

THT WORKSHEETS

Australian Curriculum

Year 7 English

Learning Pack

Reading Comprehension & Language Analysis

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Recommended Time: 50–60 minutes

Why This Learning Pack Matters

Strong readers do more than understand what a text says—they recognise how an author creates meaning. In this Learning Pack, you will practise finding evidence, making inferences and analysing language choices that shape a reader's understanding.

Learning Outcomes

By completing this Learning Pack, students will:

- identify explicit and implied information
- interpret vocabulary using context
- analyse the author's language choices
- support responses with evidence from the text
- communicate ideas clearly in written form

Instructions

- Read the passage carefully before answering the questions.
 - Use evidence from the passage where appropriate.
 - Answer in complete sentences unless instructed otherwise.
 - Read every question carefully before responding.
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The Last Train Before Dawn

Nathan checked the station clock for what must have been the twentieth time that morning. Its brass frame had dulled over the years, but it still kept perfect time. The platform, however, had long forgotten what punctuality meant.

Ashcombe Station had once been the busiest stop along the mountain railway. Families carrying heavy suitcases crowded the platform each weekend, while shopkeepers hurried to meet deliveries that arrived before sunrise. Those days had disappeared decades ago. The railway company had built a faster route through the valley, and Ashcombe slowly slipped from the timetable until, eventually, it disappeared altogether.

Nathan could have retired years earlier, but every morning he unlocked the waiting room, swept the platform and wound the old station clock. "A station isn't just a place for trains," he often told visitors. "It's a place where journeys begin."

Most days, the only sounds were birds in the nearby gum trees and the wind moving through the tall grass that had begun creeping between the sleepers.

Just before dawn one winter morning, Nathan heard something unexpected.

A distant whistle.

He stopped sweeping.

Surely not.

The tracks hadn't carried a scheduled train in almost fifteen years.

The whistle came again, louder this time.

Moments later, an old silver train rolled slowly around the bend and came to a gentle stop beside the empty platform. Its polished windows reflected the first light of morning.

Only one passenger stepped off.

She carried a small leather suitcase and paused for a long moment before looking around.

"I wasn't sure this station still existed," she said quietly.

Nathan smiled.

"Most people think it doesn't."

The woman laughed softly.

"My grandfather used to bring me here every school holidays. We'd catch the early train to the city. I haven't been back since I was twelve."

Nathan nodded.

"I remember him. He always bought two newspapers. One to read, and one for the journey home."

The woman looked surprised.

"You remember that?"

"Some journeys stay with you."

For several minutes they walked slowly along the platform, sharing stories about people, places and memories that had almost disappeared with time. The station suddenly felt busy again—not with crowds, but with conversation.

When the whistle sounded once more, the woman picked up her suitcase.

"I almost didn't get off," she admitted.

"I'm glad you did," Nathan replied.

She climbed back aboard.

The train disappeared into the morning mist as quietly as it had arrived.

Nathan watched until the last carriage vanished around the bend.

Then he looked at the station clock.

It was still keeping perfect time.

For the first time in many years, the platform no longer felt empty.

SECTION A — Understanding the Text

Question 1

Why had Ashcombe Station disappeared from the railway timetable?

Question 2

Give two pieces of evidence that show Nathan cared deeply about the station.

Question 3

Why was the woman's visit important to Nathan?

Support your answer with evidence from the passage.

Question 4

What does the final paragraph suggest has changed, even though the station itself has not?

SECTION B — Language and Style

Question 5

The author writes:

"The platform had long forgotten what punctuality meant."

What literary technique is used here?

What effect does it create?

Question 6

Why do you think the author repeats the station clock throughout the passage?

Question 7

Find one example of imagery from the passage.

Explain how it helps the reader picture the setting.

Question 8

The conversation between Nathan and the woman is brief.

Explain how the dialogue helps reveal their relationship without directly describing it.

SECTION C — Thinking Beyond the Text

Question 9

Nathan says,

"A station isn't just a place for trains. It's a place where journeys begin."

What do you think he really means?

Question 10

How does the setting contribute to the mood of the story?

Use evidence from the passage.

Question 11

The woman says,

"I almost didn't get off."

Why is this sentence important to the overall message of the passage?

Question 12

Choose one word to describe Nathan's character.

Justify your choice using evidence from the passage.

SECTION D — Extended Response

Question 13

Many places become important because of the memories people attach to them.

To what extent do you think this idea is explored in **The Last Train Before Dawn**?

Write one well-structured paragraph (approximately 150–200 words).

Support your ideas with evidence from the passage.

Reflection

Before reading the solutions...

One idea from this passage that stayed with me was:

One language technique I noticed was:

One reading strategy I will use again is:
