



# Seahaven Academy

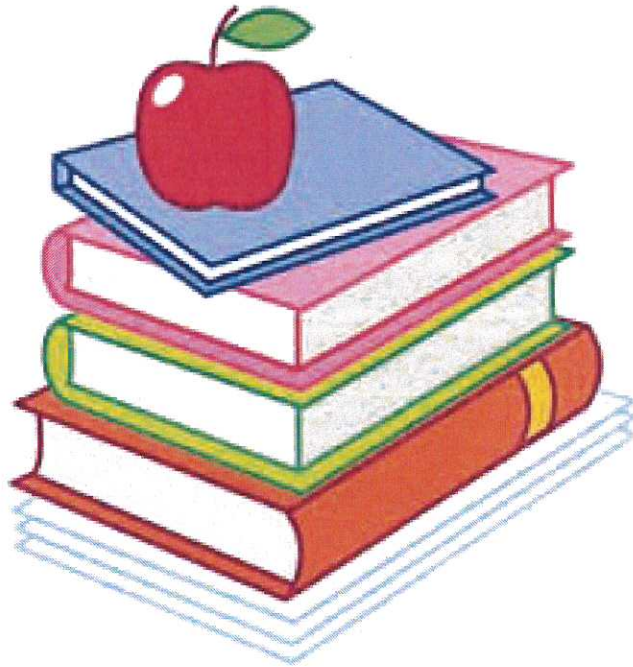
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# Year 10

# English

# Snow Pack



**Name:**

**Tutor:**

Read the Daily Mail article 'Don't get me started...Why the heck have they closed my child's school?'

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/femail/article-1241220/Dont-started--Why-heck-closed-childs-school.html>

Next, answer the questions below:

1. Why were her daughters 'whooping with delight' at the start of the article?
2. How did she feel about being 'snowed in' at first? How long did this feeling last?
3. What does she soon want to happen? What does she want to be 'getting on with'?
4. List her complaints:
  - a. ....
  - b. ....
  - c. ....
  - d. ....
5. What does she seem annoyed about towards the end of the article?
6. What is her idea at the end of the article? Who has she targeted with her frustration?



Find examples of each of these techniques and annotate or colour code the article:

- use of humour through sarcasm
- an annoyed tone is shown by the use of this phrase
- chatty written style
- linking her personal dilemma with lots of other people to back up her opinion
- a personal story that people can relate to
- the writer's complaints
- interesting vocabulary
- a rhetorical question is used here to show the height of her anger
- this word suggests that the problem continues and gets worse
- this phrase emphasises her anger and frustration
- facts and quotes from other sources to back up her opinion.

Teacher's answer sheet

1. They had found out that they had been snowed in and that their school had been closed 'for the foreseeable future'.
2. It felt like a 'postfestive gift' so she was pleased, but this feeling only lasted a few hours.
3. She wants her children to go back to school so that she can go back to work.
4. Her complaints:
  - a. her house is covered in soggy gloves and wet boots
  - b. her floors are wet
  - c. her children are demanding hot chocolate
  - d. she struggles to get her car out and her children don't help
5. She seems annoyed at the lack of change of attitude since the 1960s.
6. She would like non-working mums to help teachers to get to school; she is annoyed with the set of mums who drive four-wheel drive cars.



## Don't get me started... Why the heck have they closed my child's school?

By **RACHEL HALLIWELL FOR MAILONLINE**  
 UPDATED: 08:07, 7 January 2010

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My ears are still ringing from the whoops of delight from my three daughters when they discovered that we were snowed in and school had been cancelled for the foreseeable future.

They've abandoned the algebra and spelling tests for snowball fights and building snowmen. They can't believe that after just one day back at school, they're back to sleepovers and late nights again.

Well, lucky old them. I admit that being snowed in on Tuesday did feel like a bit of a postfestive gift (for a few hours anyway). But dear God, when are these children going to go back to school so that I can get on with earning a living?

My house is awash with soggy gloves and abandoned boots, and my floors are sodden. What's more, the kids are treating me like an unpaid waitress as they demand a steady stream of hot chocolate.

Like harassed mums up and down the country, I've quickly gone from enjoying the picture-postcard views from every window to pleading with the heavens for a big thaw.

Meanwhile, as I struggle to dig the car out of our snowbound drive, my snow-crazed children are too busy making whoopee to help.

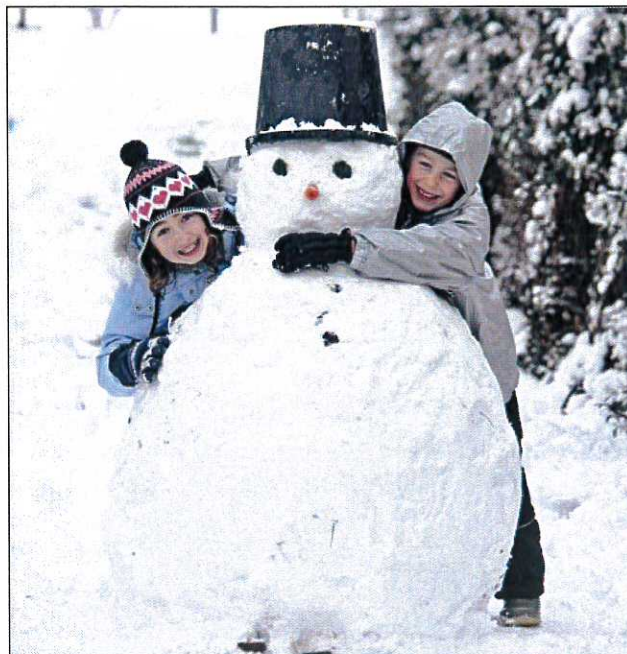
So tell me, how come shopworkers, office staff and the emergency services are somehow managing to plough on, yet schools up and down the country are keeping their doors firmly shut?

