



100 years on – a woman who died for women

THIS week saw the 100th anniversary of the shocking death of a remarkable woman.



On 4 June 1913, suffragette Emily Wilding Davison ran in front of the King's horse during the Epsom Derby and was knocked unconscious. She died of her injuries four days later, having never regained consciousness.

Emily was protesting against Britain's rulers who refused to grant votes for women. Only men were able to vote for who ran the country back then. Emily was acting on the suffragette slogan 'Deeds not Words'

and her death made her a martyr for women's rights.

Suffragettes were members of women's "right to vote" movements in the late 19th and 20th century. Their actions included chaining themselves to railings and setting fire to the contents of mailboxes. Many suffragettes were put in prison and were force-fed after refusing to eat and going on hunger strike. It was 1928 before women finally achieved the same voting rights as men.

Emily was the only suffragette to lose her life in the Votes for Women campaign and it has been argued ever since whether she meant to kill herself, or whether it was an accident while trying to pin a suffragette banner on the King's horse.

She was 40 when she stepped out in front of the King's horse, Anmer, in 1913, as the animal came around Tattenham Corner at the Epsom Derby, with the King and Queen Mary watching from the royal box.

Philippa Bilton, a cousin of Emily, says: "I know Emily didn't commit suicide. She was prepared to die for the cause of women's votes but she definitely didn't intend to die when she stepped out onto the Epsom racecourse – but she certainly got the cause noticed".

As millions of horse-racing fans tuned in for the Epsom Derby last week, tributes were paid to Emily Wilding Davison.

Organisers of the event showed her photograph on huge screens around the Surrey racecourse, and included a two-page feature on her story in the racecard.

MPs at the House of Commons held a memorial event on Wednesday celebrating the life of the suffragette. Speakers included Home Secretary Theresa May, Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow, and Deputy Leader of the Labour Party Harriet Harman.



Glossary

The Epsom Derby in 2013



Epsom Derby:

A very prestigious flat horse race which is run at Epsom Downs in Surrey.

Martyr:

A person who suffers death or makes great sacrifices in order to further a belief.



FirstNews Lead Story: Article Analysis

Headlines: '100 years on - a woman who died for women' (Issue 364: 7 - 13 June 2013)

Carefully read the story from this week's Headlines. Can you:

- Find the facts?
- Interpret the information?
- Work out why the journalist wrote and presented the stories in the way that they did?

Part A: Find the facts (AF2)

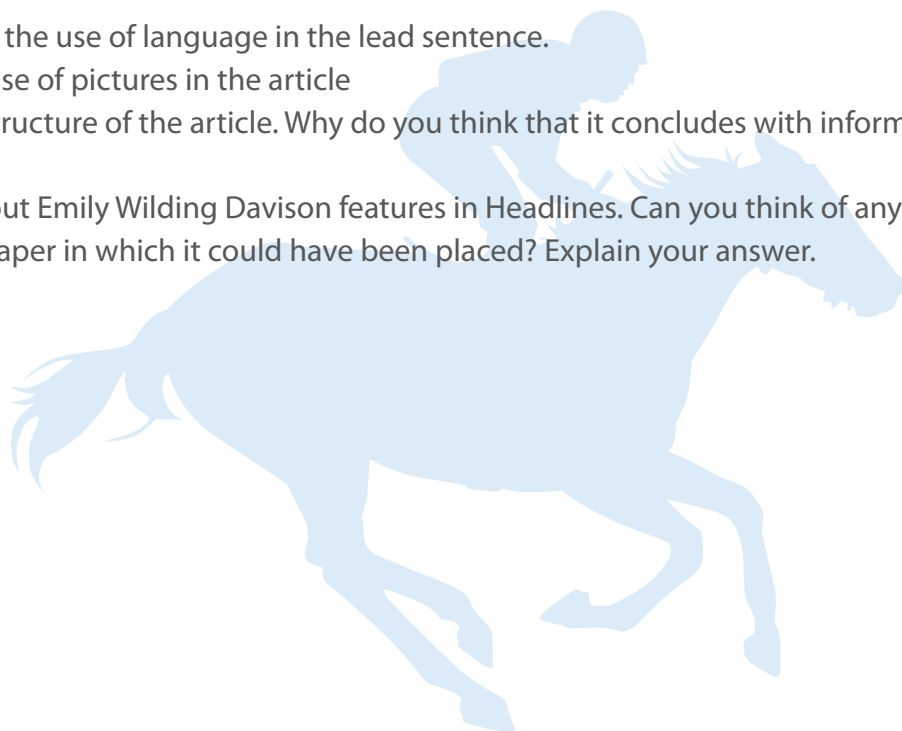
- A1)** What did Emily Wilding Davison do on 4 June 1913?
- A2)** Why was Davison protesting and what happened to her as a result of her actions?
- A3)** What were suffragettes and what was the suffragette slogan?
- A4)** What was achieved in 1928?
- A5)** How has Emily Wilding Davison's death been commemorated this June?

