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**Year 9 English**

**Summer Work Booklet**

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**SECTION 1 - Independent Reading and Book Review**

**Select ANY of the suggested novels below and read it independently. You should read about 5 chapters every week.**

* The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
* The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle
* Murder on the Orient Express by A. Christie
* Divergent by Veronica Roth
* The Three Musketeers by Alexander Dumas
* Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe

**TASK 1: Book Review**

Complete this **book review** in detail:

BOOK TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

AUTHOR: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Give an example of something that you liked in the novel.

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Give an example of something that you would change in the novel. Explain your choice.

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Recommend this book to a friend and explain why they should read it.

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**SECTION 2 - Reading Comprehension Passage**

**Red Dust**

 **by Ma Jian**

After an hour’s descent I reach the desert. Sweat pours from my body and evaporates in seconds. My water is half-finished, and the lake has sunk from view. I must rely on my compass from now on.

The sun is still overhead. As I breathe the hot air in and out, my mouth becomes as dry as dust. The compass in my hand burns like the gravel underfoot. The dry noodles have reached my stomach and seem to be sucking the moisture from my blood. I long to reach the shore of the lake and plunge my head in its cool water. For brief moments, refracted through the heat waves on the right, I see villages, moving trucks, or a sweep of marsh. If I didn’t have a compass, I might be tempted to walk straight into the mirage.

Four or five hours go by. At last I see clumps of weed rise from the gravel. The land starts to dip. I check the compass. Sugan should be right in front of me now, but all I see is the wide stony plain.

Suddenly it dawns on me that distances can be deceptive in the transparent atmosphere of the desert. The lake that from the pass seemed so near could be a hundred kilometres away. After all, what looked like a tiny blue spot is in fact a huge lake. It is too late to turn back now though - my bottle is empty. I have no choice but to keep walking towards the water. Where there is water there are people, and where there are people there is life. There is no other path I can take.

As the sun sinks to the west, the lake reappears at last. It is not a lake exactly, just a line of grey slightly brighter than the desert stones, not wavering in the heat haze this time, but lying still at the edge of the sky. I am on course, but my legs can barely hold. There is camel-thorn underfoot now and the earth is covered with a thick saline crust. The sun sinks slowly below me, then reddens and disappears.

When my feet tread on to damp grass the sky is almost black. I move forward in a daze. The ground gets wetter and wetter. Through the green weeds ahead I glimpse a cold sweep of water. Hurriedly I drop my pack and wade down through the marsh towards the lake. I have arrived at last. Let me plunge into your waters! I stamp to the shore, throw myself down and scoop the water into my mouth. The taste is foul and brackish. A fire burns down my chest and my stomach explodes. I roll over and retch and my mind goes black.

A while later I wake up shivering with cold. Instinctively, I start moving away from the lake. A briny taste rises from my stomach and sticks to the vomit on my tongue. I long for a sip of clean water to rinse my mouth and throat. My body and mind are frazzled, but if I don't leave now I will die here on the shore. I try to crawl, but my hands give way. I fall and sink into the mud.

When I left Beijing I thought to myself, it doesn’t matter where I go because I can dig my grave anywhere in China's yellow soil. But now that my life hangs on a thread, my only thought is of survival. I force my eyes open and try to see what lies ahead. A soft light falls on my brow. I crawl out of the marsh and see a full moon at the horizon, clear and round. I can almost touch it. I want to walk towards it, but stop myself. Its beauty is as beguiling as the lake’s, and would prove just as murderous.

I scramble to my pack, pull everything out and rummage through the mess, ripping bags open, tossing things aside. At last I find a sachet of coffee granules in a small plastic bag. I stuff the bag into my mouth and chew through the plastic and foil. The granules are hard and dry. I swallow a few, and spit out the rest. My mind begins to clear. I sense the need to pass water, so I hold out my bottle and wait. A few drops fall to the bottom. I swig them back and feel my blood start to flow again.

In the moonlight I sort through my belongings and discard everything unnecessary: books, magazines, clothes, socks. Then I swing on my pack and struggle to my feet. I check my compass and decide to walk 10 degrees north. That should take me back to the Qinghai road. Li Anmei, the Qiaozi announcer, told me her parents live in Tuanjie village on the road between Gansu and Qinghai.

