

TEACHERS WITHOUT BORDERS PROGRAMME

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Herzlia High	Rondebosch Boys'	St Mary's DSG Kloof	Wynberg Secondary

GRADE 8 ENGLISH HOME LANGUAGE

TASK 3.1. COMPREHENSION

DATE: 7 February 2016

TOTAL: 20

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

Adapted from Dead on Facebook by Helen Walne (Cape Argus 17 February 2015)

PARAGRAPH 1

Last week Facebook launched a “legacy contact” feature, which allows users to nominate a person to continue managing their account after their death. Many people find the concept of live Facebook, let alone dead Facebook, weird. My mother thinks people who use social media are mentally deficient – and when I see that video of a half-naked man performing ballet in a church being posted again and again and again, I almost agree with her.

PARAGRAPH 2

However, Facebook enables people to connect with one another and post a lot of photographs of cats and desserts. It’s also become a personal PR tool, allowing users to manage how they want to be perceived. All those carefully selected photographs shout: Look at me! I am thin! And happy! And ageing really well! And leading a fabulous life! With my cats! And my darling husband! My gorgeous children!

PARAGRAPH 3

So putting your account in someone else’s hands when you’re pushing up daisies could be dangerous. To help you decide whom to nominate, here are some you should avoid:

PARAGRAPH 4

Your best friend from Grade 8. This is the least glamorous epoch in anyone’s life. You’re generally a walking acne constellation and have hormonal hair which is either wiry and terrier-like or limp and Lassie-like. Your friend will post grainy pictures of you wearing towelling jumpsuits and singing through your braces in the annual school play. He or she will also post accounts of the “cute” things you did, such as running the 100 metres with a jersey tied round your waist because you had peed in your pants.

PARAGRAPH 5

Your partner. He will be so devastated by losing such a fabulous, thin, talented dessert eater that he will, obviously, sit in the dark, nine drinks in hand, spamming your legacy page with every piece of terrible poetry you wrote, every journal entry you penned (including the one that says: “I hate Mom so much right now!”) and every photo you were snapped in.

PARAGRAPH 6

Your pets. Because they can’t type or use the internet. Which is a pity as their view of you would be the least conditional. You would be praised for walks, titbits of chicken skin and cuddles. You would be hailed as the best human being in the world. The only pictures they would post would feature your blurred feet or ankles, which could be artistic and attractive in a canine photography kind of way.

PARAGRAPH 7

It wouldn't surprise me if an entire PR industry is launched around Facebook's legacy feature so people can continue controlling their profiles from the grave. Before you die, you could provide Facebook with a slew of cat/dessert/thin pictures so they can keep feeding your account with pleasing posts which don't feature you in your PE kit, complete with braces and a jersey tied around your waist.

GLOSSARY

Epoch: A period of time in history or in a person's life

Refer to paragraph one:

- 1.1. What does Facebook call the person nominated to manage the deceased person's account? (1)
Legacy contact ±^H **L1**
- 1.2. Quote two consecutive words that show the writer's mother is one of the people who find Facebook weird. (1)
"Mentally deficient" **L2**

Refer to paragraph two:

- 1.3. The abbreviation "PR", in this context, stands for: (1)
A. Public Relations ±^H **L3**
B. Press Release
C. Progress Record
D. Person Responsible
- 1.4. Do you agree with the writer that the photographs people post on Facebook are "carefully selected"? Justify your answer. (2)
Yes – People post only their best photographs, ±^H they use filters to make them look better, ±^H they only post photographs to show the good parts of their lives, ±^H etc.
No – Difficult to argue but credit well-argued responses.
Any TWO points. **L4**
- 1.5. Judging from what the writer says about the photographs in this paragraph, list two things people think they need in order to be (or to look) happy. (2)
To be thin ±^H, **to age well** ±^H, **to own cats** ±^H, **to be married** ±^H, **to have children** ±^H
Any TWO **L2**

Refer to paragraph three:

- 1.6. What does the phrase “pushing up daisies” mean? (1)
Dead ^{±H} **L2**
- 1.7. With reference to the rest of the passage, explain in your own words why “putting your account in someone else’s hands when you’re pushing up daisies could be dangerous”. (2)
There are a number of people who would not put the most flattering pictures up on your account. ^{±H} **Depending on who you choose, there is potential for embarrassment.** ^{±H} **Accept valid alternative answers.** **L3**

Refer to paragraph four:

- 1.8. **In your own words**, explain why the writer says that Grade 8 is the least glamorous epoch (era/time) in anyone’s life. In your answer, focus only on **appearance**. (2)
You are covered in acne/pimples ^{±H} **and your hair is either wiry or limp.** ^{±H}
Lifted: “You’re generally a walking acne constellation and have hormonal hair which is either wiry and terrier-like or limp and Lassie-like” **L2**
- 1.9. Why is “cute” in quotation marks? (1)
The writer does not really find it cute. ^{±H} **L3**

Refer to paragraph five:

- 1.10. How does the writer link paragraph five with paragraph two? (2)
She says the deceased’s partner will be devastated by losing his “fabulous, thin, talented dessert-eater” ^{±H}. **This is reference to the photographs people choose to post on Facebook, as mentioned in paragraph two** ^{±H}.
L3
- 1.11. How do you know that the partner is indeed “devastated”? Give one indications mentioned in this paragraph. (1)
Sitting in the dark ^{±H}, **drinking** ^{±H}, **spamming partner’s legacy page** ^{±H} (may lift).
ANY ONE **L2**
- 1.12. Why would the photographs from your pets picture only blurred feet and ankles? (2)
Pets are much smaller than people ^{±H} **and so the photographs will be from their point of view** ^{±H} **OR they would not be able to hold the camera properly in their paws** ^{±H} **and therefore the picture would be blurry** ^{±H} **L3**
- Refer to the passage in its entirety:**
- 1.13. Who would you choose to manage your “legacy page”? Explain your choice. (2)
Learners may choose anyone in their lives ^{±H} **and then explain their choice** ^{±H} **They must show understanding of what the legacy page is and what the legacy contact does.** **L5**