Part B: Interpret the information (AF3)

- B1)** Emily Wilding Davison died in 1913, so why is her death being reported on in 2013?
- B2)** Why has Davison's death been the cause of much debate over the years?
- B3)** It says in the article that Emily was acting on the suffragette slogan "Deeds not Words." What do you think is meant by that?
- B4)** Philippa Bilton is quoted in the article. How does she feel about Emily's death and why might her view be said to be biased?
- B5)** Why is it significant that Davison was remembered at the 2013 Epsom Derby and at a recent event held by MPs at the House of Commons?

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation (AF4-7)

- C1)** The article is based on an event that happened 100 years ago. How is the headline used to hook First News readers?
- C2)** Comment on the use of language in the lead sentence.
- C3)** Analyse the use of pictures in the article
- C4)** Look at the structure of the article. Why do you think that it concludes with information about a First News poll?
- C5)** The story about Emily Wilding Davison features in Headlines. Can you think of any other section of the First News newspaper in which it could have been placed? Explain your answer.





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Part A: Find the facts (AF2)

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Part B: Interpret the information (AF3)

B1) Emily Wilding Davison died in 1913, so why is her death being reported on in 2013?

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B2) Why has Davison's death been the cause of much debate over the years?

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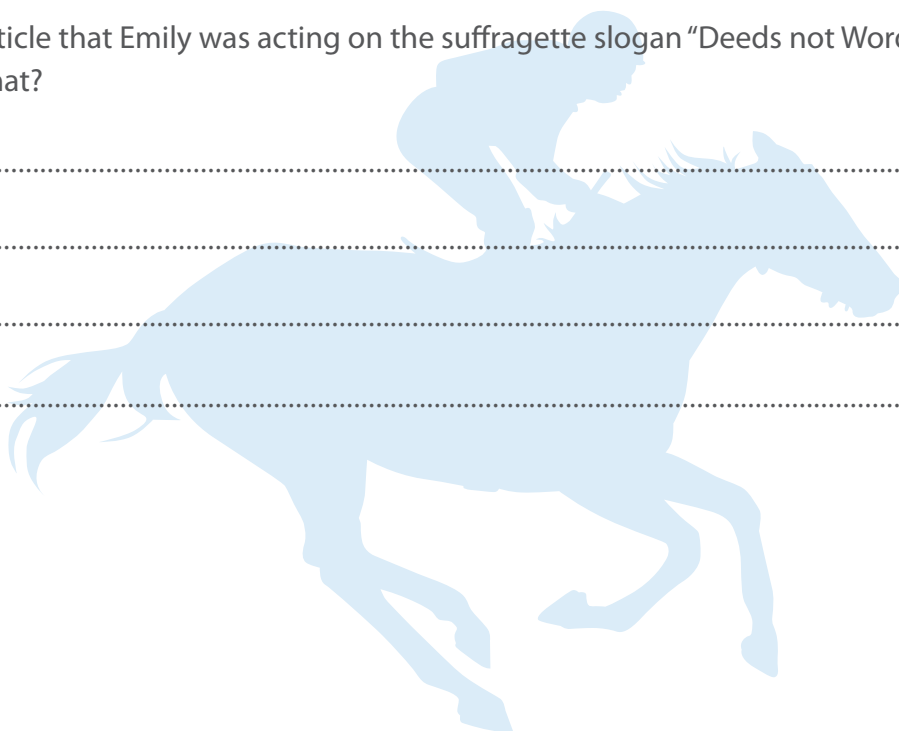
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B3) It says in the article that Emily was acting on the suffragette slogan "Deeds not Words." What do you think is meant by that?

