

LITERATURE – 1A

Mill owner Mr Tulliver wants his son Tom to get a good education and has asked Mr Stelling, a local **clergyman** to teach Tom. When Tom goes back to his lessons with Mr Stelling after the Christmas holidays, he has a new **companion**, a boy called Philip Wakem.

START THINKING ...

1 Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

- What skills do you admire in other people?
- Name some people you respect and explain why.
- What good intentions have you got that you never manage to do?

THE MILL ON THE FLOSS (1860) George Eliot

Tom looked at his new companion. He was small with a **hump** on his back. Tom felt shy and didn't think he was going to like him. Then he noticed that he had pencils and paper on his desk and he was busy drawing. What was he drawing? Tom went closer to Philip and looked over his shoulder.



'Why, there's a **donkey**, a dog and some birds in a field.' He was full of **admiration** and no longer felt shy. 'I wish I could draw like that. I'm going to learn drawing this term. I wonder if I'll learn to draw dogs and donkeys as well as that!'

'You can draw them without learning,' said Philip; 'I've never had drawing lessons.'

'You've never had drawing lessons?' said Tom in **amazement**. 'When I try to draw animals, they always come out wrong. Perhaps I need to practise more. I'm not too bad at drawing houses.'

'Well,' said Philip, 'it isn't very difficult. You have to look at things very carefully and then practise drawing them lots of times.'

'But haven't you been at school for a long time?' asked Tom.

'Yes,' said Philip, smiling. 'I've studied Latin, Greek, Mathematics, Writing and those sort of subjects.'

'You don't like Latin, do you?' said Tom.

'I don't care much about it,' replied Philip. 'I've finished with Latin grammar. I don't learn that anymore.'

'Then we won't have lessons together,' said Tom with a sense of disappointment.

'No, but I'll be able to help you. I'll be very glad to help you if I can.'

'Will you have drawing lessons now?' asked Tom.

'No,' said Philip, 'my father wishes me to give all my time to other things now.'

'What! Latin, Geometry, and those things?' asked Tom.

'Yes,' said Philip, who had stopped drawing and was resting his head on his hand, while Tom was **leaning** on his desk looking with admiration at the drawing of the dog and the donkey.

'And you don't mind that?' said Tom with **curiosity**.

'No. I want to know what everybody else knows. I can study what I like later.'

'I can't think why anybody needs to learn Latin,' said Tom. 'It's no good.'

'It's part of the education of a gentleman,' said Philip. 'All gentlemen learn the same things.'

'What? Do you think Sir John Crake, the master of the **hunting** dogs, knows Latin?' asked Tom, who had great respect for Sir John Crake and often thought he'd like to be like him.

'I bet he learnt it as a boy,' replied Philip, 'but I expect he's forgotten it now.'

'Oh, well I can do it, then,' said Tom, not with any real intention, but with the satisfaction that it would make him more like his hero, Sir John Crake.

Glossary

mill a place where grain is pressed and made into flour

clergyman a member of the clergy (a group of Christian church leaders)

companion someone you spend a lot of time with

hump a round, hard part on a person or animal's back

donkey an animal that looks like a small horse with long ears

admiration the feeling of liking and respecting someone for the good qualities they have

amazement the state of being very surprised

lean to move the top part of your body in a particular direction

curiosity the feeling of wanting to know or learn about something

hunt to chase or kill wild animals

2 **▶▶1A.1** Read the text and listen.

3 Read the text again. Answer the questions.

- Who is Mr Stelling's first student?
- What was Tom's first impression of Philip? Why did this change?
- According to Philip, what does Tom have to do to be good at drawing?
- Who is better at Latin, Tom or Philip?
- Why doesn't Philip mind not having art lessons?
- Why does Tom agree to learn Latin?

4 **READ BETWEEN THE LINES** Answer the questions.

- How did Tom feel about having a new school companion, do you think?
- What are the differences between Tom and Philip's attitudes to school?
- How would you describe Tom's character?
- What features in the text show that it was written in the past?

5 **VOCABULARY** Complete the sentences with the correct words from the glossary in the correct form.

- In the 1860s, before primary education was compulsory in England, many _____ taught in schools.
- The 19th Century was a time of great scientific progress thanks to the _____ of scientists.
- There were more children in each class in the 1800s in England than today. Children had lots of _____.
- Mill owners often used _____ to transport silk and cotton.
- _____ for foxes, deer and rabbits was a popular sport for people in the 19th Century.
- The first infant school in Britain opened in 1816. Teachers looked after children as young as two years old while their parents worked in the many cotton _____.

6 Underline five words in the text that are new to you. Look them up in a dictionary and then write each of them in a sentence.

7 **ROLE PLAY** Work in pairs. Tom wants Philip to teach him how to draw. Student A is Tom, Student B is Philip. Read the beginning of the conversation and then continue with your own ideas.

TOM I want to draw that horse for my father, but I don't know how to.

PHILIP Don't worry. I'll help you if you want. I like drawing horses.

...

8 **LISTENING** **▶▶1A.2** Listen to the next part of the story. Tom's father and younger sister, Maggie, come to visit him at school. Circle the correct answer.

- Mr Tulliver / Mr Stelling / Mrs Stelling* is in the room with Tom.
- Tom / Mr Tulliver / Mr Stelling* understands Geometry.
- Mr Stelling / Maggie / Tom* admires all the books in the library.
- Tom / Maggie / Mr Stelling* has homework to do.

9 **▶▶1A.2** Listen again. Mark the sentences T (true), F (false) or DS (doesn't say).

- Tom missed his Geometry lesson because he had a headache.
- Maggie has studied Latin.
- Mr Tulliver is proud of his daughter.
- Maggie's mother doesn't want her to stay with Mr Stelling.
- Tom is angry when Maggie can't understand his Maths book.

WRITING An argumentative essay10 **WRITING** Are some school subjects more important than others? Write an essay with your argument in 150–200 words.

- Paragraph 1 (Introduction): Introduce the topic. End the paragraph with your initial opinion.
- Paragraph 2: Give arguments that support your opinion. Give clear examples and evidence.
- Paragraph 3: Think about the opposite opinion. Give examples. Say why the argument is weak.
- Paragraph 4 (Conclusion): Summarise your essay and restate your opinion in your first paragraph.

THINK PEN NAMES

George Eliot was the pen name (or 'pseudonym') of Mary Ann Evans. Women writers in the 19th Century often published their books under a male pen name to make sure their work was taken seriously. Even today some writers choose to write under a pseudonym to hide their identity. Some famous pen names are: Robert Galbraith (J.K. Rowling), Richard Bachman (Stephen King) and N.W. Clark (C.S. Lewis).

11 Why do think these famous authors used a pen name? What other reasons might authors and artists have to use a pseudonym? Do you know anyone who uses a different name?