

SPECIAL REPORT

MARATHON MISSION

NORMALLY, I'm one of the designers at *First News*. But, on Sunday 23 April, I will be running 26.2 miles (42km) around London to raise as much money as I can to help Oxfam fight poverty all around the world.

I'm sure you know about events like the London Marathon. You probably have a friend or family member who has taken part in one before. They may even have raised money for Oxfam by doing it! But, have you ever wondered where the money that gets donated goes? I know I have. So, I asked Oxfam! And, to be honest, it's spent on pretty much everything.

Oxfam uses donations from people to provide clean water, food, sanitation, shelter and to help farmers improve the crops they grow. Right now, Oxfam is helping more than 11 million people in 51 countries with your donations. Three of those people are 11-year-old Hamoudi and his younger sisters Sidra and Yasmine, who live in Zaatari camp in Jordan along with 80,000 other Syrian refugees just like them. You can see them in this photograph (above), collecting drinking water from a water tank in their camp supplied by Oxfam. Here are a few more of those 11 million people Oxfam has helped in the past



Hamoudi, Sidra and Yasmine collect water in Jordan



A boy carries blankets given out by Oxfam near the city of Mosul in Iraq. Some families left Mosul after terrorist group Islamic State (IS) captured the city



Eleven-year-old Misso carries her baby brother at their refugee camp in Greece, where Oxfam has provided shelter, heating, food, blankets and hygiene kits to keep them safe and healthy



Schoolchildren in Myanmar wash their hands in a basin provided by Oxfam. Since its installation, both health and school attendance have greatly improved

SPECIAL REPORT

MARATHON MISSION

CONTINUED

SO HOW AM I GETTING ON?

I feel like I'm doing all right, thanks. Before I get into it, though, I just want to say how inspiring it is to learn how the money the London Marathon raises will be helping people all around the world. It's incredible to know that, in a few weeks, I'll be running the world's most famous marathon to help Oxfam make a difference to even more lives.

ALL THAT RUNNING...

I've run two half marathons before and, after both of them, I said that I never, ever, want to run a full one. And yet, here we are, a few weeks away from me doing just that. The training has been going really well, though!

I'm doing my best to cover the miles that I need to each week while also trying to avoid hurting myself, which is proving difficult, and I can't believe how quickly the time is going! I've got just over six weeks until the big day, and that seems like a very, very small amount of time.

INJURIES

I've recently started seeing a physiotherapist to work on my knee – it seems I did a little bit too much running in February! I had to have a sports massage on my legs to ease some of the soreness that I had in my muscles, but I don't know why they call it a massage because it's probably the most painful experience I've ever gone through!



We love cake at First News!

FUNDRAISING

The most important thing – and the reason that 35,000 people run the London Marathon every year – is to raise as much money as possible for charity. As the training is slowing down before race day, I'm starting to focus more on fundraising.

The best way to raise money in the First News office these days is with loads of cake so, this week, everybody donned their oven mitts and aprons and baked and baked to help support me! If you and your schoolmates fancy doing something similar then that would be amazing – any excuse for a cake sale!

If you would like to get involved, and donate to my marathon mission (and I would be so, so grateful if you did!) then you can find my JustGiving fundraising page on the link at the bottom of this page. If you're able to donate, then please let me know – email me at newsdesk@firstnews.co.uk **THANK YOU!**

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/DanJordanVLM2017

SPECIAL REPORT

Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Which charity is Dan Jordan running the London Marathon for? (3 lines)

A2. What does the charity use donations from people for? (3 lines)

A3. How has the charity helped the following people? (3 lines per row)

Hamoudi, Sidra and Yasmine	
Misso and her baby brother	
Schoolchildren in Myanmar	

A4. Has Dan Jordan ever run a marathon before? (2 lines)

A5. How has Dan been raising money in the *First News* office? (4 lines)

Part B: Deduce and infer information

B1. Normally Dan Jordan is one of the designers at *First News*, not one of the writers. So, why has he written this report? (10 lines)

B2. Why is Dan going to run the London Marathon even though he said he “never, ever” wanted to run a marathon? (10 lines)

B3. What has Dan found to be the most difficult part of the training? (10 lines)

B4. Dan recently had to have a sports massage. Explain why he said: “I don’t know why they call it a massage.” (7 lines)

B5. Why has Dan started to focus more on fundraising now? (8 lines)

Part C: Analyse the writing and presentation

C1. Explore the language techniques used in the headline “MARATHON MISSION”? (6 lines)

C2. Describe the style and tone employed by the writer. Find evidence to support your answer. (12 lines)

C3. Compare how the pictures are used in the section about the work of the charity with how they are used in the “So, how am I getting on?” section. (12 lines)

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Part A: Find and explain the facts

A1. Which charity is Dan Jordan running the London Marathon for?