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Part B: Interpret the information (AF3)

B4) Philippa Bilton is quoted in the article. How does she feel about Emily's death and why might her view be said to be biased?

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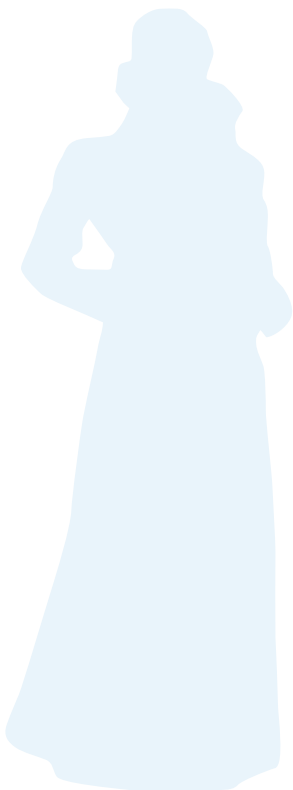
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B5) Why is it significant that Davison was remembered at the 2013 Epsom Derby and at a recent event held by MPs at the House of Commons?



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Carefully read the story from this week's Headlines, then answer these questions:

Part C: Analyse the writing & presentation (AF4-7)

C3) Analyse the use of pictures in the article.

C4) Look at the structure of the article. Why do you think that it concludes with information about a *First News* poll?

C5) The story about Emily Wilding Davison features in Headlines. Can you think of any other section of the *First News* newspaper in which it could have been placed? Explain your answer.



FirstNews Lead Story: Article Analysis

Headlines: '100 years on - a woman who died for women' (Issue 364: 7 - 13 June 2013)

Teacher answers and assessment level guidelines

The teacher answers are intended to provide a guide as to the AF strand of the question and possible responses from pupils working at different levels. In the level 5/6 answers we try to provide the most complete answer possible in order to provide teaching points when discussing the answers with pupils.

Part A: Find the facts (AF2)

A1. What did Emily Wilding Davison do on 4 June 1913?

AF2 - understand, describe, select, retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to the text.

Possible answers:

L4-relevant points identified

- She ran in front of the King's horse during the Epsom Derby.

L5-relevant points clearly identified

- She stepped out in front of the King's horse Anmer as the animal came around Tattenham Corner at the Epsom Derby. The King and Queen Mary were watching from the royal box.

A2. Why was Davison protesting and what happened to her as a result of her actions?

AF2 - understand, describe, select, retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to the text.

Possible answer:

L4-relevant points identified

- Emily Wilding Davison was protesting against Britain's rulers who refused to grant votes for women. She died as a result of her actions.

L5- additional relevant information

- Only men were able to vote for who ran the country back then. When Davison ran in front of the horse she was knocked unconscious. She died of her injuries four days later, having never regained consciousness.

A3. What were suffragettes and what was the suffragette slogan?

AF2 - understand, describe, select, retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to the text.

Possible answers:

L4-relevant points identified

- Suffragettes were members of women's "right to vote" movements in the late 19th and 20th century. The suffragette slogan was "Deeds not Words."

L5- additional relevant information

- Suffragettes used many strategies to draw attention to their cause. Their actions included chaining themselves to railings, setting fire to mailboxes and going on hunger strike whilst in prison.

A4. What was achieved in 1928?

AF2 - understand, describe, select, retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to the text.

Answer:

L4-relevant point identified

- Women finally achieved the same voting rights as men.

A5. How has Emily Wilding Davison's death been commemorated this June?

AF2 - understand, describe, select, retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to the text.

Possible answers:

L4-relevant points identified

- Organisers of the 2013 Epsom Derby showed her photograph on huge screens around the Surrey racecourse, and included a two-page feature on her story in the racecard.
- MPs at the House of Commons held a memorial event on Wednesday celebrating the life of the suffragette.

L5- additional information

- Speakers at the House of Commons included Home Secretary Theresa May, Speaker of the House of Commons John Bercow, and Deputy Leader of the Labour Party Harriet Harman.



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Part B: Interpret the information (AF3)

B1. Emily Wilding Davison died in 1913, so why is her death being reported on in 2013?

