

## LPF Listening Exemplar

### The Golden Boys

#### Task Description

Students listened to a short story about a teenage boy's summer holiday in a small seaside town and responded to questions related to plot development and characterisation to prepare for a discussion on teenage rivalry. Students could listen to the excerpts again before responding to some of the questions.

#### Preparation

Before listening to the story, to help students form a mental image of what the story may be about, they studied the picture below, which illustrates a scene in the story and discuss the following questions:



(image copyright by Paul Millard)

- Where does the story take place?
- Why are the two boys taken away by the policemen?
- How does the boy under the umbrella look? What explains his look?

## Learning Outcomes: CVO s 7-8

### CVO 7

Understanding, inferring and interpreting information, ideas, feelings and opinions in a range of texts with some degree of complexity, using and integrating a range of listening strategies as appropriate

### CVO 8

Understanding, inferring and interpreting information, ideas, feelings and opinions in complex texts, using and integrating a range of listening strategies as appropriate

Questions	When students respond to the questions appropriately, they can:
<p>1. Listen to the excerpt and answer the questions that follow.</p> <div><p><i>Every August. Every August for twelve years. Every August for twelve years we went to the same small town on holiday. Every August for twelve years we went to the same beach. Every August for twelve years my parents rented the same small house in the same small town near the same beach, so every morning of every August for twelve years I woke up and walked down to the same beach and sat under the same umbrella or on the same towel in front of the same sea.</i></p></div> <p>a) What is special about the excerpt? <i>There are many repeated words and structures.</i></p> <p>b) What is the tone used in the excerpt? <i>A flat and boring tone.</i></p> <p>c) What does the narrator think of the annual summer beach holiday? Support your answer with reasons. <i>The narrator thinks that the beach holiday is boring as he and his family do the same things every year. This idea is reinforced by his use of</i></p>	<p>ATM 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>analyse the narrator's views and feelings by recognising the use of repetitive structures, e.g. 'Every August', 'every day', 'the same' and a flat, boring tone to express the repetitiveness and monotony of both his annual summer beach holiday and the daily activity during his holiday</li></ul>

<p><i>repetition and monotonous tone.</i></p>	
<p>2. Listen to the following excerpt again.</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px 0;"> <p><i>Every August for twelve years the same family sat next to us. They were called the Hamiltons. We had a red and white umbrella, they had a green one. Every morning my parents said ‘Good morning!’ to Mr and Mrs Hamilton, and Mr and Mrs Hamilton said ‘Good morning!’ to my parents. Sometimes they talked about the weather.</i></p> </div> <p>What does the narrator want to tell us about the relationship of his parents and Mr and Mrs Hamilton by mentioning the way they greet as well as their topic of conversation? Support your answers with reasons.</p> <p><i>By mentioning the way they greet and their topic of conversation, the narrator wants to tell us that they do not have a close relationship although they have known one another for twelve years. The routine greeting and their conversation about trivial matters, such as the weather, suggest that they are not close friends.</i></p>	<p>ATM 8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>infer the narrator’s intention of mentioning how his parents and Mr and Mrs Hamilton greet one another and their topic of conversation and deduce that they are no more than nodding acquaintances although they appear to be friendly and have known one another for a long time</li> </ul>

3. Listen to the following excerpt again and answer the questions that follow.

*Mr and Mrs Hamilton had two sons. Richard was the same age as me, and his brother Philip was two years older than me. Richard and Philip were both taller than me. Richard and Philip were very friendly, and both very handsome. They were much friendlier and more handsome than me. They made friends with everyone, and organised the games of volleyball on the beach or swimming races in the sea with the other children. They always won the games of volleyball and the swimming races. My parents liked Richard and Philip a lot. 'Why can't you be more like Richard and Philip?' they said to me.*

- a) Use appropriate adjectives/phrases to describe the Hamilton brothers as compared to the narrator. Item A has been done as an example.

		<b>The Hamilton brothers are:</b>
<b>A.</b>	<b>Look</b>	<b>more handsome</b>
<b>B.</b>	<b>Height</b>	<i>taller</i>
<b>C.</b>	<b>Sports</b>	<i>better in volleyball games/swimming</i>
<b>D.</b>	<b>Personality</b>	<i>more sociable/friendlier</i>

- b) Based on your responses to a), how would the narrator's parents compare the narrator to the Hamilton brothers? Give your answer in one sentence.

