

Year 6 SATs

Reading Revision & Practice Booklet: Cassie the Commentator



Name: _____

Who is Cassie the Commentator?



Cassie the Commentator is the clever canine who helps with reading content domains **2f** and **2h**:

Identify/explain how information/narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole.

Make comparisons within the text.

This means that she is there to help you to do two things: she explains how certain parts of a text build or change an overall message or meaning and she says how characters or events within the story are similar to or different from each other. Cassie might even explore how a single character changes over the course of a story.

What sort of questions might Cassie the Commentator ask?

Cassie the Commentator will always ask questions which relate to the overall message of a text and about comparing characters and events in the text. She has been known to ask:

- **compare** one character to another – how are they different or similar?
- how are the settings within the story **similar or different**?
- **who** has the author written this text for? **Why**?
- how has this character changed during the text?
- **compare** how the characters react to this situation. Who deals with it best?
- what is the **most thought-provoking moment** of the story?



Katherine Johnson – Super Computer!

The Computers

Katherine Johnson was an African American mathematician whose calculations during her work for NASA were vital to the success of manned space flights. The work she and her colleagues did was so skilled that they became known as the 'computers'.

Origins

Katherine Johnson was born in West Virginia, USA, on 26th August 1918. From an early age, she showed great aptitude for maths. However, in her home state, African American children received an education only up until the eighth grade (the American equivalent of year 9). As all qualifications necessary to enter Higher Education were achieved after this grade, Katherine's parents relocated to an area where she could continue her education.

Summa Cum Laude

Katherine graduated from high school at the age of 14 (in comparison, the average age was 17). Immediately after graduation, she enrolled at West Virginia State university. There, Katherine further demonstrated her abilities to such an extent that one of her professors commenced new maths courses exclusively for her. At aged 18, Katherine graduated summa cum laude which is Latin for 'with highest honour'. This meant that she was in the top 1% of all students.

Let's have a go at answering a Cassie the Commentator question, step by step:

1. Find and underline the organisational features.
2. Think about the purpose of each organisational feature and the affect it has on the text.
3. Check the number of answers you need to give and clearly mark the answer in the way you are asked to.

Now, using these top tips, have a go at answering some on your own.

1
How has the author organised the text?
Why have they done this?



How does the title encourage you to read on?

2

Who do you think the author has written this text for? Explain your answer.

3

How could the information in this text be set out in a different way or be improved?

4

Draw lines to match each section to its content.

Section

The Computers

Origins

Summa Cum Laude

Content

Details Katherine's educational achievements

Details Katherine's early life

Introduces Katherine Johnson

5

Phoenix

Despairing, all seems lost.
Hopelessness, the pang of grief.
But then a green shoot of hope appears
Where once there was bare soil.

What is that feeling?
The quickening of a heart
That feels a sense of peace.
All shall be well.

Like the phoenix
Rising from the ashes,
Where once there was desolation
Now, flashes of colour.



Look at the title of this poem. What might you expect it to be about?

1

Compare the rise of the phoenix in the poem to an event you have experienced.

2

(a) **Find** and **copy two** words where the speaker's mood changes.

(b) How does the speaker's mood change?

3

What is the theme of this poem? Does it have a message?

4

How does the speaker remind you of a character from another story, another poem or of a person that you know?

5

Identical?

The question had always exasperated their mum and now it was Cleo and Josie's turn. 'Are you identical?' Looking at her tall, red-haired twin and thinking about her own curly dark locks, Cleo wondered if people understood the definition of the word identical.

"Yes, of course, we're identical. Look how Cleo only comes up to my shoulder. Oh, her dark brown eyes are totally the same as my pale green ones," Josie had sarcastically retorted to the last person who had asked her.

"Josie!" Cleo admonished her sister.

"Sorry," she muttered apologetically to their questioner, her face as red as a beetroot. She pulled Josie away.

"You shouldn't be embarrassed," declared Josie as she looked at her twin's blush-red cheeks. "They should be mortified for asking such a stupid question. Identical means..."

"I know what it means," Cleo stated in her quietly firm manner, "I just don't see why you have to be so aggressive about it!"

Cleo made her way back to their shared bedroom. Trying to avoid the piles of dirty clothes, empty crisps packets and used damp towels on Josie's side of the room, she flopped down on her own neatly-made bed.



...Josie had sarcastically retorted...

Explain why the author has used the words 'sarcastically retorted'.

Draw lines to match each part of the story with the correct quotation from the text.

setting

She pulled Josie away.

past events

piles of dirty clothes, empty crisps
packets and used damp towels

action

The question had always exasperated
their mum

2

Compare how Josie and Cleo react to the question. Who deals best with the situation?

3

Are Josie and Cleo like siblings in any other stories you have read?

4

Why might someone choose to read this story?

5

Extended Response Challenge



Using evidence from the text to support your answer, describe **two** ways in which the author shows similarities and differences between the twins.