AF3 - deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Possible answers:

L4- appropriate inference

• It is being reported on in 2013 because it is the 100th anniversary of the incident.

L5- comments develop explanation of inferred meaning

• It is important that Davison's death is remembered in 2013 because she helped women be seen as equals. Modern women benefit from her legacy and that of her fellow suffragettes.

B2. Why has Davison's death been the cause of much debate over the years?

AF3 - deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Possible answer:

L4- appropriate inference

• There has been much debate over Davison's intentions and whether she meant to kill herself. Some people argue that her death was an accident whilst she was trying to pin a suffragette banner on the King's horse.

L5-comments draw on evidence from text

• Indeed, Philippa Bilton is quoted in the article as saying "I know Emily didn't commit suicide."

L6-comments consider wider significance of information (This answer relies on additional background reading or class discussion.)

• The argument rages as Emily was the only suffragette to lose her life in the Votes for Women campaign and suicide certainly wasn't a strategy advocated by members of the women's movements in general. This could be used to support the argument that her death was an accident. However, Davison was known for her increasingly militant stance. She was jailed 9 times and force-fed on 49 occasions. She was also badly injured when she threw herself down some iron stairs whilst in prison. She did this as a protest against the way in which she and fellow suffragettes were being force-fed. Therefore some argue that she was capable of taking extreme action on her own initiative.

B3. It says in the article that Emily was acting on the suffragette slogan "Deeds not Words." What do you think is meant by that?

AF3 - deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Possible answer:

L4/5-Inference with some explanation

• The slogan suggests that suffragettes had failed to get their views heard through words and discussions. Therefore, they approved the use of action or "deeds" in order to get votes for women. In the article it says that Emily was acting on the suffragette slogan because she certainly took action and got the cause noticed when she ran onto the racecourse.

B4. Philippa Bilton is quoted in the article. How does she feel about Emily's death and why might her view be said to be biased?

AF3 - deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Possible answer:

L4- some appropriate inference

L5/6- more complex inference with explanation. Comments draw on evidence across the text.

• Philippa Bilton feels sure that Emily Wilding Davison did not commit suicide. In her opinion Emily "...definitely didn't intend to die when she stepped out onto the Epsom racecourse." However, her view might be said to be biased because she is a cousin of Emily Wilding Davison. At the time when Emily Davison died, suicide was a crime. Even today there are taboos surrounding suicide and some link it with weakness. As a relative of Davison's Bilton would want her death to be seen as honourable. Indeed Bilton draws attention to the fact that in taking action "Emily certainly got the cause noticed." This gives the impression that she is proud of what Davison did.

• Bilton also says that although in her view Davison did not plan to die on the racecourse, she "was prepared to die for the cause of women's votes." This reveals that Bilton thinks of Davison as brave but not fanatical. She feels that her relative was not intending to commit suicide, but was willing to take action that she knew to be dangerous in order to further the cause.



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B5. Why is it significant that Davison was remembered at the 2013 Epsom Derby and at a recent event held by MPs at the House of Commons?

AF3 - deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts

Possible answers:

L4-some appropriate inference

• It is significant because it shows how much attitudes about equality for women have changed.

L5/6-comments develop explanation of inferred meanings (The first part of this answer relies on additional background reading or class discussion.)

• After the 1913 Epsom Derby, Davison was criticised for acting in a reckless manner and endangering the lives of others. Despite the fact that she died, avid race goers were furious that Davison had tarnished such a prestigious race. Therefore, the fact that she was celebrated before the 2013 Epsom Derby shows how public opinion has changed.

• It is significant that she was remembered at the House of Commons because in 1913 women were not allowed to vote for who ran the country. However, during the event held for Davison at Westminster Hall speakers celebrating her life included women such as Theresa May and Harriet Harman. As both May and Harman are high profile MPs it shows how much progress has been made in terms of rights for women.



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Part C: Analyse the writing & presentation (AF4-7)

C1. The article is based on an event that happened 100 years ago. How is the headline used to hook First News readers?

