



'Figwasp morphosis'

Luke's little private space

13/06/20XX (SATURDAY)

A STRANGE 'FRUIT'

Altan, my Turkish friend, finally came to visit me today. I first met him in a summer camp
5 a few years ago, during which we shared with each other a lot about our own countries
as well as the cultural differences between Turkey and Britain. After settling himself in the
sitting room, he gave me these funny-looking things as hostess gifts:

More to Take Away

Figs are an important source of food for animals, including birds and mammals, in rainforests. Fig trees attract many other animals that help disperse the seeds of diverse tree species, prompting speedy regeneration of rainforests and therefore a sustainable ecosystem.



They are figs, which I seldom see in British supermarkets. They look a little bit strange
to me, looking quite like mangosteens on the outside. Altan said they are his favourite
10 and strongly recommended me to try one. As I cut one in half, I was taken aback by the
cluster of seeds in it which looked so creepy! Altan insisted that I try one, even betting
I, after trying one, would not be able to resist having more. OMG, he was right. The
taste wasn't bad at all! It was pleasantly sweet! According to Altan, my literally 'know-
it-all' pal, figs are a very popular superfood in his country because of their remarkable
15 nutritional profile (high in minerals and antioxidant vitamins A and K) as well as their
chewy texture (brought on by their highly soluble fibre) and crunchy seeds. Altan said
figs can be eaten ripe or dried, and his mum likes to include them in their daily diet,
since they can serve to magically treat minor ailments such as indigestion, constipation,
coughs and so on.

Let's Think!

1. What fruit do you like? Why?
2. Do you know some fruits are especially good for certain body parts?

20 These health benefits of figs surprised
me so much that I looked up more about
them online, and I discovered that figs are
not fruits! They're in fact inverted flowers.
It took me a rather long time to at last
25 understand its pollination process. Fig
flowers bloom internally so they need to
be pollinated in a special way—with the
help of female fig wasps instead of wind,
butterflies or bees.



30 To lay eggs is the ultimate goal in life of female wasps, and it is the reason why every
one of them leads an unordinarily poignant life, which consists of a series of tragic
events. First, it has to look for a fig to get into, which is not necessarily suitable for the
laying of eggs. Then, it has to get through a narrow passageway to see if it is a right
fig for doing so. If it is, it would lay its eggs as soon as possible and then die. If it is not,
35 it would pollinate it and then die nonetheless. Having lost its wings and antennae, it is
destined to get trapped and die in the end in either case. Some people may wonder why
they cannot see the dead body of a female fig wasp in a fig. In most cases, however, the
dead body is broken down and turned into protein by a chemical substance. No wonder
some even call it a morphosis! Doesn't that mean we are indirectly eating a wasp's body
40 while 'enjoying' a fig?!

After knowing all these, I'll carefully consider
whether to get a second bite of this fruit.

STEAM

Figs and fig wasps greatly depend on one another for their mutual survival. Providing a home for the wasp, the fig needs the wasp to transfer the pollen to ripen.

34 views | 5 comments | 12 likes

~520 words

Looking into Grammar

'Finally' or 'at last' are used to mean 'after a long period of time'. 'Finally' indicates a time after some difficulties, while 'at last' signals impatience to long delays. 'Lastly' is used to introduce something that comes after all the others on a list.

- ✗ After the long meeting, she lastly (✓ finally / at last) showed up at 8 pm.
- ✗ Let's ask Ian, Jess, Sam, Leo and, finally, (✓ lastly) Bosco for lunch.

🔍 Circle an example each of 'finally' and 'at last' in paragraphs 1 and 3.

Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the blog entry. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.

1. Altan is _____.
- I. a new friend of Luke's
 - II. from a different country
 - III. keen on introducing the culture of his country to Luke
 - IV. keen on telling the story of fig wasps
- A. I and II ○ B. I and IV
○ C. II and III ○ D. II, III and IV
2. The figs first looked _____ to Luke.
- A. healthy ○ B. yummy
○ C. unfamiliar ○ D. interesting
3. In line 31, the word 'poignant' can best be replaced by '_____'.
○ A. comfortable
○ B. distressing
○ C. exhausting
○ D. very short

-  4. Which of the following helps pollinate figs?



○ A.



○ B.



○ C.



○ D.

5. Which of the following are TRUE about figs?
- I. They are in fact inverted flowers.
 - II. They contain crunchy seeds.
 - III. They are sold everywhere in Turkey.
 - IV. They can be used to deal with certain illnesses.
- A. I and II
○ B. I, II and IV
○ C. II, III and IV
○ D. all of the above

5 A TRUE statement should be based only on the information given in the text.



6. What would Luke probably do after learning facts about figs online?
- A. promote the benefits of eating them
 - B. include them in his daily diet
 - C. learn more about how plants are pollinated
 - D. avoid eating them again

6 Pay attention to Luke's reaction to some facts about figs in the last paragraph.

Self-evaluation Checklist (✓/✗)

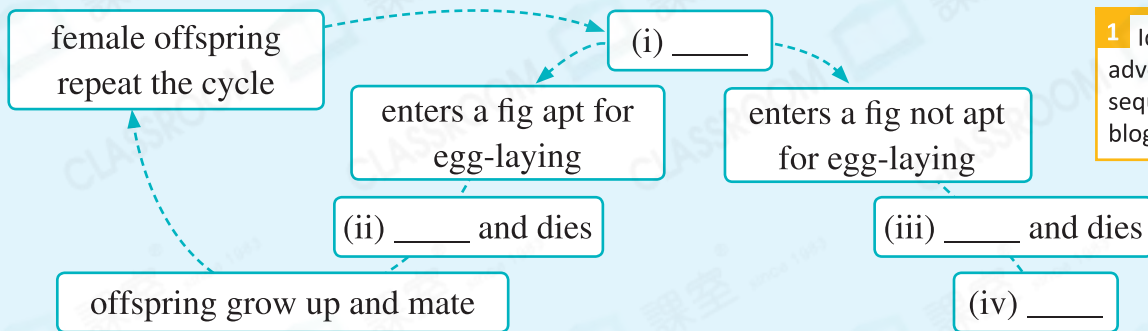
- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. I understood most of the information provided in the passage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I guessed the meaning of unknown words or phrases correctly. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I managed to answer questions by drawing inferences. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. I identified and understood the writer's / characters' feelings. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. I could identify and summarise the main idea of the passage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The two reading strategies taught in this module enabled me to read more effectively. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the blog entry. For questions 2 and 5, answer in complete sentences.



1. Write the letters (A-D) in the appropriate boxes to complete the flow chart below.



1 Identify the adverbs of sequence in the blog entry.

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| A. lays eggs | B. a female fig wasp |
| C. has its body broken down into protein | D. helps transfer pollen |

2. What are the health benefits of figs?

3. In each statement, there is a wrong word. Underline it and write a word that expresses the correct idea in the right hand column.

3 Make sure the correct parts of speech and tenses are used.

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| (i) Luke dislikes the look of figs but <u>hates</u> their taste. | <u>likes</u> |
| (ii) Figs are pollinated differently from other fruits, despite being a kind of them. | _____ |
| (iii) Figs' unappealing flesh makes Luke eager to try them. | _____ |
| (iv) Luke is from Turkey. | _____ |



4. What comment would Altan probably leave in response to Luke's blog entry?

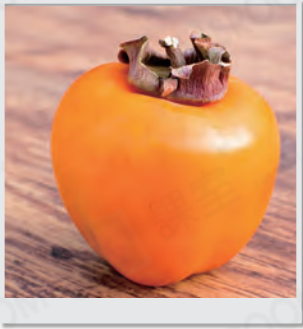
- A. 'Haha, I agree with you. They're really awful!'
- B. 'I can ship more to you when I'm back to Turkey.'
- C. 'How come? They're a pleasant fruit and powerful cure for some illnesses.'
- D. 'Those in Asia are much cheaper. Do you want more?'

