Missouri. His parents divorced when he was only a

child, and his father moved to Mexico. His grandmother raised him until he was twelve years old, and then he

moved to Lincoln, Illinois to live with his mother and her husband. Next, he moved with his mother and stepfather

to Cleveland, Ohio. Hughes began writing poetry when he was in high school, and his class designated him as “class

poet.” Hughes wrote the poem ‘Mother to her son’ when he was 21 years old. The poem was first published in

Crisis magazine in 1922. Langston Hughes also wrote Dreams.

**Summary of the poem**

A mother is warning her son about the hardships of life and telling him no matter what he has to go on and

overcome them. The mother compares the journey through life to an ascending staircase. She says that her life has

not been a crystal staircase. Rather it has been quite tough with protruding nails and pieces of wood jutting out,

boards torn up and places where the carpet was missing. However she just kept climbing thought the obstacles and

toughness. She tells her son to follow in her footsteps and never look back or give up if life gets difficult. She wants

him to take inspiration from the fact that she is still moving forward despite life’s hardship.

**Additional notes**

The speaker in the poem is an presumably an African American mother due to the distinctive dialect and slang used

in the poem. The mother is motivating her son to push through the hardship of the African American oppression

and to make a success of his life. The poem is written in the form of a dramatic monologue. With the opening line

“Well son, I’ll tell you” it suggests that she responds on a question he asked her.

**Metaphor**

A metaphor is a comparison that does not use the words “like” or “as.”

In this poem the poet uses a metaphor of a broken staircase to resemble the hardship and challenges of life. He

writes that it is not as easy and beautiful as a crystal staircase without any flaws. A metaphor that is used

throughout a poem is called an extended metaphor.

**Mood**

The poem has a sad mood because the mother points out that life is filled with hardship and difficulties.

It also has a mood of hope as the mother tells her son to rise through the hardship and strive to reach his goals.

**Theme**

You need to have determination to live without ever thinking of giving up although obstacles are harsh. There

will be struggles in life but you need to have strength and face it day by day to reach your goals.

**Questions:**

1. Which poetic device is used throughout the poem?   
   What do we call it when this poetic device is used throughout the poem? (2)
2. What does the poet compare to a crystal staircase? (1)
3. Life
4. An easy life
5. A difficult life
6. Why is there a colon at the end of line 1? (1)
7. Write four things that the poet mentions that resembles the obstacles   
   and hardships in life. (4)
8. Write “I’se” (line 9) in proper English. (1)
9. What does “goin’ in the dark (line 12) mean in the context of the poem? (1)
10. Explain the meaning of line 15, “don’t you set down on the steps. (1)
11. What encouragement does the mother give her son in lines 18-20? (2)
12. In your own words. Summarize the poem in three to four sentences. (3)
13. What is the mood of the poem? (2)
14. In which line does the mood of the poem change? How does it change? (3)
15. What is the theme of the poem? (2)
16. Which similarities, regarding the theme, do you notice between Hughes’  
     “Mother to son” and “Dreams” (2)

**Total: 25**

**Summary Activity**

You want to start exercising and want your friends to join you. Summarise the text  **7 Unexpected benefits of exercise** to convince them that exercise can improve their mental health. Provide seven arguments. Your summary should be **70 words**.

**7 Unexpected benefits of exercise**

Many people hit the gym or pound the pavement to improve cardiovascular health, build muscle, and of course, get into shape, but working out has above-the-neck benefits, too. Here are a few ways how exercising can [boost brain function](http://greatist.com/happiness/47-ways-boost-brainpower-now).

**1. Reduce stress**Rough day at school? Take a walk or head to the gym for a [quick workout](http://greatist.com/fitness/try-midday-workout-boost-productivity). Working up a sweat can help manage physical and [mental stress](http://www.acefitness.org/acefit/fitness-fact-article/51/exercise-can-help-control-stress/).

**2. Boost happy chemicals**Slogging through a few miles on the ‘mill can be tough, but it’s worth the effort! Exercise releases endorphins, which create feelings of [happiness](http://greatist.com/happiness/working-out-happy/) and euphoria.

**3. Improve self-confidence**Hop on the treadmill to look and more importantly, feel like a million bucks. Physical fitness can boost [self-esteem](http://psychcentral.com/news/2009/03/19/exercise-improves-self-esteem-in-overweight-kids/4839.html) and improve positive self-image.

**4. Sharpen memory**Regular physical activity boosts memory and ability to learn new things.

**5. Better sleep**Moving around five to six hours before bedtime raises the body’s [core temperature](http://www.nytimes.com/2007/09/13/health/nutrition/13Best.html?_r=0). When the body temp drops back to normal a few hours later, it signals the body that it’s time to sleep .

**6. Get more done**Research shows that people who take time for exercise on a regular basis are more productive and have more energy than their more inactive peers ..

**7. Tap into creativity**Most people end a tough workout with a hot shower, but a heart-pumping gym session can boost creativity for up to [two hours](http://www.ric.edu/faculty/dblanchette/exercisearticle.htm) afterwards.

Working out can have positive effects far beyond the gym. Gaining self-confidence, and thinking smarter are some of the motivations to take time for exercise on a regular basis.

From: Greatist.com

**FINITE AND NON-FINITE VERBS**

In each of the following sentences, indicate whether the highlighted verb is finite or non-finite. Colour the correct c

Top of Form

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **1. Paul runs to work every day** | Finite   Nonfinite |
| **2. They have run away together** | Finite   Nonfinite |
| **3. Tim gave Paul a menacing look** | Finite   Nonfinite |
| **4. Katie was watching TV when the phone rang** | Finite   Nonfinite |
| **5. We found him smoking behind the shed** | Finite   Nonfinite |

Bottom of Form

**REPORTED SPEECH**

Change the following sentences into the reported speech. Start with the words in brackets.

1. Our team will win the rugby match this weekend. (Billy said)
2. My parents will be there to watch me. (Billy said)
3. I hope you win the match. (Billy’s mom told Billy)
4. The game will be broadcasted live on television. (The reporter said)
5. I am going to support our boys next Saturday. (Mary said)
6. We are selling ice-cream at the match. (They said)
7. We won all our matches so far so we will definitely win this week. (The coach said)
8. Michael is our team captain this year. (Billy said)
9. Jeremy was our team captain last year but he moved to Cape Town. (Michael said)
10. All the spectators are very excited when our team runs onto the field. (Mary said)

**Writing a Short Story Review**

Write a review of **The Breakaway**. It should include the following:

**1. Introduction**

In the introduction, you should include some basic facts about the story, including

the title, the author and the story genre. You should also say something about

your opinion of the story, along with your reasons for liking or disliking it.

**2. Summary**

Briefly summarise the story. Discuss the setting, the main character(s) and the

main events or problems that the characters experience. Do not give the ending

away!

**3. Personal reflection**

Discuss what you like or dislike about the story. Give reasons to support your

opinion. You may want to compare and contrast the story with other stories you

have read by the same author or in the same genre. You can also compare the

story to your own personal experience or a current event in the news.

**4. Conclusion**

In the conclusion, you should evaluate the story and either recommend it or not

recommend it to others, depending on whether you think it is worthwhile reading.

**Idioms Worksheet**

\* Idiom- an expression that has two meanings: a literal and figurative.

Find the meaning of each of these idioms.

1. A picture paints a thousand words \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Apple of my eye \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Back seat driver \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Back to the basics \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
5. Bad hair day \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
6. Bad apple \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
7. Back to square one \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
8. Ball and chain \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
9. Blind leading the blind \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
10. Break a leg \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
11. Brownie points \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
12. Chip on his shoulder \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
13. Close but no cigar \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
14. Cut to the chase \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
15. Face the music \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
16. Field day \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
17. Get out on the wrong side of the bed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
18. Good Samaritan \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
19. Go out on a limb \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
20. Go the extra mile \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_