

Boost Free Lessons - Year 7 English

Lesson 15: Reading Informative Texts

Name: _____ Grade: _____ Date: _____

Read the article below carefully. The line numbers will help you refer to specific parts of the text in your answers.

The Return of the Night Parrot

1 For almost a century, the night parrot was thought to be extinct. The last
2 confirmed sighting had been in 1912, and by the 1980s most researchers had
3 quietly given up.

4
5 The bird is small, green, and almost entirely nocturnal. It roosts inside
6 clumps of spinifex grass during the day and feeds after dark, which makes
7 it extraordinarily difficult to find. Search parties combed the inland for
8 decades without success.

9
10 That changed in 2013, when a naturalist working in western Queensland
11 captured fifteen seconds of video. The footage was blurry and lasted barely
12 long enough to identify the bird, but it was enough. Within two years,
13 researchers had confirmed a small breeding population in the same region.

14
15 Protecting it has proved harder than finding it. Feral cats hunt the birds
16 at night, and changed fire patterns have destroyed much of the old spinifex
17 they depend on. A single hot burn can remove decades of growth.

18
19 Conservation groups now work with Aboriginal ranger teams, whose traditional
20 burning practices create a patchwork of country at different ages. Early
21 results suggest this approach protects the older clumps the parrot needs,
22 while reducing the risk of large, destructive fires.

23
24 The population remains tiny, and its exact location is kept secret. For a
25 bird that spent a hundred years as a rumour, that may be the safest place
26 to be.



Worked Example 1

Why does the writer include the detail that the video lasted only fifteen seconds (lines 10 to 11)?

1. Questions about **why a writer includes** something are asking about purpose, not just content.
2. Ask what the detail does. Fifteen seconds is a very short piece of footage.
3. Set it against the surrounding information: a century of searching, decades of failure.
4. The contrast is the point. Explain that contrast, and what it makes the reader feel.

Model: The detail emphasises how slight the evidence was after a hundred years of searching. Contrasting fifteen seconds with a century of failure shows the reader how rare the bird is, and makes the discovery seem remarkable.

Remember: For informative texts, look for **purpose**, **audience** and the kind of **evidence** used. Dates, figures and named sources are all there to make the reader trust the writer.



Question 1: Answer the following questions. Refer to line numbers where you can.

1. When was the last confirmed sighting before 2013? (line 2)

2. Where does the night parrot roost during the day? (lines 5 to 6)

3. Name the two main threats to the bird. (lines 15 to 17)

4. Who do conservation groups now work with? (line 19)

5. Why is the exact location kept secret? (line 24)

6. What does the word *nocturnal* (line 5) mean? Use the surrounding sentence as your clue.



Question 2: Answer the following questions in full sentences.

1. Is this text mainly informing or persuading? Give a reason from the text.

2. Who is the likely audience for this article? Explain your answer.

3. Explain how the writer's use of dates and numbers affects how the text is received.

4. The final sentence calls the bird *a rumour*. Explain what this suggests.

5. Summarise the whole article in two sentences.





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Answers and Model Responses: Reading Informative Texts**Question 1**

1. 1912.
2. Inside clumps of spinifex grass.
3. Feral cats hunting at night, and changed fire patterns destroying old spinifex.
4. Aboriginal ranger teams.
5. Model: To protect the small population from people who might disturb or harm the birds if they knew where to find them.
6. Model: Active at night. The clue is the contrast with roosting during the day and feeding after dark.

Question 2

1. Model: Mainly informing. It explains what happened and why, and it does not ask the reader to do anything or take a side.
2. Model: General readers interested in nature rather than specialists, because it explains terms through context and uses no technical vocabulary.
3. Model: Specific dates and figures such as 1912, 2013 and fifteen seconds make the account feel factual and checkable, which builds the reader's trust.
4. Model: A rumour is something people talk about but cannot prove. It suggests that for a century the bird existed only as an unconfirmed story, which makes its rediscovery more striking.
5. Model: The night parrot was believed extinct for around a century until video footage in 2013 confirmed a small population in western Queensland. It remains under threat from feral cats and changed fire patterns, and is now protected partly through traditional burning practices.

