



Where the Wild Things Are (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What kinds of books did you like when you were a child?
2. Did you have any picture books? If so, what were they about?
3. What frightened you when you were a child?
4. Children's books and films are often about monsters. Do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing? Why?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Maurice Sendak's story *Where the Wild Things Are* is very long.
2. It's a book with pictures.
3. It's about a boy who goes to a planet full of wild animals.
4. Sendak's parents emigrated from Poland to the USA when Sendak was a small child.
5. He did the drawings for books by other authors before writing books himself.
6. Some critics thought *Where the Wild Things Are* could be a bad influence on children.
7. The book did not win any awards when it first came out in the 1960s.
8. The story was made into a film and an opera.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. How does Max end up in a land inhabited by monsters?
2. How do the monsters behave towards him?
3. Why does he decide to return home?
4. What caused Sendak to suffer trauma as a child?
5. Why was Sendak's character, Max, criticised by some people?
6. How did some experts defend this aspect of the book?
7. Why is the book again in danger of being targeted in the US?
8. What did Sendak once say in defence of his book?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the subject, or change from singular to plural.)

1. Canadian adventurer Joshua Slocum was the first person to _____ around the world alone.
2. When Sam saw the damage to his car, he tried to keep calm, but he couldn't hide his _____.
3. The train and bus strike caused _____ on the roads, as people had to drive or cycle to work.
4. These advertisements ought to be _____. The information in them is rather misleading.
5. Grace is very popular at school, _____ all her faults.
6. I was a bit worried about taking the exam, so I spoke to my teacher, who was very _____.

E – Ready for the B1 PRELIMINARY English Exam? (Paper 1, Reading: Part 5)

Choose the correct word in brackets for each space.

When Sendak started writing his most famous book, he imagined his hero Max ¹ _____ (escaping/escape/to escape/of escaping) to a land of wild horses. However, he soon found that he was ² _____ (very/little/no/quite) good at drawing horses, so he accepted the advice of his editor and wrote about "wild things" ³ _____ (rather/instead/apart/ahead) of wild horses.

His monsters were based on caricatures he had drawn of his aunts and uncles when he was a child. He ⁴ _____ (tells/says/describes/reports) they had "crazy faces", with red eyes and big yellow teeth. Later, he realised that they were just poor immigrants who ⁵ _____ (lacked/forgot/lost/missed) the families they had left behind in Poland – families that, unknown to them at the time, they would never see again ⁶ _____ (in view/cause/because/resulting) of the Holocaust.

F – Check your pronunciation

Write about your favourite book when you were a child.

- What kind of book was it? A story book? A book about nature/animals/countries?
 - Was it illustrated? If so, with drawings or with photos?
 - Who was the author?
 - How old were you when you read it?
 - Why was it your favourite?
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Shakespeare's First Folio (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner

1. What do you know about William Shakespeare?
2. Which of his plays are best-known in your country?
3. Have you read any of them?
4. Have you seen any performances of his plays at the theatre, at the cinema, or on TV?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. The first book containing Shakespeare's plays appeared two years after his death.
2. The volume had been prepared by two of his colleagues.
3. Very few copies of Shakespeare's plays written in his own handwriting still exist today.
4. The printer made 500 copies of the book, which went on sale at three different prices.
5. Most of the copies still in existence are in Britain.
6. In 2020, a rare book dealer paid nearly \$10 million dollars for a copy.
7. The text is not identical in all copies.
8. Many of the volumes have notes and drawings made in the past by their owners.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. Why did Shakespeare's colleagues decide to publish a collection of his plays?
2. What did they use to prepare the collection?
3. What would have happened to half of Shakespeare's plays if the folio had not been produced?
4. Why is the First Folio considered to be such an important book?
5. What did Martin Droeshout produce for the volume?
6. Why were some copies sold at a lower price than others?
7. Why is the text of each copy unique?
8. What unintentional marks are there on some of the copies?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

1. Unfortunately, I didn't pass the written test. I made several _____ mistakes.
2. That _____ middle-aged man in the photograph can't be Luke. Luke's only 25.
3. Once you could be sent to a debtors prison if you _____ money and couldn't pay it.
4. There's no bookshop in the village, but there are two _____ in the market on Saturdays.
5. Vincent Van Gogh was an artist who never achieved _____ during his lifetime.
6. Some psychologists say drawing pictures and _____ while listening helps you to concentrate.

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 2)

Read the text and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word for each gap.