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Hamoudi, Sidra and Yasmine
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Schoolchildren in Myanmar

SPECIAL REPORT

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.

TEACHER ANSWERS

A1. Which charity is Dan Jordan running the London Marathon for?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- Dan Jordan is going to run the London Marathon for Oxfam.

Developed response

- On Sunday 23 April, Dan Jordan will be running 26.2 miles (42km) around London to raise money to help Oxfam fight poverty all around the world.

A2. What does the charity use donations from people for?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- Oxfam uses donations from people to provide clean water, food, sanitation, shelter and to help farmers improve the crops they grow.

Development

- Right now, Oxfam is using donations in order to help more than 11 million people in 51 countries.

A3. How has the charity helped the following people?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Hamoudi, Sidra and Yasmine	<p>Starting point</p> <p>-Oxfam has provided a water tank in their camp.</p> <p>Developed response</p> <p>-Hamoudi and his siblings live in Zaatari camp in Jordan along with 80,000 other Syrian refugees. Oxfam has supplied a water tank in order to provide clean drinking water for the refugees.</p>
Misso and her baby brother	<p>Starting point</p> <p>-Oxfam has provided them with shelter, heating, food, blankets and hygiene kits.</p> <p>Developed response</p> <p>-Misso and her baby brother live in a refugee camp in Greece. Oxfam has provided shelter, heating, food, blankets and hygiene kits to help keep them safe and healthy.</p>
School children in Myanmar	<p>Starting point</p> <p>-Oxfam has provided the schoolchildren with a basin.</p> <p>Developed response</p> <p>-Oxfam has provided the schoolchildren with a basin so that they can wash their hands. Health and school attendance have greatly improved since its installation.</p>

A4. Has Dan Jordan ever run a marathon before?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- No, Dan Jordan has never run a marathon before.

Development

- He has run two half marathons before but never a full one.

A5. How has Dan been raising money in the *First News* office?

READING SKILL-Find and explain information

Possible answer

Starting point

- Dan has been raising money in the *First News* office with a cake sale.

Development

- He asserts that this is the best way to raise money in the *First News* office these days. This week, everybody “donned their oven mitts and aprons and baked and baked” in order to help support him.

Part B

B1. Normally Dan Jordan is one of the designers at *First News*, not one of the writers. So, why has he written this report?

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

Possible answer

Starting point

- Dan Jordan has written this report even though he is usually one of the designers at *First News* because he is the person who is going to be running the London Marathon.

Development

- Therefore he is able to write the report in the first person which makes it more engaging because it is so personal. A first-hand account seems more honest because it hasn't had the chance to get distorted by other people and their interpretations. Therefore, when Dan describes why he is doing the London Marathon and how he feels about all of the training, it seems very real.
- The use of the first person narrative voice is also a persuasive technique. It makes the writer seem familiar. This is especially the case here as Dan Jordan is one of the *First News* team and the reader is reading *First News*. Therefore, readers are more likely to be interested in Dan's “marathon mission” and to want to support him.

B2. Why is Dan going to run the London Marathon even though he said he “never, ever” wanted to run a marathon?

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

Possible answer

Starting point

- Dan is going to run the London Marathon even though he said he “never, ever” wanted to run a marathon because, like the other 35,000 people who run the London Marathon every year, he wants to raise as much money as possible for charity.
- He finds it “inspiring” to learn how the money raised by the London Marathon will be helping people all around the world and he wants to help Oxfam “make a difference to even more lives.”

Development

- Furthermore, he said he “never, ever” wanted to run a full marathon after he finished both of his half marathons. He was probably feeling tired at the end of those races and unable to imagine having to run any further. However, once he'd forgotten that feeling, the challenge of a marathon obviously started to seem more appealing.
- Dan also mentions how the London Marathon is “the world's most famous marathon” and so it is likely that he also wants to run it because it is an amazing achievement to take part in this London sporting institution.

B3. What has Dan found to be the most difficult part of the training?

