# **R9a. Can make accurate and appropriate comparisons within texts**

Skills Test 2

**Commissioned by The PiXL Club Ltd.**

**May 2019**

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**9a. Can make accurate and appropriate comparisons within texts – Test 2**

*Read the text and answer the questions below. Use the spaces provided to write your answers.*

Arriving at the school gates, Simon took a deep breath and tried to steel himself for the day ahead. Following the fallout from his parent’s break-up, he had was starting at a new school in the middle of Year 6! It was only on one-floor and stood out like a small barn all alone and surrounded by fields scattered with huge mechanical beasts creating tracks. Even when he strained his ears, no sirens, honking, screaming, bustling, beeping… could be heard. The silence was piercing his ears. The lingering odour of manure in no way replaced the sweet-smelling bins left in sweltering heat outside the school canteen. Pupils dribbled past him – he missed the hordes.

Keeley, Simon’s sister, tummy was doing flip flops. She was so excited about her new school. Without a doubt, she missed her Dad, but what an adventure lay ahead! The huge windows of her class could be seen from the path. How lovely, she no longer had to walk down long, lonely corridors to get to her classroom. Glancing across the fields, Keeley was delighted to see the colossal tractors going about their business. Amazingly, for the first time in years, Keeley could hear the birds chirping and the crunch of feet walking over the gravel.

1. Compare Simon’s and Keeley’s reaction to their new school. Give two points. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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There never was such a goose. Bob said he didn't believe there ever was such a goose cooked. Its tenderness and flavour, size and cheapness, were the themes of universal admiration. Eked out by apple-sauce and mashed potatoes, it was a sufficient dinner for the whole family; indeed, as Mrs Cratchit said with great delight (surveying one small atom of a bone upon the dish), they hadn't ate it all at last. Yet every one had had enough, and the youngest Cratchits in particular, were steeped in sage and onion to the eyebrows. But now, the plates being changed by Miss Belinda, Mrs Cratchit left the room alone -- too nervous to bear witnesses -- to take the pudding up and bring it in.

*A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens, Puffin Classics, 2003*

Harry had never in all his life had such a Christmas dinner. A hundred fat, roast turkeys, mountains of roast and boiled potatoes, platters of fat chipolatas, tureens of buttered peas, silver boats of thick, rich gravy and cranberry sauce – and stacks of wizard crackers every few feet of the table. These fantastic crackers were nothing like the feeble Muggle ones the Dursleys usually bought, with their little plastic toys and their flimsy paper hats. Harry pulled a wizard cracker with Fred and it didn’t just bang, it went off with a blast like a cannon…

*Harry Potter and the Philosophers Stone, J. K. Rowling, Bloomsbury, 1997*

1. What is the difference between these Christmas dinners? Consider the differences between time and place. Give **two** points.
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**Answers:**

1. Accept any comparative statements which show the difference between the views of Simon and Keeley. For example:
   * + Simon – nervous, bitter – *steel himself, middle of Year 6!*
     + Keeley – excited – *tummy doing flip flops*
     + Simon – all descriptions negative (*mechanical beasts, hordes*), missing sounds and smells of old school (*sweet-smelling bins*)
     + Keeley – all descriptions positive, embracing and delighting in new sounds and smaller size of new school (*birds chirping, class seen from path*)
2. Accept any comparative statements which show the difference between the dinners. For example:
   * + Both describe Christmas dinner and have ‘special’ dishes.
     + In both, characters are very happy with their meal.
     + The second extract is more bountiful, whereas dinner was ‘sufficient’ in first extract suggesting food was less available. This could indicate that it was set in earlier times. This is also supported by the language used.
     + The second extract is set in a fantasy context – wizard cracker
     + Shows some change in traditions – goose vs turkey