Although ¹_____ of Shakespeare's notes or handwritten copies of his own plays have ever been ²_____, some documents exist which have his signature on them. There are also three manuscript pages of a play by other playwrights that many experts ³_____ were written by Shakespeare. The play is entitled The Book of Sir Thomas Moore, and is thought to have ⁴_____ written by Anthony Munday and Henry Chettle and revised at a later date by a ⁵_____ other writers, including Shakespeare. The play was probably never ⁶_____ during the lifetime of its authors as the playscript was disliked by the Elizabethan censor. It was not ⁷_____ 1871 that scholars recognised Shakespeare's style in one of the scenes and found that the ⁸_____ was similar to his signatures. The three pages can be viewed online on the British Library's Digitised Manuscripts website.

F – Write about it

Write about a famous playwright – living or dead – from your country. Include:

- some biographical information;
- the kinds of plays written by this playwright;
- his/her most famous works;
- where they have been performed; (theatre/TV/cinema)
- famous actors who have performed in them.

The Assassination of JFK and the Decade of Death (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. What do you know about the death of John Fitzgerald Kennedy?
2. Have you seen any films or documentaries on the subject?
3. If so, have you formed an opinion about who killed him?
4. Can you name any other influential people who were assassinated in the 1960s?
5. If so, what do you know about their assassinations?

B – Listen and answer - Part 1: The Assassination of JFK

Read these incomplete statements. Then listen (without reading) and fill in the blanks.

1. US president JFK was assassinated on _____, 1963.
2. He was _____ years old at the time.
3. A suspect, Lee Harvey Oswald, was arrested immediately but never reached _____.
4. Oswald was shot dead by Jack Ruby, a _____ owner.
5. In 1964, the Warren Commission concluded that Oswald had _____.
6. Some thought that the US government, the _____, the _____ or Fidel Castro were involved.
7. In 1976, a US House of Representatives committee conducted around _____ interviews.
8. It found there was no conspiracy, but even today _____ per cent of Americans think there was.

C – Read and answer – Part 1: The Assassination of JFK

Read the article and the info box and answer the questions.

1. Why was President Kennedy in Dallas, Texas, on the day of his assassination?
2. What made Lee Harvey Oswald a likely suspect?
3. Why was it unsurprising that Jack Ruby's killing of Oswald led to a conspiracy theory?
4. Where, according to rumours, had other shots come from?
5. What helped old discredited theories return and become firmly established in the 1990s?
6. What did President Biden do recently to try to dispel the conspiracy theories?
7. What proof did Donald Trump have of Ted Cruz's father's involvement in JFK's death?
8. Who does Robert Kennedy Jr hold responsible for his uncle's assassination?

D - Listen and answer - Part 2: Decade of Death

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and write T (true) or F (false).

1. Malcolm X was assassinated while leaving a meeting of the Nation of Islam.
2. He had not been aware of having any enemies.
3. Martin Luther King's family suspect that there was a conspiracy to kill him.
4. Robert F. Kennedy's assassin was released from prison for good conduct.
5. Marilyn Monroe died in a hotel room.
6. There is a rumour that her death was not reported immediately.

E - Read and answer - Part 2: Decade of Death

Read the article and the info box and answer the questions.

1. What effect did the series of high-profile deaths of the 1960s have on people at the time?
2. How are conspiracy theories being used nowadays?
3. Why did Malcolm X change his surname?
4. What happened to two of the men who were sent to prison for killing Malcolm?
5. Why do some people claim Sirhan Sirhan was not Robert Kennedy's assassin?
6. Why might the death of Marilyn Monroe have proved embarrassing for the Kennedy brothers?
7. How many attempts to assassinate US presidents have failed?
8. Which two shooters mentioned in the article acted for personal reasons?

F - Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

1. Laurie broke the vase on the hall table and _____ it on the dog.

G – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English? (Reading and Use of English, Part 3)

Use the word in brackets to form a word that fits in the space given.

1. President Kennedy was _____ (MORTAL) wounded while riding in an open car.
2. Instead, today's presidential candidates are protected by US _____ (SECURE) forces.
3. One of the more _____ (PREVAIL) rumours about the shooting regarded a second assassin.
4. In 1976, a committee was formed to _____ (EXAMINE) the case.
5. In the end, all _____ (SUSPECT) of the existence of a conspiracy were dismissed.
6. In the immediate _____ (AFTER) of the event, few people believed in a conspiracy.
7. During the 2016 presidential campaign, Trump reignited interest in a _____ (COVER).
8. He implied that his _____ (COMPETE) Ted Cruz's father was involved in the assassination.

H – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Have there been any unsolved assassinations or bombings in your country?
2. If so, when did they happen? What theories are there regarding them?
3. What are the main conspiracy theories circulating in your country at the moment?
4. Do you think they are all harmful? Why (not)?

Book Ban – The Rise of Prejudice (C1 - Advanced)

A – Before you start

Answer the questions with a partner.

1. Do you know of any books that have been censored or banned in your country?
2. If so, do you know why they were censored or banned?
3. Do you think people should be free to read whatever they like? Why (not)?

B – Listen and answer

Read these statements. Then listen (without reading) and choose the correct answer.

1. The censoring, banning or challenging of books is a common practice in
 - a) authoritarian regimes.
 - b) democratic societies.
 - c) both of these.
2. The article states that nowadays the majority of challenges are made against books
 - a) on religious subjects.
 - b) expressing racist views.
 - c) by or for minority communities.
3. The American Library Association has seen a sharp increase in the number of
 - a) requests to censor library books.
 - b) library books censored.
 - c) library books banned.
4. Lessa Kanani'opua Pelayo-Lozada says the protests against certain books are organised by
 - a) large heterogeneous groups of readers.
 - b) small groups of people with strong opinions.
 - c) minority communities.
5. A survey by the American Library Association in 2022 found that 71 per cent of voters thought
 - a) no books should be censored.
 - b) library books should not be challenged.
 - c) libraries should limit people's access to certain books.
6. At Pelayo-Lozada's library, a person who is displeased with a book, a display or a program
 - a) can meet with a librarian.
 - b) can fill out a form.
 - c) can do both.
7. Pelayo-Lozada says libraries are being attacked now because they
 - a) give people access to critical thinking.
 - b) are not trusted.
 - c) are engaged in culture wars.
8. She feels that book bans are especially damaging for
 - a) authors.
 - b) children
 - c) schools.

C – Read and answer

Read the article and answer the questions.

1. What kinds of books were burnt in Germany in the 1930s? Who by?
2. Which classic American novel has been accused of being "racially insensitive"?
3. What examples does the article give of communities whose books are now the most targeted?
4. How do last year's figures for challenges to library books compare to the previous year's?
5. What is the ALA doing to counter this?
6. How do libraries decide whether a complaint against a book is valid?
7. What is the purpose of libraries, according to Pelayo-Lozada?

8. How do book bans limit children's ability to develop empathy?

D – Learn it! Use it!

Complete these sentences with words from the glossary. (You may have to adapt the expression in some way; e.g. change the verb tense, or change from singular to plural.)

1. Let the children play ball in the garden. They won't do any _____.
2. Julie has strong opinions about animal rights and she's very _____ about them.
3. In order to become a member of the association, I _____ the forms on its website.
4. Tom found going to the gym regularly gave him a feeling of _____.
5. In this news programme, journalists discuss the various _____ of the week.
6. We asked the shop for a refund but our request was refused _____.

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test? (Reading and Use of English, Part 1)

Read the text and decide which word in brackets best fits each gap.

The burning of books has ¹_____ (long/since/never/much) been a tool used by both religious and secular authorities to suppress heretical or dissenting opinions thought to pose a ²_____ (question/issue/threat/fault) to the prevailing order. One of the earliest instances occurred in China in 213 BCE, when Emperor Qin Shi Huang ordered not only the burning of books ³_____ (and/besides/despite/but) also the burying of scholars.

The most notorious book burning in recent history ⁴_____ (had/took/brought/carried) place in Germany on 10th May 1933. Over 25,000 books went ⁵_____ (out/over/up/down) in flames, watched by students giving the Nazi salute, in university towns all ⁶_____ (in/over/throughout/along) Germany. Works by George Orwell, Franz Kafka, Ernest Hemingway and Albert Einstein were among those destroyed, ⁷_____ (as/also/like/including) were the writings of German poet Heinrich Heine, who in 1821 had written prophetically: "where they burn books, they will ⁸_____ (at the end/lastly/ultimately/at last) burn people as well".

F – Talk about it

In pairs or groups.

1. Can you think of any classic books with content that might today be considered harmful or offensive? If so, what do you think should be done about it? (e.g. Remove or change the content? Add a warning or explanation to readers? Nothing?)
2. Do you think there are any circumstances in which a book should be banned? If so, what are they, in your opinion?

