

Text Type: Novel extract
Suggested finishing time: 25 mins



Listen!

Let's Think!

1. Have you ever heard about animal testing?
2. Do you know why animals are used in experiments?

Mrs Hops and Her Son

Another working day had begun in Keith Laboratories. Scientists in laboratory coats walked quickly into their corresponding testing facilities. Sounds of metal cages clanging repeatedly echoed through the passageways, as if reminding every scientist that the day had officially started. In the tiny cages were dozens of white rabbits and white mice, which had no idea that they would soon arrive at a section of Keith Laboratories called Animal Testing Site.

5

Trapped in one of those cages were a mother rabbit and her son, Mrs Hops and Little John. 'Where are we, Mummy? It's so cold in here. I want to go back!' said Little John, leaning on his mother and shivering.

Moral

Whether to use animals in research has long been one of the most controversial topics in science. Animals forced to take part in experiments are intentionally harmed or killed in different ways. Due to the intense suffering inflicted, many see animal testing as a source of moral issues.

'There's nothing to be afraid of, honey. We'll get to somewhere warmer very soon, somewhere with lots of food. You've always wanted a feast, haven't you?' said Mrs Hops, trying to articulate every word as clearly as possible to keep her own insecurities from rising to the surface, while feeling sorry for pretending she knew what this alien place was and what would happen. 'Sure! I can't wait to have a feast!' said Little John, 'But why aren't you happy, Mummy? Aren't you hungry?' Looking from the cage's bars to her son, she managed to give him a smile and bring herself to say, 'Mummy's happy. Like you, I can't wait to have one either.'

10

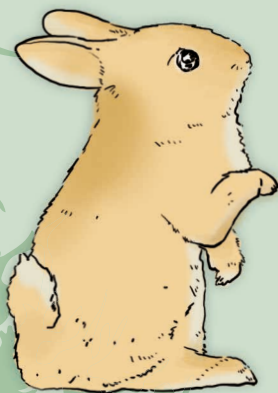
15

The platform cart on which the cages were loaded came to a halt in front of a silver door. A scientist came from behind the cart and tapped a card on the security panel next to it, and then the door opened. A second or two later, the dark room lit up and everything in it was visible to everyone in the cages: cages, test tubes, microscopes, syringes, and other bizarre-looking equipment. The mice started scurrying about in their limited space, stepping on one another when necessary, only to look for a way out. One among the frantic rodents yelled, 'I've...I've heard about it. The living hell!' Perplexed and taken aback by the chaos in the nearby cage, Little John asked his mother, 'Mummy, what is a hell? What are the mice talking about?' Mrs Hops remained silent until a decent answer hit her, and finally said, 'Oh my dear. You know what heaven is, right? A hell is like a kind of heaven. The mice are getting too excited about what food they may have there...' Upon hearing it, a wide grin spread across Little John's face again, while other rabbits were as quiet as a sleepy town.

20

25

30



The cages were soon settled on the fourth shelf of a metal rack. It was not until the scientist reached his right hand into the cage of mice and took one out that the mice reached the point of hysteria, squeaking over and over and scampering around without a destination in mind. From positioning it on a transparent plate to picking a test tube with some crimson liquid from a cupboard, everything was happening right before their eyes, Little John's and Mrs Hops's included. 'What is that man holding, Mummy? What does he want from Mr Mouse?' asked Little John, totally absorbed in the novel sight. The question was heard but both her mind and her gaze were on the troubled mouse, which now had a red syringe less than 20 cm away from it. 'Mummy?' Just as soon as the syringe's needle was about to force its way through the rodent's skin, Mrs Hops, in a split second, leaped to the front, blocking her son's view. To Little John, the only perceptible thing that followed was the piercing shriek of pain, while to others, there was something else, something visually traumatic, something that would be eternally etched in their memory. 'Aw, are you all right, Mummy?' said Little John, clearly more startled by her mother's sudden movement than by the squeal in the background. 'No worries, honey. Mummy just wanted a bit of stretching.' Mrs Hops rubbed her nose against his, while others were intimidated by the approaching scientist.

The minute she realised what was outside their cage, she knew that the worst nightmare was soon to unfold. Mercilessly and unhesitatingly, a white-gloved hand flung open the cage's door and was ready to grab whatever it touched. Staring at the beast that was poised to strike, Mrs Hops summoned all the strength she had and spared no effort to pounce on it, biting it as sharply as she could. 'Mummy! What are you doing? Mummy!' cried Little John. Now gripped in the hand of the scientist, she said, 'Mummy's going to have a feast first, and I'll bring you as many fruits as you want. Promise me that you'll behave, okay?' Hearing his mother's voice receding, Little John looked up and gazed into his mother's watery eyes, nodding and saying, 'I want to have a feast too! Why don't you take me with you, Mummy?'

~815 words



More to Take Away



Nowadays, many brands of cosmetics and personal-care products are against animal testing. To let potential customers know that their products have not involved animal testing, these companies would label their products as 'cruelty-free' or 'not tested on animals'.