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

Possible answer

Starting point

- Dan has found it difficult to cover the miles that he needs to cover each week whilst also avoiding injury.

Development

- People training for a marathon are advised to follow a training plan to ensure that they are fit enough to run such a long distance safely. The plan sets out a timetable for when and how far the person should run each week. However, Dan has had to start seeing a physiotherapist because his knee has been causing him problems and he believes that this is because he did a little bit too much running in February.
- The marathon plan has to fit the runner's experience, fitness and health and there might be a bit of trial and error involved in finding the right plan for you if you are a first time marathon runner. This probably explains what Dan has found difficult even though in general his training "has been going really well."

B4. Dan recently had to have a sports massage. Explain why he said: "I don't know why they call it a massage."

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

Possible answer

Starting point

- Dan said "I don't know why they call it a massage" because he found it really painful.

Development

- The word "massage" has positive connotations. It is associated with relaxation and the promotion of health and well-being. However, Dan had to have a sports massage to ease some of the soreness in his leg muscles and he found it to be "probably the most painful experience" that he's ever gone through. Therefore, although the massage may well have helped his health, Dan didn't find it very relaxing and so it wasn't what he expected of a massage.

B5. Why has Dan started to focus more on fundraising now?

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

Possible answer

Starting point

- Dan has started to focus more on fundraising now because he has got more time.

Development

- At the height of his training he would have had to do time consuming long runs. Indeed the average person preparing for a marathon is advised to run 20 miles two or three times before the actual race. For most runners that distance takes a good few hours to run. However, Dan has only got just over six weeks until the race and so at this point the training slows down so that runners are not exhausted by the time of the actual marathon. Therefore, Dan is using the time that he would have been training in order to do some more fundraising for his cause.

Part C

C1. Explore the language techniques used in the headline "MARATHON MISSION".

READING SKILL-Recognise effect of language choices

Possible answer

Starting point

- Alliteration is used in the headline in order to make it flow so that it is memorable.

Development

- The word "mission" is used because it is a reference to the important task that Dan is doing in running a marathon in order to raise money for Oxfam. However, when used informally the word "mission" can be used to mean that something is difficult. Therefore, the word is also used to show that Dan is taking on a big challenge and this makes the story seem more interesting.

C2. Describe the style and tone employed by the writer. Find evidence to support your answer.

READING SKILL- Understand writer's intent

Possible answer

- The writer employs an informal, conversational style and adopts a friendly tone.

Development

- In the “So, how am I getting on?” section, Dan writes as if responding to a question from the reader. He says “I feel like I’m doing alright, thanks.” The use of the word “thanks” makes it seem as if he is politely interacting with readers as part of a conversation.
- He also directly addresses the reader when he writes “If you and your schoolmates fancy doing something [like a cake sale] then that would be amazing.” The use of the second person pronouns “you” and “your” have an emotional impact on the reader as it makes it seem as if the writer knows them personally. Thus it seems as if the writer and the readers are all part of one big friendly team. The use of informal vocabulary such as “fancy” adds to this effect. Furthermore, the word “amazing” is used as positive reinforcement to make the readers feel praised and as if they could help fund raise.
- Lots of exclamation marks are used. This is common in texts and blogs and so again it makes the writing seem informal. It also shows that Dan is expressive when writing about his charity run for Oxfam and this also helps engage readers.

C3. Compare how the pictures are used in the section about the work of the charity with how they are used in the “So, how am I getting on?” section.

READING SKILL-Identify benefits of text organisation and presentation

Possible answer

Starting point

- In the section about the work of Oxfam, the pictures add information; whereas, in the “So, how am I getting on?” section they support the main body text.

Development

- The pictures in the section about Oxfam have long captions containing information about different people around the world who’ve been helped by the charity. The main body text leads the reader to the pictures through the use of ellipsis at the end of the concluding sentence. Therefore the pictures provide evidence of the good work done by Oxfam and show that it is a good cause for Dan to be supporting.
- The pictures in the “So, how am I getting on?” section reflect what is written in that section. A cake sale has been held in the *First News* office in order to help Dan with his fundraising and so there is a picture of some cakes with an Oxfam donation box next to them. There is also a picture of Dan in his Oxfam emblazoned running vest holding a biscuit with the word “Oxfam” on it. The picture of Dan enables the reader to put a face to the name and the way in which the word “Oxfam” features in both of these pictures reminds the reader to donate.