

Interesting and engaging content

Interesting topics and text types closely related to students' daily lives help engage and motivate them.



Interesting topics and topics closely related to students' daily lives



Happy food art

By Lisa Ng

- When my elder daughter went to primary school, she missed me very much. To cheer her up, I decided to make some special lunch boxes.
- I didn't have any ideas in the beginning, so I copied other people's creations, such as decorating cupcakes with flowers and putting rice balls with panda faces in a plate of curry. When my other daughter saw her sister's lunch boxes, she also asked for them.
- Then, I started designing my own lunch boxes. I made them look like cartoon characters by mixing different ingredients.
- Later on, I created a blog and posted photos of my designs online. Last month, I published my own cookbook to teach people how to make creative dishes.

Food



Super role models

Module: Wonderful things and people

VOCABULARY

- Identifying role models
- Talking about motivation
- Idioms about determination

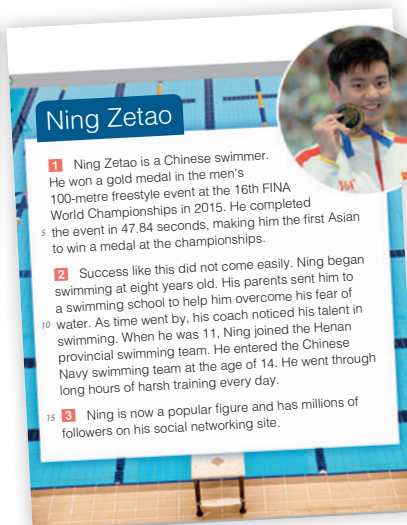
GRAMMAR

- Simple future tense with will
- Talking about the future with be going to
- Modals: can and could

TEXT TYPES

- Magazine article
- Blog entry about personal thoughts
- Profile

Role models



Ning Zetao

- Ning Zetao is a Chinese swimmer. He won a gold medal in the men's 100-metre freestyle event at the 16th FINA World Championships in 2015. He completed the event in 47.84 seconds, making him the first Asian to win a medal at the championships.
- Success like this did not come easily. Ning began swimming at eight years old. His parents sent him to a swimming school to help him overcome his fear of water. As time went by, his coach noticed his talent in swimming. When he was 11, Ning joined the Henan provincial swimming team. He entered the Chinese Navy swimming team at the age of 14. He went through long hours of harsh training every day.
- Ning is now a popular figure and has millions of followers on his social networking site.

Sports



Surprise Square

You want to bring your cousin to a new shopping centre called Surprise Square. You have found a leaflet about it. Read the leaflet.

- Do you like shopping? Then come and check out Surprise Square—the newest shopping centre in town!
- Shopping and entertainment**
Discover the latest in fashion at the boutiques. No two shops are alike! Not into fashion? We have a whole floor of video games and electronics. You can also find great books at Pottery Bookshop. If it's on tag on a library! Come with shopping? Hit the ice rink or watch a film at the 4-D cinema.
- Food and restaurants**
Eat and take photos of cute food and drinks at the themed cafes. Go to Tasty Bakes for their famous cheese buns or enjoy a delicious bowl of Japanese noodles at Shogun Ramen.
- Facilities and services**
Don't worry if your mobile phone runs out of battery. We have mobile phone charging stations and free Wi-Fi on all floors!
- You can never have too much fun at Surprise Square. Visit us today!

Shopping



Wildlife TV

Sleeping in the Wild

Wednesday, 8-9:30 p.m.

- Do you like to sleep? Animals do! Bears are almost asleep for the entire winter and lions can sleep up to 24 hours a day! Join us on a dreamy journey to discover some eye-opening sleeping habits in the wild.
- Episode 1: Battle of the sleepiest**
It is very difficult for koalas to stay awake because they need 18-22 hours of sleep a day! But sloths are not far off in the competition. They sleep close to 20 hours a day. Hang around the treetops with these cute animals to find out why they love sleeping so much!
- Episode 2: Never fully asleep**
Dolphins sleep with one eye open because only half of their brain sleeps at a time. And did you know that it is impossible for giraffes to sleep for more than 30 minutes? Keep your eyes open for more fascinating facts behind these animals' sleeplessness.

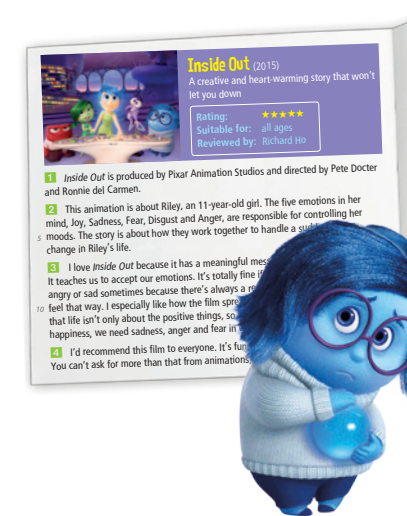
Animals



Who's your fashion icon?

- I like Kate Middleton, who is William's wife and the Duchess of Cambridge. She has her own style, which is classic and elegant. She always dresses appropriately for the events that she goes to. For example, she always wears a nice dress to charity events.
- I think Song Joong-ki, who is a Korean model and actor, has good style. His style is neat and cool. He often wears dark clothes, like a black jacket and a pair of dark jeans. But during winter, he also likes to wear sweaters in warm colors that look great with darker winter colours.
- Charlene Choi always looks fashionable because she likes to try new designs. Her clothes are simple but always trendy. They're so different from what other female stars wear.