Looking into Grammar



A question tag is a short phrase that is placed at the end of a sentence to ask for a response to a statement. Note that when answering to a statement with a question tag, one responds to show agreement or disagreement with the main clause, rather than the question tag. An answer started with *Yes* should not be used in negation, while an answer started with *No* should always be used in negation.

✓ Q: You **haven't** done your homework, **have** (~~have~~) you?

✓ Q: You **have** done your homework, **haven't** (~~have~~) you?

✓ A: **No** (~~Yes~~), I **haven't**. I will do it now. // **Yes** (~~No~~), I **have**. I've submitted it.

? Underline a sentence with a question tag in paragraphs 1-3.

Part A Multiple Choice Questions

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



1. In line 11, the word 'surface' means

- _____.
- A. the outer layer of something
 - B. the top part of something
 - C. the outer appearance of someone
 - D. one of the sides of an object

2. According to paragraph 2, Mrs Hops _____ environment.

- A. is actually intimidated by the
- B. shivers due to the cold
- C. pretends to like the
- D. prefers a warmer

2 Pay attention to Mrs Hops's state of mind.



3. In line 22, the word 'scurrying' can best be replaced by '_____'.
Q7: Explain to students that, from the perspectives of the caged animals, it is the scientist's hand that 'intrudes' on the cage and takes away Mrs Hops.

- A. crawling slowly
- B. stumbling continuously
- C. roaming casually
- D. moving quickly

4. Mrs Hops lies about the meaning of the word 'hell' mainly because _____.

- A. she is confused and scared by the chaos
- B. she does not want her son to panic
- C. she is not certain of the word's meaning
- D. she is trying to protect her son from danger

Q4: Explain to students that, from Mrs Hops's point of view, truthfully answering Little John's question amounts to telling him that the laboratory is where they would soon die, which would very probably terrify her son.

7 Try to imagine being in the situation that the animals are in.

5. When one reaches the point of hysteria, one _____.

- A. needs to be given directions
- B. behaves in a cowardly manner
- C. becomes completely silent
- D. is emotionally unstable

6. Read paragraph 4. Which of the following is NOT true?

- A. The scientist does not conduct the experiment secretly.
- B. What Mrs Hops sees draws her attention completely and freezes her.
- C. Unlike others, Little John seems to be neither intimidated nor scared.
- D. There is an animal which experiences great pain.

7. In paragraph 5, _____ is referred to as 'the beast' to _____.

- A. the white glove...compare an inanimate object to a creature
- B. the approaching scientist...depict how inhumane he or she is
- C. what is outside the cage...imply that the laboratory is like the natural environment
- D. the scientist's hand...highlight a sense of cruelty

8. What the scientist does at the end of the novel extract can best be described as _____.

- A. irresponsible
- B. depressing
- C. illegal
- D. unsympathetic



Self-evaluation Checklist

Please scan the QR code on P.6 to access the checklist for evaluating your own reading progress.

Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the novel extract. For questions 1, 5 and 6, answer in complete sentences.



1. In the novel extract, which sentence tells you that the mice yearn for survival? Explain your answer.

(Any reasonable answers)

The sentence 'The mice started scurrying about in their limited space, stepping on one another

when necessary, only to look for a way out' shows that they are desperate to find a way out.

2. What literary device is used in 'Staring at the beast...' (line 52)?

metaphor

Q2: Explain to students that a metaphor is a word or phrase used to suggest the likeness between two things and the very characteristic they share.

3. Look at the following pronouns and answer what they refer to in the novel extract.

Pronoun	Line	Reference
one	line 16	(i) a feast
it	line 36	(ii) the mouse taken out
his	line 48	(iii) Little John's

3 Work out the relationship between ideas in the story.

4. Look for words or phrases in the novel extract to match the definitions below.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| (i) <u>clanging</u> (para. 1-2) | (v.) making a loud ringing sound |
| (ii) <u>taken aback</u> (para. 2-3) | (phr.) shocked; startled |
| (iii) <u>squeal</u> (para. 3-4) | (n.) a sharp cry or noise |
| (iv) <u>receding</u> (para. 4-5) | (v.) moving away and becoming less clear |



5. In the novel extract, which sentence tells you that Mrs Hops is not timid or faint-hearted? Explain your answer. (Any reasonable answers)

The sentence 'Mrs Hops, in a split second, leaped to the front, blocking her son's view' shows that

Mrs Hops is willing to take risks in order to protect her son.

5 'Faint-hearted' means 'not confident and afraid of taking risks'.

6. At the end, why are Mrs Hops's eyes watery? What do you think is the reason behind it?

(Any reasonable answers)

It is because she does not want to leave her son and she is saddened by the fact that they are about to separate.

DSE

Level Up



Q6 To answer this question, you need to have a deeper insight into what happens to Mrs Hops and Little John in the novel extract and what may happen later on in the story. You may think about the following questions:

- Is Keith Laboratories a safe place for Mrs Hops and her son? Why or why not?
- What do you think is the reason behind Mrs Hops's decision to ask her son to behave?

Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the animal-related topics from the word box.

intensive animal farming

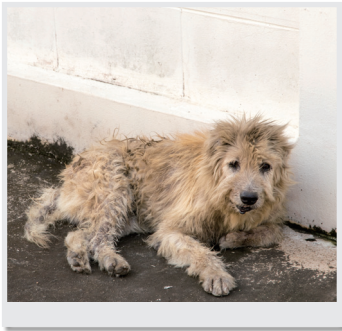
cruelty to animals

animal welfare

wildlife trade

animal euthanasia

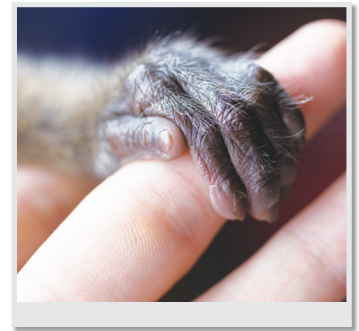
hunting



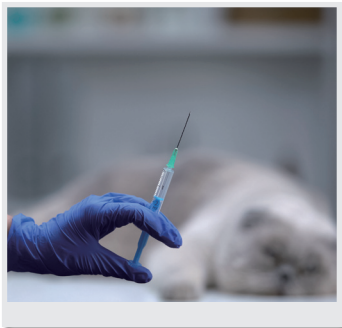
1. cruelty to animals



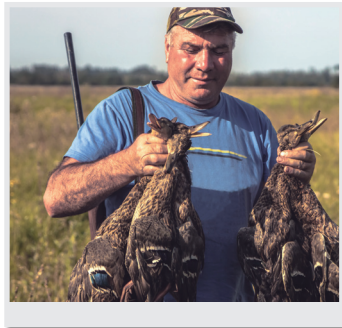
2. intensive animal
farming



3. animal welfare



4. animal euthanasia



5. hunting



6. wildlife trade

Word Craft

Scampering (Refer to P.105.) (=to run with small steps)
There are numerous verbs for describing the manner in which one walks.

e.g. stagger (=to walk with difficulty)
sprint (=to run very fast for a short distance)
stride (=to walk quickly with long steps)
plod (=to walk with intentionally heavy steps)

Let's Discuss!

1. Would you consider avoiding purchasing products tested on animals? Why or why not?
2. Some people think humans do not have the right to hunt or kill animals. Do you agree? Explain your thoughts.

Part D Cloze Passage

Complete the newspaper column below with the appropriate words and phrases introduced on the previous page.

OPINION — ANIMAL RIGHTS

The silent wailing of animals.

What does their suffering mean?

Natalie Corbyn

Every once in a few months, some news about how a dog or a cat or even a turtle being tortured to death would reach our ears, only to be forgotten by us the very next day. While such cases of (1) cruelty to animals can be exceedingly disturbing, we should not dismiss them from our minds as they at least serve the purpose of reminding us not to neglect (2) animal welfare and to shoulder the responsibility of taking better care of them.

Domestically, the least we can do as potential pet owners is to think twice before deciding to own a pet. Pet owning is not for everyone. Are you the kind of person who would never abandon your pet even after it has become a burden or something you are bored by? Bear in mind that (3) animal euthanasia is one of the commonest fates for abandoned animals. That's because, after becoming undernourished and depressed, some of them would often be considered unfit for further keeping.



The problem is equally serious with animals in the wild. In many parts of the world where natural resources are rich, (4) hunting is extremely common. Hundreds of wild animals fall victim to (5) wildlife trade every year, after being helplessly injured or killed and then sold as products. Since the world is run according to the law of supply and demand, a collective refusal to buy animal skin products will reduce the frequency of such activities. By the same rule, the less meat is being eaten, the less likely will (6) intensive animal farming be sustainable. Don't underestimate the extent to which animals suffer from it: being caged in tiny dirty cages and later slaughtered is just as miserable as being hunted, or even more so.

If everything that lives deserves a life free of danger and suffering, animals, our loyal friends and trusted companions, should be no exception. Maybe it is time for us to slow down and hear their silent wailing.

Million reinvested in travel businesses

Lastly, improvement should be measured regularly and assessed in order for you to know what's beneficial and what is not. This will help you set new targets. It is a good idea for your organization to focus resources on areas that will help you achieve your goals and objectives.

Marketing strategy is a long-term plan that has to do with the analysis of a company's situation and contribute to its objectives.

The objectives will be based on how you gain sales, by acquiring and keeping customers. A marketing strategy helps on making good messages with the right twist of marketing approaches in order to have a good outcome of sales and marketing activities.

messages are clear, whom and where your brand strategy and distribution channels are part of.

The branding strategy you choose for your brand equity. Branding is defining a name or design for a certain product, or a logo. In foundation of your brand, you should have a clear and planned strategy and services. You offer a high-cost, high-quality product. It is impossible to be both. Your logo is a key element of your brand.