Similarly peeved parents on Mumsnet this week are asking the same question: 'Shops are open, private day nurseries are open, businesses are open, but schools are shut. Why?' asks one mum.



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School's out: At least children are enjoying the snow chaos



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 Split in November after six months



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**... before Kim wraps up in fluffy coat and skintight black trousers as she and Kanye West jet out of New York after whirlwind visit**  
 Early morning flight



**Calum Best and Cami Li share a kiss on Day 2 in the Celebrity Big Brother house... amid reports 'womaniser' has set his sights on tattooed model'**





#### Fun in the snow: These kids were making the most of the school closures

Another moans: 'How is it working mums/dads have to get the train/drive to work in snow, but teachers can't get on a train to the town and walk less than a mile to school?' The comment I found most chilling of all came from a mum whose child's headteacher told her he could remember the schools staying shut for three weeks in the 1960s because of heavy snow.

Try not to worry though - I've finally thought of a use for all those non-working mums with four-wheel drive cars. We can enlist them to pick up teachers from their snowbound sanctuaries and get them, and our kids, back to school.

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The toast of Tinseltown! Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones presented with congratulatory cake as they both land 2015 BAFTA nominations



The Grand Budapest Hotel leads the 2015 BAFTA nominations as Rosamund Pike, Reese Witherspoon and Felicity Jones battle it out for Leading Actress



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Mel. Leics, UK. 5 years ago

# Stealing

'While living by Wimbledon Common, her neighbours built a traditional snowman for their children, which was stolen. Carol Ann Duffy stated that it could only have happened under Thatcher's premiership, a period during which individualism and greed were regarded as virtues. It is clear that she regarded the actions of the individual as a barometer of the political climate.' (York Notes Advanced 2001)

The persona of the thief comes shining through the language and the slang. He seems proud of his acts and seems to be boasting of his feats. He sees what he wants and takes it. The comparison between the brains of the snowman and the thief reminds us of the 'cold hearted' phrase.

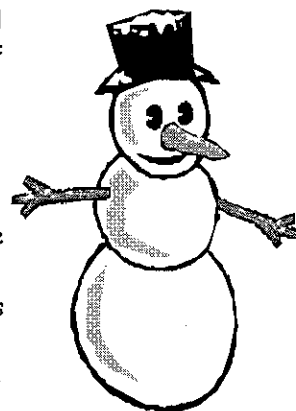
Negative images are present in the second stanza, 'a fierce chill pierced my gut'. His cold hearted attitude is shown by the reactions of the children and his lack of sympathy. Does he steal because he has been left behind by the materialistic society and is trying, in his own way, to join in.

The futility of the man's life is evident, 'I joy-ride cars/to nowhere', he breaks into houses purely to have a look (at their riches?). He is portrayed as being on the outside of society, restricted to looking at others' riches.

He works hard to rebuild the snowman, 'I wanted him, a mate' is this his unspoken reason? Does this serve to highlight his isolation by society? His violence when the snowman does not look right suggests a lot of pent up aggression. His isolation is further emphasised by the final line.

Throughout the poem, the thief tries to explore the society in which he exists. He sees a society in which the only way he can keep up, is to steal. He is marginalised by society and his anger at this leads to his actions.

Internal Rhyme, 'slice of ice', 'chill...thrill' shows the internal workings of the thief's brain. It is calculated and demonstrates that he is trying to explore why he acts in the way that he does.



## Things to Do:

1. Make a list of : a) items stolen, b) his/her anti-social feelings, c) your impressions of the thief.
2. After reading the first two stanzas, explain why the thief steals the snowman. Do the same after reading the third.
3. After reading the fourth stanza, explain what happened to the snowman. Why?
4. What does the last line say about the thief?
5. What words / phrases can you find that show the poem is conversational?
6. The sounds of words are important. The phrase, 'the slice of ice' may be said with a hiss which emphasises the lack of emotions. Alliteration can emphasise key words: a) comment on the use of words beginning with 'm' in the first stanza, b) What is the effect of the similarity between 'mute' and 'mate'.



Stealing by Carol Ann Duffy

The most unusual thing I ever stole? A snowman.  
Midnight. He looked magnificent; a tall, white mute  
beneath the winter moon. I wanted him, a mate  
with a mind as cold as the slice of ice  
within my own brain. I started with the head.  
Better off dead than giving in, not taking  
what you want. He weighed a ton; his torso,  
frozen stiff, hugged to my chest, a fierce chill  
piercing my gut. Part of the thrill was knowing  
that children would cry in the morning. Life's tough.  
Sometimes I steal things I don't need. I joy-ride cars  
to nowhere, break into houses just to have a look.  
I'm a mucky ghost, leave a mess, maybe pinch a camera.  
I watch my gloved hand twisting the doorknob.  
A stranger's bedroom. Mirrors. I sigh like this - Aah.  
It took some time. Reassembled in the yard,  
he didn't look the same. I took a run  
and booted him. Again. Again. My breath ripped out  
in rags. It seems daft now. Then I was standing  
alone among lumps of snow, sick of the world.  
Boredom. Mostly I'm so bored I could eat myself.  
One time, I stole a guitar and thought I might  
learn to play. I nicked a bust of Shakespeare once,  
flogged it, but the snowman was the strangest.  
You don't understand a word I'm saying, do you?