Fashion



Inside Out

(2015)

A creative and heart-warming story that won't let you down

Rating: ★★★★★
Suitable for: all ages
Reviewed by: Richard Ho

- Inside Out is produced by Pixar Animation Studios and directed by Pete Docter and Ronnie del Carmen.
- This animation is about Riley, an 11-year-old girl. The five emotions in her mind, Joy, Sadness, Fear, Disgust and Anger, are responsible for controlling her moods. The story is about how they work together to handle a sudden change in Riley's life.
- I love Inside Out because it has a meaningful message. It teaches us to accept our emotions. It's totally fine to feel angry or sad sometimes because there's always a reason for that. I especially like how the film shows that life isn't only about the positive things, but also about the challenges we face.
- I'd recommend this film to everyone. It's fun and you can't ask for more than that from an animation.

Films



Set off!

Module: The world around us

VOCABULARY

- Words about travelling
- At the airport
- Personal verbs about travelling

GRAMMAR

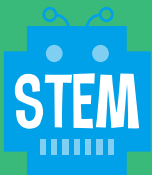
- Somebody/somebody, somebody/somebody, no somebody and none
- Something, anything, nothing and none
- Defining and non-defining noun phrases

TEXT TYPES

- Itinerary
- Postcard
- Travel blog entry
- Travel guide

Travelling

Cross-curricular topics



Language arts and non-language arts texts at different levels of difficulty within a unit

Reading

Your English teacher is showing your class a funny poem about school. Read the poem.

Text 1 Poem

There's a **monster** at my school

Today I open my locker,
And out jumps a **monster**!
"What is this ugly creature?"
Exclaims my History teacher.

It **knocks** everything over in the classroom,
And chucks out the door with a loud **boom**!
It makes a mess in the library,
And upsets the Dream Club's activity.

It eats up everything in the **cafeteria**,
And is now running towards Principal Bean.
I'm just about to scream
When my Maths teacher wakes me up from this bad **dream**!

1. In stanza two, the monster "makes a mess" (line 7). This means it _____.
A. makes a piece of art
B. makes a big mistake
C. makes a funny face
D. makes a loud noise

2. In stanza two, two rhyming words are _____.
A. classroom and loud
B. library and activity
C. boom and library
D. boom and activity

3. The monster runs towards _____.
A. no one
B. the History teacher
C. Principal Bean
D. the Maths teacher

4. The poem is about _____.
A. an alien
B. a real monster
C. a bad dream
D. a bad student

5. The poem is about _____.
A. an alien
B. a real monster
C. a bad dream
D. a bad student

TSA

Reading

An exchange student is going to visit your school. Your teacher has asked him to email you before he comes to Hong Kong. Read the personal email.

Text 2 Personal email

From: ryan_edwards@hotmail.net
To: @hotmail.net
Subject: Hello from the UK!

Hi _____

Nice to meet you! I'm Ryan from Chester School.

At our school, we have lessons in different classrooms, so we carry our bags with us everywhere.

I like swimming in the pool. There's also a gym on the top floor, a drama studio next to the library and a football pitch behind the assembly hall.

I study a lot of subjects but my favourite ones are PE and Science. Right now, I'm designing a robot for a Science project.

There are many school clubs you can join, like golf, horse riding and ballet. I'm in the Rugby Team and Judo Club.

What's your school like? I can't wait to meet you in Hong Kong!

Cheers,
Ryan

1. There are many facilities in Ryan's school. Put a tick (✓) next to each facility mentioned in the personal email.

<input type="checkbox"/> library	<input type="checkbox"/> swimming pool	<input type="checkbox"/> music room
<input type="checkbox"/> dance studio	<input type="checkbox"/> assembly hall	<input type="checkbox"/> football pitch

2. Use ONE word to complete each blank.
Ryan is _____ a robot in _____ class.

3. Which of the following school clubs is NOT mentioned in the email?

A. B. C. D.

4. Ryan is probably _____.
A. shy
B. funny
C. caring
D. sporty

5. Why did Ryan write the personal email?
A. to talk about a day at school
B. to introduce himself and his school
C. to find out more about Hong Kong
D. to talk about the UK

TSA + DSE

Reading

You are surfing the Internet and you see a web article about what going to school is like in other countries. Read the web article.

Text 3 Web article

Not your everyday school!

How do you go to school? For children in small villages, traveling to school can be a matter of life and death. In Indonesia, children cross a river using a shaky bridge that might break any minute. Not all rivers have bridges, so there are children in the Philippines who use old tyres to get across.

There are a lot of floods in Bangladesh. That is why there are boat schools. In both boat, there are computers and a small library. These floating schools pick students up from the riverside in the morning and send them home at night.

What do children learn in northern Russia? Apart from traditional subjects, some learn skills like hunting and fishing. This is because they need to learn how to survive in the wild. Some of them will even become hunters and fishermen like their parents.

1. How do children in small villages travel to school?
A. very different
B. very exciting
C. very dangerous
D. very boring

2. What do some children use to cross a river in the Philippines?
A. old tyres
B. people live on boats
C. there is no space on land
D. students need to learn fishing

3. There are boat schools in Bangladesh because _____.
A. it often floods
B. people live on boats
C. there is no space on land
D. students need to learn fishing

4. Are the following sentences True (T), False (F), or is the information Not Given (NG)? Write the correct letter(s) in the boxes.

i) Children in Indonesia do not go to school.

ii) The boat school picks up students at 7 a.m.

iii) In northern Russia, there are many hunters and fishermen.

5. Match the main points (A-C) with one of the paragraphs on the left. Write the correct letter (A-C) on the line next to the paragraph number.

Paragraph no.	Main point
i) Paragraph 1	A. Floating schools
ii) Paragraph 2	B. Learning to survive
iii) Paragraph 3	C. Scary journeys to school

DSE