

More comprehension today.  
This one is called 'Secret Life of a Teacher' ...no...it's not written by me. It's a comprehension made for Y5 children and taken from another persons 'blog', I'm assuming with you all being young you know what I blog is ! (if not ask someone/look it up)

You will have the text to read through (a blog style text) and then answer the questions 😊

# School Report

School life as seen  
through the eyes  
of a teacher...



## That old feeling...

*3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017*



It's crept up on me, just as it does at the end of every holiday. It builds so slowly that I barely notice it at first. It must have been about Wednesday last week that I first registered that it was coming for me again. That strange, not-quite-melancholy, not-quite-anxiety that I call 'The School Blues'. It's at its peak tonight.

Please don't hear me wrong. I love my job. Of course there are parts of it which irritate me or tire me out (as there are in every job), but I get to work day-in and day-out with remarkable, wonderful, bright-eyed, hope-filled children, which is an amazing privilege. I'm very much looking forward to getting back to work.

But I can't help getting 'The School Blues'. I can remember getting them from the year I started school – no, you can't know what year that was! I will, however, say that it feels such a long time ago now! Whenever we had half-term, or Christmas, or Easter, or Summer, those last few days of a holiday would fill with the odd realisation that it was all coming to an end. Like the first clouds in a sunny sky, they let me know that change was coming!

### Recent blogs:

We're all going on a summer holiday!

Reports, reports, reports!

Sports Day: The intensity of eggs and spoons.

My classroom's an oven...

I don't crunch data; data crunches me...

These children  
make your heart  
melt...

The moment it  
'clicks': why I love  
teaching children.

'How to carry  
photocopy paper'  
and other INSET  
gems.

I just want to help  
them learn...

New assessment  
system; getting my  
head around it.

The best spelling  
mistake *ever!*

They disappear the minute I'm actually back at work. They're not something which hangs over me; as I said, I love my job. They've just become a part of school life. They're just there.

So as I sit here on a lovely Sunday evening, hurriedly typing this to you all as a break at the end of a long day spent preparing for tomorrow, I'm aware of my School Blues. However, the moment I'm in with the staff tomorrow, they'll vanish, not to be thought of again until they creep back out at the end of next half-term.

Mentioning the staff reminds me; it will be so fun to see everyone again! I do love an INSET day, especially on the first day of a new year. As any of you readers who work in a school will know, it's one of the busiest days of the year, but it is also a great chance to see everyone and ease back into school life. A bit like going into a swimming pool by the steps, rather than diving in at the deep end.

I wonder if the children know that we don't get the extra day off like they do? Do they think about how much work goes into making their new classrooms perfect for their arrival? Or are they oblivious?

I've already been preparing some things over this past week. The holidays are the only real chance I get to catch up or actually spend the time I would always like to spend thinking of great lesson ideas, amazing displays, or how to help a particular child learn something they're stuck on. Once the weekly cycle of lessons kicks in, there will be so much marking and so many databases to fill in (oh, hip hip hooray) that I'll barely have time to get my head around what I'm doing day-to-day, let alone spend time enjoying creating resources and cool lesson plans.

In fact, perhaps parents who read this blog can help me with a little bit of research! I've got a few questions in my mind which I'd like to put to the nation's children. If you feel like it, ask your children the following questions and post their answers in the comments!

- When do your children think all their books get marked? Are they aware that their teacher probably stays up beyond the time they go to bed making sure every child has a helpful comment to read?

- Who makes their classroom displays so bright and beautiful?

- How long do they think making one display takes?

- I've always wondered about this last one. It doesn't really have anything to do with going back to school but I'm going to include it anyway: do teachers live at school or do they have real lives? I ask this because if I ever bump into a pupil in the outside world they always look like they've seen a ghost. It's hilarious!

As I said, please feel free to post your children's answers in the comments section below! I'm sure they'll make me giggle when I read them!

Right, I had better wind this up. While I've done my preparations for the children, I've got to lead an INSET session tomorrow on marking procedures. We have some new staff, but most of us oldies don't get the marking system quite right every time! So first thing tomorrow, I'm giving everyone an hour's crash course in the school's way of marking books. Which means I'd better make sure I understand it myself!

Good luck to all of you teachers and support assistants who are back to work tomorrow, and to parents who will be passing their kids on to new teachers and new adventures. Let's all remember just how precious and wonderful those children are. They're the real cure for the School Blues!

**FOLLOW — SHARE — COMMENT**

## The Secret Life Of A Teacher

### Section A

1. What does it mean that the writer is the 'anonymous' teacher?

2. Explain why two different versions of the word 'its' ('it's' and 'its') are used in the same sentence to describe the same thing.