Apart from the echo of my dragging footsteps, the desert is silent. The full moon rises into the night sky. After a few hours of slow march I see a light in the distance. At first I suspect I am imagining it. I walk for a while with my eyes closed, but when I open them again the light is still there. I walk towards it. The light grows larger. It appears to be a lamp. I stop and rest, still gazing at the light, afraid that if I blink it will vanish. Now that I have a goal to walk to, I feel my body being pulled towards it.

Soon I can see it is a truck. A lamp hangs over the boot. I hear noises. My legs move excitedly. Getting closer, I see a man hammering at the wheel. The sound bangs through the night air. It is a comforting noise. I do not shout, in case it startles him.

Then I spot the lid of a thermos flask set on the path ahead. I pounce on it and empty the water into my throat. My body trembles with life. Moisture seeps into my eyes. I crouch down and look at the driver. He is 10 metres away, sitting in front of his truck, staring right back at me.

“Thank you, brother,” I say, putting the lid down.

**TASK 1: OPEN - ENDED QUESTIONS**

**Answer the questions below using COMPLETE ANSWERS:**

1. How does the narrator of this passage feel at the beginning, walking in the desert for about 4-5 hours? Find evidence in the text.

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2. According to the text, what is a mirage?

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3. What is the narrator trying to find or reach?

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4. What happens after he drinks water from the lake? Why?

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5. Where is the narrator coming from?

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6. What does he find in his pack and eats?

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7. Why does the author thank the truck driver at the end of the passage?

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**TASK 2: MULTIPLE - CHOICE QUESTIONS**

1. How doesthe narrator find his way in the desert?

1. guiding himself with the help of the sun c) using the compass
2. guiding himself with the help of the moon d) none of the above

*2. 'As I breathe the hot air in and out, my mouth becomes as dry as dust.'* What figurative language device is used in this sentence?

1. metaphor c) personification
2. simile d) hyperbole

3. Why doesn't the narrator return back home if he goes through harsh conditions in the desert?

1. because he cannot find his way back
2. because it is too late now and he wouldn't make it without water
3. because he does not want to return to Beijing
4. because he has an important meeting with the truck driver

4. What must be the reason why the narrator discards books, magazines, clothes and socks from his pack?

1. he realises they are not his
2. he realises he cannot use them in the desert
3. he thinks he will get in trouble if someone would find them in his pack
4. he is exhausted after walking in the desert and wants to carry a lighter pack

5. How long did this journey through the desert last?

1. an hour
2. four-five hours
3. till night time
4. a week

6. *"I crawl out of the marsh and see a full moon at the horizon, clear and round. I can almost touch it. I want to walk towards it, but stop myself. Its beauty is as beguiling as the lake’s, and would prove just as murderous."*

What does **beguiling** mean in this paragraph?

1. dangerous and evil
2. grateful and humble
3. confusing but knowledgeable
4. enchanting but deceptive

**Task 3: VOCABULARY**

**Identify 10 new vocabulary words in the passage and look up their meaning in the dictionary.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **NEW VOCABULARY WORD** | **DEFINITION** |
| 1.  |  |
| 2.  |  |
| 3.  |  |
| 4.  |  |
| 5.  |  |
| 6.  |  |
| 7.  |  |
| 8. |  |
| 9. |  |
| 10. |  |

**TASK 4: SENTENCE BUILDING**

**Create 5 original sentences with 5 words of your choice from the new vocabulary found.**

**Write them on the line.**

a) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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b) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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c) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**SECTION 2 - Writing**

**Task 1: Creative Writing**

 **Choose ONE of the prompts below and create an original story. Include characters, dialogue, great vocabulary and an interesting plot. Give your story a catchy title.**

### a) [Write a story that begins with the sentence: *"It was a dark and stormy night."*](https://blog.reedsy.com/creative-writing-prompts/general/write-a-story-that-begins-with-the-sentence-it-was)

### b) [Write a story that ends with: *"I've made a huge mistake."*](https://blog.reedsy.com/creative-writing-prompts/romance/write-a-love-story-that-ends-with-i-ve-made-a-huge)

### c) One day you come back from the cinema after watching a Marvel movie, and you realise that you have super powers. Tell the story of what happened next.

### d) Every day when you come back home from school you talk to your dog and tell him how awful your day has been. One day your dog starts taking back to you. Tell the story of what happened next.

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**Task 2: Letter Writing**

Write a letter to your friend from UK telling him about your summer holidays. Include in your letter:

* where did you go and how you got there
* what did you do (activities, places you visited etc.)
* whether you would like to revisit this place and why

Include all parts of a letter. Use at least 3 paragraphs.

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