

Reading Comprehension - What's the Inference? Marathon Man

Odius Underarmus, Marathon Man

By Bill Condon and Dianne Bates

CHARACTERS: **Odius Underarmus:** fishmonger, **Billious:** Odius's friend, **Jilly Achilles:** a maiden, **Regurgitus:** Jilly's handmaiden, **Achilles:** Jilly's father, **Tyrannus Dreadus:** Jilly's betrothed, **Narratus, the Oracle, a crowd**

SCENE 1: A crowded market place in ancient Greece

ODIOUS: (*calling*) Salmon, snapper, sardines, stingray, shark, squid, shrimps, swordfish, soles sturgeon, seal! Freshly caught last week! Getcha red-hot fishies. Salmon, snapper...

(*He continues to mime as Narratus steps forward from the crowd.*)

NARRATUS: Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to a typical day in the tiny Grecian village of Athos in the Year 776 BC. Behind me is a typical smelly fishmonger of these parts. Odius Underarmus, selling typically smelly fish. What Odius does not realise is that any minute now, the course of his life is going to dramatically change – in fact, what you are about to witness is the beginning of a 'wimpical' romance.

(*Jilly, Achilles and Regurgitus enter.*)

REGURGITUS: Hurry along now, Jilly. You know we'll be in trouble if they find out we're from Sparta.

JILLY: Don't be so cowardly, Regurgitu;, a Spartan has no fear of anything, let alone these imbecilic Athenians.

ODIOUS: Salmon, snapper, sea lion, stingray. Getcha red-hot fishies. Fish miss? Care for some week-old fishies.

JILLY: Do you have any smoked shicklebocks?

ODIOUS: I smoked the last one yesterday.

JILLY: Well, do you have any nice eyes? (*Pause*) Why did I say nice eyes?

ODIOUS: Because you have – you have nice eyes.

REGURGITUS: Oh, oh! I've seen that look before.

NARRATUS: The look of love!

REGURGITUS: Exactly! I don't like the look of this. Hurry, Jilly! Let's go.

JILLY: (*to Odius*) I do like your looks, Mr...Mr...?

ODIOUS: Odius Underarmus, Miss.

REGURGITUS: This can't go any further, Jilly. Your father would never agree to you having anything to do with an Athenian.

JILLY: An oracle once told me I would **hook** the man of my dreams...

ODIOUS: My mum always said I was a **good catch**.

Making an inference is a thinking or reasoning skill. The reader is often only given a limited amount of information and makes inferences from the information given. Readers also use their general knowledge when making inferences.

1. The intended audience for a production of this play would most likely be:

2. A number of the characters' names are:

A names from ancient Greece	B common, modern Grecian names	C meant to give authenticity and dignity to the play	D names referring to unpleasant human functions
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3. This play could best be described as

A a comedy	B a tragedy	C educational
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4. What is the importance of the words **hook** and **good catch**?

5. Make two observations about the fish Odius is selling.

6. From the information in the extract, you would infer that Odius is:

A an official	B a buffoon	C an idealist	D a leader
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7. A person who is **betrothed** is

A married	B promised	C disobedient	D impaired
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Year 8 Homework Sheet for Week 5

Name: _____

Critical Reading

Includes – Novels, non-fiction books, magazines, newspapers and as negotiated with teacher

Book: _____

Author: _____

In your own words, summarise your reading for this week.

Spelling		
a	b	c
colour	Asian	anorak
families	birthplace	bureaucracy
forced	country	community
music	cuisine	crucial
radio	prophet	eligible
students	sponsors	daughter
special	tapestry	European
world	teachings	interracial
waves	transported	mannequin
hunters	yoghurt	terminated

English Rules!

Highlight the correct alternative in each sentence

1. The speaker (**count / counts**) those in favour and those against.
2. The leaders of countries often (**meet / meets**) at sessions of the United Nations.
3. The Prime Minister (**announce / announces**) any new policies.

Common Curriculum Elements

CCE 17 is *approximating a numerical value*. This is making an **educated** guess about how many or how much. It doesn't mean you pick a random number – nor does it mean you work out a number precisely. It means you think about what you know and what you understand – and then try to work out an **approximate** value for something. Here's a suggested activity Mr Sparks came up with - ***How many times does your heart beat in a day?*** Think about what you know on this topic – and *approximate a numerical value*. See if your friends and teachers agree. What prior knowledge did you use to figure this out? What did you take into account? Who might know the **real** answer?

Who is the target audience? How can you tell?

Would you recommend this reading to your friends?

Why/why not?

Parent Comment & Signature:

Teacher Comment & Signature:
