

# LITERATURE – 1B

**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

**companion** someone you spend a lot of time with

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

**noticed** saw something and was aware of it

**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

**disappointment** the feeling of being sad because something didn't happen

**curiosity** the feeling of wanting to know or learn about something

**hunting** chasing and killing wild animals

2 **1B.1** Read the text and listen.

## 3 Read the text again. Find and correct the mistakes in each sentence.

- 1 Mr Stelling's first student is Philip.
- 2 Tom is interested in Philip's drawing of houses in a field.
- 3 Philip says that Tom should look at things quickly before he draws.
- 4 Tom is as good as Philip at Latin.
- 5 Philip wants to be a mill owner.
- 6 Sir John Crake is Tom's master.

4 **READ BETWEEN THE LINES** Underline the sentence that cannot be true.

- a Philip has studied more subjects than Tom.
- b Philip agrees with his father about his choice of school subjects.
- c Tom and Philip don't have school holidays.
- d Sir John Crake spends a lot of time outside.

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

- 1 I \_\_\_\_\_ the car coming round the corner, but by then, it was too late.
- 2 Lucy's aunt is very successful. Lucy looks at her with \_\_\_\_\_ and wants to be like her.
- 3 Sophia wanted a new bike for her birthday. When she got a doll, she couldn't hide her \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 A dromedary camel is an animal that has got one \_\_\_\_\_ on its back.
- 5 This \_\_\_\_\_ used to work on the farm – small children used to ride it. It's old now so lives here.
- 6 They looked at her in \_\_\_\_\_. Nobody thought it was possible that she would win.

6 **ROLE PLAY** Work in pairs. Tom wants Philip to teach him how to draw. Student A is Tom, Student B is Philip. Put the sentences in the correct order. Then act it out.

- \_\_\_ TOM Thanks! So what do I need to do first? I've got some paper ... and I'll use paint, not pencils.
- \_\_\_ TOM Like this? Oh, it isn't very good!
- 1 TOM I want to draw that horse for my father, but I don't know how to.
- \_\_\_ TOM And that's it! Not bad for a first try!
- \_\_\_ PHILIP That is a great idea. I like colourful paintings. First you need to paint the background, the sky and the grass.
- \_\_\_ PHILIP Don't worry. I'll help you if you want. I like drawing horses.
- \_\_\_ PHILIP It's not too bad! Now choose a colour for the horse, and paint it in the middle.

7 **LISTENING** **1B.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.

- 1 Mr Tulliver / Mr Stelling is in the room with Tom.
- 2 Tom / Mr Stelling understands Geometry.
- 3 Maggie / Tom talks about Latin words in an English dictionary.
- 4 Mr Stelling / Maggie admires all the books in the library.
- 5 Tom / Maggie has homework to do.
- 6 Mr Tulliver / Tom isn't kind when Maggie can't understand the Maths book.

**WRITING** An argumentative essay8 **WRITING** Are some school subjects more important than others? Write an essay with your argument in 125–150 words.

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

**THINK PEN NAMES**

George Eliot was the 'pen name' (a different name) of Mary Ann Evans. Women writers in the 19th Century often used a man's name because people often thought that men wrote better books. Even today some writers choose to hide their identity when they write. Some famous pen names are: Robert Galbraith (J.K. Rowling), Richard Bachman (Stephen King) and N.W. Clark (C.S. Lewis).

## 9 Why do you think these famous authors used a pen name? Match the author with the reason. Then check your answers.

- 1 Galbraith
  - 2 Bachman
  - 3 Clark
- a wrote about a personal topic, and didn't want fans to know
  - b previous books popular, wanted to test if they would be as successful again
  - c wanted to publish more than one book at a time