Answers: Where the Wild Things Are (B1 - Lower Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – It's only a few hundred words long.
2. T
3. F – He goes to an island full of monsters.
4. F – They emigrated before Sendak was born. He was born in New York.
5. T
6. T
7. F – When it first came out, it won the Caldecott Medal.
8. T

C – Read and answer

1. His mother punishes him by sending him to his bedroom, where he enters an imaginary world.
2. First they try to scare him. Then, when that fails, they declare him their king.
3. Because he's lonely.
4. Many of his relations were killed in the Holocaust.
5. Because he couldn't control his emotions and this was considered psychologically damaging to young readers.
6. They said it made the book appealing and reassuring for children.
7. Because banning and challenging books has escalated to an unprecedented level in the US.
8. He said that it was not meant to please everybody – only children.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. sail
2. rage
3. havoc
4. banned
5. despite
6. reassuring

E – Ready for the A2 KEY English Test?

1. escaping
2. no
3. instead
4. says
5. missed
6. because

Answers: Shakespeare's First Folio (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer

1. F – It appeared seven years after his death. 2. T 3. F – None of them have survived. 4. F – The printer made 750 copies, which went on sale at two different prices. 5. F – Most are in the US. 6. T 7. T 8. T

C – Read and answer

1. Because they didn't want his art to die with him. 2. They used Shakespeare's own manuscripts, theatre prompt copies and old small quarto editions. 3. They would have been lost. 4. Because of the profound effect it has had on the language and culture in English-speaking countries. 5. He produced the portrait of Shakespeare which appears on the frontispiece. 6. Because the cheaper copies were unbound. 7. Because corrections were made while printing and there were also errors made by a careless apprentice at the printing shop. 8. On some copies there are marks made by the owners' pets.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. careless 2. balding 3. owed 4. bookstalls 5. renown 6. doodles

E – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. none 2. found/discovered 3. think/believe/claim 4. been 5. few 6. performed
7. until/till 8. handwriting/writing/hand
-

Answers: The Assassination of JFK and the Decade of Death (B2 - Upper Intermediate)

B – Listen and answer – Part 1

1. 22nd November 2. 46 3. trial 4. nightclub 5. acted alone 6. mafia – KGB
7. 25,000 8. 60

C – Read and answer – Part 1

1. He was campaigning to win a second term as president in the 1964 election. 2. Oswald had defected for a time to the Soviet Union and he had a history of psychiatric illness. He was a former marine, so he could use a rifle. 3. Because he had mafia connections. 4. From a nearby grassy knoll. 5. Oliver Stone's movie JFK and the expansion of the Internet. 6. He ordered the disclosure of all releasable records on the assassination. 7. He had none. 8. He holds the CIA responsible.

D – Listen and answer – Part 2

1. F – He was shot at a public event. 2. F – He had received death threats. 3. T 4. F – He has been denied parole seventeen times. 5. F – She died in her own home. 6. T

E – Read and answer – Part 2

1. It/They fomented widespread anxiety and mistrust. 2. They are used as weapons of mass manipulation. 3. Because the surname Little had been given to his ancestors by their slave master. X represented his lost tribal name. 4. They were exonerated. 5. Because of Sirhan's position at the time of the shooting, and the type and number of bullets fired. 6. Because it is claimed they were both having affairs with her. 7. Three. 8. Charles J. Guiteau, who was disappointed at not getting a diplomatic post, and John Hinckley Jr, whose alleged motive was to impress actor Jodie Foster.

F – Learn it! Use it!

1. blamed 2. deserve 3. statement 4. lungs 5. widespread 6. leads

G – Ready for the B2 FIRST Certificate in English?

1. mortally 2. security 3. prevalent 4. re-examine 5. aftermath 6. suspicions
7. cover-up 8. competitor
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Answers: Book Ban – The Rise of Prejudice (C1 - Advanced)

B – Listen and answer

B – Listen and answer

1. c 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. b 6. c 7. a 8. b

C – Read and answer

1. They were books viewed as being subversive or as representing ideologies opposed to Nazism and they were burnt by university students. 2. Mark Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

3. The LGBTQIA+ and the Black or Indigenous communities. 4. Last year's figures are almost double those of the previous year. 5. It is helping to promote the annual Banned Books Week and the national campaign Unite Against Book Bans. 6. They form a committee to review the book.

7. She says they provide access to information for everyone, regardless of an individual's point of view and regardless of their background. 8. They prevent children from seeing themselves in stories and limit their ability to understand the ways that other people live their lives.

D – Learn it! Use it!

1. harm 2. vocal 3. filled out 4. wellbeing 5. hot topics 6. outright

E – Ready for the C1 ADVANCED English Test?

1. long 2. threat 3. but 4. took 5. up 6. over 7. as 8. ultimately