

ENGLISH LANGUAGE UNIT 2 Reading and Writing: Description, Narration and Exposition

TUESDAY, 5 JUNE 2018 - MORNING

Resource Material

For use with Section A

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Turn over.

Text B is adapted from a news story in a national newspaper.

JK Rowling criticises 'voluntourism' and highlights the dangers of volunteering in orphanages overseas



JK Rowling has criticised the idea of voluntourism and highlighted the many problems with working in orphanages abroad.

The term voluntourism refers to the popular trend of individuals travelling to developing countries to carry out volunteer work. In recent years, increasing concerns have been raised about voluntourism and gap year projects and some have argued it can cause more harm than good to the countries being visited.

The 51-year-old *Harry Potter* author has drawn attention to the dangers of volunteering in orphanages. The author's charity Lumos has done a great deal of

research into the dangers facing children who are forced to live in institutions and works to support the eight million children who are currently living in institutions such as orphanages worldwide. Lumos argues that placing children in institutions denies them the loving and caring relationships they require and can damage their brain development.

According to their data, 90 per cent of the eight million children living in institutions worldwide are not orphans and have families at home which want to care for them but are too poor. JK Rowling describes voluntourism as one of the 'drivers of family break up in very poor countries' because it financially motivates institutions such as orphanages to be 'run as businesses'.



Turn	over.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION: HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE	Orphanages can often be set up with the best of intentions and funded by well-meaning donors. However, children need families, not orphanages. Join us in building awareness and understanding of this problem. Help us return children to their families and communities.	To get involved or make a donation, go to wearelumos.org today or email assist@ wearelumos.org. OUR 100% PLEDGE	Thanks to the generous support of J.K. Rowling and others, 100% of the money you give to Lumos will go directly to Lumos projects and not to administrative costs.	Charity registration details:	Lumos Foundation USA Inc (Lumos USA), a 501(c) (3) non profit organization Registered Office 557 Broadway, New York, 10012, USA EIN: 47-2301085 Find out more: wearelumos.org Twitter: @lumos Facebook: /lumos.at.work YouTube: /lumoscharity Instagram: @wearelumos
OUR IMPACT: SINCE 2009, LUMOS HAS	Prevented almost 15,000 children from social workers	7			influenced changes in \$500 the law that towards will ensure better futures ity- for generations ervices. of children.
IMPACT: SINCE	Helped move more				Provided Helped training, redirect expert advice almost \$500 or technical million towards support to community- countries. based services.
OUR	Provided 1,418 interventions to help save the	lives of children suffering from malnutrition, severe neglect or a lack of access to medical			Provided training, expert advi or technica support to 34 different countries.

Text C is taken from a factsheet about Lumos, the charity founded by JK Rowling.

Text D is taken from an internet blog by Ossob Mohamud.

Beware the 'voluntourists' doing good

The volunteer travel industry is thriving but there are better ways to combat poverty than using the developing world as a playground

I recently came across an interesting article questioning 'voluntourism' and whether it does more harm than good. It reminded me of my own concerns with 'voluntourism' as an alternative to what most college students did on their vacations: spending idle time by the poolside. The universityorganised trips sent students to spend a week volunteering in disadvantaged and poverty-stricken communities. This could take the form of teaching English at the local school, assisting in building new homes for residents, or environmental clean-ups. Spread throughout the week were also tourist trips and souvenir shopping. Although it had rewarding moments, I could never shake off the feeling that it was all a bit too self-congratulatory.

Voluntourism almost always involves a group of idealistic and privileged travellers who have vastly different backgrounds from those they are meant to help. They often enter these communities with little or no understanding of the local history, culture, and way of life. They presume that the community is poor and should be grateful for their help. This has led to volunteers behaving in a smug and patronising way. It raises the uncomfortable question of whether these trips are more for the self-satisfaction of the volunteer than the helping of poor communities.

As a volunteer, I couldn't help feeling ashamed at the excessive praise and thanks we received. I cringed as we took photos with African children whose names we didn't know. We couldn't even take full credit for building the houses because most of the work had already been done by community members. In fact, if anything we slowed down the process with our inexperience and clumsiness. And how many schools in richer countries would allow amateur college students to teach their English classes? What had I really done besides inflate my own ego and spruce up my CV? I had stormed into the lives of people I knew nothing about, I barely engaged with them on a genuine level, and worst of all, I then claimed that I had done something of great value for them all in a matter of five days (most of which was spent in hotels, restaurants and airports).

Text E is adapted from an article in a national newspaper which was written in response to Text D.

In defence of 'voluntourists'

by Sam Blackledge

Ignore the cynics, charity schemes do great work and can benefit both the volunteers and the communities they serve

The debate about 'voluntourism' – that ugly word – has reared its head again. Every so often the spotlight is turned on students from richer countries who use their free time to help those less fortunate in developing countries, and much head-scratching and soul-searching follows.

Recently Somalian blogger Ossob Mohamud wrote an article with the headline *Beware the 'voluntourists' doing good*. Mohamud clearly had a difficult volunteering experience but her insistence on drawing a wider social message from her own unsatisfactory trip is unfair and potentially damaging.

Last summer I visited Uganda to report on the work of East African Playgrounds. The charity recruits British students to build play facilities and run sporting projects for primary school children. In just a few years it has grown to be self-sufficient, employing a team of young Ugandans as builders, to the point where the charity's British founders will soon be able to step back and let it run itself.

I witnessed the volunteers forming genuine friendships with the locals, developing emotional attachments to the children and truly caring about their futures. Cynics might say that when the volunteers return to Britain they leave the experience behind and life moves on. But for many, volunteering can be life changing.

East African Playgrounds founder Tom Gill admits frustration that many quick-fix 'gap year' companies are "built to make the most profit and reduce costs wherever they can" without investing in communities. But, he says, many charities are working hard to counter this.

"Charity is a chance for those who have more than enough to help those who don't have enough," he says. "If privileged people stopped volunteering and making donations then what would happen to the work of thousands of charities worldwide? No approach is without its flaws, but it is vital that people do not confuse genuine charities with the companies who are putting very little into the developing world."

Undergraduates face a stark choice about how to spend their time before entering employment, particularly now that money is tight and jobs are scarce. Charities that invest in the developing world need keen, energetic, ambitious people to help them along. 'Voluntourists' they may be – but their work can have a huge impact on their own lives and the lives of those they help. It would be an awful shame if they were put off.