

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

You want to learn more about the film industry. You have found an interview from a film magazine. Read the interview.

Text 3 Magazine interview

An interview with

prop maker Timothy Leung

R = Reporter; L = Timothy Leung

1 R: What was your initiation into the world of prop making?

L: It wasn't a straight path! I started out doing a Classical Art degree at university, because in my young mind, that was the only proper way to become an artist. One day, I realized that I'd rather build models than paint and draw. I found that I enjoyed constructing actual items much more than just creating pretty pictures. Luckily, the university was used to dealing with undecided students and let me stop that programme. It assisted me in transferring to a model-making degree instead. When I stepped into my first class, I knew that I was finally home. For one thing, building models came much more naturally to me, since I could actually touch the object I had pictured in my mind's eye.

2 R: You started your career making weapons for a fantasy film, didn't you?

L: Yes. That was my big break. One day, I heard my colleague talking to a film director friend who needed some weapon props for a new fantasy film. He was working on an extremely tight budget and couldn't hire a professional. I thought to myself, 'This is your chance!' so I offered to make some swords and guns for him, free of charge. The director was so blown away by my creations that he started recommending me to his acquaintances in the film world. After that, I never looked back!

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25 **3 R:** Can you tell me more about your work?

L: Sure. First, I get instructions from the art director, who has the overall vision for the project in mind. Then, he or she sets out the budget and production schedule. I learnt early on that adhering to spending limits and deadlines is extraordinarily important to film projects, since any minor delay affects everyone, and sometimes costs exorbitant amounts of money. Before I design a mould, I do a lot of research so that my props look realistic. This sometimes involves looking at history books, talking to professors, or even visiting a place in person. After that, I pour in the material and wait for it to set.

4 R: Have you got any interesting stories about prop making?

L: Have you heard of the one about the flowers in one of the old Star Wars films? They used sprinkles as flowers on one of the planets. After a while, people noticed the flowers were moving. It turned out that ants were trying to carry them away!

5 R: What would you change about your career, if you could change anything?

L: This may sound ridiculous, but I would like to go back in time. Sometimes, I feel quite envious of prop makers who were able to work in the 1970s, when there weren't any 3D printers or CGI. In order to overcome obstacles, you had to be really creative, and being creative is what I love most about my work.

50 **6 R:** What project are you currently working on?

L: Oh, that's confidential. However, if you see a film in the next year with some really fantastic and unusual-looking aliens, I may have had something to do with it!

Challenging reading and comprehension

Unit 3

Name: _____ () Class: _____ Date: _____

Comprehension 3 *Your friend is asking you questions about the interview. Answer his questions using information from the interview. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.*

1 What does Timothy mean when he says, 'It wasn't a straight path'?

2 When Timothy first stepped into a model-making class, he ...

A entered a home.

B felt like he belonged there.

C built natural-looking models.

D stopped painting and drawing.

A B C D

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

3 Find an expression in paragraph 1 that means 'imagination'.

4 What does Timothy compare the activities below to in paragraph 1?

i) working on models: _____

ii) painting and drawing: _____

5 What was Timothy Leung's 'big break' (line 16)?

6 Why was the fantasy film director unable to hire a professional prop maker?

7 Complete the sentence.

The fantasy film director recommended Timothy to his colleagues because

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8 According paragraph 2, are the following statements True (T), False (F) or Not Given (NG)?

Statements	T	F	NG
i) Timothy admired famous painters when he was younger.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
ii) Timothy can easily imagine what the model he is trying to create will look like.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iii) Timothy charged the fantasy film director a small amount.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
iv) Timothy was still in school when he worked for the fantasy film director.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9 What does an art director's job involve?

10 Why is it important to meet deadlines as a prop maker?

11 The diagram below shows what a prop maker does. Complete the diagram using the letters in the box.

- A** research information about the prop you are going to make

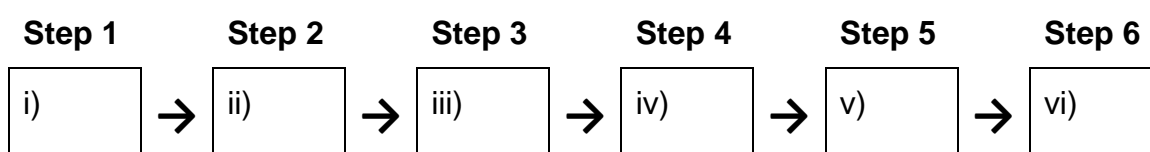
B pour in the chosen material and wait for it to set

C create a mould for the prop

D receive information about the budget and the deadline

E inspect the final object for any defects or problems

F get a request for a prop from an art director



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12 i) What were the 'flowers' made of in the Star Wars film mentioned?

ii) Why were they moving?



13 What is the main idea of paragraph 5?

14 i) What decade does Timothy wish he could work in?

ii) Why?

15 What does 'it' in line 53 refer to?



16 What genre of film is Timothy's current project likely to be? Use information from the text to justify your response.



17 How do you think 3D-printers and CGI have affected prop makers?

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18 Find words in paragraphs 5–6 that mean the same as the following:

i) jealous

ii) challenges

iii) secret

iv) strange

19 Which of the following are mentioned as props made for films in the text? Tick (✓) the appropriate boxes.


☐

gun


☐

flower


☐

dinosaur


☐

sword


☐

spaceship