

National Assessments
5 -14

English language

Reading - Level F
(Narrative)

Rocket Attack

Name

Date.....



Assessment is for Learning

AssessmentID: 000 - TaskID: 000

This extract is taken from a modern novel set in Australia. A group of young people has returned from a five day camping trip to find a hostile army has invaded the countryside and is occupying the nearby towns.

We got to the shearers' quarters, where Homer joined us a couple of minutes later. He was just in time. It was maybe ninety seconds after that when a black jet, fast and lethal, came in low from the west. It sounded like every dentist's drill I'd ever heard, magnified a thousand times. We watched from the little windows of a shearer's bedroom, too fascinated and afraid to move. There was something sinister about it, something diabolical. It flew with a sense of purpose, deliberate and cold-blooded. As it crossed the road it seemed to pause a little, give a slight shudder. From under each wing flew two little darts, two horrible black things that grew as they approached us. They were coming terribly fast.

Corrie gave a cry that I'll never forget, like a wounded bird. One rocket hit the house, and one was all it took. The house came apart in slow motion. It seemed to hang there in the air, as though it were the kit of a house, a Lego set, about to be assembled. Then a huge orange flower began to bloom within the house. It grew very quickly, until there was no more room for it and it had to push the pieces of house out of the way, to give it room to flower. And suddenly everything exploded. Bricks, wood, galvanised iron, glass, furniture, the sharp orange petals of the flower, all erupting in every direction, till the house was spread all over the paddock, hanging from trees, clinging to fences, lying on the ground. Where the house had stood was now black; no flames, just smoke rising slowly from the foundations.

The noise of it rolled across the paddocks like thunder, echoing away into the hills. Bits of debris rattled on the shearers' roof like hail. I couldn't believe how long they kept falling, and after that, after the rattling of the heavy fragments was starting to fade, how long the soft snowflakes took to float down; the pieces of paper, the bits of material, the fragments of fibro, gently and peacefully scattering across the countryside.

Please turn over

The second rocket slammed into the hillside behind the house. I'm not sure if it was meant for the shearing sheds or not. It didn't miss us by much. It hit the hill so hard the whole range seemed to quiver; there was a pause, then the explosion, and a moment later a whole section of the hill just fell away.

The jet turned steeply and did a circuit above the river paddock, so they could watch and enjoy the show I suppose. Then it turned again and accelerated into the distance, back to its foul lair.

Corrie was on the floor, hiccupping, and thrashing around like a fish on a line. Her pupils had rolled back so far into her head that you couldn't see them any more. Nothing would calm her. We became frightened. Homer ran and got a bucket of water. We splashed some in her face. It seemed to calm her a bit. I picked up the whole bucket and tipped the water over her head. She stopped hiccupping and just sobbed, her head on her knees, her hands clasped around her ankles, water dripping off her. We dried her and hugged her, but it was hours before she calmed enough even to look at us. We just had to stay there and wait, hoping the planes would not come back, hoping they would not send soldiers in trucks. Corrie would not move, and we could not move, until she did.

Attack: an adapted extract from "Tomorrow when the war began" by John Marsden (Macmillan's Children's Books, 1993)

Section A

Look at these sentences about the story. Decide whether each sentence is **True** or **False** or whether you **Can't tell** from the story. **Tick ONE box beside each sentence.**

		True	False	Can't Tell
1.	The sound of the jet was horrific.			
2.	The jet was flying high.			
3.	The rockets came very quickly.			
4.	The garage was blown up.			
5.	They tried to run away when they saw the jet.			
6.	The plane flew back to the town.			

Section B

List **three words or phrases** from the story that illustrate the evil or unpleasant nature of the enemy.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. Find the simile which describes Corrie's reaction to the flying rockets.

5. Find the simile which describes Corrie's reaction to the destruction.

6. Find the metaphor used to describe the light falling debris.

7. Find the metaphor used to describe the airfield.

Section C

Here is a short summary of the passage. Some of the words have been missed out. **Fill in the gaps, using one word or two words in each space.** Use your own words or words from the story.

Just after we were all safely _____
1 in the sheds, a black jet flew in low.

It seemed to know _____
2 it was going and _____
3.

It fired two rockets. One _____
4 the house,

and the other the _____
5 behind us.

The house appeared to _____
6 above the ground. Then suddenly

all the _____
7 were _____
8 across

the whole area. There was a noise like _____
9 and the falling

10 sounded like _____
11 on the

12. The jet _____
13 above before

flying off. Corrie was extremely _____
14 and we had to bring her

out of her _____
15 with water. Although we tried hard to _____
16

her, she took a long time to recover. In spite of the _____
17 to our safety, we had

to wait until she was ready to leave.

Last Page

This is the last page of the Assessment.

It can be discarded.