

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Your friend likes reading science fiction stories. He has given you an extract of his favourite novel. Read the novel extract.

Text 3 Novel extract

Journey to the Centre of the Earth by Jules Verne

Chapter 14: The real journey begins

① We reached the top of the volcano before sunrise. I leaned over the lip of the gaping crater and peered nervously down into the deep black endless abyss into which we expected to descend. Suddenly our venture felt very foolish to me. A wave of nausea suddenly overtook me and my legs
5 grew weak. My vision began to grow dim and I realized in horror that my body was tilting forward but I was powerless to stop it. Fortunately, a firm hand gripped my shoulder at the last instant and pulled me back. I thanked our trusty guide Hans.

② I still had the option of turning my back on this foolhardy journey, but
10 watching the tranquil calm of Hans and the childlike excitement in my uncle Professor Lidenbrock as he eagerly examined the crater, I felt ashamed about voicing my concerns.

③ Just then, my uncle took out a coil of thick rope from his rucksack. He tossed one end of it down the abyss and secured the other end round a
15 column of rock. He tugged on it to make sure the knot would hold, then he turned to me brightly. 'Now Axel,' he said, 'let's put our most fragile and important things into our backpacks.'

④ 'But,' I exclaimed, 'what about our clothes, the ropes and the ladders? We can't just leave those here. We might need them.'

20 ⑤ 'They'll go down themselves.'

⑥ 'How?' I asked, puzzled.

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25 **7** 'Like this!' He quickly stuffed all our non-fragile things into a bag and nonchalantly threw it into the abyss as I stared at him in stunned silence! I had become accustomed to my uncle's impatience throughout our journey, but this action went far beyond reason.

8 As the bag tumbled down the abyss, I heard rocks clattering along with it. My uncle leaned over the edge and watched all this with a mischievous grin plastered across his face. Then he swirled round to face me, his eyes shining with anticipation.

30 **9** 'Now then,' he cried, 'it's our turn!'

10 'We might survive if we were mountain goats ...' I thought gloomily to myself as I reluctantly gathered my things for the descent.

35 **11** Hans went first, followed by my uncle with me taking up the rear. I inched my way down gingerly, taking tiny steps while clinging to that cord for dear life. Two thoughts raced through my mind; that the upper support would fail us or that the rope was much too frail...

Comprehension 3 *Your brother wants to know about the novel extract. Answer his questions using information from the novel extract. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

Complete the table.

Setting of the story	(1)
Main characters	(2) (3) (4)

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5 Find words in paragraph 1 that mean the same as the following:

i) wide

ii) go down

iii) strong and steady

6 Give TWO examples from paragraph 1 that the tone is tense.

i) _____

ii) _____

7 What does 'this foolhardy journey' refer to in line 9?

8 Why did Axel feel ashamed about voicing his concerns about going down the abyss?

9 Use ONE word to complete each blank.

After _____ one end of the rope down the hole, Professor Lidenbrock
proceeded to _____ the other end to a rock.

10 Why did Professor Lidenbrock throw their items down the hole?

11 How did Professor Lidenbrock feel after throwing the bags down the hole? Give evidence from the text to support your answer.

12 What does 'it' in line 23 refer to?

Challenging reading and comprehension

Unit 7

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

13 Find a word in paragraph 7 that means 'used to'.

14 Why does Axel think they might survive if they were mountain goats?

15 As Axel is climbing into the crater, what TWO things is he afraid of?

i) _____

ii) _____

16 Match each of the following speech bubbles with one of the characters introduced in the novel extract. Write the appropriate name under each speech bubble.

A

Let's begin our descent, everyone! There's no time like the present.

B

I think I'd rather be at home in my warm cozy bed...

C

Don't stand too close to the edge! We don't want your journey to end before it begins.

i) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

17 Put the events in the correct order. Write (1–5) in the boxes provided.

Hans started climbing down into the crater.

Hans stopped Axel from falling in the crater.

Axel learnt that his uncle was often impatient.

Professor Lidenbrock threw their things into the crater.

The men reached the top of the volcano.

18 Which of the following best describes the atmosphere of the story?

A satirical

B passionate

C realistic

D thrilling

A

B

C

D

☐

☐

☐

☐

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19 Would you want to go with these men on their journey? Why or why not?



20 Based on the title of the novel and what happens in the chapter, what do you think will happen next?
