

# Reading & Viewing

Name:

## Reading Comprehension – Text

**Task:** The following text is quite a long text for a reading comprehension and so you will need to make sure that you take your time in reading it carefully. After reading the story and questions at least twice, answer the questions as best as you can.

### **A Visit to the Doctor**

*Adapted from the original story by Meera Nair*

The doctor sighed as he passed the nurse his prescription through a little window that was built for that purpose. It was five in the evening. He had lost count of the number of patients he had seen that day – it was the flu season and he had spent the day copying out the same prescription over and over again.



The doctor slumped over his desk and as his eyes fell upon the picture of the smoker's lung for the umpteenth time, he wondered if he could redecorate his office. One of those certificates of his that his nurse had insisted on hanging at the entrance to the clinic would look much better in his office. The lung could go outside. And that poster there, the one showing the cross-section of a –

“Ready for the next patient?” the nurse's voice broke through his thoughts.

The doctor sighed again and rubbed his eyes.

“How many more, Marianne?” he asked.

“This is the last,” she said, smiling encouragingly at him.

He gave a small grunt that she took to be assent to her first question and he heard her call the next patient in. He sat straighter and assumed a professional air.

Outside, a flu-ridden Sandra dragged herself to the doctor's office. She had not intended to visit the doctor at all, believing that the flu would cure itself with a lot of rest and water. But the arrival of her mother had left her with no choice but to seek professional help. It was that, or a week of constant nagging. She had already had to fill in copious forms before her visit and she wanted to get this visit over and done with now. She raised her fist and knocked on the lacquered wooden door that led to the doctor's office. A name was embossed on it, but she did not read it.

“Come in,” a male voice said from within.

Sandra pushed open the door and strode in, determined to get this finished quickly.

“Sandra?” the doctor said, at the same time as she said, “Andrew?”

She stood there for a moment, stunned, and then glanced down at her attire. Yellow flip-flops, an ugly pink flowered pair of shorts, and a faded green T-shirt.

“You’re a doctor?” she asked the man in the immaculate shirt and trousers.

“Obviously,” he said, smiling. “Why don’t you sit down?”

He gestured to the chair next to his desk, so she moved towards it and sat down.

“I can’t believe you’re a doctor!” she said as he opened his mouth to speak.

He grinned.

“How have you been?” he asked.

She shrugged, still in disbelief.

“You?” she asked.

“Good, good,” he replied.

“You look exactly as you did before!” she said.

He laughed.

“It’s been like, what? Ten years? Give or take?” he asked.

She nodded.

“I can imagine your surprise,” he continued.

“The last time we met, I was probably getting yelled at by some teacher!”

“If I recall correctly, you spent more time outside the classroom than you did inside!” she said.

They laughed and Sandra tried to suppress a cough.

“So are you a dancer now? I remember you declaring in – grade Six, was it? – that you wanted to be a dancer,” he said.

“No,” she said ruefully. “I grew out of it. I work in Public Relations now.”

When did you become so serious?” Sandra asked, half in jest.

He shrugged thoughtfully.

“I grew out of it.” he said and then grinned mischievously.

“Well, my early interest in biology was always evident. I used to keep cockroaches as pets,” he said. Sandra pulled a face and quickly stopped. The stretching sensation was making her head pound.

“I only remember you frying tadpoles you caught on the slide projector” she said.

“Don’t remind me. I can’t believe I did that. I’ve repented,” he said. Almost as an afterthought, he added, “I’m a vegetarian now.”

“Oh?” Sandra asked.

“If only we could go back to those days,” he sighed. “Good old Mrs Lim, Mr Pereira, Mrs Lee, Ms Simon –”

“Ms Yan,” Sandra interjected and they both burst out laughing at the memory of the elderly woman from their primary school days.

“She chased me onto the field one day, did you know? I ran down the stairs from our second-floor classroom, to the canteen and then to the field. And she followed me all the way, stick in hand!” he said.

Sandra felt herself getting short of breath from all the laughing and started coughing.

“Ah, don’t laugh now,” he said suddenly.

Sandra nodded, an act that proved difficult as she was also clutching her side and coughing.

“Better?” he asked. She nodded.

“Sorry, I should have asked you what was wrong earlier,” he said.

She shook her head, still trying to breathe evenly.

“So, how can I help?” he asked.

“Well, it’s nothing much. Just the flu,” she said, still gasping for breath in between words.

“Okay. What are your symptoms?” he asked.

“Just a headache, a runny nose and a sore throat,” she mumbled. She found it a tad awkward to have him as her doctor.

“And a cough,” he said.

After examining her throat, nose and ears, he wrote out a prescription and the two promised to get in touch once she was better.

Outside, the nurse called her almost immediately to the counter to get her medication. As she labelled the packets of pills and the cough mixture, she asked, “So you’re a friend of the doctor’s?”



“We were classmates before,” Sandra said. The nurse laughed.

“I never knew he was that entertaining in his school days.”

Sandra nodded, paid for her medication and left. The appointment had been most surprising and certainly much more pleasant than anticipated.

The doctor left soon after the last patient. As he waved goodbye to her, the nurse thought that she had never seen him look so cheerful before.

## Reading Comprehension – Questions (30 marks)

**Task:** Answer the following questions in full sentences (*unless otherwise specified*) and check your grammar and spelling carefully.

1. In the first three paragraphs of this story we are made aware that the doctor has had a long day and is feeling tired. List four words or phrases from the story that give us this impression. (4)
2. Why do you think that the doctor needed to “sit straighter and [assume] a professional air” before the last patient came in? (2)
3. In paragraph 4 we are introduced to Sandra and her attitude to having to be at the doctor.  
The writer has used words like: ‘dragged’, ‘copious’, and ‘constant’. What impression do these words create? (2)
4. What was Sandra’s reaction at finding that Andrew was her doctor? Explain two emotions that she felt. (2)
5. How does Andrew feel about seeing Sandra as his last patient? Give at least two references to justify your answer. (3)

6. Do you think that Sandra disliked her doctor’s visit as much as she thought that she would? Explain your answer whilst making reference to the story. (3)



### Language Items

7. Give synonyms from the story for each of the following words: (3)
  1. a) Identical –
  2. b) ‘Drooped’ –
  3. c) Interrupted –
8. Give antonyms from the story for each of the following words: (3)
  1. a) Dishevelled –
  2. b) Absent –
  3. c) Unexpected –

9. Rewrite the following extract from the passage as a dialogue. (8)

*"How have you been?" he asked. She shrugged, still in disbelief. "You?" she asked. "Good, good," he replied.*

*"You look exactly as you did before!" she said.*

*He laughed.*

*"It's been like, what? Ten years? Give or take?" he asked.*

*She nodded.*

*"I can imagine your surprise," he continued.*

*"The last time we met, I was probably getting yelled at by some teacher!"*

*"If I recall correctly, you spent more time outside the classroom than you did inside!" she said. They laughed and Sandra tried to suppress a cough.*



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Grade 7 English Home Language Term 3 Weeks 1-2: Reading & Viewing