

# **PIXL** Step **Up**

## **PiXL Step Up**

*English*

**Read the extract and answer the questions that follow:**

1 It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. Winston  
2 Smith, his chin nuzzled into his breast in an effort to escape the vile wind,  
3 slipped quickly through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, though not quickly  
4 enough to prevent a swirl of gritty dust from entering along with him.

5 The hallway smelt of boiled cabbage and old rag mats. At one end of it a  
6 coloured poster, too large for indoor display, had been tacked to the wall. It  
7 depicted simply an enormous face, more than a metre wide: the face of a man  
8 of about forty-five, with a heavy black moustache and ruggedly handsome  
9 features. Winston made for the stairs. It was no use trying the lift. Even at the  
10 best of times it was seldom working, and at present the electric current was cut  
11 off during daylight hours. It was part of the economy drive in preparation for  
12 Hate Week. The flat was seven flights up, and Winston, who was thirty-nine and  
13 had a varicose ulcer above his right ankle, went slowly, resting several times on  
14 the way. On each landing, opposite the lift-shaft, the poster with the enormous  
15 face gazed from the wall. It was one of those pictures which are so contrived  
16 that the eyes follow you about when you move. BIG BROTHER IS WATCHING  
17 YOU, the caption beneath it ran.

18 Inside the flat a fruity voice was reading out a list of figures which had  
19 something to do with the production of pig-iron. The voice came from an  
20 oblong metal plaque like a dulled mirror which formed part of the surface of the  
21 right-hand wall. Winston turned a switch and the voice sank somewhat, though  
22 the words were still distinguishable. The instrument (the telescreen, it was  
23 called) could be dimmed, but there was no way of shutting it off completely. He  
24 moved over to the window: a smallish, frail figure, the meagreness of his body  
25 merely emphasized by the blue overalls which were the uniform of the party.  
26 His hair was very fair, his face naturally sanguine, his skin roughened by coarse  
27 soap and blunt razor blades and the cold of the winter that had just ended.

1. 'Winston Smith, his chin nuzzled into his breast in an effort to escape the vile wind'

Which word is closest in meaning to 'nuzzled'?

- nestle
- escape

2. 'slipped quickly through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, though not quickly enough to prevent a swirl of gritty dust from entering along with him.'

What does 'prevent' mean?

- encourage
- stop

3. What impression are we given of Winston's health here?

'The flat was seven flights up, and Winston, who was thirty-nine and had a varicose ulcer above his right ankle, went slowly, resting several times on the way.'

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4. 'Even at the best of times it was seldom working, and at present the electric current was cut off during daylight hours.'

What does 'seldom' mean?

- frequently
- rarely

5. What did the poster have on it?

- boiled cabbage
- rats
- a small face
- a large face

6. Why didn't Winston take the lift?

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7. What was the voice talking about when Winston got inside to his flat?

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8. Read lines 21-24; briefly summarise Winston's appearance.

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9. Which word best summarises the atmosphere in the extract?

- terrifying
- exhilarating
- bleak

10. Which of the following would be the most suitable summary of the whole text?

- We find out about the start of a war.
- We are introduced to a man and his life.
- We find out about how pig-iron is made.

11. Read lines 1-4 again.

(a) How does the writer use language to portray the setting? You should analyse a minimum of two words or phrases.

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(b) Read the opening sentence again; why do you think the author chose to begin the story like this?

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12. Read lines 5-15 again.

(a) Summarise how the man in the poster is described.

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(b) Summarise how Winston is described.

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(c) Compare how the writer uses language to describe the man in the poster and Winston. You should use comparison words and analyse specific words, discussing why the author has used them.

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13. Identify the main or subordinate clauses in the following sentences:

- Although Winston walked down the stairs, he was in great pain.
- Whenever I see the click, my heart sinks.
- I love chocolate, although I prefer ice cream.
- She strode towards me, looking utterly magnificent in the summer breeze.
- I can't wait to go to the cinema; it's an experience you simply can't get at home!
- It's time we looked again at the stock; it's looking a little low!

14. Insert the subordinating conjunctions into the sentences below:

- (a) The crowd went wild \_\_\_\_\_ the referee blew his whistle.
- (b) We loved going there \_\_\_\_\_ it was just so expensive!
- (c) She loved to eat ice cream \_\_\_\_\_ it cooled her down.
- (d) We knew it was going to be all over \_\_\_\_\_ it rained.

because, but, when, if

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