

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

You have found an essay on the Internet about why people love stories about supernatural beings. Read the essay.

Text 2 Essay**Why we love stories about supernatural beings**

1 Malicious blood-sucking vampires, magical witches and wizards have appeared in some of the most popular books of all time. Well-known examples, such as *Dracula* and *Harry Potter*, are so pervasive that everyone knows who they are and we see them everywhere: on T-shirts, mugs, appearing in fan fiction and fan art. As children, many of us used to pretend to be supernatural beings in games of make-believe with our closest friends. Even though we have matured, we are still fond of imagining what we would do if we had supernatural powers. How many times, out with friends, have you heard the question, 'If you could have one supernatural power, what would it be?' So why are these stories so well-loved?

2 Supernatural stories present us with situations and creatures that are unfamiliar and potentially dangerous, which is equal parts frightening and exhilarating. Our hearts speed up and our blood pressure rises. We are able to watch these beings on screen or read about them in books without fleeing for safety because our brains recognize that we are actually safe. Seeing a zombie in real life, on the other hand, would certainly make us feel differently!

3 In addition, after a tiring day of studying or working, these types of stories offer a welcome escape from the daily grind. For a while, we can forget all about our problems as we immerse ourselves into these tales. Like the main characters, all we care about is figuring out a way to avoid aliens from invading Earth!

4 In conclusion, stories about supernatural beings have all the right ingredients to keep us reading. They are a way for us to escape from everyday life into another world where the rules are completely different. For a while, we gain the powers to fly, read minds or move objects with just our thoughts.

Challenging reading and comprehension

Unit 7

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension 2 You have found a quiz about the essay. Answer the questions using information from the essay. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.

1 Use ONE word to complete each blank.

Two famous characters with (i) _____ qualities are Dracula and Harry Potter. Dracula is a (ii) _____ who (iii) _____ blood from innocent victims. Harry Potter is a (iv) _____ who can perform (v) _____.

2 What is the main idea of paragraph 1?

3 According to paragraph 1, what are some activities that people who like supernatural beings enjoy?

i) children: _____

ii) adults: _____

4 What does 'these stories' refer to in line 10?

5 What are TWO things that happen to our bodies when we are scared but excited?

i) _____

ii) _____

6 i) According to the writer, why do we enjoy watching supernatural beings on screen or reading about them in books? Answer in your own words.

ii) Why would seeing a zombie in real life 'make us feel differently'?

Challenging reading and comprehension

Unit 7

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

- 7 According to the essay, how do supernatural stories help us escape from the problems of daily life?

- 8 Find an expression in paragraph 3 that means 'a repetitive and tiring routine'.

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

Paragraph no.		Main point
i) Paragraph 2	_____	A Letting our imaginations run free
ii) Paragraph 3	_____	B How supernatural stories make us feel
iii) Paragraph 4	_____	C Offering a distraction from normal life

- 10 What is the writer's main purpose in writing the essay?



- 11 If you could choose a supernatural power, which would it be and why?



- 12 Do you like supernatural stories? Why or why not?
