



# ÉCOLE GLOBALE

## INTERNATIONAL GIRLS' SCHOOL

### Dehradun

## HOLIDAY HOMEWORK - CLASS IXA (English)

### READING

Read the following texts given in your book and complete the tasks assigned with each text.

S. No	Page No.	Title	Task/Instruction
1.	100 – 101	Ivan and the Dogs	Read the passage
2.	102 – 103	News 24/7	Answer the Reading Questions in the box
3.	103 – 105	Comedia dell' Arte	Answer the Reading Questions in the box
4.	112 – 115	Who was Cleopatra?	Complete the tasks 5, 6 and 7 in the box at the top of page 115 Attempt the writing question (Writing to inform and entertain) at the bottom of page 115 in the box.
5.	134 – 137	Living in a material world	Refer to the Speaking and Listening component at the bottom of page 137. Write a speech on the history of money and credit.

### Passage A

*Barry Stone, the writer, describes a trip to Kamchatka, a remote area of Russia.*

### Russia's Far East

Alexey, our park ranger, released the safety catch on his shotgun, and moved a hand toward the flare gun on his belt—always the preferred option when confronted by an adult bear and the threat of danger. We didn't intend to come between the mother and her cub, but the river in which they'd been gorging themselves on salmon moments earlier had separated them. Its glacial current was carrying the cub downstream and past our huddled group of 16 intruders.

Now, through no fault of our own, we were in the one spot humans should never be. When the mother bear raised herself to a height of two metres and looked straight through us in search of her cub, our many cameras clicked as one. This was despite there being nothing between us and death, except for just a few metres of Kamchatkan scrub and Alexey's powerful rifle.

Fortunately this story had a happy ending. Kamchatkan brown bears are nowhere near as aggressive as their cousins, the American grizzly, and feed almost exclusively on the region's plentiful supplies of salmon, supplementing their diets with pine nuts, berries, and the occasional rodent. According to Alexey, only one in every hundred encounters here ends in a bear attack. That said, having spotted maybe 150 bears over the last three days, I was probably overdue for a mauling. But who dwells on statistics when they're having the time of their life?

The Kamchatka Peninsula is in the Russian Far East, a little over two hours' flying time from Tokyo. It hangs off the end of Siberia like a fish tail, with the Sea of Okhotsk on one side and the Bering Sea on the other. How many bears live here? Nobody knows. Estimates range from as few as 8,000 to more than twice that number. Gathering information about bear populations (or anything else for that matter) in such a huge and unpopulated region isn't easy.

Remote Kurilskoye Lake is the largest breeding ground for red salmon in Eurasia. From the comfort of our lodge on its shores, we watched bears chase one another over open meadows, mother bears feeding their young, and cubs nestling with siblings. We saw them strolling along the perimeter of the electric fence, and we watched as 650-kilo adult males barged their way through crystal-clear rivers in their hunt for salmon.

If you're after real nature, then it's hard to beat Kamchatka. Every encounter was wild, spontaneous and thrilling (and even potentially fatal, like the time a bear lumbered out from behind a bush as we collected driftwood along the lakeshore for the evening bonfire). When our first pair of sea eagles appeared overhead showing off two-metre wingspans, one with a full-grown salmon hanging limply from its claws, the birdwatchers among us went into a frenzy. Where were you supposed to point your binoculars in this place? Up? Down? Sideways?

Kamchatka is not easy to get to. Even though it is attached to the mainland, it might as well be an island, as the terrain is so impenetrable that no road has ever been built and more than half of Kamchatka's 400,000 residents live in the capital. In an area that has a population of fewer than one person per square kilometre, and where almost a third of the land is designated a wilderness reserve, once you leave the city, it won't be long until you're at one with nature.

And what nature! More than 300 snow-dusted volcanoes, of which 29 are active, protrude from the harsh landscape. It has been called the Land of Fire and Ice. Mount Koryaksky, just 28 kilometres from the capital, looks positively menacing. It's a 'Decade Volcano', one of just 16 in the world constantly watched because of their eruptive history and proximity to significant population centres. Koryaksky last erupted in 2009, when it ejected an enormous ash plume into the sky—which is as good a reason as any to get out of town.

**Read carefully the passage *Russia's Far East* and then answer all the questions that follow.**

**Question 1**

(a) From paragraph one (Alexey, our park ranger...), give **two** reasons why the writer and his companions were in danger from the bear.

.....  
.....  
.....  
..... [2]

(b) What is surprising about the way that the ‘intruders’ reacted when the mother bear stared straight at them (line 5)?

.....  
.....  
.....  
..... 2]

(c) Why is it difficult to gather information about the size of the bear population in Kamchatka (paragraph three: The Kamchatka Peninsula...)?

.....  
..... [1]

(d) **Using your own words**, explain the reactions of the birdwatchers when they saw the sea eagles (paragraph five: If you’re after...).

.....  
.....  
.....  
..... [2]

(e) (i) Give **one** fact about Mount Koryaksky from the final paragraph.

..... [1]

(ii) What is suggested by the word ‘Decade’ in line 39?

.....  
..... [1]

(f) By referring to the whole passage, give **two** ways in which the ranger and the visitors are protected against bears.

.....  
.....[2]

**(g) Using your own words**, explain what the writer means by the words in italics in the following phrases:

**(i)** 'I was probably *overdue* for a *mauling*' (lines 14–15)  
.....  
.....[2]

**(ii)** 'the *terrain* is so *impenetrable*' (line 33)  
.....  
.....[2]

**(iii)** 'looks *positively menacing*' (line 39)  
.....  
.....[2]

**WRITING**

Attempt **any two** writing passages from each section. Totally you must write **six** pieces.

**Narrative Writing**

1. Write a short story called 'Twenty Four Hours' in which the narrator describes two contrasting episodes (between 350 – 400 words each) of her/his experiences in a single day.
2. Write a short opening of a novel called 'Lost in the Crowd'. In your writing create a sense of character and place.
3. Write a story that ends with these words:

'...and slowly, the doors opened, revealing what they had been told all those years ago.'

### **Discursive Writing**

1. All members of society need to respect and obey the law – whatever the situation. What do you think and why?
2. A newspaper invites you to write an article aimed at older readers called ‘Making the Most of Your Retirement.’ In it you offer them guidance and advice on using their new-found freedom constructively. Write the article.
3. A newspaper invites you to contribute to a regular feature called ‘Don’t Get Me Started!’. In it you express your opinions about everyday things that annoy you.

### **Descriptive Writing**

1. Write a descriptive piece called ‘Midnight’. In your writing create a sense of mood and setting.
2. Write a descriptive piece called ‘A Landscape in the Early Morning.’ In your writing create a sense of mood and setting.
3. Write a descriptive piece called ‘Mist’. In your writing create an atmosphere of tension and suspense.