

## BEHIND THE SCENES



All images: © Jordan Mansfield/Comic Relief



IN February, Tom Daley OBE embarked on the toughest physical challenge of his entire life to raise money for Red Nose Day. The Olympic diving champion attempted to cover a staggering 290-mile (467km) journey, as he cycled, rowed, ran and swam from London to his home town of Plymouth. This diary follows his progress.

### Day 1 – The journey begins.

**A six-mile (10km) row down the River Thames and a 60-mile (96km) cycle from London to Reading.**

Tom was joined by his Olympic diving partner, Matty Lee, to see him off from the starting line at the Aquatics Centre in London. Tom had to navigate narrow canals before he could make it to the River Thames.



The River Thames was so choppy and the wind was so strong, Tom capsized into the freezing water! Luckily, he was able to quickly get back into his boat and continue rowing.

Already tired from yesterday, Tom tackled an open-water swim in 5.2°C water at the Redgrave Pinsent Rowing Lake, where Team GB's rowers train for the Olympics. This is the longest distance Tom has ever had to swim, indoors or outdoors. The windy weather made it even more difficult.

### Day 2 – Diving into cold water.

**A 1,600m (one-mile) open-water swim and a 63-mile (101km) cycle from Reading to Southampton.**

Already tired from yesterday, Tom tackled an open-water swim in 5.2°C water at the Redgrave Pinsent Rowing Lake, where Team GB's rowers train for the Olympics. This is the longest distance Tom has ever had to swim, indoors or outdoors. The windy weather made it even more difficult.



Paralympic swimming champion Ellie Simmonds paid a surprise visit to Tom during his swim, to cheer him on and help him get through the cold.

### Day 3 – The longest day yet.

**A 130-mile (209km) cycle from Southampton to Bovey Castle, Dartmoor National Park.**

Tom had to cycle through really strong winds, heavy fog and nonstop rain, while climbing very steep hills to make it to the day's finish line.

During the Tokyo Olympics, Tom had to compete without any fans to cheer him on, but during this challenge, schools and adults came out to support him along the route, giving him a much-needed boost whenever he was struggling!



Having cycled for hours and climbed some incredibly steep hills, Tom began to start feeling exhausted and, after falling off his bike, needed a well-earned rest. However, nothing could stop Tom from smiling.

**Day 4 – The final push. Just a 30-mile (48km) ultra marathon from Bovey Castle to the finish line in Plymouth.**

With the end in sight, Tom's mum joined him on his ultra marathon to help push him to the finish line

in his home town, Plymouth. Tom made it to the finish line, where his family, friends and hundreds of fans welcomed him home after what has been the most demanding and exhausting challenge of his life.



*"I had to train and push my body to places that I never even knew I could. There was a point where I thought, this is the most tired and exhausted I've ever felt in my life. I've trained for four Olympics and none of that comes close in comparison. It's been some of the hardest days of my life. It was so incredibly tough, and people will see that in the documentary."*

– Tom

To see all the highs and lows of Tom Daley's Hell of a Homecoming and to find out how the money he raises will help people in the UK and around the world, tune in on Monday 14 March at 9pm on BBC One and BBC iPlayer. Go to [comicrelief.com/tom](https://comicrelief.com/tom) for more info!

**GLOSSARY**

**OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire)** – An honour awarded by the Queen for having a major local role in any activity, including people whose work has made them known nationally in their chosen area



**Questions on: 'Man on a mission'**

**Part A: Find and explain the facts**

**A1.** Answer the following quick-fire questions.

Who is Tom Daley?	
What did he do to raise money for Red Nose Day?	
Where did he travel from and to?	
When did Tom's challenge take place?	
How did he cover the miles?	

**A2.** Match each day to the correct number of miles travelled on that day.

Day 1	130
Day 2	30
Day 3	66
Day 4	64

**A3.** Where did Tom travel to on each of the days?

- Day 1** .....
- Day 2** .....
- Day 3** .....
- Day 4** .....

**A4.** Name three people who came to offer Tom support on his journey.

**A5.** Which of the following statements is FALSE? Identify the false statement using a tick.

Tom had to navigate narrow canals to get to the River Thames during the first leg of his journey.	
He had to swim in 5.2°C water at the Redgrave Pinsent Rowing Lake.	
Tom said that the only thing harder than this challenge was the training that he had to do for four Olympics.	
You can watch the documentary about Tom's journey <i>Tom Daley's Hell of a Homecoming</i> , on Monday 14 March at 9pm on BBC One and BBC iPlayer. Go to <a href="http://comicroelief.com/tom">comicroelief.com/tom</a> for more info.	

**Part B: Deduce and infer information**

- B1.** Tom Daley is a diver and used to being in water, so why did he find the open-water swim difficult?
- B2.** Why was Tom able to travel 130 miles on one of the days when the furthest he travelled apart from that was 66 miles?
- B3.** What helped Tom during this 'mission' that he didn't have the benefit of at the Tokyo Olympics?
- B4.** What evidence is there to suggest that this was tough physically for Tom and that he faced many challenges?
- B5.** Why is it significant that Tom ended his journey in Plymouth?

**Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation**

- C1.** This report is written in the form of a diary, but how is the narrative voice (eg, first person, second person, third person) different from what you might expect? Why do you think it has been written from this perspective?
- C2.** Tom Daley is quoted at the end of the article. What is the effect of this on the reader?
- C3.** Tom's documentary is called *Hell of a Homecoming*. Analyse the use of language in this title.

**GLOSSARY**

**OBE (Officer of the Order of the British Empire)** – An honour awarded by the Queen for having a major local role in any activity, including people whose work has made them known nationally in their chosen area



**Questions on: 'Man on a mission'**

**Part A: Find and explain the facts**

**A1.** Answer the following quick-fire questions.

Who is Tom Daley?	
What did he do to raise money for Red Nose Day?	
Where did he travel from and to?	
When did Tom's challenge take place?	
How did he cover the miles?	

**A2.** Match each day to the correct number of miles travelled on that day.

Day 1	130
Day 2	30
Day 3	66
Day 4	64

**A3.** Where did Tom travel to on each of the days?

**Day 1** .....

.....

.....

**Day 2** .....

.....

.....

**Day 3** .....

.....

.....

**Day 4** .....

.....

.....

A4. Name three people who came to offer Tom support on his journey.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

A5. Which of the following statements is FALSE? Identify the false statement using a tick.

Tom had to navigate narrow canals to get to the River Thames during the first leg of his journey.	
He had to swim in 5.2°C water at the Redgrave Pinsent Rowing Lake.	
Tom said that the only thing harder than this challenge was the training that he had to do for four Olympics.	
You can watch the documentary about Tom's journey <i>Tom Daley's Hell of a Homecoming</i> , on Monday 14 March at 9pm on BBC One and BBC iPlayer. Go to <a href="http://comicroelief.com/tom">comicroelief.com/tom</a> for more info.	

**Part B: Deduce and infer information**

B1. Tom Daley is a diver and used to being in water, so why did he find the open-water swim difficult?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

B2. Why was Tom able to travel 130 miles on one of the days when the furthest he travelled apart from that was 66 miles?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

**B3.** What helped Tom during this ‘mission’ that he didn’t have the benefit of at the Tokyo Olympics?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**B4.** What evidence is there to suggest that this was tough physically for Tom and that he faced many challenges?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**B5.** Why is it significant that Tom ended his journey in Plymouth?

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation**

**C1.** This report is written in the form of a diary, but how is the narrative voice (eg, first person, second person, third person) different from what you might expect? Why do you think it has been written from this perspective?

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Teacher Answers

**AIM OF THE NEWS COMPREHENSIONS:** News reports are unique non-fiction texts. Being real, they naturally engage students, and with the range of topics that are covered, help to develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the wider world outside the classroom. The reports are ideal for short, focused comprehension or discussion activities. Along with the opportunity to find fascinating facts and appreciate the opinions of those involved, there is plenty to be inferred and deduced to understand in more depth what is being reported. Like authors, journalists play with language, so news 'stories' are rich nuggets of text to investigate and provide the opportunity for literacy programmes.

**TEACHER ANSWER GUIDE:** The teacher answers are intended to provide a guide to the reading skill each question is practising. Suggestions are given for a starting point for responses that students would be expected to give at the start of KS3. Further suggestions then give fuller, more developed responses that students will work towards by the end of KS3, in preparation for the non-fiction elements of GCSE English language.

### Part A

#### A1. Answer the following quick-fire questions.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

**Possible answer**

**Starting point - some information correctly identified**

**Developed response - information correctly identified and clearly explained**

Who is Tom Daley?	An Olympic diving champion.
What did he do to raise money for Red Nose Day?	He covered a "staggering" 290-mile (467km) journey.
Where did he travel from and to?	From London to Plymouth.
When did Tom's challenge take place?	February
How did he cover the miles?	He cycled, rowed, ran and swam.

#### A2. Match each day to the correct number of miles travelled on that day.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

**Expected response**

Day 1	66
Day 2	64
Day 3	130
Day 4	30

#### A3. Where did Tom travel to on each of the days?

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

**Expected response**

**Day 1** Reading

**Day 2** Southampton

**Day 3** Bovey Castle, Dartmoor National Park

**Day 4** Plymouth

#### A4. Name three people who came to offer Tom support on his journey.

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

**Possible answer**

**Starting point**

- Matty Lee, Ellie Simmonds and his mum.

**Developed response**

- Tom's Olympic diving partner, Matty Lee, came to see him off from the starting line at the Aquatics Centre in London. Paralympic swimming champion Ellie Simmonds paid a surprise visit to Tom during his swim, to cheer him on and help get him through the cold. With the end in sight, Tom's mum joined him on his ultra marathon to help push him to the finish line.