5. In your opinion, what does the passage's title 'figwasp morphosis' want to highlight? Explain your answer.

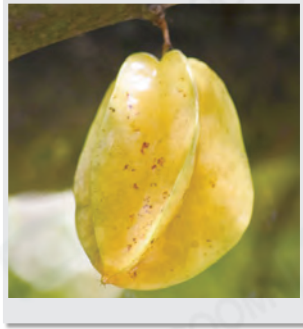
Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the names of the tropical fruits from the word box.

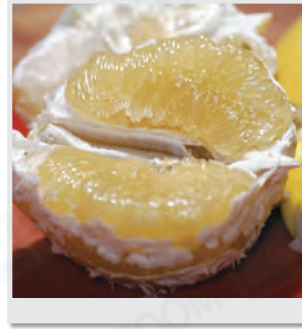
guava starfruit pomelo rose apple
avocado persimmon papaya durian



1. _____



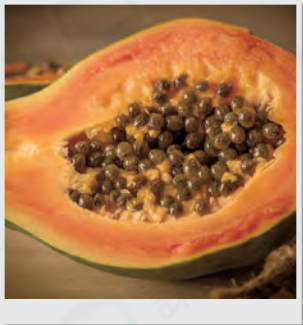
2. _____



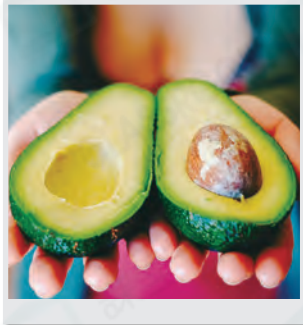
3. _____



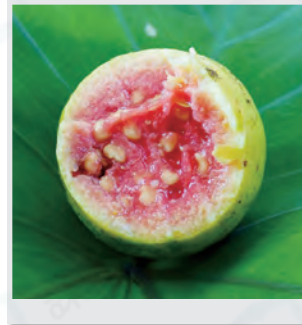
4. _____



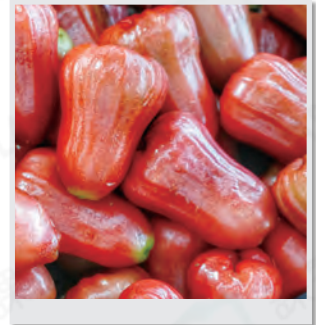
5. _____



6. _____



7. _____



8. _____

Let's Discuss!

1. Have you ever eaten anything that does not taste like how it looks?
2. Have you ever tried figs before? If you have not, do you still dare to try one after reading the blog entry?

Part D Cloze Passage

Complete the magazine article below with the appropriate nouns introduced on the previous page.

Reminder



Note that countable nouns should be pluralised for generic reference.

Go Tropical!



Some people have been complaining that it is too boring to have apples, oranges and bananas, which are unquestionably the most discussed fruits, all the time. If you are one of them, the following tropical fruits might be great alternatives for you to try out.

(1) _____, pleasingly sweet, are tastier as they turn redder. Very often, they are seen covered with white ‘frost’ that looks like mould, which is actually the dried sugar from the fruit. The star-shaped (2) _____ are also nice to try. Sour and sweet in taste, it has an appealing fruity aroma!

(3) _____ are like a sibling of grapefruit’s, larger and sweeter. People like to make juice from it. (4) _____, dubbed ‘the King of Fruits’, taste heavenly though smell hellishly awful to some people. They are the only fruit banned on flights and in many public areas. Exotically fragrant, (5) _____ are commonly used in skincare products as they are rich in nutrients that can help keep our skin moisturised. Their pink flesh can also be a source of natural food colouring.

(6) _____, what many women are fanatical about, help clear skin blemishes and give lustre to hair. With snow fungi, together they make a nutritious Cantonese dessert. (7) _____, as the name aptly suggests, are crunchy like apples, carrying a mild scent of roses. Last but not least, (8) _____, one of the most commonly cited superfoods, are the latest health fad. Creamy and jammed with healthy fats, they are an ideal toast topping that can take the place of butter.