AF6 - identify and comment on writers' purposes and viewpoints, and the overall effect of the text on the reader

Possible answers:

L4-simple comment on overall effect on reader

L5-general awareness of effect on the reader, with some explanation

L6-the effect on the reader clearly identified, with some explicit explanation

- First News readers might not feel that an event that happened 100 years ago is relevant to them. However, instead of starting "100 years ago" the headline starts "100 years on." This makes it more likely to hook the reader because it suggests that there is something to say about the event 100 years later and that the story is still pertinent now.
- In the headline there is mention of "a woman who died." The name Emily Wilding Davison may not be familiar with First News readers. However, the reference to "a woman" is intriguing and likely to make the reader want to find out her identity.
- The allusion to the woman having died "for women" might also attract readers because the term applies to such a large group of people. The readers would want an explanation. This might particularly be the case if they are female themselves.

C2. Comment on the use of language in the lead sentence.

AF5 - explain and comment on writers' use of language, including grammatical and literacy features at word and sentence level

Possible answers:

L4-simple comments on writer's choices

L5-comments show some awareness of the effect of writer's language choices

L6-some detailed explanation, with appropriate terminology, of how language is used

- The use of the adjective "shocking" to describe the death of Emily Wilding Davison means that it was terrible or horrible. It is an appropriate word to explain the unusual and unpleasant death that she suffered when she was trampled by a horse running at speed during the Epsom Derby.
- The use of the word is also suitable because Davison's death was shocking because she was the only suffragette to lose her life in the Votes for Women campaign. The death would have been particularly shocking for the race goers because it would have been so unforeseen and at odds with the sporting day out that they expected.
- Also, if something is shocking it can mean that it causes disgust. This highlights the reaction of some people at the time to Davison's actions and subsequent death.
- It is likely that the adjective was used to attract the attention of readers. It is often said that human beings have a grim fascination with death, so the description of the death as "shocking" would arouse the morbid curiosity of readers even more as they would want to find out further details.
- The use of the adjective "remarkable" in the description of Emily Wilding Davison as a "remarkable woman" gives the impression of her being extraordinary and exceptional. The close proximity of the description of her as "remarkable" and the description of her death as "shocking," makes her loss of life seem even more tragic.

C3. Analyse the use of pictures in the article.

AF4 - identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and presentational features at text level.

Possible answers:

L4-simple comment on the presentational feature

L5/6-detailed comment with explanation of effect

- Both pictures are black and white photographs. The fact that they are black and white highlights the historical slant of the report because most photographs weren't taken in colour until the 1960s.
- One of the pictures is of Emily Davison herself. She looks smartly dressed and respectable and not at all like the mad woman she is sometimes described as. The picture of Davison enables the reader to visualise her as a real woman and thus helps create interest in her story.
- The other picture is of the incident at Epsom racecourse in which Davison was trampled on by the King's horse. The picture isn't totally clear but the image of the horse on its back with its hooves in the air tangled up with a woman shows how horrific it was. In the picture it looks as if Davison's hat is rolling away from her body which shows the force of the impact when the horse hit her. This picture clearly supports the way in which her death is described as "shocking" in the article.



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Part C: Analyse the writing & presentation (AF4-7)

C4. Look at the structure of the article. Why do you think that it concludes with information about a First News poll?

AF4 - identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and presentational features at text level.

Possible answers:

L4/5-comment on structural choices with some explanation

- The article concludes with information about a *First News* poll because the poll is about whether young people should be allowed to vote once they have reached the age of sixteen. As most of the article is about the Votes for Women campaign in the late 19th and 20th century the topics are linked.
- Also, although the final paragraph is relevant and interesting, it is not essential. In line with the inverted pyramid method of news writing, the information about the poll is put at the end of the article because it doesn't affect their understanding of the rest of the story if readers miss it.

C5. The story about Emily Wilding Davison features in Headlines. Can you think of any other section of the First News newspaper in which it could have been placed? Explain your answer.

AF7- relate texts to their social, cultural and historical traditions

Possible answer:

L4/5- some identification of features of a Special Report applied to the article with explanation

- The story about Emily Davison could have been categorised as a Special Report in the *First News* newspaper. The article is written to inform, which is characteristic of Special Reports. It is based on a historical event which would be appropriate subject matter for that section as there is no requirement that it be based on breaking news. There is also more space for the writer to explore the given subject. However, having the story in Headlines makes it seem newsworthy and more relevant.