**A5. Which of the following statements is FALSE? Identify the false statement using a tick.**

READING SKILL – Find and explain information

**Possible answer**

**Expected response**

Tom had to navigate narrow canals to get to the River Thames during the first leg of his journey.	
He had to swim in 5.2°C water at the Redgrave Pinsent Rowing Lake.	
Tom said that the only thing harder than this challenge was the training that he had to do for four Olympics.	✓
You can watch the documentary about Tom’s journey <i>Tom Daley’s Hell of a Homecoming</i> , on Monday 14 March at 9pm on BBC One and BBC iPlayer. Go to <a href="http://comicrelief.com/tom">comicrelief.com/tom</a> for more info.	

**Part B**

**B1. Tom Daley is a diver and used to being in water, so why did he find the open-water swim difficult?**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

**Possible answer**

**Starting point**

- Although Tom is a diver and used to being in water, that doesn’t mean that he is a strong swimmer. They are different skills and this is the longest distance he has ever had to swim, indoors or outdoors.

**Development**

- Furthermore, he is used to being in heated indoor pools and the swim was an open-water swim in water that was only 5.2°C. This in itself would have been a shock to the system but the windy weather made Tom’s task even more difficult. It is much more tiring to swim when the wind is against you. As he is usually in indoor pools, Tom is not used to having to contend with the weather.

**B2. Why was Tom able to travel 130 miles on one of the days when the furthest he travelled apart from that was 66 miles?**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

**Possible answer**

**Starting point**

- Tom Daley was able to travel 130 miles on the day when he only cycled. Obviously, you can travel faster and further on a bike than when you are rowing, running or swimming.

**Development**

- However, that didn’t mean this leg of the journey was easy. It turned out to be a very long day and Tom was hindered by strong winds, heavy fog and nonstop rain!

**B3. What helped Tom during this ‘mission’ that he didn’t have the benefit of at the Tokyo Olympics?**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

**Possible answer**

**Starting point**

- Tom was helped by the fans cheering him on.

**Development**

- Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, fans were not allowed at the Tokyo Olympics. However, schools and adults came out to support him on this journey and they helped to motivate him by being there to give him encouragement when he was struggling.

**B4. What evidence is there to suggest that this was tough physically for Tom and that he faced many challenges?**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

**Possible answer**

**Starting point**

- There is evidence to suggest that this was tough physically for Tom Daley because he said: “I had to train and push my body to places that I never even knew I could.” He also said that there was a point when he felt the “most tired and exhausted” that he’d ever felt. Since Daley is an athlete, this shows how physically demanding this journey was.

**Development**

- He also faced extremely challenging weather conditions. On the first day, the River Thames was choppy and the wind was so strong that Tom capsized into the freezing water. The windy weather also affected his open-water swim. Furthermore, the weather conditions continued to be terrible when he was cycling on Day 3 and he even fell off his bike.



**B5. Why is it significant that Tom ended his journey in Plymouth?**

READING SKILL – Infer information and justify with evidence from the text

**Possible answer****Starting point**

- It is significant that Tom Daley ended his journey in Plymouth because that is his home town.

**Development**

- This meant that in addition to his fans, he also had his family and friends there to welcome him home after his gruelling journey.

**Part C****C1. This report is written in the form of a diary, but how is the narrative voice (eg, first person, second person, third person) different from what you might expect? Why do you think it has been written from this perspective?**

READING SKILL – Explain methods used by the writer with appropriate use of terminology

**Possible answer****Starting point**

- You would expect a diary to be written in the first person but this account is written in the third person. It is also more factual than you might expect and there is nothing about how Tom Daley was feeling at the end of each day.

**Development**

- It is likely that it was written from this perspective because Tom would have been too exhausted to write diary entries at the end of the day and it may have been a bit of a blur to him. Therefore, the third person perspective indicates that someone wrote the log of events for him. It also explains the lack of an emotional response, which is instead given in a quote at the end of the article after he completed the journey.

**C2. Tom Daley is quoted at the end of the article. What is the effect of this on the reader?**

READING SKILL – Explain methods used by the writer with appropriate use of terminology

**Possible answer****Starting point**

- The use of a quotation from Tom Daley helps the reader to appreciate the enormity of his achievement because he admits how difficult he found it.

**Development**

- This is important because the diary of events is written in the third person so it seems more distant and like a story. Tom's first-hand comments bring his experience to life for the reader. His honesty about how challenging he found it shows what he was willing to endure for a good cause and may make readers more willing to support Red Nose Day themselves.

**C3. Tom's documentary is called *Hell of a Homecoming*. Analyse the use of language in this title.**

READING SKILL – Recognise effect of language choices

**Possible answer****Starting point**

- The noun 'homecoming' is a reference to Tom's journey ending in Plymouth because Plymouth is his home town, even though he currently lives in London. Taken as a whole, the phrase 'Hell of a Homecoming' is an informal way of expressing that something has been an incredible adventure. This makes it sound as if the documentary of his journey will be an interesting watch.

**Development**

- However, the noun 'hell' also has connotations of suffering so its use is also appropriate because it reflects what an ordeal the journey was for Tom. Furthermore, the use of alliteration ensures that the title is concise and memorable. This will help if readers want to search for it.