3. Explain the uses of 'they're' and 'there' in the final sentence of paragraph four.

4. Which question do you think is the most interesting? Why?

### Section B

5. Why has the writer capitalised the words 'School Blues'?

6. Before you read the questions asked by the blogger, stop and come up with two questions you think will be asked.

7. Explain each of the three larger words at the end of the blog.

### Section C

8. What effect is created by the writer's use of the 'made-up' words 'not-quite-melancholy' and 'not-quite-anxiety'?

9. Do you think the simile in the third paragraph is effective or not? Why?

10. What is the effect of writing 'creep back out' rather than something simpler like 'reappear'?

11. Describe the expression and feelings of someone who might be described as looking 'like they've seen a ghost'.

### Section D

12. What day is the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017? How do you know?

13. Evaluate the effectiveness of the swimming pool simile.

14. What is the tone of the word 'oh hip hip hooray'? How can you tell?

15. Is the blog resolved happily or unhappily? How has the writer tied the ending in with the main theme of the blog?

## The Secret Life of a Teacher – Challenge Activity

These words have been taken from the text. Use a dictionary to help you find the meaning of each word.

anonymous	
data	
intensity	
melancholy	
oblivious	
privilege	
procedure	

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Mentioning the staff reminds me; it will be so fun to see everyone again! I do love an INSET day, especially on the first day of a new year. As any of you readers who work in a school will know, it's one of the busiest days of the year, but it is also a great chance to see everyone and ease back into school life. A bit like going into a swimming pool by the steps, rather than diving in the deep end.

Find the words in the excerpt that have the opposite meaning to each of the following:

slowly

slowest

last

shallow

appear

A simile uses 'like' or 'as' to make a comparison between two things. Find and copy two similes from the text.

Now write your own similes that express how you feel about the new school year.

Answers on the next page, as obviously you won't be able to get them on Monday.

Mark them when you want – doesn't have to be today!

**And that's it guys!**

**You have finished your last SPaG online learning!**

**Well done for sticking with it and I hope you have enjoyed some of it at least 😊**

**I hope you have an amazing summer and don't get 'The School Blues' too much when you come back in September 😊**



# Answers

(Q1) What does it mean that the writer is the 'anonymous' teacher? It means that their identity is a secret.

(Q2) Explain why two different versions of the word 'its' ('it's' and 'its') are used in the same sentence to describe the same thing. 'It's' uses an apostrophe of contraction to shorten 'it is'. The second version of the word is possessive, which requires no apostrophe.

(Q3) Explain the uses of 'they're' and 'there' in the final sentence of paragraph four. 'They're' is a contraction of 'they are' ('they' being the School Blues). 'There' describes where The School Blues are.

(Q4) Which question do you think is the most interesting? Why? Personal answer; must be explained.

D: (Q5) Why has the writer capitalised the words 'The School Blues'? To the writer, The School Blues are a particular, unique thing, so require the capitalisation of a proper noun.

(Q6) Before you read the questions asked by the blogger, stop and come up with two questions you think will be asked. Personal answers which relate to the topics covered in the text are valid, although any taken from the paragraph beginning 'I wonder if the children know...' are the most obvious.

(Q7) Explain each of the three larger words at the end of the blog. Follow: get updates from this blog and be notified of new ones. Share: spread a link to the blog over the internet. Comment: leave a comment about the contents of the blog.

(Q8) What effect is created by the writer's use of the 'made-up' words 'not-quite-melancholy' and 'not-quite-anxiety'? The author reinforces the idea that what they experience (The School Blues) are not easily definable or commonly known. Even by using 'made up' words the writer shows that the feeling they experience is not something one can put one's finger on, because if one could, there would be a word for it in common usage.

(Q9) Do you think the simile in the third paragraph is effective or not? Why? Personal answer; must be explained.

(Q10) What is the effect of writing 'creep back out' rather than something simpler like 'reappear'? It emphasises the sinister or foreboding nature of The School Blues, portraying them as something negative which stalks the blogger.

(Q11) Describe the expression and feelings of someone who might be described as looking 'like they've seen a ghost'. Wide-eyed; open-mouthed; staring. Shocked; amazed; incredulous etc.

(Q12) What day of the week is the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017? How do you know? A Sunday. The blog is dated '3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017' and the blogger writes 'as I sit here on a lovely Sunday evening'.

(Q13) Evaluate the effectiveness of the swimming pool simile. Personal answer. Example: It works well because the author is using 'The Sunday Blues' as quite an 'un-nerving' feeling, perhaps making you apprehensive and scared – which would be a similar feeling of diving into the deep end. The INSET day provides the 'walking down the steps' option as it gives the teacher time to ease into their first day back at school, without the pressure of actually teaching children.

(Q14) What is the tone of the word 'oh, hip hip hooray'? How can you tell? Sarcastic or bitter etc. The words used are deliberately overly joyful and contrasted by the lack of exclamation mark which shows there is no feeling behind the statement.

(Q15) Is the blog resolved happily or unhappily? How has the writer tied the ending in with the main theme of the blog? Happily. The writer ends by offering a positive ending to the issue of 'School Blues' linked with being around school-children, thereby linking the two main themes/subjects of the blog.

anonymous	of unknown name
data	facts and statistics collected together for reference or analysis
intensity	the quality of being intense
melancholy	a feeling of sadness, usually with no obvious cause
oblivious	not aware or concerned about what is happening
privilege	a special right or advantage granted only to a particular person or group of people
procedure	an established or official way of doing something

slowly

hurriedly

slowest

busiest

last

first

shallow

deep

appear

vanish

A simile uses 'like' or 'as' to make a comparison between two things. Find and copy two similes from the text.

Like the first clouds in a sunny sky, they let me know that change was coming!

It's a bit like going into a swimming pool by the steps, rather than diving in the deep end.

Now write your own similes that express how you feel about the new school year.

Answers will vary.