

EXERCISE 3: WHAT'S TRUE?**“DOG BITES MAN”**

Teacher or student reads out the report from the 'Lying Times'.

Six students are each given a character in the story behind the headline ‘Dog Bites Man’. They read out to the rest of the class, the top line/main bit of information that is written in bold about their involvement. Their card also contains other information about the incident or their connection to it, but they mustn’t reveal this unless they are asked an open question about it.

The rest of the class are journalists trying to find out what happened. Using the REAL checklist and open questions (W,W,W,W,W,H) they must try to find out what happened, and decide if the newspaper article can be considered as fake news.

Pre-class prep:

Labels/stickers to identify characters in story.

Character scenarios printed so each character has a copy of their individual scenario.

All students require pen and paper.

1: Read the following newspaper article from:

“The Lying Times”

A man has been attacked by a dog whilst walking through Tall Tale Park. Mr Jonathan Jones (48) says he was bitten by the pit bull terrier yesterday morning.

“I was minding my own business when an enormous, vicious creature leapt out of the bushes and attacked me. I don’t think I’ll ever use my left hand again. “

Mr Jones, grandfather of 7, is now recovering at home.

A hospital spokesman said the doctor who had treated Mr Jones was horrified at the extent of the injury. He added that he thought this breed of dog had been banned.

The dog is called Putch. His owner told us that he has never been any trouble in the past and is usually as gentle as a kitten.

Reporters: Paul K.Pize & Ivor Fibb

2: Characters read out top line of their cards, written in bold

The characters:

Mr Jones – I was walking through the park one morning, minding my own business when an enormous dog ran up and bit me.

Other info:

1. I’ve told the park warden I think the park should be kept dog free.
2. I like to walk on the grass, not on the path.
3. You can’t see bite marks because I’m a fast healer.
4. I didn’t go to the doctor.

5. I hate dogs

Dog owner - On that morning a stranger came over and shouted at me and tried to kick my dog.

Other info:

1. Butch retaliated by barking and bouncing up and around.
2. I did shout back and shake my fist, but neither of us touched him.
3. I walk Butch every morning at 8 o'clock.
4. Butch is a Staffordshire Bull Terrier, very gentle with children.
5. This is the first time I've talked to a journalist.

Eye witness - I was crossing the park the other day when I heard a lot of shouting, saw 2 men shaking their fists at each other and a dog jumping about and barking.

Other info:

1. It was raining so I had my umbrella up, so maybe I wasn't able to see absolutely everything.
2. I think the dog looks like a scary dog.
3. I saw the owner grab the dog and quickly put it back on the lead.
4. I didn't recognise either of the men.

Neighbour - I've lived next door to Butch and his owner for the past 20 years.

Other info:

1. We do hear the dog bark a lot at night.
2. We've never had any trouble with the dog or our neighbours.
3. I know his daughter has stopped visiting since she had a baby.
4. We go on holiday together every August.

Dog expert - This breed has been known for being temperamental.

Other info:

1. If provoked it's possible that he would bite someone in defence.
2. I've had a Staffy myself and have never had a problem.
3. Sometimes dogs take on the temperament of their owners.
4. They are very loyal dogs and good fun.
5. My children grew up with a Staffordshire Bull Terrier and they were fine.

Park Warden - Mr Jones often walks through Tall Tale Park.

Other info:

1. Mr Jones and I had a row last week when I was late opening up the park.
2. I got in trouble with my boss after he complained about me being late.
3. I've seen him shouting at dogs before.
4. I've seen him lose his temper with young lads playing football.
5. It's not the first time he's moaned about the dogs and dog walkers.

Rest of class are journalists;

Using their REAL check list and open questions, they find out as much of the story as they can. They have to decide what facts they think are real, which are fake, which are mistakes and which are rumour.

They then write a news story in four lines with a headline to tell the story.

The six characters write their story as a short opinion piece.