*They think that the narrator is not as good as them. / The Hamilton brothers are better in every way.*

ATM 7

- draw the conclusion that the narrator's parents considered him to be inferior to the Hamilton brothers in every single way based on the narrator's description of the Hamilton brothers, i.e. they were taller, friendlier, more handsome, and better in sports as well as his parents' indirect compliments towards them, i.e. 'Why can't you be more like Richard and Philip?'

4. Listen to the following except again and answer the questions that follow.

*Richard and Philip, Richard and Philip, Richard and Philip – it was all I ever heard from my parents every August for twelve years. Richard and Philip were perfect. Everything about them was better than everything about me. Even their green beach umbrella was better than our red and white one.*

- a) In the excerpt, whose names are mentioned repeatedly?

*Richard and Philip*

- b) In the excerpt, which two adjectives are used by the narrator to describe the Hamilton brothers?

*perfect, better*

- c) How are the two names you have identified in a) and the two adjectives you have identified in b) uttered by the narrator? Tick the best option.

- ☐ A. in a friendly manner  
☒ B. *in a sarcastic manner*  
☐ C. in an excited manner  
☐ D. in a joyful manner

- d) Based on your responses to a), b) and c), explain why the narrator talks about the Hamilton brothers in such a manner.

*He is jealous / resentful.*

ATM 8

- infer the narrator's intention to express his jealousy, resentment, sarcasm or scorn by interpreting the complimentary adjectives used by the narrator, like 'perfect' and 'better', as having a negative connotation with the help of
  - the intonation that he uses to utter these words, which shows his contempt for everything that the Hamilton brothers stood for
  - the stress on the word 'everything' (in 'everything about me'), which shows his frustrated and bitter feelings about being compared unfavourably

5. Listen to the following excerpts and decide if the narrator is reporting a fact or an opinion. Tick the correct box for each excerpt.

	Excerpt	Fact	Opinion
a)	<i>This is a very safe, friendly beach!</i>		✓
b)	<i>Everybody looked everywhere for Mrs Moffat's big bag. Eventually they found it. My father saw it hidden in the sand under a deckchair. A green deckchair.</i>	✓	
c)	<i>They organised a barbecue so they could steal my purse!</i>		✓

ATM 7

- distinguish between facts and opinions by using semantic and syntactic clues
  - work out that Excerpt a) is a statement of opinion by recognising that the adjectives used, 'safe' and 'friendly', represent subjective perception of the atmosphere of the beach community
  - work out that Excerpt b) presents the narrator's factual account of what happened, i.e. everyone was looking for Mrs Moffat's bag and they eventually found it under a green deckchair
  - work out that Excerpt c) is a statement of opinion uttered by Mrs Moffat by recognising that it is an accusation not backed up by any facts

## **Tapescript**

### **The Golden Boys by Chris Rose**

#### **Part 1**

Every August. Every August for twelve years. Every August for twelve years we went to the same small town on holiday. Every August for twelve years we went to the same beach. Every August for twelve years my parents rented the same small house in the same small town near the same beach, so every morning of every August for twelve years I woke up and walked down to the same beach and sat under the same umbrella or on the same towel in front of the same sea.

There was a small café on the beach where we sat every day, and every day Mr. Morelli in the café said ‘Good morning!’ to my parents, and then always patted me on the head like a dog. Every day we walked down to our red and white umbrella, every day my father sat on his deckchair and read the newspaper then went to sleep, every day my mother went for a swim in the sea and then went to sleep. Every lunch time we ate the same cheese sandwiches which my mother made, and then every afternoon we went up to the café and ate an ice cream while my parents talked to Mr Morelli about the weather. Every summer for twelve years I sat there and read books and sometimes played volleyball with some of the other boys and girls who were there, but I never made any friends.

Every August for twelve years the same family sat next to us. They were called the Hamiltons. We had a red and white umbrella, they had a green one. Every morning my parents said ‘Good morning!’ to Mr and Mrs Hamilton, and Mr and Mrs Hamilton said ‘Good morning!’ to my parents. Sometimes they talked about the weather.

Mr and Mrs Hamilton had two sons. Richard was the same age as me, and his brother Philip was two years older than me. Richard and Philip were both taller than me. Richard and Philip were very friendly, and both very handsome. They were much friendlier and more handsome than me. They made friends with everyone, and organised the games of volleyball on the beach or swimming races in the sea with the other children. They always won the games of volleyball and the swimming races. My parents liked Richard and Philip a lot. ‘Why can’t you be more like Richard and Philip?’ they said to me. ‘Look at them! They make friends with everyone! They are polite, good boys! You just sit here reading books and doing nothing!’

Richard and Philip, Richard and Philip, Richard and Philip - it was all I ever heard from my parents every August for twelve years. Richard and Philip were perfect. Everything about them was better than anything about me. Even their green beach umbrella was better than our red and

white one.

## **Part 2**

I was sixteen years old the last summer we went there. Perfect Richard and perfect Philip came to the beach one day and said that they were going to have a barbecue at lunch time. They were going to cook for everyone! 'Forget your cheese sandwiches', they laughed, 'Come and have some hamburgers or barbecue chicken with us! We're going to cook!'

My parents, of course, thought this was wonderful. 'Look at how good Richard and Philip are! They're going to do a barbecue and they've invited everybody! You couldn't organise a barbecue!'

Every summer for twelve years, on the other side of my family, sat Mrs Moffat. Mrs Moffat was a very large woman who came to the same beach every summer for twelve years on her own. Nobody knew if she had a husband or a family, but my parents said that she was very rich. Mrs Moffat always came to the beach wearing a large hat, a pair of sunglasses and a gold necklace. She always carried a big bag with her. She never went swimming, but sat under her umbrella reading magazines until lunchtime when she went home.

Richard and Philip, of course, also invited Mrs Moffat to their barbecue.

Richard and Philip's barbecue was, of course, a great success. About twenty people came and Richard and Philip cooked lots of hamburgers and chicken and made a big salad and brought big pieces of watermelon and everyone laughed and joked and told Mr and Mrs Hamilton how wonderful their sons were. I ate one hamburger and didn't talk to anybody. After a while, I left, and made sure that nobody saw me leave.

Mrs Moffat ate three plates of chicken and two hamburgers. After that she said she was very tired and was going to go and have a sleep. She walked over to her umbrella and sat down on her deckchair and went to sleep. When she woke up later, everybody on the beach was surprised to hear her screaming and shouting.

'My bag! My bag!' she shouted. 'It's gone! It's GONE!' Everybody on the beach ran over to Mrs Moffat to see what the problem was. 'Someone has taken my bag!' she screamed, 'Someone has stolen my bag!'

'Impossible!' said everybody else. 'This is a very safe, friendly beach! There are no thieves here!' But it was true. Mrs Moffat's big bag wasn't there anymore.



Nobody had seen any strangers on the beach during the barbecue, so they thought that Mrs Moffat had perhaps taken her bag somewhere and forgotten it. Mr Morelli from the café organised a search of the beach. Everybody looked everywhere for Mrs Moffat's big bag. Eventually, they found it. My father saw it hidden in the sand under a deckchair. A green deckchair. Richard and Philip's deckchair. My father took it and gave it back to Mrs Moffat. Everybody looked at Richard and Philip. Richard and Philip, the golden boys, stood there looking surprised. Of course, they didn't know what to say.

Mrs Moffat looked in her bag. She started screaming again. Her purse with her money in it wasn't in the big bag. 'My purse!' she shouted, 'My purse has gone! Those boys have stolen it! They organised a barbecue so they could steal my purse!'

Everybody tried to explain to Mrs Moffat that this couldn't possibly be true, but Mrs Moffat called the police. The police arrived and asked golden Richard and golden Philip lots of questions. Richard and Philip couldn't answer the questions. Eventually, they all got into a police car and drove away to the police station.

I sat there, pretending to read my book and trying to hide a big, fat purse under the sand on the beach.

That was the last summer we went to the beach. My parents never talked about Richard and Philip again.

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